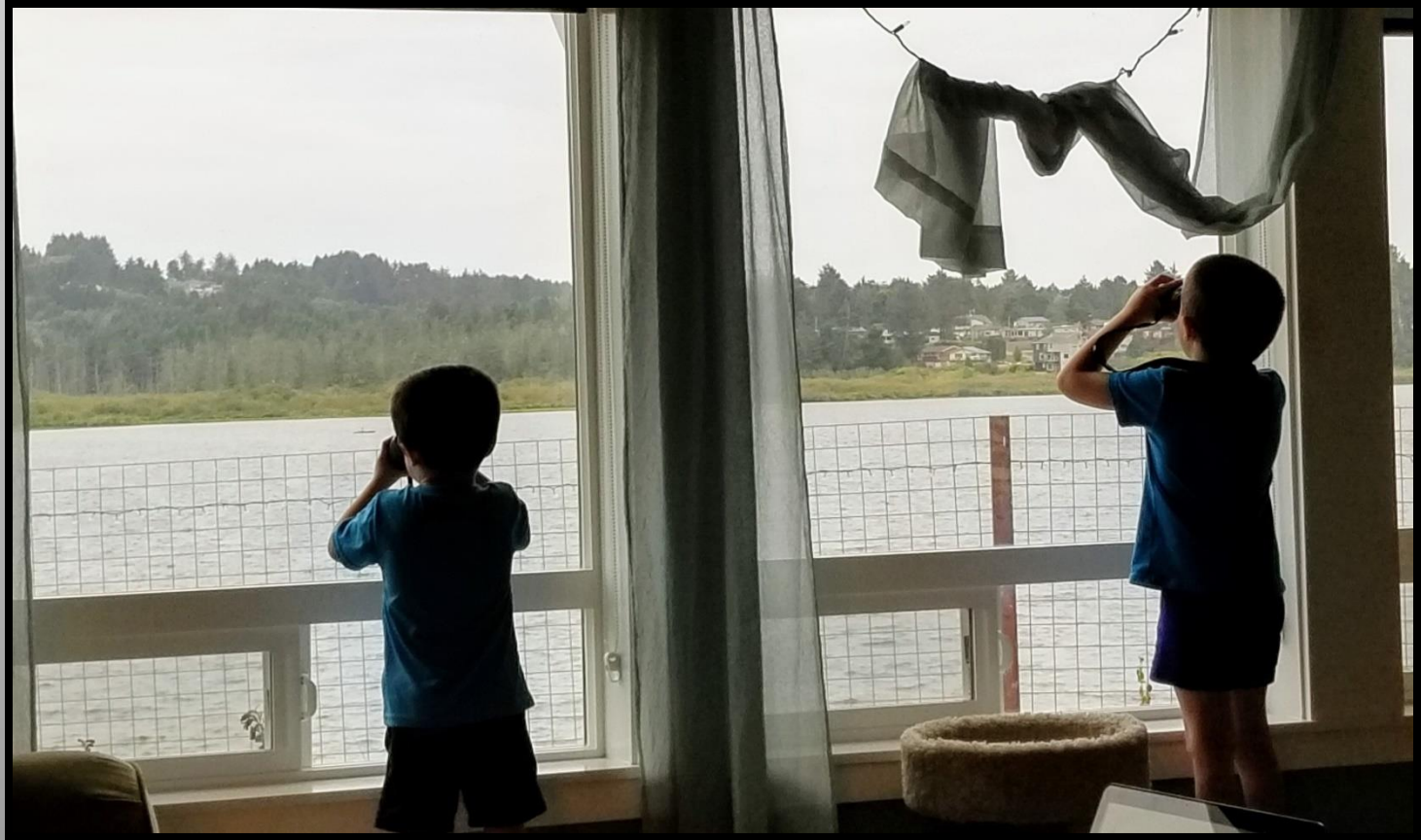


# Attracting Birds to Your Site



Patty Sorensen



Serious birder, not twitcher.  
for about 15 years. Member  
of Lincoln City Audubon for  
7 years



Volunteer with Prescott  
Bluebird Recovery on routes  
for about 10 years



Member of Ocean Spray Garden Club in LC, McMinnville  
Garden Club and OSFGC, Inc. Was a Yamhill County Master  
Gardener for 5 years before grandkids.....

- All birds have five site requirements:
  - **FOOD**
  - **WATER**
  - **COVER**
  - **NESTING SITES**
  - **SUSTAINABLE GARDENING (Habitat)**



**Habitat size** does not matter. Create varied habitats to encourage a variety of species. From flower boxes to farm acreage.

# What Birds Are in Your Yard?

- **Bird Identification** helps you determine what they need.
- Keep a bird ID book and binocs near your windows.
- If you don't know the species, note their most striking body parts, their flight behaviors, their beak types and where they are.
- Use a bird identification resource to ID
  - Print, online, help from others.....

# Join Groups to Learn!



**Lincoln City Audubon**

<http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org/>

**Facebook** Audubon Society of  
Lincoln City

**Oregon Coast Today** weekly  
publication

<https://www.oregoncoast.org/things-to-do/outdoor/bird-watching-clinics/>

**Oregon Coast Community College**

<https://www.oregoncoastcc.org/>

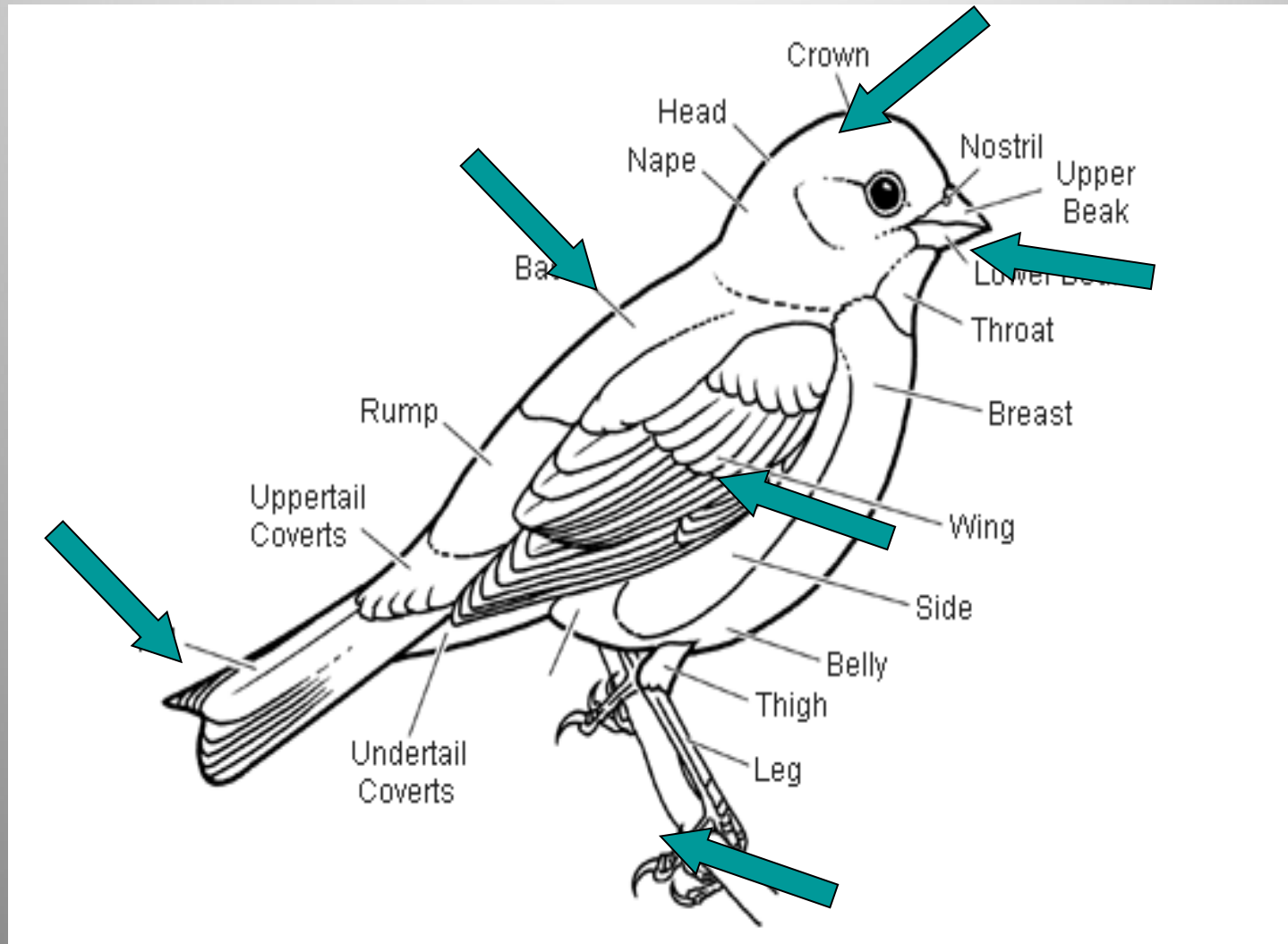
**Audubon Walks** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Publicized: website, facebook, Oregon Coast Today.

**Open Space Bird Walks.** Publicized: Lincoln City Parks and Rec., Oregon Coast Today.

**Christmas Bird Count** Lincoln City Audubon and Newport Yaquina Head Birders websites

**Backyard Bird Count** Lincoln City Audubon website

# Parts of a Bird



# Parts of a Bird



# Evening Grosbeak

female/male





# Sample Bird Description

- Size of a sparrow with tiny round black eye and black hood



- Yellow belly, olive back and grey in wings.
- Short bill, darting out of tree or bush quickly to catch insects and return asap.



# Wilson's Warblers







- Need branches to quickly fly back and forth from to grab insects and protect themselves from predator birds
- Often found in areas such as wetlands, lakes, ponds which provide them with insects as well as a great habitat.

# Fun TIP

- Birds need to stay as light as possible to fly.
- Just before they take off, they “rid” themselves of their waste. **WATCH OUT.**







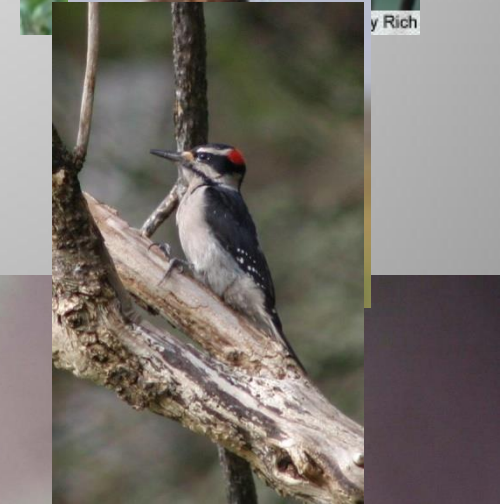
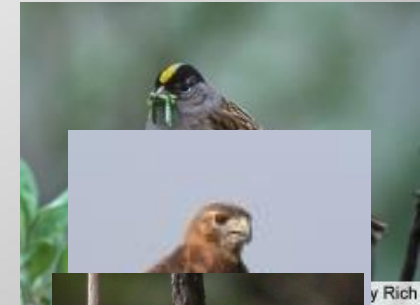
# Bills

SHAPE	TYPE	ADAPTATION
	Strainer	Some ducks have long, flat bills that strain small plants and animals from the water.
	Spear	Birds like herons and kingfishers have spear-like bills adapted for fishing.
	Tweezer	Insect eaters like warblers have thin, pointed bills.
	Swiss Army Knife	Crows have a multi-purpose bill that allows them to eat fruit, seeds, insects, fish, and other animals.



# Bills

SHAPE	TYPE	ADAPTATION
	Cracker	Seed eaters like grosbeaks have short, thick conical bills for cracking seed.
	Shredder	Birds of prey like hawks and owls have sharp, curved bills for tearing meat.
	Chisel	Woodpeckers have bills that are long and chisel-like for boring into wood to eat insects.
	Probe	Hummingbird bills are long and slender for probing flowers for nectar.



# Hummingbirds

- Area has 2 species of hummingbirds
  - Annas are year round residents and enjoy sugar water as a ***supplement***. BE SURE **NOT** to use food coloring. Boil 1 cup water, add ¼ cup sugar, allow to cool. In winter if it is freezing put a light on the feeder or have second feeder to put out in the am.

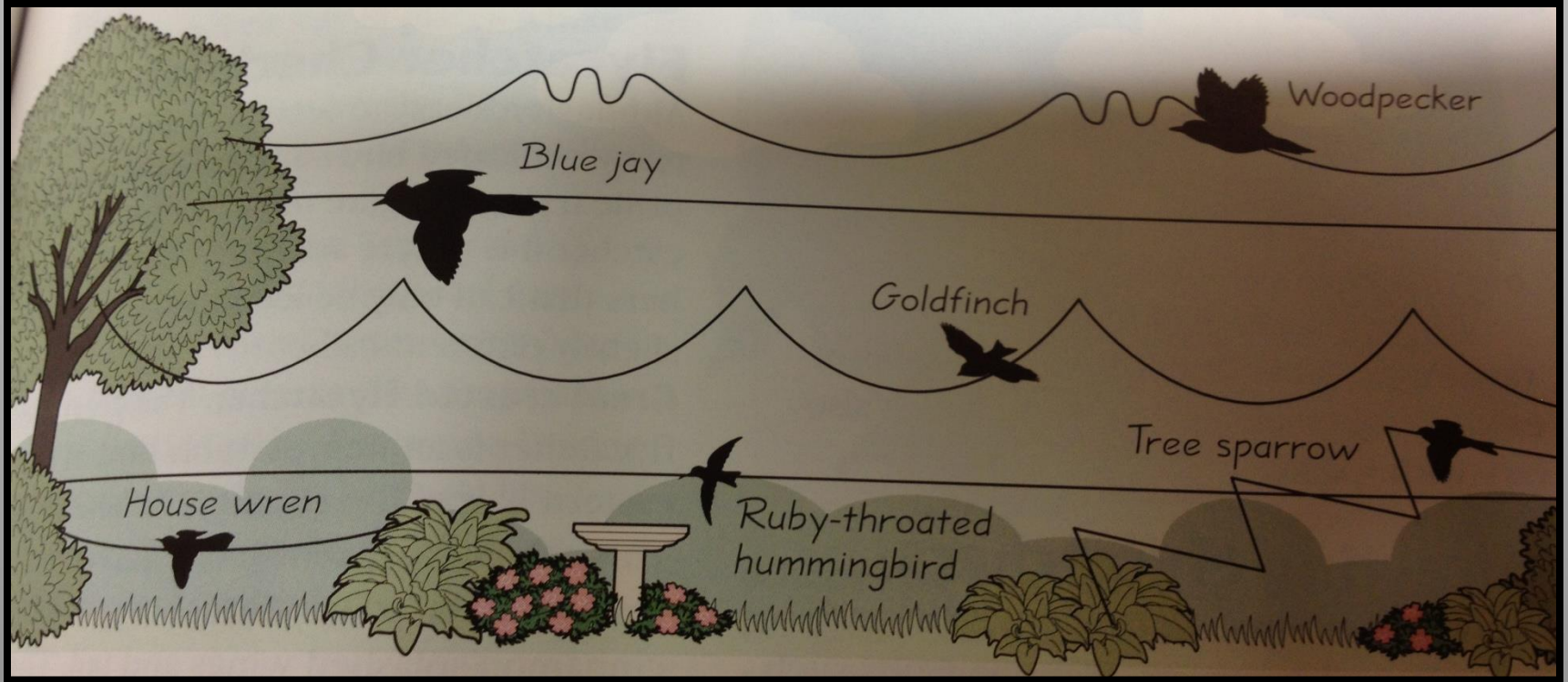


- Rufus are migrants here in the spring and early fall.



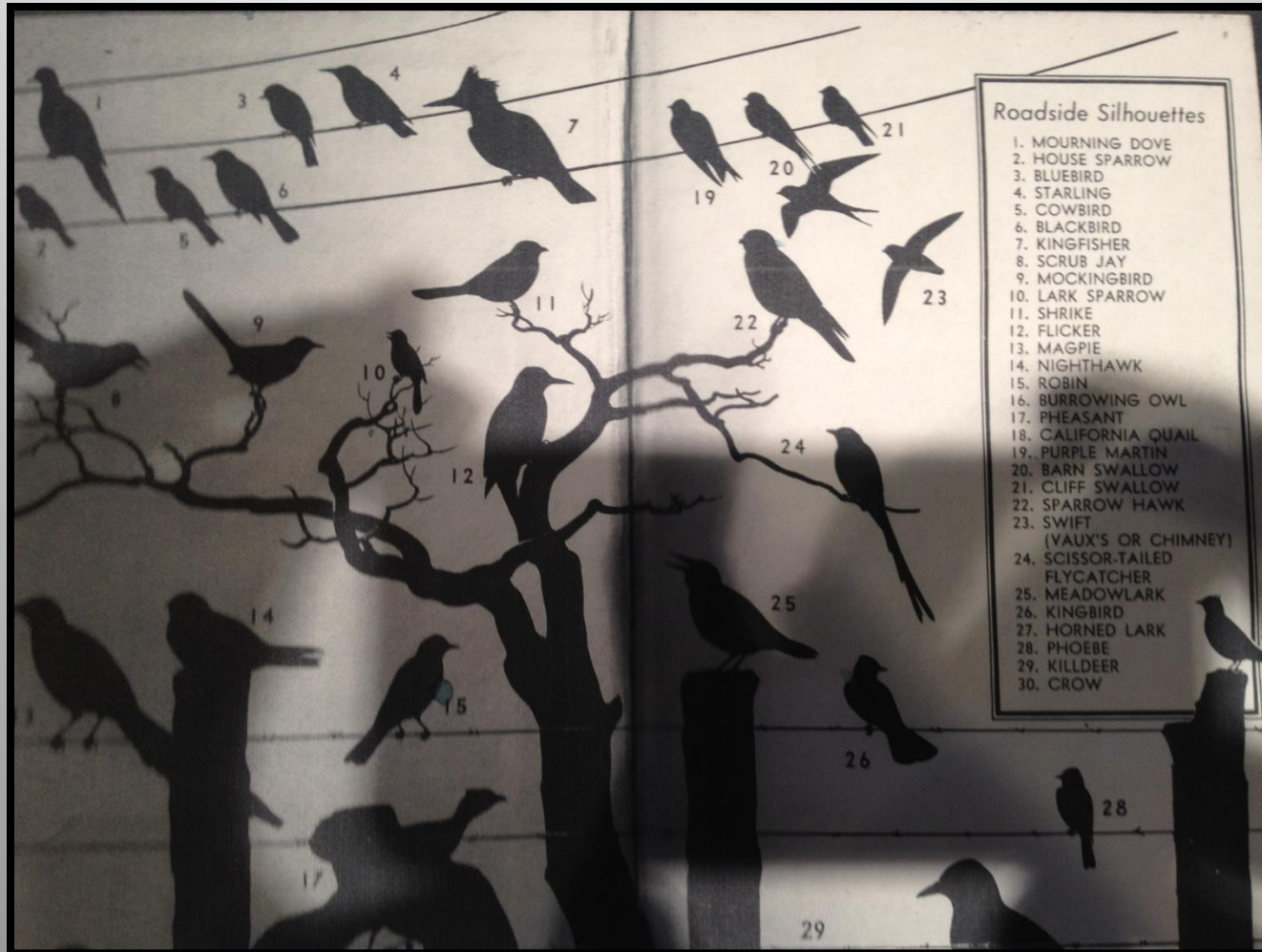
- \*Hang feeders in trees away from where cats can sneak up on them.
- \*Be sure there is a clean water source nearby too.
- \***CLEAN ALL** feeders monthly in bucket of one gallon water to  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of bleach formula. Scrub and rinse with hot water. **DO NOT USE SOAP.**

# Watch flight patterns





# Become familiar with shapes



# What Birds Do You Want to Attract?

- Research the species needs
  - Migrants or year round residents?
  - Eats what: Insects? Seeds? Berries? Nectar? Fruits?
  - Ground feeder? Platform feeder?
  - What type of nest location?

# What do we feed birds?



- Sunflower Seed



- Millet (sprouts)



- Cracked Corn



- Milo, wheat, oats



- Thistle (niger)



- Suet



- Peanuts



- Sugar water  
NEVER HONEY

Seeds can be baked in oven to stop germination.  
(Thistle is already sterilized.)

Wild bird seed bags are wasteful.

Birds will kick out unwanted seed and eat mostly sunflower

Waste seed especially millet may grow under feeders and grow or mold.

Thistle seeds have already been heated to prevent them from sprouting.

Food we feed is supplement only. Birds are not dependent on it.

#### Quick Reference

### THE FOODS BIRDS PREFER

HERE are the general food preferences for the most common feeder birds of North America. Although there are no guaranteed methods for attracting certain birds to your feeders, the presence of water, adequate habitat or cover, and the birds' favorite foods will enhance the attractiveness of your yard. Foods are listed in approximate order of preference.

#### PIGEONS, DOVES

Millet, cracked corn, wheat, milo, thistle, buckwheat, sunflower seed, baked goods

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

Plant nectar, small insects, sugar solution

#### WOODPECKERS

Suet, meat scraps, sunflower hearts and seed, cracked corn, peanuts, fruits

#### JAYS

Peanuts, sunflower seed, suet, meat scraps, cracked corn, baked goods

#### CROWS, MAGPIES, NUTCRACKERS

Meat scraps, suet, cracked corn, peanuts, baked goods, leftovers, dog food

#### TITMICE, CHICKADEES

Peanut kernels, sunflower, suet

#### NUTHATCHES

Suet, suet mixes, sunflower hearts and seed, peanut kernels, peanut butter

#### WRENS, CREEPERS

Suet, suet mixes, peanut butter, peanut kernels, bread, fruit, millet (wrens)

#### MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS,

#### CATBIRDS

Halved apples, chopped fruits, baked goods, suet, nutmeats, millet (thrashers), soaked raisins and currants, sunflower hearts

#### ROBINS, BLUEBIRDS, OTHER THRUSHES

Suet, suet mixes, mealworms, berries, chopped fruits, soaked raisins and currants, nutmeats, and sunflower hearts

#### KINGLETS

Suet, suet mixes, baked goods

#### WAXWINGS

Berries, chopped fruits, canned peas, currants, raisins

#### WARBLERS

Suet, suet mixes, fruits, baked goods, sugar solution, chopped nutmeats

#### TANAGERS

Suet, fruits, sugar solution, mealworms, baked goods

#### CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, PYRRHULOXIAS

Sunflower seed, safflower seed, cracked corn, millet, fruit

#### TOWHEES, JUNCOS

Millet, sunflower seed, cracked corn, peanuts, baked goods, nutmeats

#### SPARROWS, BUNTINGS

Millet, sunflower hearts, black oil sunflower seed, cracked corn, baked goods

#### ORIOLES

Halved oranges, apples, berries, sugar solution, grape jelly, suet, suet mixes, soaked raisins and currants

#### FINCHES, SISKINS

Thistle (niger), sunflower hearts, black oil sunflower seed, millet, canary seed, fruits, peanut kernels, suet mixes

# Calcium Source

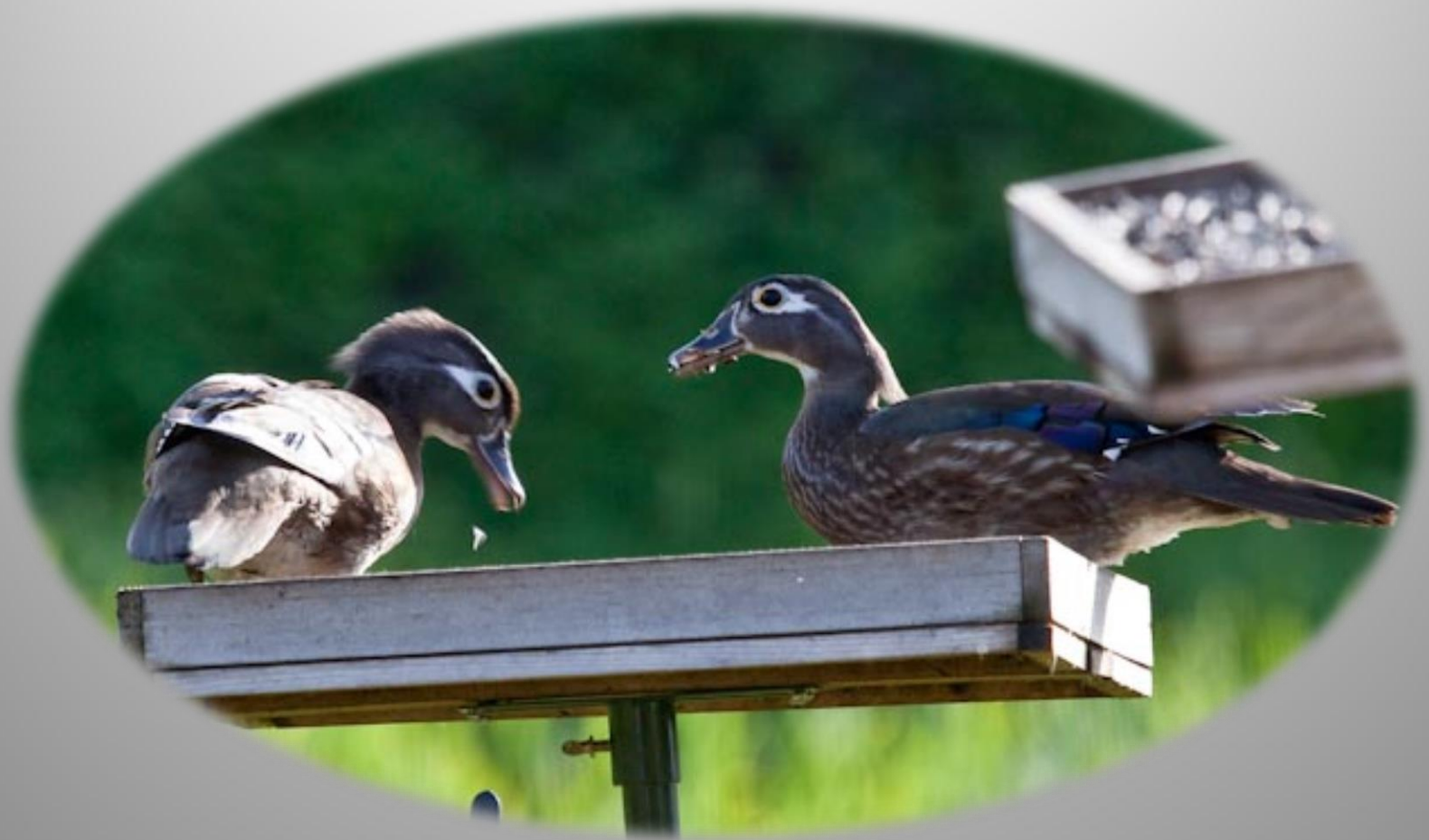
- **Calcium** in eggshells is helpful to female birds.
- **Rinse** shells then place in a **200** degree oven for an **hour** to prevent salmonella poisoning. Cool and then crush the shells into tiny pieces. Place at feeders a bit at a time prior to nesting season.
- **PS NEVER FEED BAKED GOODS**, no value to the birds and attract unwanted animals.

# Bird Feeders

Different types for different seeds, fruits, liquids & birds



# Female Wood Ducks



# Tips

- Birds naturally feed at a variety of locations for a variety of things. Some go up the tree to eat insects, others like nuthatches go down the tree to catch what others miss.
- Groundfeeders vs. platform feeders



- Squirrels, jays.....provide them with their own food source away from other feeders.



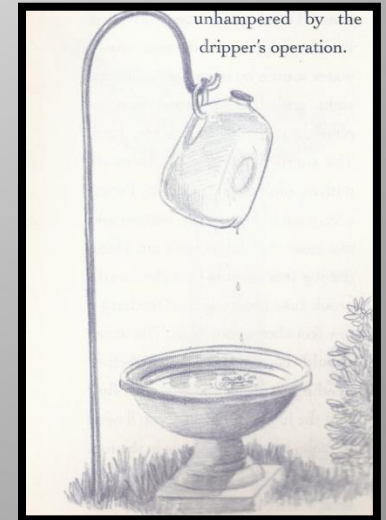
- Place bird houses away from feeders.



# Water Sources

## **Streams, ponds, birdbaths**

- Shallow basin, less than 3 inches deep or place rocks, sticks for birds to sit on.
- Rough, not smooth nonslip basin surface.
- Steady, well-balanced pedestal, rock, etc. and basin that won't easily tip over.
- Sound of water, even dripping.



Also clean with solution of  
1 part bleach to 9 parts water

# Water needs to be near cover



---Dangerous site



Safe site ----

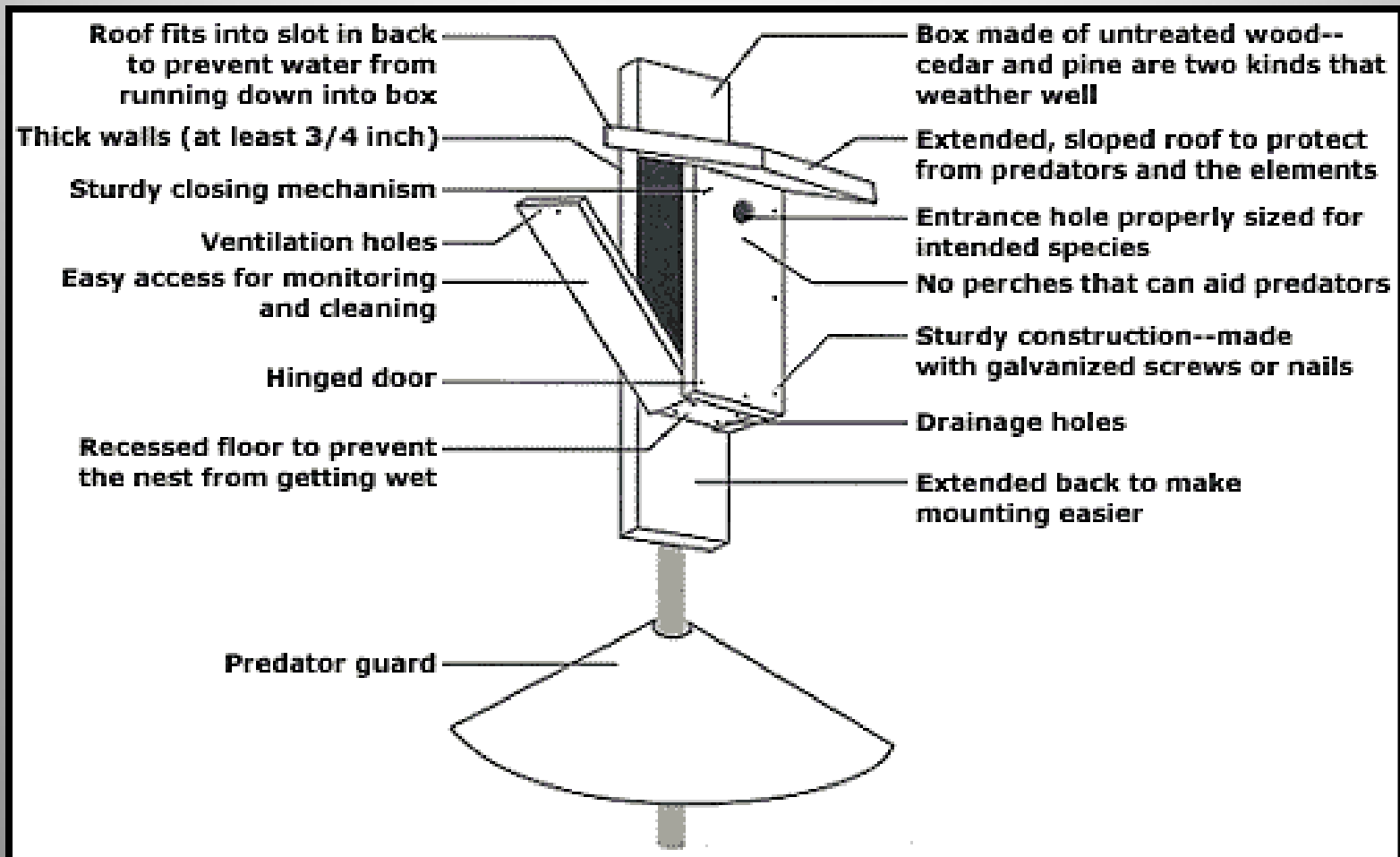
# Bird Houses



Hole guard and no perch ?  
No airflow?

- **Hole size** determines bird. & predator.
- If House Sparrows are common in your area, **avoid** a box with a **perch**, as it gives House Sparrows an unfair advantage.
- One side should open for **cleaning**. Needs air flow too.
- Leave **natural** wood, do not paint. Decorative bird houses are not for birds.
- Sometimes 2 houses in 3 feet of each other encourage a nest seeking bird like a swallow from bothering a bluebird in the other box.

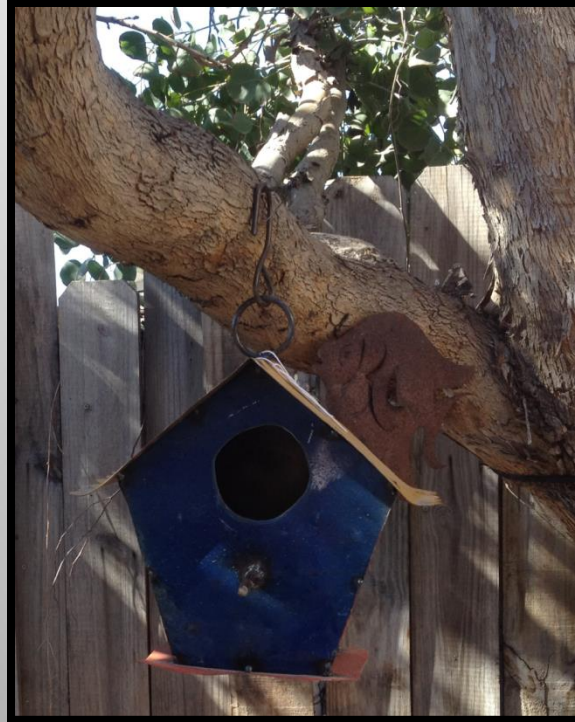
# Features



# Bird Box Tips

- Inside of some are scored to help birds climb up
- Be sure to place in appropriate habitat at appropriate height.
- Secure from wind/predators/weather
- Face away from direct sun/wind
- Poles better than fences/trees: predators
- Clean out in Fall and again in late Feb.

# Think of predator access



This includes predatory birds like Starlings and English Sparrows (non native birds) who will break eggs, kill young, etc. to takeover nesting box.

Don't place where snakes can easily access.

Don't forget about CATS.....



# Space Apart



Artistic but not likely used by birds. Birds are territorial. Decorative bird houses' holes should be covered to eliminate their use by birds, bees, etc.

# Prevent Window Kills

- Move feeders away or very close
- Reflective decals, items on **outside**
- Hang shiny mylar strips on outside
- Close curtains even partially
- Feather chain on outside, moves in wind





# BUGS

BUGS are the **most important** food source for many bird species.

It takes about 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to feed one brood of babies to the point of fledging!

**Installing a diverse, native plant community has the most impact on supporting bird populations.**



- Here at the coast there are MILLIONS of SPIDERS. Sparrows, blackbirds,, crows, bluebirds and wrens are supposed to eat them. HMMMMMM.....

Bluebirds and many other birds love mealworms.



Please use nature to control rather than pesticides.  
IE; ladybugs help control aphids.

# Landscaping for Birds

- Use lots of layers, including understory, ground cover, shrubs, and trees.
- Native plants first.
- Avoid chemicals They move thru the food chain.



**Multiple levels** of plants let birds use different layers for different purposes, such as nesting, feeding, and singing.



Don't clean up all your plants in Fall

- Leave areas natural, not tidy
- Do not remove seed heads
- Birds need food and cover in winter
- After holidays, use greens/trees to create brush piles.



# Which birds, which plants?

- Tubular plants for hummingbirds
- Flowering plants in the composite (daisy like) family for seed-eating birds
- Shrubs for the fruit and berry eaters, nesting—winter berries.
- Trees for shelter, nesting, singing



- Coastal winds are problems for plants and birds.



- Birds need grit for digestion.
- Some even need mud to build nests
- Plants also attract insects which birds eat too! (Chimney Swift eats 150-700 insects for 1 feeding) Great mosquito hunters.

**The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy in Lincoln City (1931 NW 33<sup>rd</sup> St.)** is a fabulous free garden to check out how to create complimentary, multilayered plantings as well as to see which plants survive in the coastal environment.

(They also sell plants for a nominal fee. The money is used to help support the needs of this volunteer garden.)

<https://www.conniehansengarden.com/>





# Which Plants for Local Birds?

Native Plants Search Results | Audubon.org

audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode=97367

Add to your plant list

Buy Now

**Cascade Oregon-Grape**  
*Mahonia nervosa*

Cascade Oregon-Grape, or Cascade Barberry, is a low-growing creeping shrub with dark green, holly-like leaves and slender spikes of yellow flowers that produce purple fruits. Only growing to about 1 to 2 feet tall, this plant is tolerant of many conditions, requiring low amounts of water but preferring rich, well-drained soils.

Attributes: Shrubs, Vines, Evergreen, Fruit

Add to your plant list

Buy Now

May attract

- Sparrows
- Vireos
- Mockingbirds & Thrashers
- Orioles
- Waxwings
- Thrushes
- Crows & Jays
- Woodpeckers

**Common Yarrow**  
*Achillea millefolium*

Also known as Western Yarrow and Milfoil, this spreading, perennial herb has feathery compound leaves.

May attract

**Find Local Support** Your nearby Audubon location can help you with native plants. Find support in your area today. [See What's Nearby](#)

Type here to search

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<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search>

# Get Backyard Habitat Certified

Backyard Habitat Certification Program:

<http://nwf.org>



# References

- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- National Audubon
- Natural Gardening for Birds, by Julie Zickefoose and the Editors and Writers of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Rodale Press, 2016.
- Bird-Watching Basics for Dummies, by Bill Thompson, III, Wiley Publishing, 2006.
- Patty Sorensen, pdsorensen@comcast.net

