



Illinois Audubon Society  
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217.544.BIRD  
illinoisaudubon.org

### *Helping to Preserve the Flora and Fauna of Illinois Since 1897*

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them.

The Society is an independent, member supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. Founded in 1897, the Society is Illinois' oldest private conservation organization with 2200 members, 17 chapters and 19 affiliate groups.

The Illinois Audubon Society has protected 6,000 acres by investing \$16.5 million to protect land and water throughout Illinois.

For more information regarding the Certified Backyard Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Project contact [ias@illinoisaudubon.org](mailto:ias@illinoisaudubon.org) call 217.544.2473 or go to our website at: [illinoisaudubon.org](http://illinoisaudubon.org)

### USING NATIVE SPECIES IN YOUR BIRD AND BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY

Birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife have evolved with native plants. The best nectar sources, the best fruits, and the best nesting foliage are provided by the plants which have grown in our Illinois landscape for thousands of years. There are many reasons for using native plants in your yard rather than those imported from around the world.

All creatures need four basic things to survive: food, water, shelter, and a suitable place to raise their young. By choosing plantings which provide any of these you can enhance your backyard habitat for wildlife. Native plantings are the way to go for best seed and berry sources, as well as nesting sites. Adding a water source instantly attracts a crowd.

Our native plants are adapted for our climate. They are able to survive periods of hot weather and drought. Lowland species can withstand periodic flooding. They do not become invasive, spreading like wildfire through the landscape, smothering other species and developing monocultures that are unfavorable to wildlife. Diversity is the key to maintaining a home for wildlife.

Native plants meet the needs of our insects, spiders, birds, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. They outperform exotic plants in every way and require no special care once they are established. There are local native plants which meet virtually any landscaping need; they can be chosen for spring blossoms, beautiful foliage, fall color, and bountiful fruits--or all of these. There are native plants which provide ground cover, perennials which require little maintenance, and shrubs and trees for both sunny and shady locations.



*Helping Preserve Illinois Flora and Fauna Since 1897*



## Certified Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program



# Certified Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Project

While maintaining your grounds to attract wildlife, you will be adding to the value of your property and the beauty of your neighborhood. It is important to *educate* friends and neighbors on the importance of maintaining an environmentally sound backyard habitat by warning about the dangers of introducing invasive plants and the dependence on chemicals to control weeds and insects.

Every participant who qualifies for the sanctuary designation will receive a sign for posting the property and be entered into our list of **Illinois Audubon Society Certified Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries**.

## APPLY USING THIS FORM:

Applications should be typewritten and must also include photographs which further explain why your backyard or grounds qualify for the designation of an **Illinois Audubon Society Certified Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary**. Incomplete applications will be returned.

## APPLY ONLINE:

Applying online is easy to do. Go to [illinoisaudubon.org](http://illinoisaudubon.org).

## COST:

The cost of application is \$20.

# Illinois Audubon Society

Please answer all of the following questions.  
Applications should be typewritten.

1. Your yard must have plantings especially suited to attracting birds and butterflies and provide the four basic elements of habitat: Food, Shelter, Water and Space. This may include trees and shrubs to provide nesting cover for birds, berry-producing shrubs, flowers for hummingbirds and butterflies, plants grown specifically for bees and caterpillars. It may also include nest boxes if there is space, and should have a birdbath, small pond or other source of water. --List an example of how you have provided each of the four components of habitat. A plant species list must be included. Certified backyard habitats should contain a significant number of native plantings. Please contact Illinois Audubon Society or go to our website for helpful information on choosing natives for your project.

2. You must agree to use a minimal amount of chemicals in maintaining your sanctuary. Many herbicides and pesticides are detrimental to birds, bees and butterflies, and can also be harmful to people and pets. --List an example of how you have controlled exotic plants or weeds without the use of chemicals.

3. You must use your yard or grounds to educate other people about the importance of bird and butterfly plantings. This can take many forms--simply telling neighbors and visitors about the Illinois Audubon Society Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Project and showing them the habitat improvements in your yard; giving a presentation to a group concerning the importance of backyard habitat and gardening with natives, or inviting them to view your yard. --List an example of how you have used your yard to educate friends, neighbors, a group or organization.

4. Include photographs which clearly support examples of the four components of habitat in your backyard or grounds. (Unless requested, these photos will not be returned)

## APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED BIRD AND BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

E-mail:

I agree to give IAS permission to use photos submitted and the following information in presentations, press releases and on the website as stated below. (Please circle your preferences)

Yes No My backyard may be listed as "The (name) Certified Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary"  
(For example: "The Smith Certified Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary")

Yes No The city/town where my Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary is located may be listed (**exact street addresses will never be publicized.**)

Please include \$20 application fee. Make checks payable to "Illinois Audubon Society".  
Send to: Illinois Audubon Society, PO Box 2547, Springfield, IL 62708

