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Checklist for Creating a Bird-Friendly Backyard



- Re-create the multiple layers of plant growth found in natural areas.
- Select plants to provide a variety of native nutritional foods during different seasons.
- Leave dead trees, standing or fallen woody plants or cati, to provide nesting and foraging sites. Consider topping dead trees rather than removing the whole tree if safety is an issue.
- Encourage native vines if appropriate for your area.
- 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—appropriate for your area.
- 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, if needed.
- Provide plants to attract insects as a food source.

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