

Reasons to Landscape for Birds

“Small ‘islands’ of habitat can provide food resources to birds, particularly during migration.” Victoria Piaskowski, retired international coordinator, Birds Without Borders — *Aves Sin Fronteras*® project, Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., and Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

- Habitat loss is the single most important cause of the decline of species. Your yard, whatever its size, can offer habitat for birds.
- Many birds seldom or never use feeders, preferring natural foods.
- Feeder birds get only a relatively small portion of their nutrition from feeder food, especially during the critical nesting period.
- Native landscapes help sustain many other attractive species, including butterflies, moths, beetles, and the plants themselves.

Choose Native Plant Species

“Native plants, which have co-evolved with native wild birds, are more likely to provide a mix of foods — just the right size, and with just the right kind of nutrition — and just when the birds need them.” Stephen Kress, National Audubon Society.

Researchers have documented the fact that native plants are better for native birds and for the insects they need for survival. One study conducted in three states by entomologist Douglas Tallamy found 22 times as many caterpillars – the preferred food for nestling birds, as well as our future butterflies - in landscapes planted with native plants, as

compared to landscapes planted with non-natives.

Mariette Nowak, *Birdscaping in the Midwest* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012.)