

## Resources

Visit the library, a natural history museum, a game preserve, and any federal, state, and local agencies involved in fish and game and wildlife conservation.

### Wildlife Forever

10365 W. 70th St.  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
Phone: 612-833-1522; Fax: 612-833-0804  
Web site: <http://www.wildlifeever.org>

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior  
Room 3445  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Web site: <http://www.fws.gov>

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

401 M St., SW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Web site: <http://www.epa.gov>

### U.S. Forest Service Natural Resources and Conservation Education Program

Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/nrce>  
The Conservation Education (CE) program helps people of all ages understand and appreciate our country's natural resources and how to conserve those resources for future generations.

### National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program

8925 Leesburg Pike  
Vienna, VA 22184  
Phone: 703-790-4434  
Web site: <http://www.nwf.org/habitats>  
The National Wildlife Federation began the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program in 1973 to acknowledge and encourage individuals who garden for the benefit of wildlife.

## Ways to Make a Difference!

- Put out nesting materials for birds, such as short pieces of yarn, string, or dried tall grasses.
- Place a birdbath in your yard. Keep it clean and filled with fresh water.
- Put out a bird feeder, or several feeders that have different foods for different kinds of birds.
- Make or buy a hummingbird feeder.
- Build a bat house. One small brown bat can eat 600 mosquitoes an hour!
- Grow flowering plants such as asters, zinnia, or milkweed to provide nectar for butterflies.
- Leave standing dead and dying trees in an area unless they pose a hazard to humans or property. Dead, dying, and hollow trees and logs on the ground provide homes for many species of wildlife.
- Write letters to newspapers or local government representatives on environmental issues.

## The Balance of Nature

Conservation of wildlife is important because of the idea of the *balance of nature*. Animals, plants, and their habitats are connected through an environment that supplies them with what they need to live. This is called an *ecosystem*. The ecosystem is balanced when all the parts of the community are present: animals are able to find food and have healthy young.

If you lose a part of the balance, the entire system can suffer. For instance, in some parts of the country, people thought that wolves threatened their livestock, so they killed the wolves. But without these predators, the population of deer increased too quickly. In new housing developments, you now can see deer grazing in people's backyards and eating shrubs and flowers. The deer also don't have as much natural habitat because of all the buildings.

You are part of the balance of nature too. Think of how you are a part of your ecosystem, and what you can do to help preserve it.