

Other Wildlife Habitat Improvements

In addition to adding native plants and removing invasive plants, here are some more ways to make your property more friendly to birds and pollinators.

Note: The list is not ordered by importance.

- No cats or cats kept indoors and in outdoor enclosures such as catios.
- Windows protected with method to reduce bird-window collisions.
- Outdoor security lighting either on motion sensors or turned off when not needed – not left on all night.
- Variety of nectar and host plants blooming throughout growing season to support pollinators.
- Pollinator and beneficial insect nesting habitats such as: snags, nurse logs, 1' to 2' of pithy stems left in garden during clean-up, and a spot of bare ground for native bee nests.
- Lawn area with non-native turfgrass reduced to minimum needed.

Further important suggestions to improve wildlife habitat include: having a pond or well-maintained bird bath; using only organic fertilizers, if any; using electric-powered mowers, blowers, and string trimmers instead of gas; and having nest boxes for brown-headed nuthatches and/or bluebirds.



Scan this code or visit newhopebirdalliance.org/bird-friendly-certification/ways-to-make-habitat-safe-and-friendly-for-wildlife/ to learn more.

Why natives? Our local vegetation evolved with insects, birds, and other animals to create complex food webs. Wildlife consumes fruits, nuts, and seeds for sustenance, while helping to propagate the regional vegetation. Native plants, especially some tree species like oaks, are also host to a large variety of insects, which in turn are eaten by birds and other animals. Young nestlings, in particular, must consume large numbers of insects in their first weeks of life.

Non-native vegetation can provide some fruits, nuts, and seeds, but it does not host the insects that are vital to birds and the web of life. As their seeds are spread by wildlife, many non-native plants become “invasive” by outcompeting local vegetation and disrupting the local ecology.

Visit our website for complete information on:

- How to sign up for the Bird Friendly Habitat Certification program
- Why native plants are important
- Recommended native plants for the Piedmont
- Where to buy native plants in the local area
- Identifying invasive plant species
- Removing invasive plant species
- How to reduce bird-window collisions
- Other ways to improve wildlife habitat

Learn more about our certification program at:

newhopebirdalliance.org/bird-friendly-habitat/.

There is a one time application fee of \$50 for the certification program.

For questions, contact us at newhopebird@gmail.com.

PHOTO CREDITS

Gray Catbird and Brown-headed Nuthatch by Will Stuart

NEW HOPE BIRD ALLIANCE



Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program

The New Hope Bird Alliance has developed a certification program to recognize your efforts in providing habitat where birds and wildlife can thrive. To be certified, you will need to: use native plants at all vegetative layers from the tree canopy down to perennials and ground cover; remove invasive plants; and take other steps to improve wildlife habitat.





Bird Friendly Habitat Under Construction

- Property does not qualify yet for certification.
- Property owner plans to add enough native plants and to remove enough invasive plants to achieve certification.
- All vegetative layers including trees, shrubs, and the herbaceous layer are present or are in the planning stage as the size of property permits.
- Leaves are left at the ground layer all year long where possible.
- Mosquito sprays, rodenticides, and systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids are not used. Other pesticides are minimized.
- At least two other wildlife habitat improvements are present (see list on other side).
- An “Under Construction” sign will be given.



Certified Bird Friendly Habitat

- Property has at least 30% coverage of native plants including some keystone species.
- High threat invasive plants cannot cover more than 15% of property, and property owner plans to keep them under control or remove.
- All vegetative layers including trees, shrubs, and the herbaceous layer are present as the size of property permits.
- Leaves are left at the ground layer all year long where possible.
- Mosquito sprays, rodenticides, and systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids are not used. Other pesticides are minimized.
- At least three other wildlife habitat improvements are present (see list on other side).
- A “Certified” sign will be given.

High Threat Invasive plants

All invasives ranked as Severe or Significant Threat by the NC Invasive Plant Council count toward the percent of invasive plants allowed. (<https://nc-ipc.weebly.com/nc-invasive-plants.html>) Please refer to our website for information on invasive plants: newhopebirdalliance.org/invasive-plants/

Typically seen high threat invasives:

- **Trees:** Mimosa, Tree of Heaven, Bradford Pear, Princess Tree
- **Shrubs:** Burning Bush (Winged Euonymous), Chinese Privet, Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, Bushclover (Lespedeza), Thorny Olive, Nandina, Mahonia, Japanese Privet, Japanese Barberry, Japanese Spirea, Sweet Breath of Spring (Fragrant Honeysuckle)

- **Herbs & Grasses:** Japanese Stiltgrass, Sericea Lespedeza, Chinese Silver Grass (Miscanthus), Youngia, Exotic Bamboo
- **Vines:** Japanese Honeysuckle, English Ivy, Chinese/Japanese Wisteria, Oriental (Asian) Bittersweet, Winter Creeper, Sweet Autumn (Leatherleaf) Clematis, Vinca (Periwinkle)