Woodscaping Activities to Attract and Keep Wildlife

Keeping in mind the biological and habitat needs of wildlife, there are many things you can do to provide them what they need so that you can enjoy their company.

Food

- Plant trees and shrubs that bear plentiful fruits and nuts
- Plant the edges of your woods with herbaceous plants that provide plentiful seeds
- Allow a few grapevines to remain in the trees, preferably in edge or low quality trees
- Create feeding stations to supplement naturally occurring food sources with grains and other nutritious foods
- Offer a salt block

Water

- Create a small pond
- Improve stream flow and quantity by removing debris and preventing erosion
- Place a large container out and regularly keep it filled with water
- Create a small rock dam in a creek to create a shallow, seasonal pool for wildlife

Cover

- Create various sized brush piles near food and water sources
- Install appropriate nesting boxes in trees or on posts
- Plant trees and shrubs that are evergreen or have thorns
- Allow some “thickets” to remain on the edges of your woods
- Allow some dead and/or decayed trees to remain in the woods as nesting sites, places to hibernate, and as a source of insects for food. (Be sure these dead trees are not near where unsuspecting human visitors might wander).

A Word on “Habitat Diversity”

To maximize the amount and types of wildlife you can attract to your property through woodscaping, you should consider the concept of “habitat diversity.”

A cornfield or a stand of pure pines has less diversity than a forest of mixed hardwood trees. Some wildlife can live in a cornfield or in a pine tree, but more animals will live better and longer in a habitat that is more diverse.
Certain animals have adapted to and require certain habitats to survive. The principle of diversity says that wherever two required habitat types for an animal meet, the edge between the two will be more favorable for wildlife than either type alone.

Creating or maintaining different types of habitats and the edges where they meet and mingle is a sure means of providing wildlife the diversity and habitats they need.