**Wildlife Ponds / Boggy areas**

A pond can be anything from a sunken bucket in the ground to a purpose-built pond. It is important to create a pond with shallow edges which will allow wildlife to enter into and out from the pond. Make sure your pond is in a sunny spot and away from shady trees. Include native marginal, submerged and floating plants which oxygenate the water and provide cover for invertebrates and amphibians.

**Climbers**

Including climbers to fences and walls will also provide shelter and feeding potential for birds and insects. Climbers include ivy, clematis and honeysuckle.

**Want to Know More?**

For more information and ideas on how to encourage wildlife to your garden log on to the following websites:

- **Wild about Gardens** [www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/](http://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/)
- **British Hedgehogs** [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/)
- **Natural England** [www.naturalengland.org.uk/](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/)
- **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds** [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)
- **Breathing Spaces** [www bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/](http://www bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/)
- **Landlife** [www.landlife.org.uk/](http://www.landlife.org.uk/)
- **Northumberland Wildlife Trust** [www.nwt.org.uk](http://www.nwt.org.uk)
- **Pond Conservation** [www.pondconservation.org.uk/](http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/)
- **Organic Gardening** [www.gardenorganic.org.uk/](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/)
- **Newcastle City Council** [www.newcastle gov.uk](http://www.newcastle gov.uk)
- **North Tyneside Council** [www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk)
Go Wild in the Garden!!!

Gardens, no matter how large or small have great potential for wildlife in providing shelter, food and places to breed. Wildlife gardening will bring life into your garden and make it a more interesting place. Gardens are stepping stones which form corridors to allow wildlife to move freely into the wider countryside.

Below are some ideas which you could do to create a wildlife garden:

Wild Areas

Leaving an area within the garden which is unmanaged will provide sanctuary for mini beasts and amphibians.

Logs piles situated in undisturbed wild areas of the garden will provide feeding potential and hibernation for hedgehogs during winter months. Encouraging hedgehogs 'the gardener's friend' is a natural defence to deal with slugs.

Insect Houses

Create a small insect house made by using recycled bottles, corrugated cardboard and hollow bamboo canes. This will provide shelter for lacewings and ladybirds which feed on aphids will also benefit from the hollow stems of bamboo canes and card.

Bird Boxes

Bird boxes can be erected on buildings, sheds and on trees. Bird boxes should be situated away from potential predators and possible overhanging branches. Providing bird boxes with different sized entrance holes will encourage a variety of species. Blue tits require an entrance hole of 28mm, house sparrows 32mm and open fronted are ideal for robins.

Bird Feeders

Bird feeders are an excellent way to encourage birds to the garden. A number of species have experienced a decline in recent years. Using a variety of feeders and food including nuts and seeds will attract different species to the garden.

- Autumn / Winter feeding – Food and water should be put out on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can; in the morning and in the early afternoon. Birds require high energy (high fat) foods. Including suet pellets, cheese and fat balls to a bird’s diet during the cold winter weather will help to maintain their fat reserves in order to survive the frosty nights.

- Spring / summer feeding - During the summer months, birds require high protein foods. Black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mild grated cheese and mealworms, are also good for birds.

- Do not allow uneaten food to accumulate and frequently wash out feeders to prevent disease.

Nectar and Pollen Plants for Bees and Butterflies

A variety of plants can be grown within the garden that can provide high nectar and pollen source from spring to late summer. Native wildflowers will attract insects including bees which are important pollinators. Plants which provide a good nectar source include; bird’s-foot trefoil, red clover, knapweed, primrose, field scabious, ox eye daisy, meadow cranebill, selfheal and buttercup.

Ornamental plants which can also benefit butterflies as well as bees include lavender, heather and hebe.

Hedge & Shrub

Hedges provide alternative privacy to your garden as well as shelter and meeting potential for birds. Native hedges provide berries for birds and nectar for bees. Species include; hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and hazel.