



## The Benefits of Creating of Preserving Wildlife Habitats

Habitat loss is one of the largest factors contributing to the extinction of species on this planet.

Migratory birds are losing their resting stopovers, and local wildlife are suffering as well. Our natural areas are diminishing in size, and many species dependant on large acreage for survival are losing their battle. Some species may live part of their life in one type of habitat, such as a woodland, and part of their life in water. . . And need BOTH for survival.

Native pollinators are competing with pesticides, and often cannot travel the great distances between natural areas to find enough food to sustain themselves. Hedgerows that they need for protection and travel are being eliminated. Amphibian populations are showing an alarming rate of decline and malformation. These are just a few examples of why we need to conserve wildlife habitat everywhere.

Wildlife habitats in backyards, schoolyards, workplaces and communities are beneficial in that they:

- ▶ Provide critical elements needed for species survival;
- ▶ Provide outdoor learning experiences for people of all ages;
- ▶ Beautify and create a sense of place;
- ▶ Are low maintenance, and reduce costs;
- ▶ Don't require chemical fertilizers or pesticides, therefore reduce run-off of chemicals into local rivers, lakes, and other water sources;
- ▶ Reduce mowing needs, leading to improved air quality and less noise pollution;
- ▶ Bring neighbors together for a common purpose, building a sense of community;
- ▶ Provide an opportunity for team-building and team-work;
- ▶ Encourage participation in other citizen Naturalist activities, such as species monitoring projects;
- ▶ Provide a tangible goal and result of making a difference.