

# Trees for Wildlife

from the



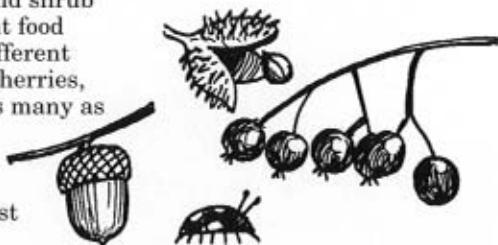
**TREE CITY USA<sup>®</sup>**  
**BULLETIN**

A common thread that runs through the fabric of America is our love for wildlife. Whether it is a squirrel in our back yard or a hovering marsh hawk hunting the edges of a city park, wildlife is a valued resource to protect and enjoy. But to share our communities with wildlife takes understanding and planning. Not surprisingly, trees play an important role. By understanding a few basic principles, you can attract songbirds and other desirable wildlife to your home or neighborhood.

## What Wildlife Needs

### Food

Each different tree and shrub species has a different food value and attracts different animals. Some, like cherries, may be relished by as many as 40 species. Having a wide variety of trees with high food value is the single best way to increase your pleasure in viewing wildlife.



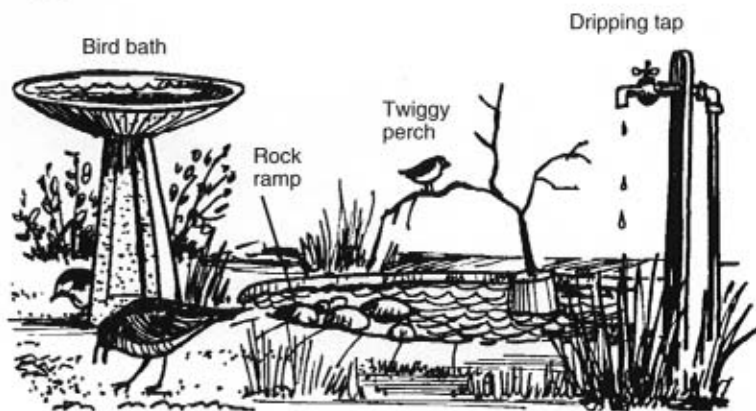
Whatever the wildlife, whether a song sparrow or a butterfly or a squirrel, the key to its presence is habitat — the place where it lives. Habitat consists of three important elements, all of which are necessary in order for wildlife to find a home.

### Water

Water is as essential for wildlife as it is for humans. Provide it and you will be rewarded with more birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Shown below are a few ways water can be provided in a home landscape.

### Cover

Cover provides protection for breeding, nesting, sleeping, traveling, and hiding from enemies. Ideal cover for a wide range of animals is provided by dense plantings of conifers. In urban settings, even a single spruce tree will help, but all the better if you have space for a group of evergreens or a hemlock hedge. Wild tangles, vines, and thorny shrubs in odd corners or narrow spaces also provide excellent cover.

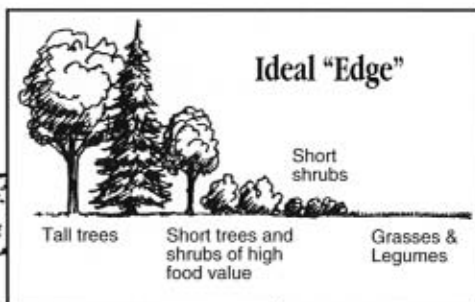
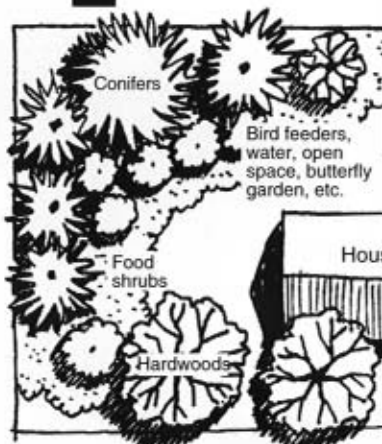


## Useful Vegetation Patterns to Help Wildlife

The arrangement of food sources, protective cover, and water will make a big difference in the kinds and quality of wildlife you attract. A few principles:

- The same arrangement of trees and shrubs that provides humans with wind protection and shade also works well for wildlife.
- To see more birds and provide for their safety, plant cover trees or shrubs within 10 to 15 feet of water sources.
- When possible, provide unbroken travel lanes (rows of trees, hedges, a brushy fence row, etc.) between wooded areas.
- Provide "edge" areas where woods or shrubbery meet a lawn or old field. Edge areas provide a combination of food, sunlight, shade, and security.

PREVAILING WINDS



Note: When planting, always match species to hardiness zone, soil, and other site conditions.



**The National Arbor Day Foundation<sup>®</sup>**

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