



Building Blocks of Habitat

Food

Birds- protein rich diet (insects) in spring to feed young
Berries and seed heads later in season
Native plants are adapted to life cycle of wildlife
Insects- see plant list for beneficial insect plants, some are specialists, others generalists

Water

Develop where you can; bird baths, dished rocks, ponds, recirculating streams

Shelter

Birds- Layered vegetation, large trees important, snags, brush piles
Insects- Refugia, undisturbed areas, stone piles for spiders, ground beetles, unmowed grasses

Attention to lifecycle needs

Roosting sites for winter birds
Some insects favor particular plant species for egg laying
Nest boxes, mason bee houses

What forms of wildlife to focus on for natural pest control:

Native birds

Bushtits, Wrens, Kinglets, Juncos, Nuthatches, Warblers as well as the more common Robins and Sparrows. Also Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Sap Sucker

Beneficial insects

Predators- some adults eat pests; others, larval forms only eat pests

Examples of predators are ladybeetles, Syrphid flies, Lacewings (Green and the native Brown), Ground and Rove beetles, spiders, predatory mites.

Parasitoids- live part or all of their life in or on the body of their prey and eventually kill their prey

Examples of parasitoids are Braconid wasps, Ichneumonid wasps, Trichogramma wasps, Tachinid flies

Pollinators- Important for sustaining plant communities in habitat, development of seed and fruit for birds in late season.

Examples are Bumble bees, honey bees, wasps (small parasitic as well as larger species), Syrphid fly adults, Tachinid fly adults, Mason bees, thousands of species of native solitary bees.

Soil microorganisms

Often forgotten about in discussions of habitat, healthy soil is the corner stone of a healthy ecosystem. The soil food web is an integral part of the food chain for wildlife. Proving organic matter is critical the development of the bacteria, fungi, and microscopic arthropods in the soil.

Steps to take to for successful habitat development

- **Stop use of pesticides**
The first, most important step to take to protect beneficials. Beneficial insect populations recover from pesticide use at much slower rates than most pest species, hence a balance cannot be achieved and pests can develop resistance to pesticides
- **Designate areas for wildlife**
Keep management practices to a minimum; consider leaving snags in place for nesting sites, consider access to water, layers of vegetation.
- **Use signage if possible for educating the public**
Simple signage can alert people to the efforts that you're taking to protect wildlife