

10

FARMING TIPS WILD BIRDS



- ✦ **Help wild birds help you.** Birds eat many pests such as scale insects, grasshoppers, and gophers; disperse seeds; and pollinate native plants.
- ✦ **Add habitat for wild birds around your crops.** Birds with nearby habitat provide more pest control benefits in the farm/garden.
- ✦ **Track the birds in your area.** Keeping a record will help you determine the habitat and resources you are providing, and how you can improve.
- ✦ **Plant native plants** that provide seed, edible fruit, shelter or perching spots. Some plants like oaks provide multiple benefits to many species.
- ✦ **Leave the leaves and grasses.** Grass that goes to seed provides food and nesting materials. Some birds eat insects hidden in leaf litter.
- ✦ **Limit pesticide use.** Over-use can harm insect-eating birds through accidental pesticide exposure and by removing a food source.
- ✦ **Keep cats indoors.** Cats are responsible for the deaths of billions of birds every year, while their impact on pest populations is minimal.
- ✦ **Reduce window strikes.** Use window treatments with small gaps (2 in. apart) or other reflection blockers to deter attempted fly-throughs.
- ✦ **Consider adding a nest box.** Some birds such as barn owls take easily to nest boxes and can provide extra pest control.
- ✦ **Turn off the lights at night.** Lights at night disrupt bird flight behaviors and can lead to collisions. Use lights only where you need them.

Info from [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) (Cornell Univ.), [Landscaping and Gardening for Birds](#) by D. Hillock et al. (HLA-6435, OK State Univ.), [Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds](#) by J. Baumgartner et al. (2019, Wild Farm Alliance), and [Feral Cats and Their Management](#), by A.M. Hildreth et al. (EC1781, 2010, Univ. of NE).
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