

## **Habitats Management for Wildlife**

**By Bradley Shelfer**

Everyone needs foods to survive. Animals are no different. We can do our part by providing simple and easy ways to preserve our wildlife. You can provide feeding hangers and provide plants that will provide the essentials of life. To survive, many wildlife species need native plants such as shrubs and trees. The native plants provide berries, pollen and nectar which are essential for wildlife survival. The native plants can also be supplemented by hanging hummingbird feeders, squirrel feeds, and bird feeders. Not only do these provide food for the animals, you can also enjoy watching these animals in your own yard.

Another important factor for wildlife is providing a fresh water supply. This can be accomplished by installing water fountains and bird baths. The water should be changed every couple of days to keep mosquitoes from breeding. Water is also need for reproduction, drinking and cleansing.

Wildlife need to feel that they are safe from predators and humans. We can help by planting shrubs and having brush piles when appropriate. If planting shrubs is not an option, you can provide birdhouses for birds that are in your region. You can also create a safe haven for aquatic type animals such as fish and amphibians by building a pond that can also be used to attract other animals. Wildlife need to feel they are safe while raising their young and by providing these shelters we can increase the population.

We can play an important part by maintaining our lawns, gardens and landscape areas by using techniques that help us conserve and protect our natural resources. Some simple ways to accomplish this is to use chemical free fertilizer on your yard, use mulch to keep water in the soil which helps reduce water consumption. You should plant native plants that require less maintenance and fertilizers which can drive away wildlife.

To increase wildlife habitation we can provide alternative food and water resources, provide them with a safe place to live and to raise their young and plan for smart and safe gardening practices by reducing the use of fertilizers.