



Attract wildlife to your Backyard

Your backyard can attract a wide range of wildlife. Follow these steps to attract a wide variety of birds, insects, and small mammals to your wildlife-friendly garden.

1. Chose native plants

- Native flowering plants: Provide nectar for pollinators like bees and butterflies.
- Fruit and seed-producing plants: Encourage birds and small mammals with native grasses, wattles, and shrubs.
- Layered planting: Include ground covers, shrubs, and trees to create diverse habitats.

2. Provide water

- Birdbaths: Place a shallow birdbath in a shady, elevated spot. Clean and refill with fresh water.
- Natural water features: Ponds or small fountains with sloped sides for easy access for frogs.
- Water bowls: Place shallow water bowls on the ground around your backyard.

3. Shelter

- Nesting boxes: Install boxes for birds, bats or possums.
- Hedges and shrubs: Create hiding spots for small birds, lizards and mammals.
- Logs and rocks: Arrange logs, rocks and leaf litter to provide homes for insects, frogs and reptiles.

4. Food sources

- Plant diversity: Grow a mix of flowering, fruiting, and seeding plants.
- Attract insects: Allow native plants and wildflowers to thrive, supporting pollinators and other insects.
- Compost and mulch: Healthy soil attracts worms and insects for birds and other animals.

5. Safety

- Keep pets away: Cats and dogs can harm wildlife. Create designated areas for them.
- Avoid chemicals: To protect sensitive species, limit the use of pesticides and herbicides.

6. Monitor and Enjoy

- Observe respectfully: Watch and identify wildlife from a distance to avoid disturbing them.
- Keep observing: Note which species visit your backyard.
- Seasons: Notice how your garden changes and attracts different species throughout the year.



Ringtail Possum. Image credit: Albert Golden

iNaturalist is a citizen science platform that helps users record and share observations of biodiversity. It allows you to contribute to valuable scientific data while learning more about local species. Simply take a photo of flora, or wildlife in your backyard, upload it to the app, and the community will help identify it. Using iNaturalist is an excellent way to track your backyard visitors and support conservation efforts.