



# The Habitat Connection

## Backyard Bird Sanctuary Certification Checklist

*Homeowners are critical in supporting year-round and migratory birds in Middle Tennessee by restoring rich native habitat in their own yards.*

Food: *Birds need insects to raise their young and seeds and berries to survive the winter. Your certified habitat needs at least three of these sources of food.*

- Native Trees/Shrubs
- Native Forbs (herbaceous plants)
- Native grasses
- Bird feeder
- Hummingbird feeder

Water: *Your certified habitat needs at least one of these sources of water.*

- Bird bath
- Nearby natural source of water such as a creek or pond

Shelter: *Your certified habitat needs at least three of these sources of shelter.*

- Evergreen trees
- Rock pile or wall
- Brush pile
- Dense native shrubs
- Mature canopy trees
- Leaf cover throughout the winter
- Nesting box
- Dead tree snag

Other Important Practices: *To help birds thrive, adopt at least three of these practices.*

- Remove non-native invasive plants
- Reduce your lawn
- Eliminate pesticides and herbicides
- Make your windows safer
- Keep cats indoors
- Drink shade grown coffee to support migratory bird habitat
- Reduce your plastic use
- Become a citizen scientist
- Reduce light pollution

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