

# BUILD BACK HABITAT WITH A BRUSH PILE FOR BIRDS

Building a brush pile is a great way to deal with all of the branches caused by wind and storms! You can tidy up the yard while also creating habitat for birds and other creatures, win-win! Brush piles:

- Offer critical shelter and hiding spots from predators
- Provide safe nesting for ground dwelling birds
- Create habitat for a whole ecosystem web (microbes, fungi, insects, birds and mammals)
- Are fantastic projects to do with kids!

1

Important! Locate the brush pile away from your house and any neighboring structures. Ideally place them at forest edges or near gardens full of native plants. Aim for 3-4 brush piles per acre of land.

2

Ideal brush piles are 4-8 feet tall and 10-20 feet in diameter, consider this size when finding a perfect place. Look for a spot with good drainage and start with a base of leaves or pine needles.

3

Build a strong base by laying down large logs criss-crossed - you can also add stones to the base or even pipes to make tunnels if you have them. You want to have small spaces at the base where small mammals could take shelter too.

4

Begin loosely piling up branches on top of your base. Continue adding successive layers moving to smaller branches and a tighter weave. Incorporate evergreen boughs for additional winter protection.

5

You can plant native vines near the brush pile and let them creep over top for added benefit. Or add some native wildflowers or berry bush bushes close by to create new micro-habitats.