

Review: Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest

By Russell Link

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Link, Russell. *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1999. 320 pp. ISBN 0-295-97820-1 (paperback). US\$29.95

Have you ever wanted to attract birds or butterflies into your backyard but were not sure what plants were most effective? Have you spent many an evening staring at your unoccupied bat house and wondered why there were no bats living in it? How often have you thought about putting in a small pond or wetland area but did not quite know how to go about it? These questions and many more are answered by Russell Link in *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*.

Link provides a wealth of information in the twenty-three chapters and five appendices in *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. Published in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the book focuses on techniques of landscaping with an aim at providing habitat and attracting species of birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and even fish that are found in Pacific Northwest ecosystems. Many of these techniques, however, are applicable throughout the United States provided you use plants that do well in your particular hardiness zone.

Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest is broken up into five parts with numerous chapters in each part. Part One discusses landscape design for wildlife habitat and maintenance of the habitat once it is created. Part Two looks at the wildlife of the Pacific Northwest including descriptions, color photos and behavior. Part Three discusses special features for wildlife landscapes such as ponds, bat houses, dead trees, etc. Part Four presents a look at coexisting with wildlife and includes topics such as the impact of domestic cats and dogs on wildlife, how to deal with wildlife-related problems (like unwanted birds or animals in your attic or deer eating your garden), and what to do with sick or injured wildlife. Part Five is an extensive set of appendices dealing with Pacific Northwest plants and habitats; landscape and wildlife information for specific plants; construction of nest boxes, bat houses and bird feeders; and an extensive list of resources such as books, articles, Internet sites, agencies, etc.

Russell Link has provided the reader with a wealth of information in *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. Of particular interest are

the sidebar explanations that are present on many of the pages throughout the text. These sidebars serve to provide even more information and make for interesting reading that complements the already informative text. Link has authored an excellent resource for anyone interested in creating habitat or improving existing landscape in order to benefit and attract wildlife. Despite the book's slant toward Pacific Northwest habitats, everyone will be able to find useful information in *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* no matter where they live.

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