Hey Birds,
Welcome to my Backyard

April 26, 2022
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**
American Robin
House Finch
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 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
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

Photos by Paul Glaves, David Reynolds, and Cory Shaw
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