



Wildlife NOTES

Celebrating Earth Day, Thinking of Wildlife

There are countless ways that we can help reduce our environmental footprints, including taking shorter showers, installing energy-efficient light bulbs and walking, biking or taking the bus instead of driving. All of these efforts help maintain a healthier habitat for wildlife – and for us! Here are some other things to do that will make a significant difference for all who share our planet:

Clean it up. Visit your local stream or pond and pick up trash that you find. The results will be felt far downstream.

Check for life. Look carefully for rabbit nests before mowing in the spring. The babies stay for three weeks until weaned and self-sufficient. Mowing can wait.

Save trees. Spring cleaning is in the air, but this is the worst time to cut down hollow trees because squirrels, raccoons, woodpeckers, flying squirrels, and others are nesting in them.

Stop using plastic bags. Wildlife become entangled or trapped in plastic bags, especially ones that have food smells to attract curious animals.

Let it grow. No matter how small a patch you dedicate, letting your lawn grow into a meadow not only cuts down on the use of fossil fuels, but it also greatly increases habitat for birds and butterflies and other interesting critters. This could be one of the most important commitments you will ever make to planet earth.

Go native. Use plants that are native to your area. Not only will they thrive better, but they will also require less maintenance.



Keep cats indoors. Even the gentlest, well-fed house cat will prey on wildlife instinctively when given the chance. Outdoor-roaming cats are also at risk for accidents and diseases that indoor cats aren't.

Try vegan meals. Animals raised for food produce about three times as much waste as the total U.S. human population. This waste

infiltrates habitats as it pollutes the air, soil and water.

This Earth Day — and every day — we can improve the health of the Mother Earth and reduce animal suffering, simply by remembering all who share our planet



How to Make a Rain Stick Reuse before Recycle

Getting children involved in nature projects is not only time well-spent together but also provides the opportunity to pass on your values of care and compassion for all living creatures.

You'll need:

- Empty paper towel roll
- Colored markers or crayons
- Push pin or large gauge needle
- Toothpicks (50+)
- Glue
- Scissors and cutting pliers
- Tape and construction paper
- 2 tablespoons dry rice

Use colored markers or crayons to decorate the paper towel roll. Poke many holes throughout the tube to hold toothpicks. Push toothpicks through one hole and out another on the opposite side. Vary the angle and position of the toothpicks. Put a dab of glue on each toothpick end.

When dry, use the cutting pliers to snip the sharp ends from the toothpicks. Seal one end of the tube with construction paper and tape. Pour 2 tablespoons of rice into the tube. Seal the other end. Turn your 'Rain Stick' over gently to hear the sound of falling rain and enjoy!

Look on the internet for other projects, like bird feeders made from recycled milk cartons.