

## *Some ideas to start things off*

Some suggestions for getting started:

- Devote a corner of the backyard to several kinds of native plants.
- Maintain a birdbath for wildlife, especially birds, who need to bathe frequently.
- Please stop using broad-spectrum insecticides on your property. Any chemical designed to kill insects will kill butterflies and bees, as well.
- Offer food in bird feeders and put up a nest box for birds to nest in.
- Build a brush pile to shelter birds from weather and predators.
- Plant a tree or shrub, either deciduous or evergreen, to provide shelter.



Photos by Don Severson



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## *Building habitat*

**one yard or garden at a time**



**Saint Paul Audubon Society**

*The wild world is running out of room*



**Birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife** are having a hard time finding enough places to sustain their lives. We've turned 54% of the land in the Lower 48 states into cities and suburbs, and 41% is devoted to agriculture. That leaves only 5% for nature. And that's not enough. Many bird and insect species are in serious trouble.



*If we all do just one thing...*

Your yard and garden can be beautiful and support the natural world at the same time. Even if we each do only one thing to benefit wildlife, it will make a big difference. Plant flowers for hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Add shrubs and native grasses to shelter and feed many species. Even small spaces can support nature and help maintain the ecosystem.

*Building habitat corridors, one yard at a time*

If your backyard feeds and shelters wildlife, and then your neighbors' do, too, it will look and feel like a much larger habitat to wildlife. As your block becomes a habitat corridor, you'll begin noticing more butterflies, bumblebees and birds. Our backyards will become mini-wildlife refuges,

providing vital elbowroom for the natural world. House by house and block by block our cities and suburbs can make a difference for wild things.

*A landscape that attracts insects is a healthy one*



Many of us have the wrong idea about insects. We think of them as destructive, even unhealthy, but a healthy landscape needs insects to stay in balance: 'good bugs' eat 'bad bugs', and big

bugs eat little ones. And birds do a great job at insect control. Parent birds search for insects to feed their nestlings from dawn to dusk. Plants are the building blocks of balanced ecosystems: insects eat plants, and other living things eat insects.

*Let's look at our gardens in a new way*

Planting native plants, adding a birdbath and setting out a birdhouse and/or brush pile are all good ways to support wildlife. There'll still be room for kids to play and dogs to roam and for all the other ways you use your lawn and garden now. But let's start thinking of our outdoor spaces as refuges for wildlife, too.