

How to Attract Birds

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"How do you get birds around your place?" was a question asked me once by a young enthusiast. "Set a table for them!" I replied. By that I meant plant some red osier dogwood, wild or tame honeysuckle, mountain ash, chokecherries and saskatoons. Berries of the latter do best planted in fall, and the trees quickly grow to fruiting age.

Plant these trees and shrubs near the house so that birds feasting on their berries can be easily observed. Last summer, just outside our dining room window, a pair of Catbirds fed their young with white dogwood berries, chokecherries and saskatoons. As the Catbirds nearly always let us know when they arrived, many a canning and freezing "operation" was held up for a time in order to watch the parents fill the young birds' mouths before flying off again to the windbreak.

Cedar Waxwings and Grosbeaks seem to prefer honeysuckle, although the Waxwings seldom leave many berries for the latter birds which come in winter. Our ornamental crabapple has really given us a lot of pleasure this past winter as we have seen flocks of Grosbeaks come

to it to nibble at the apples. Some Bohemian Waxwings have come too, and a pair of Blue Jays just this morning (Feb. 9, 1956), with a Part-ridge night and morning just between the two lights. Needless to say, there aren't many apples left. I wish I hadn't used any for jelly! Last year most of the apples remained on the tree, probably because the snow wasn't very deep and birds were finding wild berries. In the spring after the big snow-storm as many as eleven Robins were feeding on a red elderberry and neighboring flowering currant at one time.

Sunflowers growing in a corner somewhere attract Chickadees and Blue Jays, and lettuce allowed to seed is found by yellow Goldfinches.

So, come spring, take a shovel, an old tub, and some lunch, and pile the family in a car for a picnic to the nearest coulee or river bank and find a few berry bushes to transplant to your yard. In addition to the shrubs I have already mentioned, you might try a hawthorn with its bright berries, or a birch tree, or a small spruce to add colour and to attract the winter Grosbeaks to the shelter of its evergreen branches.

Mourning Dove Information Wanted

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service wants more information on the Mourning Dove so that adequate protection can be given to this bird. Since the Mourning Dove is treated as a game bird in the southern part of its range, management and protection are essential.

Active Mourning Dove banding is urged throughout the entire breeding range of the dove. Since doves start nesting early in the spring and continue until late in the fall it is desirable to band birds from all broods throughout the year. Normally only those with banding permits may band birds, but since the Mourning Dove is easily identified any person over 18 who can recognize the bird and will keep accurate records may apply to the Bird Banding Office, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel Maryland for a dove banding permit.

Nestling doves may be banded at

any age. If the nestlings are very young "Dalzoflex" elastic adhesive tape, which is supplied upon request, may be used to keep the size 3A dove band from slipping off. If the nestlings are nearly ready to leave the nest they may jump out after being replaced. If the birds act as if they intend to jump both hands should be placed over the nestlings, keeping them quiet and in the dark for several minutes will usually prevent premature jumping from nests.

This is an excellent project in which we can co-operate with people all over North America. Younger people can help by locating nesting sites and reporting them to the banders. The return on dove banding is high. When your results come back from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service please send them to us so that they may be printed in your magazine, the **Blue Jay**.