



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy - Audubon at Home

Think "Habitat"

For all life-cycle stages and through all seasons, wildlife needs:

- Food
- Water
- Shelter, to avoid predators and to raise young

Habitat Features: *A diverse native plant community supplies many requirements, but other features can add value:*

Water

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Water>

- Bird bath – keep clean
- Water Garden / Frog Pond / Rain Garden / Pond in a Barrel
- Natural stream / Seep / Wetland

Nesting and over-wintering habitat for insects (and other critters)

<https://www.xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/nesting-overwintering-habitat>

Brush Pile / Rock Pile

- Nooks and crannies provide shelter from predators and protection in summer and winter
- Critters find food, over-winter, lay eggs, raise young

Snags and fallen logs

- Nesting places for cavity-nesting birds, native bees and other critters
- Valuable source of insects for birds

Bare Soil

- Dust bathing for birds
- 70% of Native Bee species nest underground

Leave the fallen Leaves

- Natural soil fertilizer; birds forage for food
- Overwintering habitat for insects, eg butterflies, fireflies

Bee Boxes

www.xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/13-054_02_XercesSoc_Tunnel-Nests-for-Native-Bees_web.pdf

Bird Nest Boxes

<https://loudounwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Bluebird-Box-Information.pdf>

- Provide nesting places for cavity nesters, replacing lost natural locations

Minimize man-made hazards

<https://loudounwildlife.org/2020/08/minimize-man-made-hazards-to-wildlife/>

- Keep cats indoors, window collisions, avoid poison or glue rodent traps, turn off outdoor lighting