



## **TOP 10 Fun ways to can enjoy the wildlife in your own backyard!**

1. Keep easy to use binoculars and simple field guides around to identify birds. Children will love keeping track of how many times they see a particular type of bird. Even before they can read this can help them master their matching skills.
2. Supply water for the birds in a birdbath or shallow dish with a few pebbles. This will provide many great viewing opportunities.
3. Make a bird feeder. Tie a string around the top of a pinecone or through half a bagel. Cover with shortening or peanut butter and roll in birdseed. Hang in a tree, wait and watch! Or make yummy wildlife garland. String popcorn (unsalted non-buttered), dried fruits, and orange wedges, cranberries or Cheerio's on to string or wire. Little hands can help by stringing Cheerio's on to pipe cleaners. They can be twisted into circles and hung in trees as well. Watch to see what type of wildlife enjoy these.
4. Provide colorful nest building material for your birds. Simply place a small container with your dryer lint and or bits of yarn or string out for the birds to enjoy. Then keep an eye out for colorful nests. Empty margarine tubs or berry baskets can have strings tied to each side and be hung in a tree to hold your materials.
5. Hang a bat box. When you see guano on the box and notice fewer mosquitoes you'll know you have guests.
6. Provide shelter for backyard wildlife by hanging birdhouses or planting trees and bushes. The more shelter, the more animals! Even rock and log piles can become homes.
7. When planting for summer and spring select flowers that will attract insects and birds. Native plants are the best choice for wildlife.
8. Dig in to the dirt! Let your little ones get their hands dirty and find out who's helping the flowers grow by exploring the soil together. Watch the world of worms, millipedes and slugs up-close.
9. Go on an ant hunt. These hard workers are a wonder to watch.
10. Look for animal tracks in the snow or mud. Areas around bird feeders, compost piles, trash cans or other food or water sources are good places to start.