

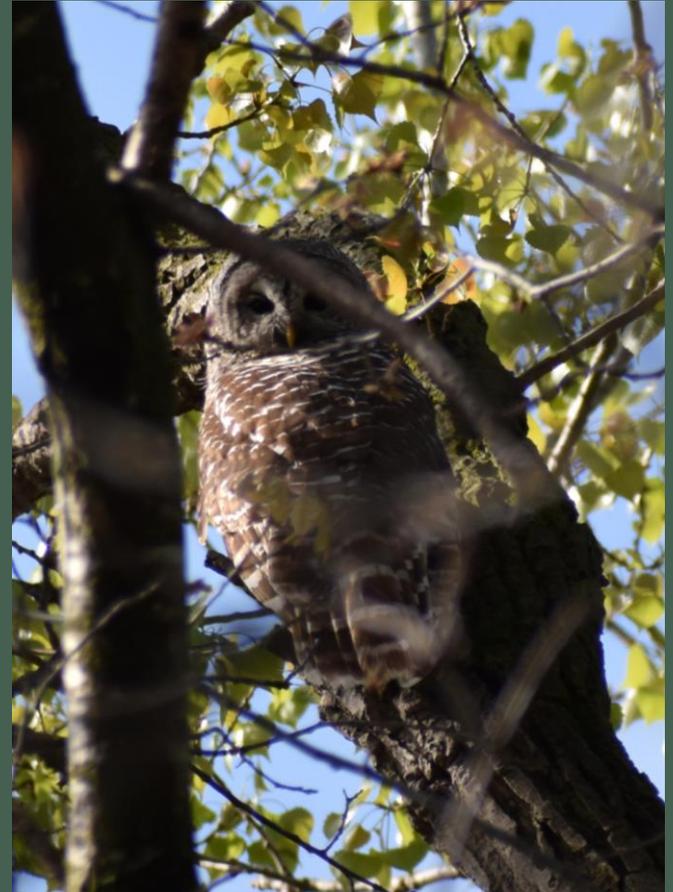


ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD



River Bend
NATURE CENTER

What do you want to attract?



What does your backyard look like?

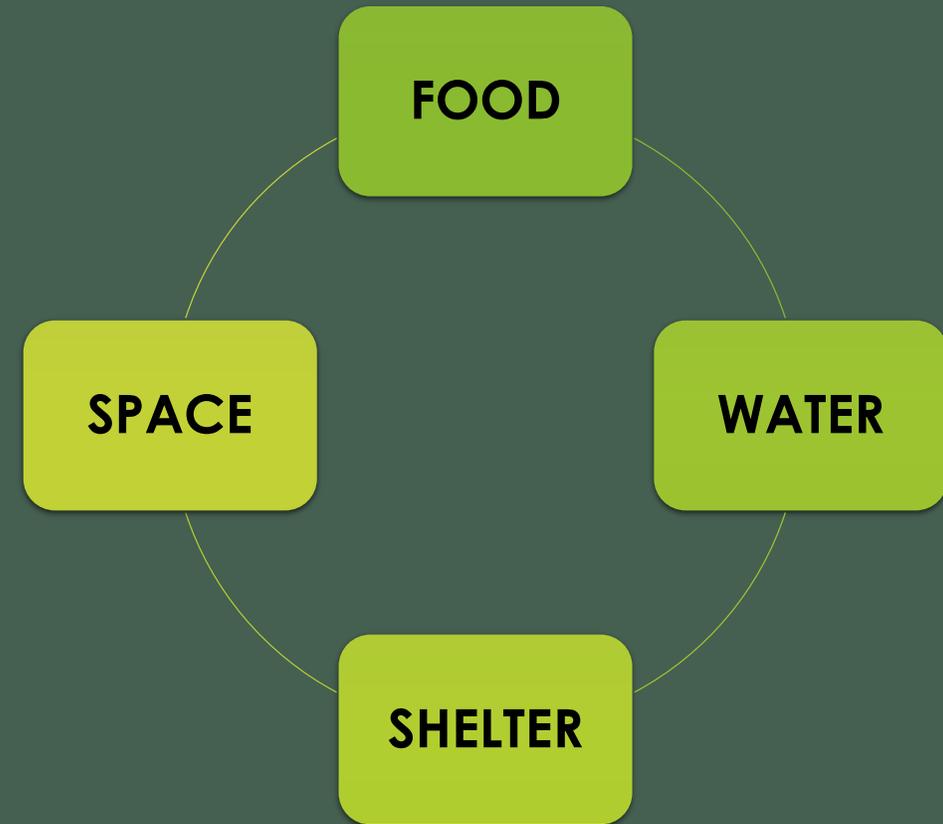


Maybe
more like
this...





Provide the Essentials





Food Sources

- Store bought seed, nuts, nectar, jams, and mealworms

Most beneficial in the winter months when insects are more scarce

- Native plantings
Beneficial year-round
Brings in natural prey (insects) needed for a healthy diet and baby bird growth
Plants provide more than just food

The best natural food sources are...



Oak
Trees



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

Oak Trees are host to more than 300 insect species

They provide nuts and flowers as additional food

Great nesting trees for many bird species

Attracts Blue Jays, Warblers, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Chickadees, and more

For hummingbirds...



Nectar
Flowers



Hummingbirds need to eat every 15 minutes to sustain their energy

They love long-tubed flowers, such as fuchsia, trumpet vine, petunias, and American wisteria, among many other flower varieties

They use spider webs, moss and lichen to build their nests

They feed their babies insects

Plant natural food sources... if you can



95% of bird species consume insects & spiders



Most birds are foraging for insects in the spring, summer and fall instead using feeders

Insects provide important protein and calories for growing baby birds



Providing a variety of trees, shrubs and/or flowers and grasses in your yard is more beneficial than buying seed

Trees, Shrubs, Grasses

Beneficial, Native Trees

- Oak Trees
- River Birch
- Red Maple, Sugar Maple
- American Basswood
- Walnut
- Ironwood
- Hickory
- Hackberry
- Pines
- Cedars

Beneficial, Native Shrubs & Vines

- Viburnums
- Serviceberry
- Pagoda Dogwood
- American Plum
- Witch Hazel
- Trumpet Vine
- American Wisteria
- Virginia Creeper
- Virginia Creeper
- Wild Grape

Beneficial, Native Flowers & Grasses

- Black-eyed Susan
- Gray-headed Coneflower
- Wild Strawberry
- New England Aster
- Side Oats Grama
- Little Bluestem
- Prairie Dropseed
- Sedges
- June Grass



If homeowners used native plants in their yards – which would enable them to control pests without using pesticides – it would represent the largest habitat restoration for birds ever taken.

- John Flicker, President, National Audubon Society

Water is essential for all life...

Bird bath fountain provides moving water that attracts birds



Heated bird baths in the winter can provide fresh water





Shelter

Provide shelter in the form of trees, shrubs or patch of flowers near your bird feeders

Helps birds retrieve seeds from feeders and then retreat to a nearby place to eat it

Small birds, such as Chickadees, are vulnerable to prey out in the open so they quickly collect food and fly away

The best shelter source...



Evergreens



Pine trees, spruce, & cedars are great for shelter from predators and weather

Keep their “leaves” year-round

Are a great resource for seeds, sap and fruit

Manmade houses work too...



Bird
Houses



Houses come in many sizes for Bluebirds, Wrens, Chickadees, Wood Ducks, and Owls

Space them out, hang them high and low to accommodate different species



Space

Feeders bring in a variety of birds

Spread out feeders to prevent over-crowding

Minimize territorial birds from scaring off others

Incorporate plants around or near by your feeders to help birds feel more secure

Other tips to keep birds around

In General...

- Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides
- Don't cut back perennial plants in the fall, leave them for birds and insects
- Provide multiple sources of water – bird baths, decorative bowls both shallow and deep

For Owls...

- If you can, provide a place in your yard for a pile of sticks and leaves
- Leave your leaves in the fall, mother nature knows how to decompose them, plus they provide shelter for many insects and bugs over winter
- Don't use rat poison to trap mice

Resources



Book: Planting Native to Attract Birds to Your Yard
by Sharon Sorenson



Book: Attracting Birds to Your Garden with Native
Plants by WildOnes Minnesota



Photos & Education: by Katy Anderegg,
Minnesota Master Naturalist, River Bend Nature
Center Naturalist, Bachelor's Degree in Zoology