

A tasty menu draws birds to yards

Continued from Page 6

goldfinches, are often bullied by larger ones, so for them you'll want a tubular feeder filled with thistle seeds.

Birds are more likely to patronize feeders that are near a safe cover, ideally a tree or a dense shrub.

EVEN BETTER than feeders, though, are trees and shrubs and other plants that provide both food and shelter for birds.

Don't think that your yard has to resemble a wilderness to make birds feel safe and at home. Many of the plants that are basic to landscaping are also basic to birds' natural habitat.

The greatest variety of birds is found in an open area rimmed with small shrubs backed by taller trees or bushes.

You probably already have the basics. Your lawn is an open area; peripheral shrubs and flowers provide shelter and can provide food if they're the right kind.

WE'RE NOT talking exotic here: The majority of the plants most attractive to birds are among those most favored by people. Here are a few plants you can consider for your private backyard bird sanctuary:

- Trees: If you don't already have

an evergreen tree, consider adding one to your yard. It will provide shelter from winter storms, and a nesting spot in the summer. Pines are especially attractive to chickadees and woodpeckers.

Oaks are probably host to more species of insects than any other tree, thus supplying food for many bird species. They also provide nesting sites, and, of course, acorns. Willows, poplars, beech and ash are other trees that birds favor for both food and shelter.

And don't forget fruit trees. Cherry trees, crab apples and several ornamental trees produce fruits and provide shelter. Try an elderberry. Birds love elderberries. If you plant any of these, don't plan on sharing fruits — competing with birds, humans don't stand a chance!

- Shrubs: You can plant many shrubs for their berries, such as

Please turn to Page 11

Veggies also ornamental

VEGETABLES are often banished to the garden patch in the back yard, but many have a lot to offer as ornamental plants. Some varieties are strictly for looking at.

Tom Stebbins, Michigan State University master gardener specialist, suggests that gardeners take advantage of the ornamental traits of many vegetable crops and incorporate them into flower beds and borders and other landscape features.

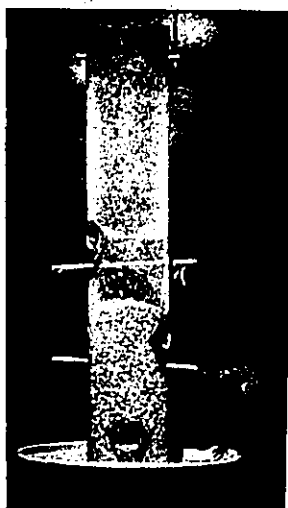
Strictly ornamental varieties of flowering cabbage and kale, with their leaves tinged with red, pink, purple

and white, can be a colorful and unusual addition to a bed of annual flowers. An asparagus planting, with its lacy green fronds in the summer and golden yellow fall color, can be the tall back row in a bed of perennials or mixed perennials and annuals.

Eggplant and pepper plants have attractive foliage and colorful fruits that add to the appeal of a flower bed or container garden.

"Whether you grow the standard, glossy black-fruited eggplant or a novelty variety like Easter Egg, which

Please turn to Page 12



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A grackle feeds in the back yard of Judy and Joe Derek in Farmington Hills.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BETTER HEATING & COOLING BUREAU:

Forget about the weather.
Enjoy perfect year-round comfort
with a heating/cooling system
properly installed by a member of the
Better Heating & Cooling Bureau.

Smart money buys now.
Select your specialist today.
Call today for your free brochure

313/649-3740

THE BETTER HEATING & COOLING BUREAU

ANDERSEN WINDOWS



40% OFF
Distributors List

- FREE Quotes
- FREE Clinics

QUALITY WINDOW CENTER

Come home to quality Andersen.



24023 Ann Arbor Tr.
Dearborn Heights, MI
(313) 274-4144

3911 S. Rochester Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI
(313) 853-0710

SAVE MONEY AND MULCH MORE.

\$50 OFF
REGULAR PRICE
OFFER GOOD THROUGH
MAY 31, 1991



\$499⁹⁵
Reg. \$549.95

HONDA
Power
Equipment

HRM21SVA
• Premium
Mulching
Mower

- Grooms Without Bagging
- Honda Commercial Engine
- 21" Self-Propelled Mower

For optimum performance and safety we recommend you read the owner's manual before operating the unit.
©1991 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

WEINGARTZ

"WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL"

46061 VAN DYKE, 1/2 Mile North of M-59, UTICA
731-7240

HOURS: Mon. 8:30-8:
Tues.-Fri. 8:30-5:30; Sat. 8:30-5

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST LAWN & OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT DEALER