

'Native Plants for Native Birds'

How may you make your yard/garden bird-friendly? Provide these 4 basic necessities:

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Nesting sites

As you plan/plant for the birds you will find many species of wildlife are attracted to your garden; pollinators, insects of all sorts, anoles, skinks, box turtles, mammals, butterflies, caterpillars, snails, slugs, moths . . . Various seed blends (supplemental) will bring many birds closer to your windows for observation. These seeds should be supplemental. Birds evolved with native plants so planting natives will encourage biodiversity and halt the loss of species. Sunflowers act as living feeders. Many birds are insect eaters. Flocks of migrating warblers are attracted to the insects in a chemical free grassy area. When feeding their young songbirds use soft bodied worms, caterpillars, slugs and insects. Birds devour fruits also.

Today's bird is the Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*. This is a familiar bird in SC and throughout the Eastern USA. It is a year-round resident. The male is bright red with a black face and reddish yellow seed-cracking bill. The female is brownish with a browner beak. Attract with tray type seed feeders. They nest in denser bushes especially thorny ones. Cardinals can be secretive but males frequently sing from exposed branches higher in trees.

Below are a few native plants that provide fruit, nuts, larval food, nectar.

Black Cherry	mulberry	oaks
Crabapple	dogwood	hawthorn
Blueberry	wild azalea	holly
Blackberry	coral honeysuckle	maypop/passion vine
Clover	Joe-pye weed	milkweed