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Tips on Gardening

By Betty Frankel

BIRD LORE
Birds seem more conspicuous at this season than at any other. Gawkly starlings invade the yard, bumbling across the grass, while fat robins strike statuesque poses at the edge of the greensward, and noisy jays swoop among the shrubbery on flashing wings. Migrating flocks of shy warblers flit briefly among the leafy boughs and then are gone, while juncos, back from their

Seton Guild Buffet Oct. 14

The Seton Guild of St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home for Children, Inkster Road, Farmington, is having an "AUTUMN BUFFET BRUNCH" on Thursday, October 14, 11 a.m. in Laboure Hall.

Mrs. John C. Malpell, president, cordially invited guests, and all groups who play cards weekly and each month to attend and make this their "Bridge Day" and also enjoy the brunch and prizes and a tour of the home which is operated by the Sisters of Charity.

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northern sojourn, are busily reinvestigating their winter quarters. Birds are always a joy to behold. Their vivacity, grace and freedom hold an innate appeal for man. In the winter, especially, they add a much needed note of color and gaiety to the garden. However, in addition to their visual attraction, they serve a most useful function. Studies have revealed that birds consume an astounding quantity of insects and weed seeds. More and more gardeners are coming to rely on this help since the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides has been thrown into such great disrepute. The birds are surprisingly effective. They do not completely eliminate weeds or insects, but they do a remarkable good job in keeping things under control. For this reason, if for no other, the gardener would be wise to encourage birds to inhabit the

ONE WAY TO ENCOURAGE the bird population is to put out feeders with seeds, suet, and other tidbits, especially in the winter. Water, too, is most welcome. Nesting boxes and boxes for shelter and roosting in inclement weather are appreciated.

One of the most effective ways of inviting the birds to the garden is to plant the shrubs so that the birds are attracted, fed and protected. In nature the greatest number of birds are found in the transitional zone between the open grassy meadows and the woodland. This is an area with a background of tall trees for nesting and shelter, and undergrowth of brush for food, nesting sites, shelter, and safety from predators; and an open area to explore for food.

Suburban properties can be planned to simulate this natural situation. In fact, many suburban plantings approach this plan. Fortunately birds are readily satisfied with even a small and limited imitation of nature. Plant tall shade trees along the boundaries of the property; or if the property is small, use medium or small trees. Underplant the tall trees with smaller trees. Plant several trees in a row as the birds like continuity. Plant shrubs beneath the trees and plant a row of shrubs to connect the more widely spaced trees. The lawn area in the center, of course, functions as an open meadow area.

Among the trees most attractive to birds top honors goes to the Japanese flowering crab, Malus florabunda. All other crabs are good as are apples, cherry, wild cherry, hawthorns (especially Washington thorn), dogwood, mountain ash, shad and birch. Mulberry, so seldom planted by home gardeners because of its messy fruit, attracts a multitude of birds.

SHRUBS THAT ATTRACT birds include the common Japanese barberry, all kinds of cotoneasters, viburnums, honeysuckle, lilac, elderberry, shrub dogwoods, and pyracantha. The multiflora rose is especially attractive, but it is a rampant grower and is not recommended for planting in a small yard.

The evergreens are best for shelter and safety. Red juniper

tops the list. Over fifty species of birds eat its berries and many nest in its branches. Other junipers are also attractive, as are spruce, pine and hemlock. Yews, especially the Japanese yew, are excellent in the category of low-growing evergreens.


It is thought that the formation of an "edge" type planting is more important than the individual species planted, but the species of plants used will have an effect on which bird visitors will linger. Plant a variety of trees and shrubs to attract the greatest number of birds.

REMINDERS
Dig and store tender bulbs... Plant Spring bulbs... Cut and burn foliage of perennials and other perennials... Finish planting of evergreens... Plant trees and shrubs as they become dormant... Turn the compost pile and add leaves and grass clippings... Keep lawns mowed and leaves raked.

Ohst Marking 50 Years Of Marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Ohst, 28937 Kendallwood Dr., Farmington, observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 6. They were honored at an open house on Sunday, October 10.

World Book Encyclopedia
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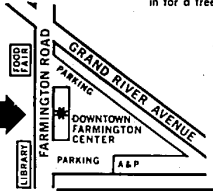
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