

# Audubon at Home

## Creating Wildlife Habitat One Property at a Time

“Unless we modify the places we live, work and play to meet not only our own needs, but the needs of other species as well, nearly all species of wildlife native to the United States will disappear forever.”

-Douglas Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home



Carolina Chickadee. Photo: Douglas Tallamy/Audubon

## All Wildlife Depends on Native Plants

Many birds and other native species of wildlife are in decline due to loss of habitat. Did you know that it can take 9,000 caterpillars to raise a chickadee family? And that most native caterpillars are specialists, feeding only on native plants?

That's why a yard needs to be **70% or more** native plants.



Wildlife Sanctuary Sign. Photo: Margaret Fisher

## Certify your Yard as a Wildlife Sanctuary

1. Visit [audubonva.org/aah](http://audubonva.org/aah)
2. Request a FREE visit from an Audubon at Home Ambassador
3. Download and complete an application
4. Take the Healthy Yard Pledge
5. Record 10 Sanctuary Species using your property
6. Submit your application
7. Celebrate by purchasing a yard sign (optional)



Cedar Waxwing on Serviceberry.  
Photo: Wayne Morse/Audubon Photography Awards

## Create a Healthy Yard

Follow these guidelines to help support wildlife on your property:

- Reduce pesticide use
- Protect water quality
- Remove invasive non-native plants
- Plant native species
- Reduce area covered by lawn
- Protect birds and other wildlife
  - Keep cats indoors
  - Guard against human-made hazards like window collisions



Green Frog. Photo: Gary Myers

## Garden as if Life Depends on It

Audubon at Home works with these partners to expand and create habitat:

- National Audubon Society
- Virginia Master Naturalists
- Virginia Master Gardeners
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
- Plant NoVA Natives
- The Clifton Institute
- Virginia Native Plant Society