

# Backyard Wildlife Habitat

## Providing Habitat Elements

**Food & Water:** Native shrubs, trees and grasses provide fruits and seeds for native birds and other wildlife to eat. Naturally occurring water sources are great. In their absence, a clean birdbath with fresh water will work just fine.

**Cover & Shelter:** Birds need places where they are protected from harsh weather and predators. Trees and underbrush provide this, as will a brush pile made from fallen and pruned branches.

**Place to Raise Young:** Allowing some of the elements birds use for nesting to occur in your yard will encourage them to breed nearby. Putting up nest boxes tailored to birds' needs is another way to help them.

## Avoiding Harmful Risks to Birds

■ When considering placement of feeders and plants to attract birds, it is important to minimize their exposure to cats.

■ Keep bird feeders clean / free of mold and flush birdbaths daily to reduce the spread of avian diseases.

■ Help prevent window collisions by putting up an awning or window shade to reduce reflectivity. Look on the web for other ideas to reduce the risk of window strikes.

**Cultivating a wildlife-friendly yard can be an enriching experience.**

Native mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects also share the backyard habitat, so there is always something interesting to see!

[www.pugetsoundbackyardbirds.com](http://www.pugetsoundbackyardbirds.com)



Your local wild bird store can help you determine the right combination of bird feeders and food for your yard.



Chestnut-backed Chickadee with larva meal



Juvenile Townsend's Chipmunks peeking out of tree nest cavity



Lorquin's Admiral basking in the sun on wild rose



Tree Frog on Rhododendron



Male American Goldfinch on dead tree branch