

Is Your Garden a Nature Preserve?

Reconciliation Ecology studies are ways to encourage, biodiversity in human dominated ecosystems. It is based on the theory that there is not enough area for all species to be saved within designated nature preserves.

In his book *Bringing Nature Home*, Douglas Tallamy shows that native species have developed complicated relationships with other species over a long period of time. If one species in the food web becomes extinct, many other species are affected. Most birds feed their fledglings a specific caterpillar. If we lose the plant that caterpillar feeds on, we lose the caterpillar, if we lose the caterpillar, the baby bird has no food.

In his book, *Nature's Best Hope*, Douglas Tallamy outlines a new approach to Conservation that starts in your yard. We, as gardeners, can plant to provide for and shelter wildlife. By shrinking the lawn, planting native species, removing invasive plants, and avoiding pesticides, we can help nature take care of itself with its interconnections. Our gardens can become nature preserves.

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