

# Better Plants for Birds and other Wildlife

## Do you love birds? So do we!

- To help birds and other wildlife, we're making space for more **native plants** at the Bog Garden by removing **invasive exotic plants**.
- We'll add **native plants** that provide food, shelter, and places to rest for birds and other wildlife.
- **Native plants** provide food for insects, birds, and other wildlife: nectar, berries, fruits, nuts, and seeds.

## Native plants are

- **part of our natural history:** Native plants were here before European settlement on continent.
- **hardy:** Native plants are well-adapted to the soils and climate of our region.
- **home for birds and wildlife:** Over many millennia, our native wildlife have adapted to the resources provided by native plants.

## Invasive exotic plants are

- non-native species that have escaped cultivated areas: With no natural enemies, invasive exotics have an advantage over native plants.
- **beautiful bullies:** Invasive plants are often pretty, but they overrun native vegetation.
- **a threat to birds and other wildlife:** Invasive exotics are indigestible for most native insects. Birds need insects to feed their young, so more invasive plants means less food for baby birds.

## Did you know?

- 96% of land birds feed insects, especially caterpillars, to their nestlings.
- **Native trees and shrubs** such as oak, willow, cherry, birch, hickory, blueberry, maple, and pine provide food for hundreds of kinds of caterpillars.
- Plants produce chemical compounds to keep from being eaten. Native insects have adapted to eating some **native plants**, but **non-native plants** contain foreign compounds that most native insects won't eat.
- Green plants capture energy from the sun and make sugars through photosynthesis. They are the basis of the food web for all wildlife.
- We need **native plants** that insects can eat so that the energy captured by plants is passed on to other living creatures.



Our native Cardinal Flower is just the right size for this Ruby-throated Hummingbird.



Gray Catbirds love Pokeweed berries, another native plant food.



This Wood Thrush is fueling up on nutrient-rich berries from a native Dogwood tree before migrating south for the winter.



This Northern Mockingbird is feasting on native Winterberry



A Carolina Chickadee captures a caterpillar to feed to her hungry chicks.



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The Bog Garden is a special place that provides habitat for waterfowl, turtles, frogs, fish, dragonflies, butterflies, and other wildlife.