

## Nesting Places

By Lori Simms

Attracting birds to your backyard is as inviting for birds as it is for the homeowner. Although various species of birds have different requirements, there are a few basic accommodations to welcome home birds of migration.

Birdbaths and water gardens not only enhance your yard, they are a focal point to draw in birds. Always maintain a fresh water source as stagnate water breeds mosquitoes that can lead to the spread of West Nile Virus. Moving water or a sprinkling system that gives off a fine mist will help cool off birds on hot summer days.

There are five basic types of feeders available to supply a banquet for different breeds of birds. Wild birdseed mixes typically contain a blend of sunflower, millet, safflower, and peanut splits. Tube feeders and hoppers are most common and attract chickadees, finches, flickers, woodpeckers and robins. Ceramic owls have been known to keep menacing woodpeckers away! Larger birds such as blue jays, red-winged blackbirds, magpies and grosbeaks prefer the larger platform feeders. Tray feeders are work best for peanuts and corn. Brightly colored hummingbird feeders that contain a mixture of four parts water and one part granulated sugar will fulfill their appetite! Agastache, commonly known as Hummingbird Mint, salvia and petunias provide nectar for hummingbirds and will bloom all summer long!

Tall trees and shrubs provide shelter and protection for our feathered friends. However, Russian olive, crabapple and other fruit bearing trees also provide nourishment. Maples and oaks offer seeds and attract insects. These trees also provide a great place to nest!

Literature and Newsletters:  
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