

# Attracting Wildlife

RESOURCES



DARK-EYED JUNCO / JOHN HOEPPNER



STEVEN J. SAFFIER

Plant and wildlife lists

## The Common Birds of Southeastern Pennsylvania's woodlands, parks, and backyards

More than 300 species of birds can be seen in the Delaware Valley, many of which can be attracted to your yard with the addition of native plants, feeders, a water feature, and the elimination of turf grass and lawn pesticides. Native plants provide familiar cover and natural food in the form of seeds, nuts, and

fruits, and serve as a primary source of insects. Birds on this list that are likely to visit feeders will do so to supplement their diet of preferred natural foods. Specialized nectar or fruit feeders will attract birds such as Baltimore Orioles and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.



Top to bottom: American Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow  
Opposite page: Ruby-throated Hummingbird

ALL PHOTOS RALPH C. WRIGHT

BIRD	Res/migrant	✓
Canada Goose	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mallard	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooper's Hawk	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red-tailed Hawk	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild Turkey	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mourning Dove	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock Dove/Pigeon	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern Screech-Owl	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great Horned Owl	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chimney Swift	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Downy Woodpecker	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Flicker	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern Phoebe	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red-eyed Vireo	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue Jay	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
American Crow	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree Swallow	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barn Swallow	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carolina Chickadee	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tufted Titmouse	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
White-breasted Nuthatch	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carolina Wren	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
House Wren	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern Bluebird	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood Thrush	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
American Robin	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gray Catbird	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>

BIRD	Res/migrant	✓
Northern Mockingbird	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Starling*	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cedar Waxwing	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow Warbler	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	M,W	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black-throated Green Warbler	M	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black-and-white Warbler	M	<input type="checkbox"/>
American Redstart	M	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ovenbird	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common Yellowthroat	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scarlet Tanager	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern Towhee	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chipping Sparrow	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
White-throated Sparrow	M,W	<input type="checkbox"/>
Song Sparrow	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigo Bunting	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dark-eyed Junco	M,W	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Cardinal	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
House Sparrow*	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red-winged Blackbird	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common Grackle	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brown-headed Cowbird	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baltimore Oriole	M,S	<input type="checkbox"/>
House Finch	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
American Goldfinch	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Key

Y	Year round residents
W	Winter resident
S	Summer (breeding) resident
M	Migrants
*	Non-native species
Shaded	Common feeder birds





JOHN HOEFFNER



KIM PHILLIPS



CHUCK YOUNGER

Top to bottom: Monarch, Silver-spotted Skipper, Eastern Tailed-Blue

## Common Butterflies and Host Plants in your Garden

Common Name	Scientific Name	Caterpillar host plant	Flight period
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	Carrot family	Apr–Oct
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	Tuliptree	Apr–Oct
Spicebush Swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	Spicebush	Apr–Oct
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage family	Mar–Nov
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>	Clovers	Mar–Nov
Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	Legume family	Mar–Nov
Eastern Tailed-Blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	Legume family	Apr–Oct
Spring Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	Shrub flowers	Mar–Sep
Question Mark	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Elms, nettles	Apr–Oct
Eastern Comma	<i>Polygonia comma</i>	Nettles	Apr–Oct
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Willows	Feb–Nov
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	Pearly everlasting	May–Sep
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Nettles	May–Sep
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Milkweeds	May–Sep
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	Black locust	May–Oct
Peck's Skipper	<i>Polites peckius</i>	Grasses	Jun–Sep
Red-banded Hairstreak	<i>Calycopsis cecrops</i>	Fallen leaves	Apr–Oct
Red-spotted Purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	Many trees	Apr–Oct
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	Asters	Apr–Nov



PAUL GREEN

Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar

### Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

Combine one part sugar and four parts water in saucepan and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and let cool before filling the feeder. Do not add red food coloring — this can harm the birds. Store excess in refrigerator. Change the nectar frequently to discourage the growth of bacteria, especially in warmer months.

## Mammals

When you have interactions with wild mammals in our region, it's often contentious: the rogue gray squirrel draining the bird feeder, the earth-moving mole reinventing the home landscape, the graceful white-tailed deer dodging a front bumper, and the pungent reminder of the striped skunk that couldn't.

For the most part, mammals, especially those that are small, lead a rather inconspicuous life. Many scurry about or fly under the cover of darkness, stealthily foraging for sustenance. Indeed, one would have to be fortunate to gain long looks at many of our native mammals (birdwatching is much more reliable!) yet they exist in great numbers, playing important roles as both predator and prey in local natural systems. Learning how to live in harmony with most of these mammals while safely deterring others requires an understanding of what's out there.

Taking note of tracks and other animal signs in your yard is perhaps the best way to discover what lives nearby. Look to muddy areas for "footprints" or strategically place a sand tray where an animal might cross in the night. Nibbled vegetation, scat (animal droppings) and damaged bark are just a few of the other animal signs you might encounter.

Here are a few of species encountered regularly in this area.



Red fox pup (above) and tracks (right).

### Mammal species regularly encountered in this area

DEER  
White-tailed deer

CANIDAE  
Coyote  
Red fox

RACCOON AND OTHERS  
Northern raccoon  
American opossum  
Striped skunk  
American beaver  
Longtail weasel

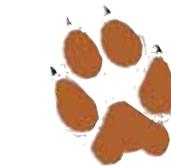
SQUIRRELS  
Gray squirrel  
Southern flying squirrel  
Eastern chipmunk

MICE/RATS  
White-footed mouse  
Deer mouse  
House mouse  
Meadow vole  
Norway rat

MOLES/SHREWS  
Northern short-tailed shrew  
Eastern mole  
Stamose mole

OTHER RODENTS  
Beaver  
Woodchuck/Groundhog  
Eastern cottontail rabbit  
Muskrat

BATS  
Little brown bat



## NOTES

Reptiles and amphibians are monitored closely as indicators of ecosystem health.



Top to bottom: American toad, Spring peeper.

## Reptiles and Amphibians

At least 40 species of reptiles and amphibians occur in southeastern Pennsylvania. Individuals of this often reclusive group of animals require the support of an intact ecosystem and exist within limited ranges. Reptiles and amphibians are sensitive to even minor changes and amphibians, in particular, are considered the ecological "canaries in the mineshaft", and are monitored closely as indicators of ecosystem health. If your property is adjacent to undisturbed woods or fields, you're likely to encounter a few of the common species listed below, more if you incorporate a pond:

- Northern two-lined salamander
- Red-backed salamander
- American toad
- Bullfrog
- Spring peeper
- Green frog
- Eastern box turtle
- Common snapping turtle
- Painted turtle
- Spotted turtle
- Northern fence lizard
- 5-lined skink
- Eastern ringneck snake
- Eastern garter snake



Pickerel frog

### Others species that have been documented in our region

Salamanders	Frogs/Toads
Spotted salamander	Fowler's toad
Marbled salamander	Gray treefrog
Northern dusky salamander	Pickerel frog
Long-tailed salamander	Southern leopard frog
Red-spotted newt	Wood frog
Slimy salamander	Northern cricket frog
Northern red salamander	
Snakes	Turtles
Northern copperhead	Spiny softshell
Black racer	Red-bellied turtle
Black rat snake	Red-eared slider (introduced)
Eastern milksnake	Map turtle
Northern water snake	Common musk turtle
Northern brown snake	Bog turtle
	Wood turtle

## Insects — Nature's Pest Remedy

The insect world is comprised of many crucial contributors to a healthy ecosystem. Though seemingly a paradox, the predation of insects on other insects and bugs to sustain an environment is the reason, for example, that the forests are not completely defoliated each year. These important interrelationships are found at every level of a forest or garden.

Nearly every plant in a natural environment will sustain some damage by insects...it is part of the natural balance. But insect pests don't overpopulate ecosystems — thanks to the presence of natural enemies. Predatory and parasitic wasps and

flies, ladybugs, lacewings, ground beetles, spiders, and others are key players in the biological control of insect pests. Since many require the supplemental food that nectar provides, planting a virtual juice bar of plants will encourage them to visit and stay. Even your vegetable garden will benefit by including some key plants for the garden patrol.

These insects are often tiny: some of the stingless wasp species are smaller than a grain of rice and so require small flowers from which to feed. Composite flowers (such as asters) are made up of many tiny flowers in a disk and are among the most important to bug hunters.

### Here are some common beneficial insects:

Insect	Helps Control
Big-eyed bug	Caterpillars, spider mites, flea beetles
Damsel bug	Aphids, mites, thrips, caterpillars
Dragonfly	Mosquitoes, other flying insects
Earwigs	Generalist (feeds on many species)
Ground beetle	Aphids, snails, bark beetle larva
Harvestman aka Daddy-long-legs	Generalist
Lacewing (larvae)	Aphids, scales, mealybugs, leafhoppers, insect eggs
Ladybug	Aphids, adelgids, whitefly, mites, and other soft-bodies bugs and eggs
Minute pirate bug	Aphids, spider mites
Nematodes	Japanese beetle grub and other soft-bodies bugs and insects
Parasitoid wasps	Aphids, caterpillars, wood boring insects, weevils, leafminers, Japanese and June beetle grub, true bugs, ants
Praying mantis	Generalist
Spiders (Arachnids)	Generalist
Spined soldier bug	Cabbage looper, potato beetle, webworms
Syrphid fly (incl. Hover fly)	Aphids, scales, caterpillars
Tachinid fly	Caterpillars

### Here are some native plants to consider:

Common name	Scientific name	Bloom color	Soil	Sun
White wood aster	<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White	M–D	PS, Sh
Eastern purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple, pink	M	FS
Tall tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Yellow	M–D	FS
Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago</i> species	Yellow	M–D	FS
New York ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	Purple	M	PS, FS
Spotted Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Pink	W–M	PS, Sh
Sunflower species	<i>Helianthus</i> species	Yellow	All	FS, PS
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i> species	Yellow, gold	M–D	FS, PS

SEE PAGE 16 FOR KEY



USDA

## NOTES



ALL PHOTOS BRITT SLATTERY / USFWS

Top to bottom: Butterflybush, Japanese barberry, Tree of Heaven, Wineberry

## Invasives

As noted in the introduction, invasive plants are a significant threat to native habitats throughout the United States, including here in Pennsylvania. Those who enjoy the lush forest vegetation in our area might be disillusioned to discover that most of the plants that have evaded hungry deer are exotic invasive species.

Exotic invasives are introduced plants that spread aggressively and often produce large numbers of seeds dispersed by wind, water, wildlife, and people. Some species, such as English ivy, butterfly bush, wisteria, and Japanese honeysuckle, are

purchased as landscape plants and escape into natural areas, displacing native species.

With their aggressive tendencies, it's not uncommon to find invasives sprouting up in backyards. Vigilance will go far to keep emerging plants in check, while considerably more elbow grease may be needed to remove long established stands.

Here are a few of the most common invasive plants in our region and their native alternatives. A comprehensive list, photographs, and an excellent booklet can be found on-line at the Mid Atlantic Exotic Plant Pest Council ([www.ma-epcc.org](http://www.ma-epcc.org)):

Plant	Scientific name	Native alternatives
<b>Herbaceous plants</b>		
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Wild ginger, foam flower, creeping phlox
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Sweet pepperbush
Japanese stilt grass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Stiltgrass displaces a variety of low cover plants
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Joe-pye weed, cardinal flower, blazing star, New York ironweed
<b>Shrubs</b>		
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Spicebush, highbush blueberry, northern bayberry
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Common blackberry, swamp rose
Privets	<i>Ligustrum</i> species	Chokeberry, spicebush, inkberry
Wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Chokeberry, common blackberry, winterberry
Butterflybush	<i>Buddleja</i> species	Butterfly-weed, New York ironweed, blazing star
<b>Trees</b>		
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Red maple, American beech, black gum
Tree of heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Box elder, white ash, sumac species
<b>Vines</b>		
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Virginia creeper, wild ginger, creeping phlox
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Trumpet honeysuckle, Virginia creeper
Mile-a-minute	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	Native vegetation appropriate to site conditions
Porcelainberry	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Trumpet honeysuckle
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria</i> species	Trumpet honeysuckle, Dutchman's breeches