

Make Your Home Bird-Friendly

Invite migrants in for a safe, rejuvenating pit stop with these key practices.



1 Feeding birds provides a much-needed energy boost to long-distance migrants. Just be sure to place your feeder on your window or less than 3 feet from your house to help prevent window collisions.

2 Help prevent deadly crashes by making your windows more visible to birds. Screens can help, and so can decals—as long as they are tightly spaced, no more than two inches apart.

3 There's no getting around it: When cats are outdoors, they're a deadly threat to birds. To protect both your avian and feline friends, keep cats safely inside or consider an outdoor "catio" enclosure.

4 Trees, shrubs, and wildflowers with which your local birds coevolved offer ideal food and shelter. Find beautiful and beneficial species native to your zip code at audubon.org/native-plants.

5 To help bird-friendly practices catch on across your community, display an Audubon Plants for Birds yard sign touting the advantages of native vegetation; \$25 at audubon.org/yard-sign.

6 Putting a little less effort into yardwork also helps birds. Unraked leaves, plants with flowers past their prime, and fallen branches all provide them with nest-building materials and foraging opportunities.

7 Clean bird feeders and baths about every two weeks to prevent disease outbreaks. Wash them with nine parts water to one part bleach and dry feeders fully before use. Also tidy up the ground beneath.