

Yavapai County
Master Gardener Association



Hey Birds, Welcome to my Backyard

April 26, 2022



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

Why Provide a Bird-Friendly Yard

- Pure Enjoyment
- Education
- Flower Pollination
- Weed Control
- Insect Control
- Conserving Wildlife

Pure Enjoyment and Education



Flower Pollination, Insect and Weed Control





Conserving Wildlife by Creating Backyard Habitat is Important for the Ecosystem



Provide a Bird-Friendly Yard

Water, Cover
and Food



Water

- Keep birdbath low
- Make it shallow
- Site your bird bath well
- Keep it clean
- Keep it open
- Add motion



Keep it low and shallow



Site your bird bath well



Keep it clean and open



Add Motion



Cover

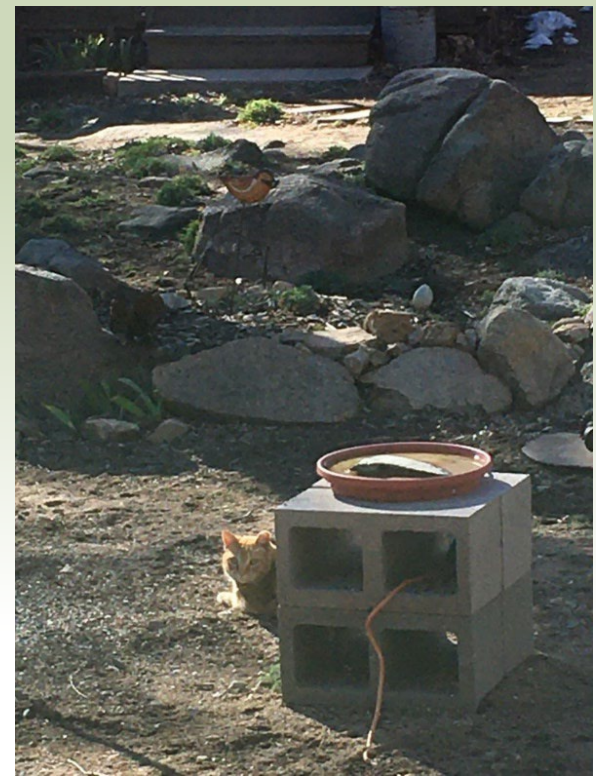
- Shelter and shade
- Protection from predators
- Places for birds to raise their young



Shelter and shade



Protection from Predators



Places to raise their young



A Little Extra

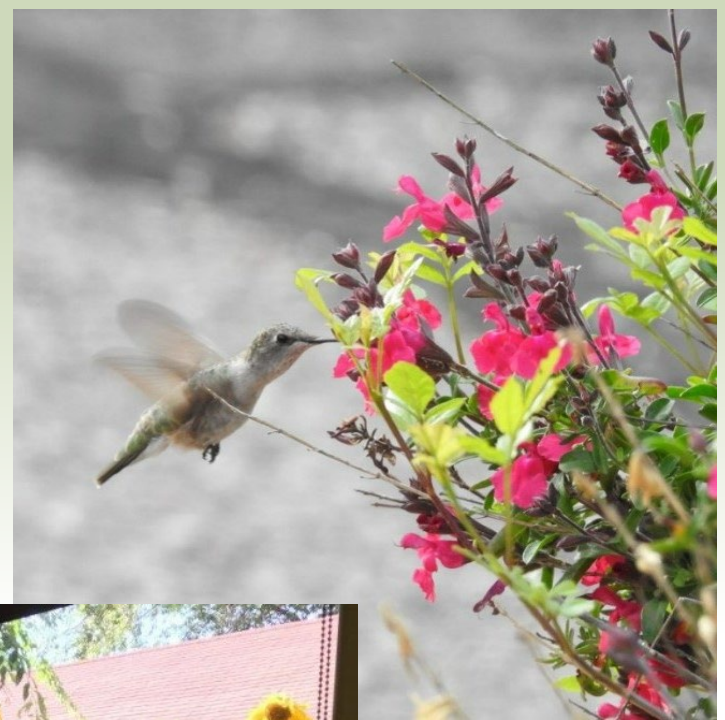
- Make a Bower
- Leaf Litter
- Brush Piles
- Don't Deadhead all the flowers



Feeders



Plants



Traits of Desirable Plants

- Varied habitat levels: mature tree canopy, understory of small trees and large shrubs, smaller shrubs, wildflower gardens, and open grassy areas
- Desirable plants produce food such as berries, seeds, cones, and nectar
- Natives are most desirable
- Diversity of plant species is best for attracting different bird species



Large Trees

- Pine (Ponderosa, Pinyon)
- Juniper (Alligator, Utah, Oneseed, Rocky Mountain)
- Arizona Cypress
- Hackberry (Common, Western)
- Oak (Emory, Scrub, White, Gambel's)
- Sycamore
- Cottonwood





Understory/Shrub Plants

- Desert Willow
- Chokecherry
- Serviceberry
- Crabapple
- Apache Plume
- Wright's Silk Tassel
- Sumac, Rhus species (Flame Leaf, Fragrant)
- Mountain Mahogany
- Currant, Ribes species (Wax, Golden)
- Oregon Grape, Mahonia species





Low-growing Plants

- Autumn Sage-Salvia
- Agastache species
- Common Yarrow
- Blanket Flower, Gallardia species
- Penstemon species
- Scarlet Skyrocket, Gilia, or Skunkflower
- Common Sunflower
- Mexican Hat, Ratibida columnifera
- Coneflower, Echinacea species
- Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia species
- Goldenrod, Solidago species
- Wild buckwheat, Eriogonum species





Succulents, Grasses and Vines

- Agave species
- Cactus species, prickly pear, hedgehog
- Grama species, blue and side oats
- Alkali Sacaton
- Beargrass, *Nolina microcarpa*
- Wand Panic Grass, *Panicum virgatum*
- Virginia Creeper
- Trumpet Vine







Bird Identification Tips

- Size and Shape
- Color Pattern
- Behavior
- Habitat



Size and Shape

- Determine the bird family, “jizz”
- Compare size to birds you know
- Check out the body parts, head, bill, tail, wings



Color Pattern

- Overall color
- Color pattern; Contrast color, where you see it
- Flashes of color in wings or tail, eye-ring, face pattern
- Prominent or pale streaking



Behavior



- Posture; where, how, repeated motion
- Flight pattern
- Feeding style
- Social or solo?

Habitat

- **Grasslands** (native grasses, mesquite, acacia, cacti, agave)
- **Chaparral** (scrub oak, mountain mahogany, cacti, agave)
- **Evergreen and Deciduous Forest** (ponderosa, juniper, cypress, white oak, Arizona rose, currant)
- **Riparian Woodlands** (cottonwood, willow, walnut, grape)
- **Season of the year**



Common Raven





American Robin



House Finch



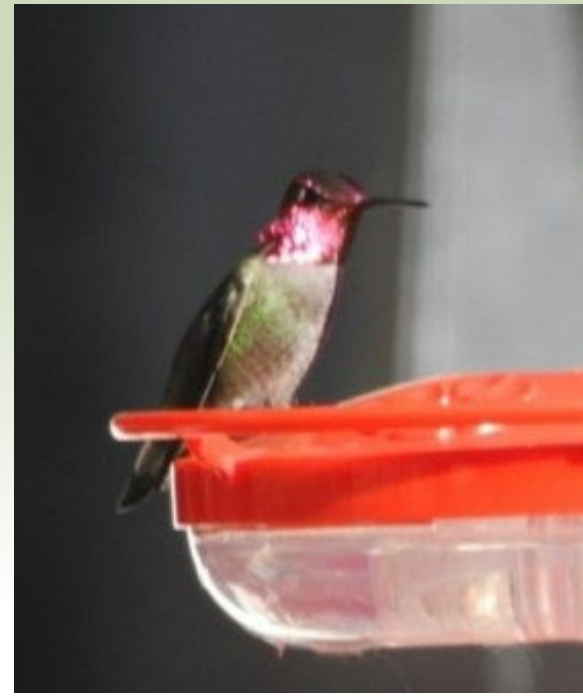
Lesser Goldfinch



Mourning Dove



Anna's Hummingbird



Acorn Woodpecker



Hairy Woodpecker



Ladder-backed Woodpecker



Northern Flicker



Woodhouse's Scrub Jay



Steller's Jay



White-breasted Nuthatch



Pygmy Nuthatch



Bridled Titmouse



Red- Winged Blackbird





Western Bluebird



Chipping Sparrow

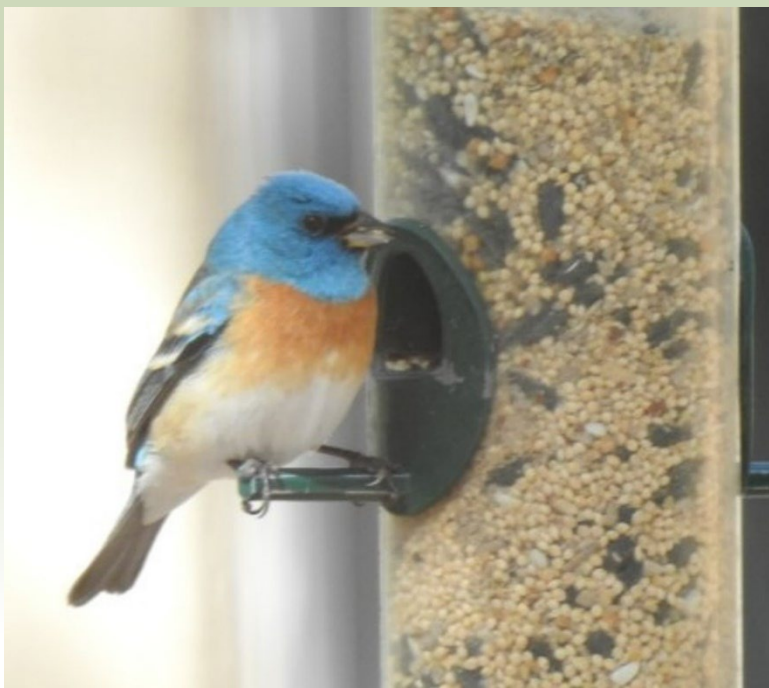


White-crowned Sparrow



Spotted Towhee





Gambel's Quail



Questions?

Thank You!



Resources

“Attracting and Feeding Garden Birds” Ed. Jen Green, 2012

“Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife” David Mizejewski, 2019

“Gardening for Wildlife” Craig Tufts and Peter Loewer, 1995

“Woody Plants of the Mogollon Highlands” Carl and Joan Tomoff, 2019

“Common Grasses of the Central Arizona Highlands” Debbie Dewolf Allen, 2021

Sunset Western Garden Book Ed. Kathleen N Brenzel, 2007

National Audubon Society <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>

Gila County Cooperative Extension Webinar on Native Plants (Gayle Gratop)
<https://extension.arizona.edu/garden-country-extension-webinar-series>

Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Website:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/yavapai-gardening>

“The Sibley Field Guide to Birds” David Sibley, 2003

Photos by Paul Glaves, David Reynolds, and Cory Shaw



For more information about our programs,
visit our website at
extension.arizona.edu/yavapai

The University of Arizona
is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/legal-disclaimer>



Cooperative Extension

Yavapai County