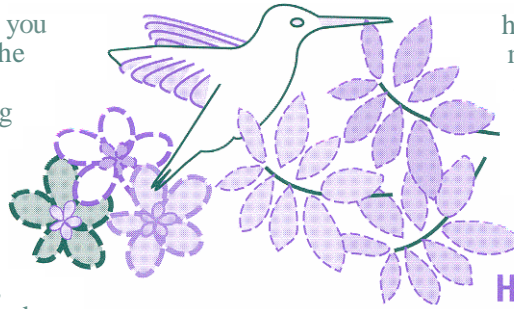




Hummingbird Haven

Backyard Habitat for Wildlife

From April through October, if you look carefully you may find a small flying jewel in your backyard. The Hummingbird can be found flitting over bright flowers, zipping through a garden or maneuvering around your porch. Inquisitive by nature, these birds will come close enough to investigate a bright blouse or shiny jewelry. The hummingbird, like many other species of wildlife, is plagued by loss of habitat. However, through certain backyard management practices, you can help this beautiful bird find the food it needs.



hummingbird's wings beat 2.7 million times as it flies nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico from the United States to Mexico. With a strong headwind, the flight takes ten hours. The Ruby-Throat is the only hummingbird known to nest in Georgia.

Hummingbird Flowers'

Flowers *Height* *Color* *Bloom time*

Herbaceous Plants

Bee Balm	2-3'	W, P, R, L	summer
Blazing Star	2-6'	L	summer & fall
Butterfly-Weed	1-2'	O	summer
Canna	2-7'	-B	summer & fall
Cardinal Flower	2-4'	R	summer
Columbine	2-3'	all	spring & summer
Coral Bells	6-12"	W, P, R	spring
Flowering Tobacco	1-3'	-B	summer
Four o'clock	1-3'	-B	summer
Foxglove	2-6'	W, P, Y, L	spring
Fuchsia	1-3'	W, P, L, R	spring—fall
Hollyhock	4-8'	-B	spring
Lily	2-6'	-B	varies with species
Penstemon	1-2'	P, R	summer
Petunia	1-2'	all	summer & fall
Phlox	1-3'	all	varies with species
Salvia	1-5'	R, B, W, L	varies with species
Sweet William	1-2'	W, P, R, L	spring
Verbena	3-6"	all	spring—fall
Zinnia	6-36	-B	summer

Shrubs

Abelia	2-6'	W, P	summer
Azalea	1-8'	all	spring
Hibiscus	5-10'	all	summer & fall
Weigela	6-10	P, R	spring

Vines

Cypress-Vine	-	R, W	summer & fall
Morning Glory	-	all	summer & fall
Scarlet Runner-Bean	-	R, W	summer
Trumpet Creeper	-	R, O	summer
Trumpet Honeysuckle	-	R, Y	spring
Wisteria	-	W, L	spring

Colors: P=pink, Y=yellow, O=orange, L=lavender, B=blue, W=white, -=absence of a single color

1: Information provided by Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Non-Game Wildlife Program

Hummingbird Garden

Landscape a portion of your yard to specifically provide food for Hummingbirds. Start with a sketch of how you want your yard to look when you finish planting your hummingbird garden. Variety is the key to a successful habitat so plan several different levels of vegetation.

Sun and Shade

It is important to have both sun and shade for a variety of flowers. You will need to plan for tall and medium size trees, shrubs and flowers.

Types of Flowers

Choose flowers from the list on the back, known as "hummingbird flowers." You will need to plant shrubs and flowers that will bloom at different times of the year for a constant variety of food. Some plants also attract insects which supplement a hummingbird's diet. Plan several different areas of flowers to decrease competition among hummers.

Perching Needs

The hummingbird spends about 60 percent of the day perching in order to survey the surrounding area and to rest. Medium to tall trees provide good perching areas. Plant plenty of flowers around the trees so the hummer will adopt the area as its territory.

Nesting Place

Hummingbird nests are very small and consist of lichens, spider silk and soft plant fibers. Most of these are found in the garden area.

Water Works

Most of the liquid a hummingbird requires comes from nectar, however they do need water to "bathe."

Hummingbird Facts

Hummingbirds are Georgia's smallest bird, measuring only 3 1/2". They feed five to eight times per hour. An average hummingbird consumes half its weight in sugar a day. They are equipped with long, needle-like bills and the ability to hover. Their colors are brilliant and iridescent which adds wonder to their spectacular flying maneuvers. Hummers average 35 m.p.h. during flight, but are capable of flying upwards at 75 m.p.h. A



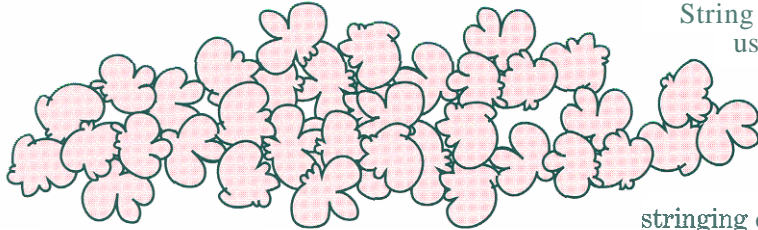
Christmas Tree for Wildlife

Ornament List

1. String of Pearls

Using a needle and thread, string together different kinds of grapes. Add variety, choice of selection and color by alternating grapes, raisins and cranberries.

2. Popcorn Party



String popcorn together using a needle and thread. Make sure that the popcorn is 100% natural with no butter or salt. Add variety by

stringing cranberries separately or together with the popcorn.

Cracker Bracelet

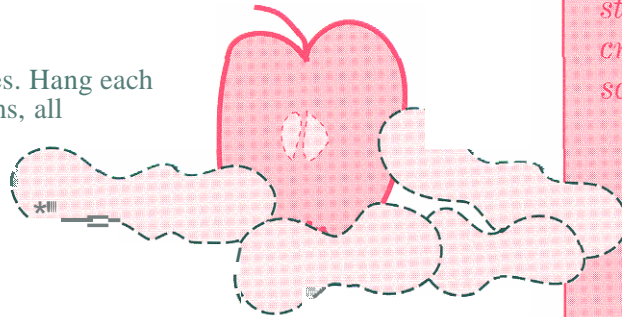
Purchase any size or shape crackers. The crackers must be salt free. String them together with a needle and thread into a round bracelet.

4. Apple/Orange slices

Cut thin slices of apples and oranges. Hang each slice separately, with colorful ribbons, all over the tree.

5. Millet delight

Purchase millet from your feed and seed store. Tie a red ribbon at the top and hang it from the tree.



Bird Bags

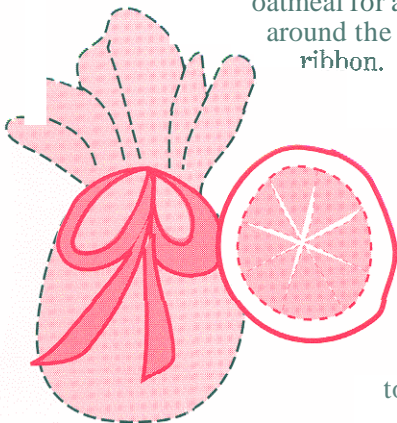
Make these just like a wedding rice bag except substitute bird seed for rice. Purchase some net material and fill it with any kind of bird seed. It is helpful to add some finely crushed eggshells to the seed mixture to supplement the birds diet with calcium. Tie a red or green ribbon at the top and hang it from the tree.

7. Peanut Heaven

Take several raw peanuts and string them together with a needle and thread. Tie a colorful ribbon at the top to help attract birds.

8. Pine Cone Pleasure

Collect big or small pine cones. Mix peanut butter with oatmeal for a thick consistency. Apply the mixture inside and around the pine cone and roll in bird seed. Hang it with a ribbon.



9. Suet Loot

Suet is a popular bird food. Melt beef fat or bacon grease and let it cool. Add bird seed, peanut butter, fruit or granola. Mesh onion bags make good suet containers and are easy to hang.

10. Table Scraps

Instead of throwing away table scraps, think of creative ways to hang them by stringing them together or putting them in a net bag to hang.

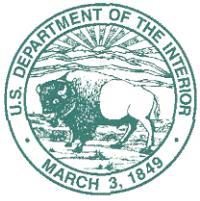
Old Christmas Trees Can Benefit Wildlife

Don't throw away your old Christmas tree—use it to feed wildlife in your yard. Remove all lights and ornaments but leave any strings of popcorn and cranberries. Add table scraps and other treats and watch as wildlife is attracted to your yard.

Old Christmas trees can also be used to build brushpiles which will furnish cover for rabbits and other small animals. Place the brushpile near other thick cover to encourage animals to use it.

Discarded Christmas trees can be used to improve fishing. Weight the tree and sink it in deep water. This artificial reef will soon attract crappie and other panfish.

For more information, contact: Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge at 912/986 5441.



Plants for Your Backyard Habitat



Plants provide two of the essential elements of wildlife habitat: food and shelter:

Fortunately, many species of plants that are useful to wildlife are aesthetically pleasing to us as well. The delicate flowers that provide nectar to hummingbirds and butterflies brighten our yards through the spring and summer months. Brilliant fall foliage and colorful fruits and berries paint the fall landscape. And the evergreens that provide crucial protection from harsh weather add a touch of green to winter's browns.

The ideal wildlife habitat should include plants that range widely in size and density so that birds and other animals can choose the type of cover that best meets their needs for hiding, nesting and protection from extreme weather:

The flowering and fruiting times of various plants should also be taken into account as you plan your planting, so that you have a variety of foods that are available to wildlife throughout the year.

The plants listed here are attractive to many species of wildlife in the Southeastern United States. They are readily available at your local nursery and, given the correct environmental conditions and care, will thrive in your backyard.



Deciduous Shrubs

Beauty-berry—*Callicarpa americana*
Black Huckleberry—*Gaylussacia baccata*

Inkberry—*Ilex glabra*
Serviceberry—*Amelanchier arborea*

Deciduous Trees

Black Cherry—*Prunus serotina*
Black Gum—*Nyssa sylvatica*
Flowering Dogwood—*Cornus florida*
Hackberry—*Celastrus laevigata*

Hickory—*Carya* spp.

Live Oak—*Quercus virginiana*

Mulberry—*Morus* spp.

Parsley Hawthorn—*Crataegus marshallii*

Persimmon—*Diospyros virginiana*

Red Bud—*Cercis canadensis*

Red Maple—*Acer rubrum*

Sassafras—*Sassafras albidum*

Southern Crabapple—*Malus angustifolia*

Southern Sugar Maple—*Acer barbatum*
Sweet Gum—*Liquidambar styraciflua*

Vines

Blackberry—*Rubus* spp.

Coral Honeysuckle—*Lonicera sempervirens*

Muscadine—*Vitis rotundifolia*

Trumpet Creeper—*Campsis radicans*

Virginia Creeper—*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Evergreen Shrubs

Eastern Redcedar—*Juniperus virginiana*

Evergreen Trees

American Holly—*Ilex opaca*

Dahoon—*Ilex cassine*

Carolina Cherry Laurel—*Prunus caroliniana*

Southern Magnolia—*Magnolia grandiflora*

Wax Myrtle—*Myrica cerifera*

Yaupon—*Ilex vomitoria*



Attracting Butterflies

Backyard Habitat for Wildlife



Creating Habitat

Creating habitat for butterflies is an exciting and rewarding endeavor. Some key components of your butterfly habitat are:

- **Sunny areas.** Plants that butterflies like require bright sunshine.
- **Splashes of color.** Butterflies are attracted to flowers by color. Groups of flowers are easier to locate than isolated plants.
- **Single flowers.** The nectar of single flowers is more accessible and easier to extract than double flowering plants.
- **Host plants.** Female butterflies lay their eggs only on certain host plants that will nourish the young caterpillars after they hatch. Grow those plants that supply food for the caterpillars.
- **Damp areas.** Butterflies cannot drink from open water. Wet sand, earth, or mud are the best watering holes.
- **Basking stones.** Butterflies often perch on stones to bask in the sun. Basking raises their body temperature so that they are able to fly and remain active.

Enjoy Watching Butterflies

You can enhance your butterfly habitat by making personal observations. Identify which butterflies occur in your community and the plants they are visiting. Butterflies are easy to identify with field guides such as:

Butterflies and Moths by H.S. Zim, Golden Guide Series, Golden Press, New York, New York, 1987.

The Audubon Society Handbook for Butterfly Watchers by R. M. Pyle, Charles Scribners & Sons.

Host Plants for Butterflies

(Host plant—*Scientific name*
Butterfly attracted)

Butterflyweed—*Asclepius tuberosa*
Monarch Butterfly

Parsley—*Petroselinium crispum*
Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Dill—*Anethum graveolens*
Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Fennel—*Foeniculum vulgare*
Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Rue—*Ruta graveolens*
Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Passion Flower—*Passiflora incarnata*
Gulf Fritillary Butterfly

Spicebush—*Lindera benzoin*
Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly

Tulip Tree—*Liriodendron tulipifera*
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

Butterfly Biology

The most successful butterfly habitat includes plants which meet the needs of butterflies during all four stages of their life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult.

After mating, female butterflies search for a specific kind of “host plant” on which to lay eggs. For example, monarchs lay eggs on milkweed, black swallowtails on parsley, and tiger swallowtails on tulip tree or wild cherry. In a few days, caterpillars emerge from the eggs and begin to eat. Caterpillars only feed on specific kinds of plants.

When the caterpillars are fully grown, they shed their skin and change into chrysalises. Often chrysalises are attached to plant stems and protected by surrounding vegetation. It is inside the chrysalis that the adult butterfly is formed.

After emerging from the chrysalis, the adult butterfly soon begins to search for nectar-rich flowers to feed upon.

Plants Butterflies Like¹

Plants selected from the following list will appeal to butterflies (common name scientific name):

Shrubs:

Azalea—*Rhododendron spp.*

Annuals

Cosmos—*Cosmos sulphureus*

French Marigold—*Tagetes patula*

Heliotrope—*Heliotrope arborescens*



Impatiens—*Impatiens wallerana*

Mexican sunflower—*Tithonia rotundifolia*

Verbena—*Tierbema x hybrida*

Zinnia—*Zinnia elegans*

Pentas—*Pentaslanceolata*

Perennials:

Purple coneflower—*Echinacea purpurea*

Black-eyed susan—*Rudbeckia spp.*

Butterflyweed—*Asclepiastuberosa*

Coreopsis—*Coreopsis spp.*

Moss Verbena—*Verbena tenuisecta*

¹ Information provided by The Butterfly Center, Callaway Gardens