



# Audubon

## *Audubon at Home*

### **The Concept**

- Simple ways to make your backyard, neighborhood, and community more bird, wildlife, and environmentally friendly.

### **Attracting Birds & Wildlife**

#### • Feeding Birds

- The greater the variety of feed and feeders, the greater the variety of birds.
- Use a combination of seed feeders, nectar feeders and suet.
- Homemade suet is easy to make and use and makes for a great project for kids.
- Homemade bird feeders are easy to make and can be made from recycled materials.

#### Resources:

- Marvel Meal Recipe Bookmarks
- Fence-Board Bird Feeder Design
- Large Can Feeder Design

#### • Housing Birds

- Homemade bird houses are easy to make and can be made from recycled materials.
- Chimney Swift towers are easy to construct and help provide nesting and roosting sites for this “Common Bird in Decline”.

#### Resources:

- Fence-Board Bird House Design
- Chimney Swift Towers, New Habitat for America’s Mysterious Birds: a Construction Guide. Paul & Georgan Kyle<sup>1</sup>
- How to Build a Chimney Swift Tower Video

<http://pascagoulariver.audubon.org/videos/how-build-chimney-swift-tower>

#### • Providing Cover & Water

- Plants of any kind provide shelter, places to nest, and food for birds and wildlife.
- A water bath or simple pan provides an important source of water.
- A dripper system helps provide water and attracts birds to your yard.
- Consider building a brush pile or leaving a “no-mow” zone to attract birds and other wildlife.

### **Landscaping with Native Plants**

- The use of native plants in backyard and community landscapes has several advantages, including:
  - Native plants are naturally adapted to local conditions



<sup>1</sup> Available from the Pascagoula River Audubon Center

- Native plants required low or no maintenance, including little or no need to water once established.
- There is no need for pesticides or fertilizers.
- Native plants are naturally used by wildlife as sources of food, nectar or places of shelter and nest sites.
- In many cases, birds and wildlife and native plants depend on each other. Plants benefit from pollination and dispersal of seeds. Wildlife benefit from plants as sources of food in the form of nectar and fruit.

Resources:

- Native Plant Choices
- Hummingbird & Butterfly Plant List
- Compact Butterfly Garden Design

### **Composting is Easy**

- Compositing of household organics and common yard waste (grass clippings and leaves) is a great way to reduce the volume of materials sent to our landfills and generates high-quality soil amendments for use in your garden and landscaping.

Resources:

- Composting Brochure
- Vermicomposting Guide

### **Protecting Watersheds**

- Rain Gardens are easy to establish and help to reduce the flow of water and pollution into local watersheds.
- These structures also provide opportunity to grow native plants that benefit birds and wildlife in backyards and communities.

Resources:

- Rainwater Garden Guide

### **The “Healthy Yard Pledge”**

I pledge to the best of my ability to:

- Reduce pesticide use
- Conserve water
- Protect water quality
- Remove invasive plants
- Plant native species Support birds and other wildlife on my property

For More Information about the Audubon at Home Program and for plans for projects visit our websites at:

<http://athome.audubon.org/>  
<http://pascagoulariver.audubon.org/audubon-home-10>

