



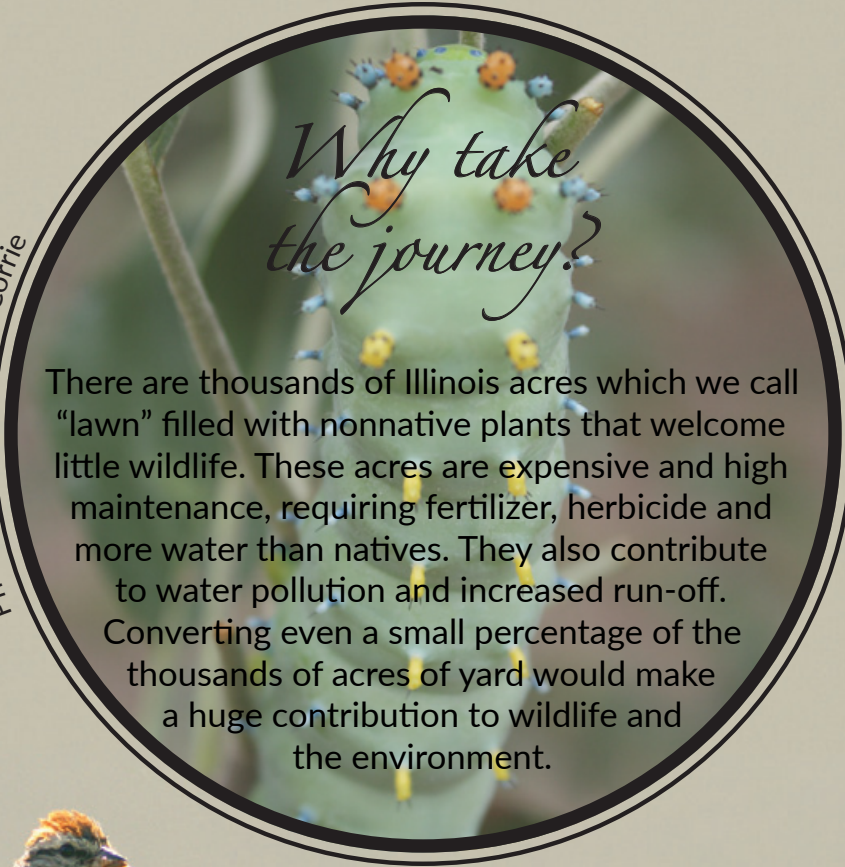
# *The Journey to Restore Native Habitat*

Illinois Audubon Society Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program



**ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
ESTABLISHED 1897

Photo by Carey Boehm-Corrie



*Why take  
the journey?*

There are thousands of Illinois acres which we call “lawn” filled with nonnative plants that welcome little wildlife. These acres are expensive and high maintenance, requiring fertilizer, herbicide and more water than natives. They also contribute to water pollution and increased run-off. Converting even a small percentage of the thousands of acres of yard would make a huge contribution to wildlife and the environment.



## *What to expect?*

Planting a yard with predominantly native plants will be a daunting task requiring patience and passion. This brochure provides some guidance to start your journey of “habitat restoration.” Using the suggested references in this brochure, checking with local nurseries which carry natives, checking mail order sources, visiting environmental learning centers, and reaching out to others who have established native yards are all resources to help you in your journey.

The challenges of your individual situation will inevitably lead you to discover more things to try and enjoy. It will become a labor of love. You ultimately will decide what you like and works for you, which will develop into your long-range plan. Remember, no yard can provide it all, and no yard is maintenance free.

## *Certification*

Somewhere along your journey we hope that you will certify your yard with the Illinois Audubon Society Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary program. Great habitat attracts wildlife and certification brings people together and helps to spread the word. A recognition sign becomes a focal point to pique people’s curiosity, spawning questions. It speaks of your commitment to wildlife. To be certified you don’t have to have a large tract of land, as a small, well-thought out yard is just fine. Your journey doesn’t have to be completed to get certified. Once certified you will be connected to others who can share their personal experiences and enthusiasm. Certification can be done online at [illinoisaudubon.org](http://illinoisaudubon.org).



Photo by Jim and Pam Richards

## *Let's get started*

- Make a list of plants in your yard, both native and nonnative.
- Check for invasive species (see website reference list noted on page 10) and plan to remove them.
- A yard does not have to be totally native; if you have nonnatives that are not invasive that you enjoy, plan around them.
- Start small, working one corner of your yard at a time.
- Assess soil type and drainage (these may be reflected by plants already present.).
- Take note of variations in sunlight.
- Plant in fall or spring when rain water is most available.
- Make use of the listed resources (page 10) to help you decide which plant community best suits your yard. Right plant, right place.
- Remember wildlife needs water.

The following lists of suggested plant materials are designed to attract birds and pollinators, and provide nectaring and larval foods for butterflies and moths.

Clearly, one size does not fit all. The plants listed here are fairly easy to grow, found throughout much of Illinois, and suitable for urban settings. Suitability may have to do with

height, aggressive growth or specific growth requirements. Illinois is a long state, which includes a diversity of ecotypes and two main hardiness zones (5 & 6, with a small portion of Zone 7 in extreme southern Illinois). Plan accordingly for plants acclimated to each zone.

Undoubtedly you will soon outgrow these lists and explore additional options.

## WILDFLOWERS

Approximate bloom times: Early: April – June; Midseason: June – August; Late: August – October

### Early

- Blue phlox *Phlox divaricata* P,Sh
- Celandine poppy *Stylophorum diphyllum* P,Sh
- Golden Alexander *Zizia aurea* S,P
- Jack-in-the-pulpit *Arisaema triphyllum* P,Sh
- Jacob's ladder *Polemonium reptans* P,Sh
- Prairie phlox *Phlox pilosa* S,P
- Shooting stars *Dodecatheon* spp. S,Sh
- Spiderworts *Tradescantia* spp. S,P (tends to sprawl)
- Violets *Viola* spp. S,Sh
- Virginia bluebells *Mertensia virginica* E,P,Sh
- Virginia spring beauty *Claytonia virginica* E,P,Sh
- White trout lily *Erythronium albidum* E,P,Sh
- Wild columbine *Aquilegia canadensis* S,Sh
- Wild geranium *Geranium maculatum* P,Sh
- Wild ginger *Asarum canadense* Sh (aggressive)
- Wild hyacinth *Camassia scilloides* S,P
- Wild indigo *Baptisia* spp. (blue, cream, white) S,P
- Wild strawberry *Fragaria virginiana* S,P



### KEY

- D Dioecious: having male and female plants.
  - E Ephemeral: foliage will die back as trees leaf out.
  - S Sun
  - P Part sun/shade
  - Sh Shade
- Consult the listed resources for complete information on growth habits and water and soil requirements.

## Midseason

Anise hyssop *Agastache foeniculum* S,P (bird and pollinator magnet)

Beardtongue *Penstemon* spp. S,P

Blazingstars *Liatris* spp. S

Culver's root *Veronicastrum virginicum* S,P

Milkweeds *Asclepias* spp. (butterfly weed, swamp, prairie) S,P

Mint, slender mountain *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* S,P (midseason to late)

Onions *Allium* spp. S,P (prairie, nodding)

Ox-eye sunflower *Heliopsis helianthoides* S,P (midseason to late)

Prairie coreopsis *Coreopsis palmata* S,P

Purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea* S,P

Purple prairie clover *Dalea purpurea* S,P

Rose verbena *Glandularia canadensis* S

Rudbeckias *Rudbeckia* spp. S,P (midseason to late)

Smooth phlox *Phlox glaberrima* S

Wild bergamot *Monarda fistulosa* S,P

Wild petunia *Ruellia humilis* S

Wild quinine *Parthenium integrifolium* S

## Late

Asters *Symphotrichum* spp. (smooth blue, sky blue, silky) S,P

Goldenrod *Solidago* spp. (elm-leaved, old field, rough) S,P

Joe-pye-weed, sweet *Eutrochium purpureum* S,P

Lobelia *Lobelia* spp. (cardinal and great blue; moist to wet) S,P

Obedient plant *Physostegia virginiana* S,P

Rattlesnake master *Eryngium yuccifolium* S

Royal catch fly *Silene regia* S

Silphiums *Silphium* spp. (compass plant, prairie dock) S,P (tall plants)



Photo by Carey Boehm-Corrie



## GRASSES AND SEDGES

- Little blue stem *Andropogon scoparium* S,P  
Prairie dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepus* S,P  
Palm sedge *Carex muskingumensis* S,Sh  
Pennsylvania sedge *Carex pennsylvanica* S,Sh

## VINES

- American bittersweet *Celastrus scandens* S  
American wisteria *Wisteria frutescens* S  
Virginia creeper *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* S,P

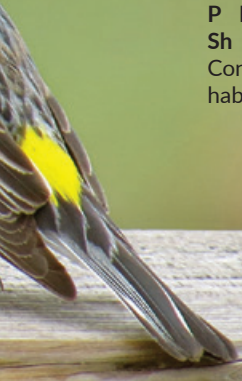
## SHRUBS

- Black chokeberry *Aronia melanocarpa* S,P  
Dogwoods *Cornus* spp. (rough-leaved, round-leaved, gray, red osier) S,P  
Eastern wahoo *Euonymus atropurpureus* S,P  
Fragrant sumac *Rhus aromatica* D,S,P  
Leadplant *Amorpha canescens* S,P  
New Jersey tea *Ceanothus americanus* S,P  
Ninebark *Physocarpus opulifolius* S,P  
Pussy willow *Salix discolor* S,P  
Sandcherry *Prunus pumila* S  
Serviceberry *Amelanchier* spp. (tree, shrub,) S,P  
Smooth hydrangea *Hydrangea arborescens* P  
Spicebush *Lindera benzoin* D,S,P  
Viburnums *Viburnum* spp. (blackhaw, downy, maple-leaved, American cranberry) S,P  
Virginia sweetspire *Itea virginica* S,P

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## TREES

Of the different tree species, as a group, oaks win first place for providing the greatest diversity of food for insects and, in turn, food for birds, especially migratory species.

Basswood *Tilia americana* **S,P**

Birches *Betula* spp. **S,P** (Check the growing conditions of your site.)

Cherries *Prunus* spp. (wild plum, wild black, sand and choke) **S,P**

Dogwoods *Cornus* spp. (alternate leaf, flowering) **S,P**

Eastern hop hornbeam *Ostrya virginiana* **S,P**

Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis* **S,P**

Maples *Acer* spp. (red and sugar, NOT silver) **D** Light depends on species.

Oaks *Quercus* spp. (red, white, pin, black, bur, chinkapin, swamp white and shingle) Light depends on species

Prairie crabapple *Malus ioensis* **S,P**

Redbud *Cercis canadensis* **S,P**

Serviceberry *Amelanchier* spp. (tree, shrub) **S,P**

Red cedar *Juniperus virginiana* **D,S,P**



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## *Additional Suggestions*

- Don't clean up the flower beds in the fall as many insects overwinter in the leaf matter and stems of dead plants.
- Use caution when purchasing plants as many large box stores do not promote local native species.
- Check in your area for spring plant sales conducted by the Illinois Native Plant Society or a nature center.
- Avoid the use of chemicals, especially those containing neonicotinoids, a group of insecticides especially harmful to bees. Many stores and nurseries sell ornamental plants which have been treated with these chemicals. Be proactive.
- Avoid cultivars of former native plants because many changes have occurred during their development for the landscape industry.

# References and Resources

## Books

*Birdscaping for the Midwest* by Mariette Nowak (2007)\*  
*Illinois Wild Flowers* by Don Kurz (2014)  
*Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz (2016)  
*The Midwestern Native Garden* by Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz (2011)  
*Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy (2009)\*  
*Native Trees for North American Landscapes* by Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson (2004)

\* In depth discussion on planning

## Organizations

Morton Arboretum; [mortonarb.org](http://mortonarb.org)  
Chicago Botanic Garden; [chicagobotanic.org](http://chicagobotanic.org)  
Illinois Native Plant Society; [ill-inps.org](http://ill-inps.org)  
Missouri Botanical Garden; [missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org)  
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation; [xerces.org](http://xerces.org)  
Illinois Natural History Survey; [inhs.illinois.edu](http://inhs.illinois.edu)  
Monarch Watch; [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)  
National Wildlife Federation; [nwf.org](http://nwf.org)  
Wild Ones; [wildones.org](http://wildones.org)  
The Garden Clubs of Illinois; [gardenclubsofillinois.org](http://gardenclubsofillinois.org)  
Trees Forever; [treesforever.org](http://treesforever.org)

## Websites

Lists of native and naturalized woody plants of Illinois  
[inhs.illinois.edu/~kenr/woody.html](http://inhs.illinois.edu/~kenr/woody.html)  
[illinoiswildflowers.info](http://illinoiswildflowers.info)  
[audubon.org/native-plants](http://audubon.org/native-plants)

## Invasive Species

[invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants](http://invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants)  
[chicagobotanic.org/research/identifyingthreats/invasive](http://chicagobotanic.org/research/identifyingthreats/invasive)

Illinois Audubon Society  
PO Box 2547  
Springfield, IL 62708

217.544.2473

[illinoisaudubon.org](http://illinoisaudubon.org)



For more references on planning, identifying butterfly and moth larvae, examples of host larval plants, ecological mosquito control, and some suggested deer resistant native plants, visit [illinoisaudubon.org](http://illinoisaudubon.org) and click on the Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary link under the programs tab.

**ILLINOIS  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY** 

**Bird and Butterfly  
Sanctuary**



This site contains native plantings, shelter, water resources, and nesting sites which together provide high quality habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Certified by  
Illinois Audubon Society  
[illinoisaudubon.org](http://illinoisaudubon.org)



Photo by Sue Wagoner

# *Sample Illinois Certified Bird and Butterfly Gardens*



**Russ Gilhain,  
Shorewood**

Nothing draws in birds better than the sound of rippling water. A great water feature can entice even those tree-top species to fly in and take a sip.



**Mona Maas,  
Elkhart**

Walking space within this prairie area provides opportunities to enjoy the plants as well as the creatures which each attracts.



**Meredith Schnelle,  
Antioch**

This patch of Illinois prairie, beautifying the driveway entrance, features such natives as ironweed, common milkweed, prairie dock, cup plant, compass plant, tall goldenrod and tall sunflower.