

Birds around our houses and in the City itself may be getting the short shift -- so to speak.

All the trees, of course, are being cut down; and if that weren't bad enough, are being replaced by smaller, imported ones. We're definitely not providing food nor nesting spots for birds. Secondly, the lot sizes have gotten so small, a tree is not even considered. What to do?

Now is a good time to provide for these birds. But some people don't like birds. Really? Think about it.

Every school child can tell you what birds need:

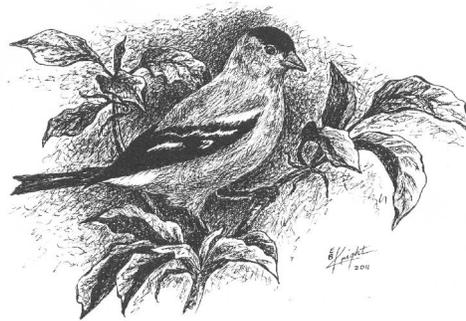
- Shelter and nest sites for raising young;
- Chemical-free environment for high diversity of insect and bacterial life in gardens (provides food for birds, as well healthier soils;)
- Thick mulch to encourage worms, insects and grubs;
- Fresh water to drink and bathe.

How can we provide all these things? It's easy (but may take a little time.) Look over this list, do you have any already?

- Prickly plants, like hollies, provide shelter;
- Nesting sites in trees and bushes;
- Trees providing flowers for nectar (see TREES on home page)
- Nectar and insects to eat year-round, not poisoned, in bushes and flowers;
- Nesting materials, found even in grasses;
- Undisturbed mulch;
- Bird baths.

An easy way out with birds, is to provide the trees, a bird feeder or two and bird baths -- easy and it provides more birds than you can imagine. A good site for North Carolina trees is this one compiled by Will Cook: www.duke.edu/~cwcook/trees/. As easy as it is, before long, you'll find yourself seeing favorite birds on weeds and then, you, too, will want to provide those weeds. We like the NC Botanical Gardens list of native plants or [NC Wildflower.org](http://NCWildflower.org).

What's your experience with birds? Let us know, by submitting your ideas, with a click from the Home Page.



Yellow Warbler from the feeder of Edrie Knight, artist