



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

Checklist for Creating a Bird-Friendly Backyard

- Re-create the multiple layers of plant growth found in natural areas.
- Select plants to provide nutritional foods during different seasons.
- Plant shrubs and small trees in same-species clumps for adequate pollination of fruits.
- Provide at least one clump of conifers (evergreens).
- Leave dead trees, standing or fallen, to provide nesting and foraging sites. Consider topping dead trees rather than removing the whole tree if safety is an issue.
- Leave vines, or plant native additions.
- Limit the size of your lawn for less mowing, less fertilizing, less watering, and less pollution.
- Avoid invasive exotic (non-native) plants.
- Supply a source of water - dripping or running water is a better attractant than still water.
- Provide and monitor nest boxes of various sizes.
- Leave some leaf litter on the ground.
- Stop using pesticides in your yard.
- Use only organic, slow release fertilizers, preferably your own compost, if needed.