

2010

Creating backyard habitats

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/coastal-notes>

Recommended Citation

<http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/garden/CPN%20CreatingBackyardHabitats.pdf>

This brochure is brought to you for free and open access by the Garden of the Coastal Plain (Previously Botanical Garden) at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Coastal Plain Notes by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Common Birds: Food & Habitat Requirements

Northern Cardinal • Mostly low shrubbery • Insects, berries, and seeds; will eat • sunflower seeds at bird feeder

American Crow • Open areas, fields, yards, almost anywhere • Non-discriminating eater

Pine Warbler • Open pine woodlands • Insects, peanut butter and suet mixes

Tufted Titmouse • Woodlands • Insects, seeds, berries, suet feeders

Red-tailed Hawk • Open woodlands • Birds, reptiles, insects

Winter Birds: Food & Habitat Requirements

Eastern Phoebe • Open woodlands near streams, bridges, buildings with ledges • Insects and berries

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker • Open woodlands, yards, gardens • Tree sap and insects; fruits and berries; will come to feeders

Chipping Sparrow • Pine woodlands, parks, yards • Insects, small grains from feeders

Dark-eyed Junco • Woodland edges, hedgerows, roadsides, residential areas • Seeds, some insects, black oil sunflower at feeders

Song Sparrow • Woodland edges, hedgerows, gardens • Forages on ground for seeds and insects

Wildlife Plants

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*)

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Laurel Oak (*Quercus laurifolia*)

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)

May haw (*Crataegus aestivalis*)

Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)

Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnate*)

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

Possum Haw (*Ilex decidua*)

Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*)

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

Southern Crabapple (*Malus angustifolia*)

Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)

Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)

Viburnum (*Viburnum sp.*)

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Wax-myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

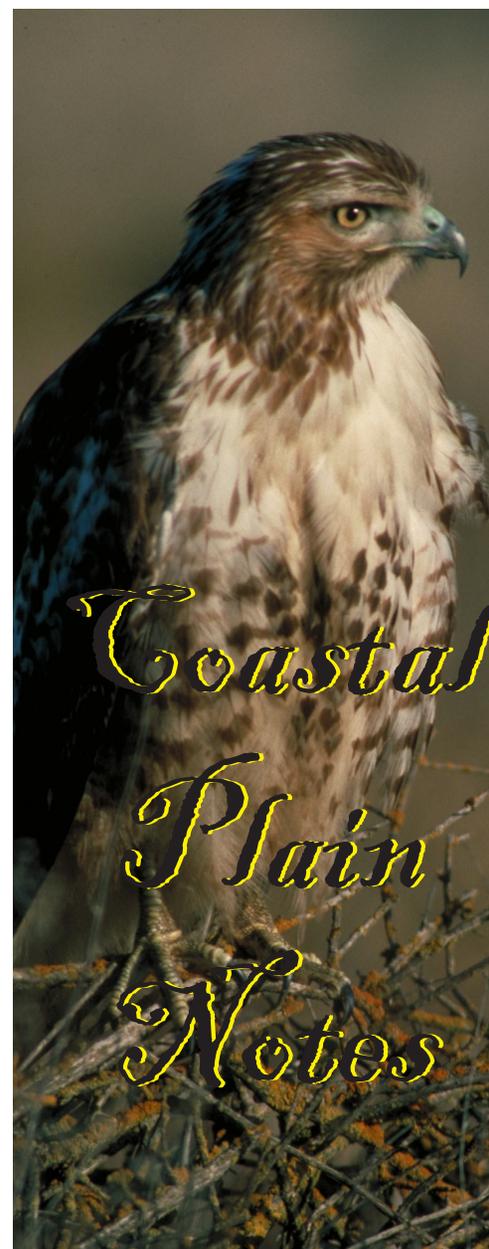
Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*)

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*)



Sparkleberry
(*Vaccinium arboreum*)



Coastal
Plain
Notes

Creating Backyard Habitats

Welcome birds and other wildlife into your yard by planting the native plants they require for food and shelter.

Georgia Southern Botanical Garden

This brochure is funded in part by a grant from a Museums for America Grant.

Georgia Southern Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 8039, Statesboro, Georgia 30460
912.871.1149 <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/garden>

The Basics

Watching wildlife is the most popular American past time next to gardening, and combining the two hobbies to create a backyard habitat can be an exciting and rewarding adventure. By providing birds and other wildlife with the space and plants they need for food and shelter, you create an enjoyable setting for both you and the wildlife.



Carolina Wren

Urbanization has greatly decreased the amount of habitat available to local wildlife, and backyard habitats provide a much needed refuge for our flying and crawling friends. Using plants that are native to your area welcomes animals that recognize them as food and shelter sources. Native plants also require less water and chemical use. Water from hoses and sprinklers dilutes nectar supplies for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Chemicals harm insects that serve as valuable food to birds. By using native plants that are naturally adapted to this area, the amount of water and chemicals used is reduced and a more welcoming environment for birds and other wildlife is created.

Planning Your Habitat

When designing your backyard habitat, keep in mind that wildlife needs a space that provides protection from weather and predators. Several mature trees surrounded by shrubs planted in clusters rather than lines create an edge effect that birds prefer.

Be sure to provide water in your backyard habitat. Water sources should be placed in the shade away from other structures and plants. Shallow bowls or other containers are preferred by birds and butterflies. Be sure to include some rocks for perching birds as well as a sandy, saturated area along the border for butterflies.

“Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.”
--Rachel Carson

Your water source can be a simple plastic bowl or complex pond construction.

Aside from the plants listed on the adjacent panels of this brochure, natural food and shelter sources can be supplemented by purchasing or constructing houses and feeders. Some feeders attract specific types of birds while others, such as platform and suet feeders, attract many species of birds. Houses can also be built to attract specific wildlife species, such as bat, butterfly and bluebird houses.

For more information contact Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society, and your local library.

Common Birds: Food & Habitat Requirements



Eastern Bluebird

Eastern Bluebird

- Farms, gardens, parks
- Insects, small amphibians, suet and peanut butter mixes

Northern Mockingbird

- Trees, shrubs, suburbs, residential areas

Mostly insects and other small animals, some berries, suet feeders

American Robin • Open areas such as lawns • Earthworms and insects in spring and summer, seeds and berries in fall and winter

Mourning Dove • Open areas, fields, yards • Usually eats seeds on ground, better to spread seeds than put them in a feeder

Carolina Wren • Woodlands, water's edge, residential areas • Insects, suet feeders

Brown Thrasher • Open woodlands, hedge rows, gardens, roadsides • Forages on ground for small insects and other animals

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
• Gardens, woodland edge • Feeds on nectar, attracted to red flowers and tube-shaped flowers. Also feeds on insects and small spiders. Will go to hummingbird feeders filled with sugar and water