

# Backyard Wildlife Habitat

## Backyard Birds



### Bird Biology

It's easy to attract birds to your backyard if you just provide what they need. All birds require food, water, shelter and breeding space, but different bird species have different needs. Some species like Wrens and Chickadees primarily eat insects, while Cedar Waxwings prefer fruit. In order for your backyard habitat to be successful, you must provide for the critical needs of the particular species you are trying to attract. Do a little research to find out what a specific bird needs. For instance, putting out a seed feeder is not likely to attract an insect eating bird, and birds that build nests in trees will probably not use a bird box. By providing the essential habitat requirements, you can expect many feathered visitors.

### Attracting Birds

- Provide a variety of habitat types; open space, edges and native plants.
- Plant layers of vegetation i.e. canopy trees, understory trees, shrubs and ground covers.
- Not all birds will be attracted to feeders.
- Bird baths are great for attracting many different varieties of birds. Remember to change water every few days.
- Wash feeders before refilling them.
- Select the right type of food for feeders. For example not all birds can eat sunflower seeds.



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### A Few Birds of the Delta

Mockingbird  
Eastern Blue Bird  
American Robin  
Cardinal  
Vireos  
Carolina Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse  
Carolina Wrens  
Cedar Waxwing  
Painted & Indigo Bunting  
Northern Oriole  
American Goldfinch



### Important Plant Species for Birds in Mississippi

#### Large Trees

Hackberry  
Sweetgum  
Various Oaks  
Southern Magnolia  
Green Ash  
Boxelder

#### Small Trees

Black Cherry  
Hawthorn  
Silverbell  
Easter Red Cedar  
Crab apple

#### Shrubs

Hollies  
Huckleberry  
American Beautyberry  
Blueberries  
Buckeye  
Arrowwood Viburnum

#### Vines

Cross vine  
Trumpet vine  
Carolina yellow Jessamine  
Virginia Creeper

#### Perennials

Lantana  
Sunflowers  
Bee Balm

