



ATTRACTING BIRDS AND POLLINATORS



There are a number of ways to attract birds to your garden, from planting native plants to providing safe areas for them to eat, drink, and nest.

Butterflies and bees, like other animals, need food, water, and shelter - the basic necessities of life. In addition, butterflies like direct sunlight and heat. They need warm and sunny resting places such as flat stones or bricks. A good garden also provides shady places where butterflies and bees can cool off while they eat. Vegetation offers shelter from wind and inclement weather.

- *Provide water year-round.* A simple birdbath is a great start. Change water every 2-3 days. Place the water container about 10 feet from dense shrubs or other cover that predators may use.
- *Use native plants.* Select a variety of native plants to offer year-round food in the form of seeds, berries, nuts, and nectar. Try to recreate the plant ecosystem native to your area. Evergreen trees and shrubs provide excellent cover through all seasons, if they are part of your local ecosystem.
- *Eliminate chemicals in your yard.* Insects are the primary source of food for many bird species and are an important source of protein and fats for growing juvenile birds. Minimize or eliminate use of insecticides. Other chemicals like herbicides and fertilizers should be used sparingly and as directed to protect birds and pollinators.
- *Put out nesting boxes.* Make sure the boxes have ventilation holes at the top and drainage holes below. Do not use a box with a perch, as house sparrows are known to sit on a nesting box perch and peck at other birds using the nesting box. Be sure to monitor the boxes for invasive species known to harm or out-compete native species.
- *Feeders.* Bird feeders are great sources of supplemental food during times of food scarcity and also enhance bird viewing opportunities.
- *Food Sources.* Plants feed butterflies (nectar plants) and provide a place to lay their eggs (host plants). Different species of butterflies prefer different flowers.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The National Wildlife Federation has a wealth of information: blog.nwf.org/tags/garden-for-wildlife
- This website has information about types of butterflies found in Texas: www.texas-butterflies.com/butterflies-in-texas.htm
- This website includes guidelines for creating attractive bird habitats: www.birdsinbackyards.net/Guidelines-Creating-Bird-Habitats

If you're a fan of Spring Lake, GO NATIVE! For additional information, visit MeadowsWater.org



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



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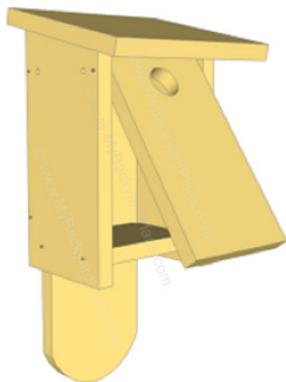
LET'S DO THIS AT HOME!

MATERIALS:

- 1 1-4" finish nails
- 3/4" cedar 8" wide - or your choice of lumber saw

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The back (A) measures 18" x 5 1/2", with a 12° bevel cut on the top edge. The bottom can be rounded or it can be left squared. The sides (B) measures 11 1/2" x 5 1/2", with a 12° angle cut. Drill 3/8" vent holes 1" from the top front and 1" from the sides.
2. The floor (C) measures 4" x 5 1/2", cut 3/8" from the floor corners. The front (D) measures 10 1/2" x 5 1/2", with a 12° bevel cut on the top edge. Cut a 1 1/2" entrance hole 2" from the top, centered.
3. The roof (E) measures 9" x 8" The 9" will face the front, 8" towards sides. The front (D) and back (A) will have a 12° bevel cut.
4. Nail the sides (B) to the back (A). Next, recess the floor (C) 1/2" from the sides and nail. On the inside of the door carve some shallow grooves using a handsaw.
5. Center the roof (E) and nail. The front and sides will have overhangs. The 9" will face the front, 8" will go towards the sides.



For more pictures visit: www.mybackyardplans.com/bluebirdhouseplans.php

READ THESE BOOKS FOR MORE IDEAS

These Bees Count by Alison Formento

Brilliant Bees by Linda Glaser

Where Butterflies Grow by Joanne Ryder

Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly by Alan Madison

You Nest Here With Me by Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple

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