

A Garden “for the birds”!

What is a “bird garden”? A garden designed for birds provides a place for birds to live, eat, drink, raise a family, overwinter, and serves as an important stopover for birds migrating through the area.

A garden for birds is also a garden for butterflies, moths, caterpillars, insects, pollinators, bats, bees, worms, skinks, turtles, beetles, frogs, voles, wildlife, and native plants.

How to Start a Bird Garden

A bird garden provides a place to live – habitat. This could be a circle of your yard that you stop mowing, add some native plants, and a bird feeder, a nest box and mason bee house, or a bird bath.

Start with a plan (or a list!). Providing native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants while removing any non-native invasive plants is an important first step. You could visit the nature center bird garden and learn about plants native to Middle Tennessee. These brochures are available at the nature center and online.

Water is another important feature of a bird garden, so you could provide a bird bath or a fountain for birds to drink and bathe while attracting more birds to the space. A mister attracts birds especially during the dry season. You could add a heated bird bath on your porch and watch as many birds visit in the winter.

Providing nesting boxes for bluebirds, chickadees, purple martins, bats and mason bees will attract wildlife to the garden. Eastern phoebes nest under a porch, hummingbirds build nests on small tree branches. Dead trees, logs, stumps, and dead limbs also provide nesting spots for birds and wildlife. Dead branches serve as excellent lookout posts for bluebirds and other species. A small brush pile also can be an easy way to attract wildlife.



PC: Graham Gerdeman



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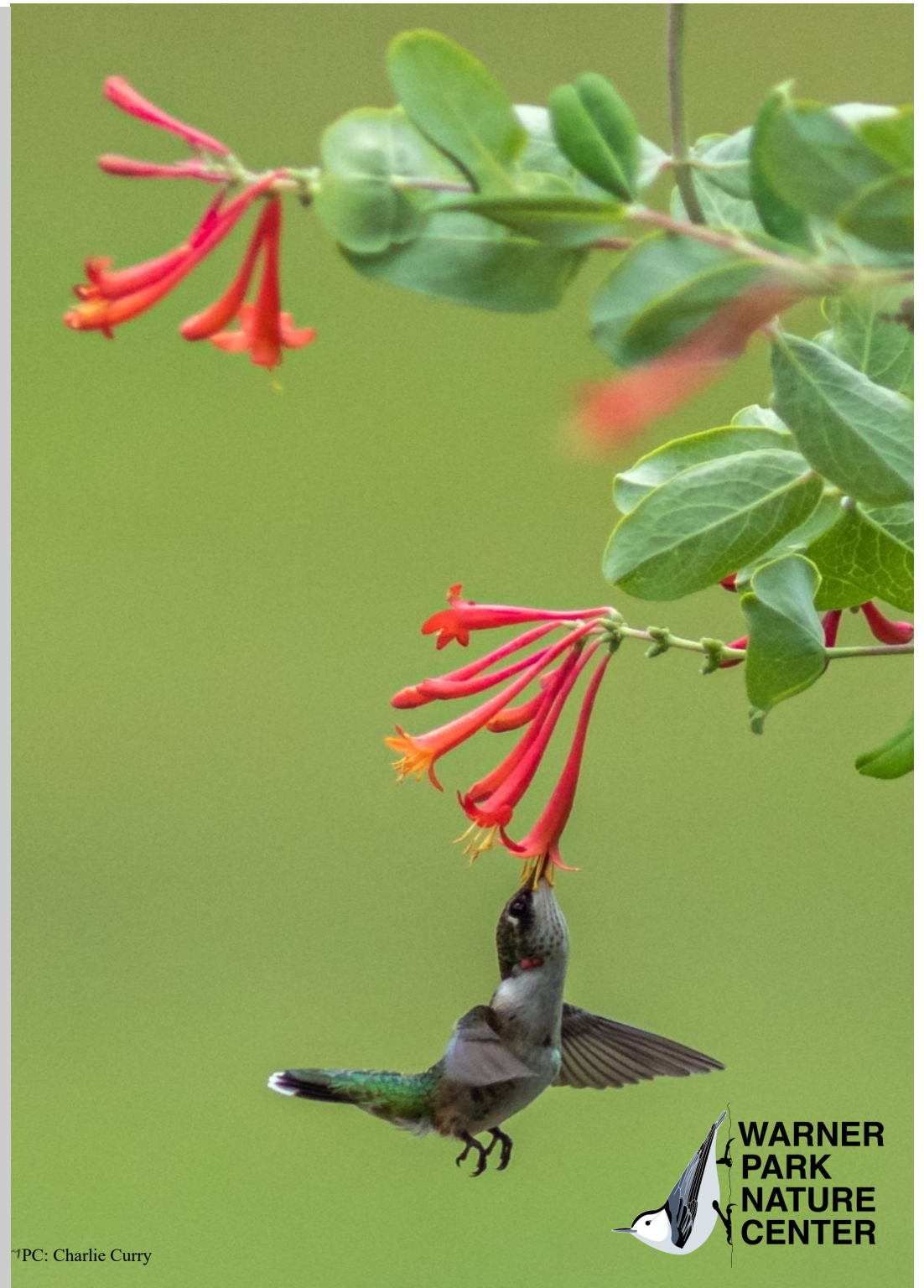
The nature center campus is full of native plants and contains many gardens – a bird garden, a hummingbird/butterfly/pollinator garden, a fern garden, a water garden (pond), a wildflower garden, an organic vegetable and herb garden, and a native tree/field garden with a tree trail. Stop by the nature center and enjoy!

The bird garden was established in 2021 through donations from Ben Armistead in honor of Sandy Bivens, and Tara Armistead, landscape architect.



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A GARDEN FOR THE BIRDS



PC: Charlie Curry



A

1. Bladdernut *Staphylea trifolia*
2. Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
3. Coralberry *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*
4. Spring wildflowers*
5. Spicebush *Lindera benzoin*

B

1. Fragrant Sumac *Rhus aromatica*
2. Spicebush *Lindera benzoin*
3. Coralberry *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*
4. Mountain Mint *Pycnanthemum*
5. Farkleberry *Vaccinium arboreum*
6. Quince *Chaenomeles*
7. Lilac *Syringa*
8. Annuals*

C

1. Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*
2. Christmas Fern *Polystichum acrostichoides*
3. Tennessee Coneflower *Echinacea tennesseensis*
4. Peonies *Paeonia*
5. Primrose *Primula*
6. Annuals*
7. Tickseed Sunflower *Bidens frondosa*
8. Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia triloba*
9. Highbush Blueberries *Vaccinium corymbosum*
10. Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*

*Spring wildflowers may include but are not limited to: Violets, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Mayapple, Trillium, Dwarf Larkspur, Largeleaf Waterleaf, Purple Phacelia, Virginia Bluebells, Celandine Poppy, Early Saxifrage, Buttercup Species, Spring Beauty, Dutchmen's Breeches, Bloodroot.

*Annuals may include but are not limited to: Marigolds, Salvias, Globe Amaranth, Cockscomb, Snapdragon, Sunflower, Cypress Vine, Cardinal Climber, Moonflower, Passion flower, Lantana.

D

1. Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia*
2. St. John's-wort *Hypericum frondosum*
3. Annuals*
4. American Holly *Ilex opaca*
5. Bee Balm *Monarda spp.*
6. Quince *Chaenomeles*
7. & 11. Yellow wingstem *Verbesina alternifolia*
8. Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia*
9. St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*
10. White Snakeroot *Ageratina altissima*
12. Frostweed *Verbesina virginica*
13. Bladdernut *Staphylea trifolia*
14. St. John's-wort *Hypericum frondosum*
15. Pokeweed *Phytolacca americana*
16. Resurrection Fern *Pleopeltis polypodioides*
17. & 19. Highbush Blueberries *Vaccinium corymbosum*
18. & 20. Spicebush *Lindera benzoin*
21. Spiderwort *Tradescantia*

Notable trees that are not featured on the map are the Hawthorn, Mulberry and Yellowwood located just past the "C" garden bed.

The Bird Garden also features several songbird and hummingbird feeders along with the John William Bates Bird Bath.

