



# Houston Audubon Recommendations for Creating a **Bird-Friendly Yard**

## Plant Native Plants for Birds

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- Provide food in the form of insects, nuts, seeds, fruit and nectar throughout the year.
- Remove invasive plants.
- Explore lawn alternatives.



## Create Inviting Habitats

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- Add a feeder, water feature, or nest box.
- Add diversity into your landscape through layers: ground, grasses, shrubs, small trees, and canopy trees.



## Limit Threats to Birds

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- Keep cats indoors.
- Avoid using pesticides.
- Design structures to limit window strikes.



## Connect With Others

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- Join an urban bird survey .
- Sign up for the Bird-Friendly Yard Program.



# Bird-Friendly Plants for the Houston Area

## Did you know?

Over 98% of land birds feed insects to their young. A Carolina Chickadee can feed up to 9000 small caterpillars to its babies before they leave the nest! Native plants are the key to supporting the insects that ultimately provide the bird food essential for our wonderful birds.

We have selected these plants to work in a range of conditions. Be sure to pay attention to your shade, sun, soil, and water conditions. Select accordingly.

Native plants can be found at some local nurseries. Be sure to ask questions about where the plants originated and how pesticides were used. Houston Audubon Natives Nursery also sells native plants. We'd love to see you.

### Large Trees



- Water Oak
- Willow Oak
- Southern Red Oak
- Shumard Oak
- Drummond's Red Maple
- American Elm
- Pecan
- Green Ash
- American Basswood
- Sugarberry (Hackberry)

### Small Trees



- Mexican Plum
- Parsley Hawthorn
- Roughleaf Dogwood
- American Hornbeam
- Possumhaw

### Wildflowers



- Aquatic Milkweed
- Blazing Star
- Green Milkweed
- Texas Coneflower
- Rough Coneflower
- Blue Sage
- Lanceleaf Coreopsis
- Gulf Coast Penstemon
- Cardinal Flower

### Vines



- Purple Passionflower
- Crossvine
- Carolina Jessamine
- Coral honeysuckle

### Invasive Plants to Avoid



- Chinese Elm
- Bradford Pear
- Golden Rain Tree
- Ligustrums
- Nandina
- Elephant Ear
- Mexican Petunia
- Yellow Flag Iris
- Liriope
- Pampas Grass

### Shrubs



- Wax Myrtle
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Rusty Blackhaw
- Turk's Cap

### Grasses



- Gulf Muhly
- Switchgrass
- Eastern Gamagrass
- Little Bluestem
- Inland Sea Oats



Learn More at [birdfriendlyhouston.org](http://birdfriendlyhouston.org)