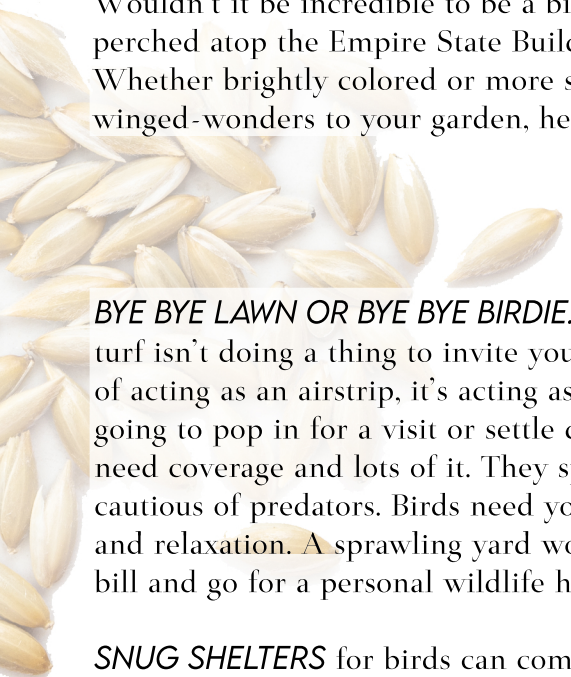


BIRDS

Wouldn't it be incredible to be a bird? Imagine flying cross-country freely and the views you would get perched atop the Empire State Building or the Golden Gate Bridge. And who wouldn't want gorgeous feathers? Whether brightly colored or more subdued, they come in every stunning hue! And if you want to attract more winged-wonders to your garden, here are a few things you can do!

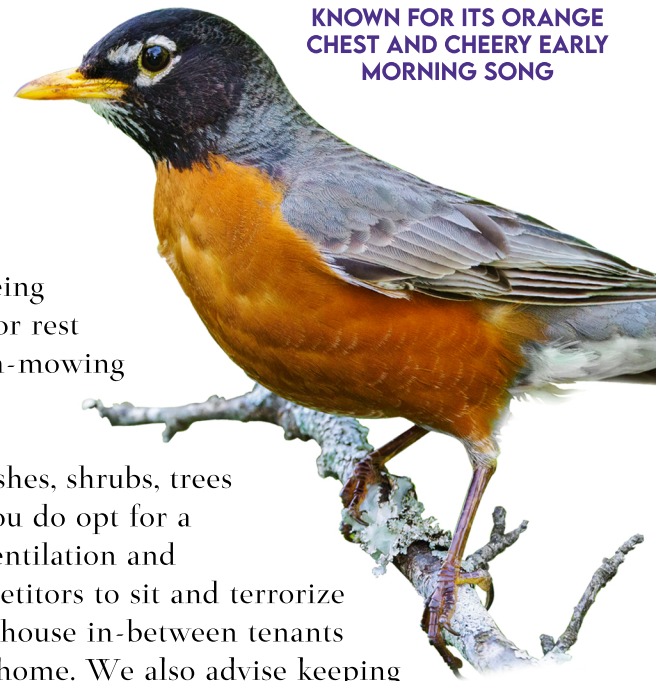


BYE BYE LAWN OR BYE BYE BIRDIE. A large swath of flat green turf isn't doing a thing to invite your feathered friends in. Instead of acting as an airstrip, it's acting as a "keep away" sign. If they're going to pop in for a visit or settle down and raise a family, birds need coverage and lots of it. They spend so much of their time being cautious of predators. Birds need your garden to be a safe space for rest and relaxation. A sprawling yard won't do the trick. Skip the lawn-mowing bill and go for a personal wildlife habitat instead.

SNUG SHELTERS for birds can come in the form of accessible bushes, shrubs, trees (even dead ones), and the classic crafty bird house. However, if you do opt for a man-made bird bungalow, make sure that you use one that has ventilation and forego the entryway perch. Perches at the entry point allow competitors to sit and terrorize current occupants trapped inside. Also, be sure to clean your birdhouse in-between tenants to ensure that invasive or threatening species don't take over the home. We also advise keeping natural elements around that birds can use to build their nests with. This means maintaining a strategically placed brush pile. Keep it away from the side of your home to avoid a future pest issue, but allow birds the twiggy tools that they need to build in your mutual sanctuary.

STAY NATIVE by researching what plants are indigenous to your region. Planting those will naturally attract birds to your space. Actively removing invasive species helps as well! Doing so creates a natural balance for your little slice of heaven. Solidify your garden as a sort of 'locally owned' feather lounge!

**THE AMERICAN ROBIN
KNOWN FOR ITS ORANGE
CHEST AND CHEERY EARLY
MORNING SONG**



AN ACTIVE HUMMINGBIRD HAS A HEARTBEAT OF AROUND 1,200BPM WHICH IS ABOUT 7 TEN TIMES THE HEARTRATE OF AN EXERCISING HUMAN ATHLETE!!

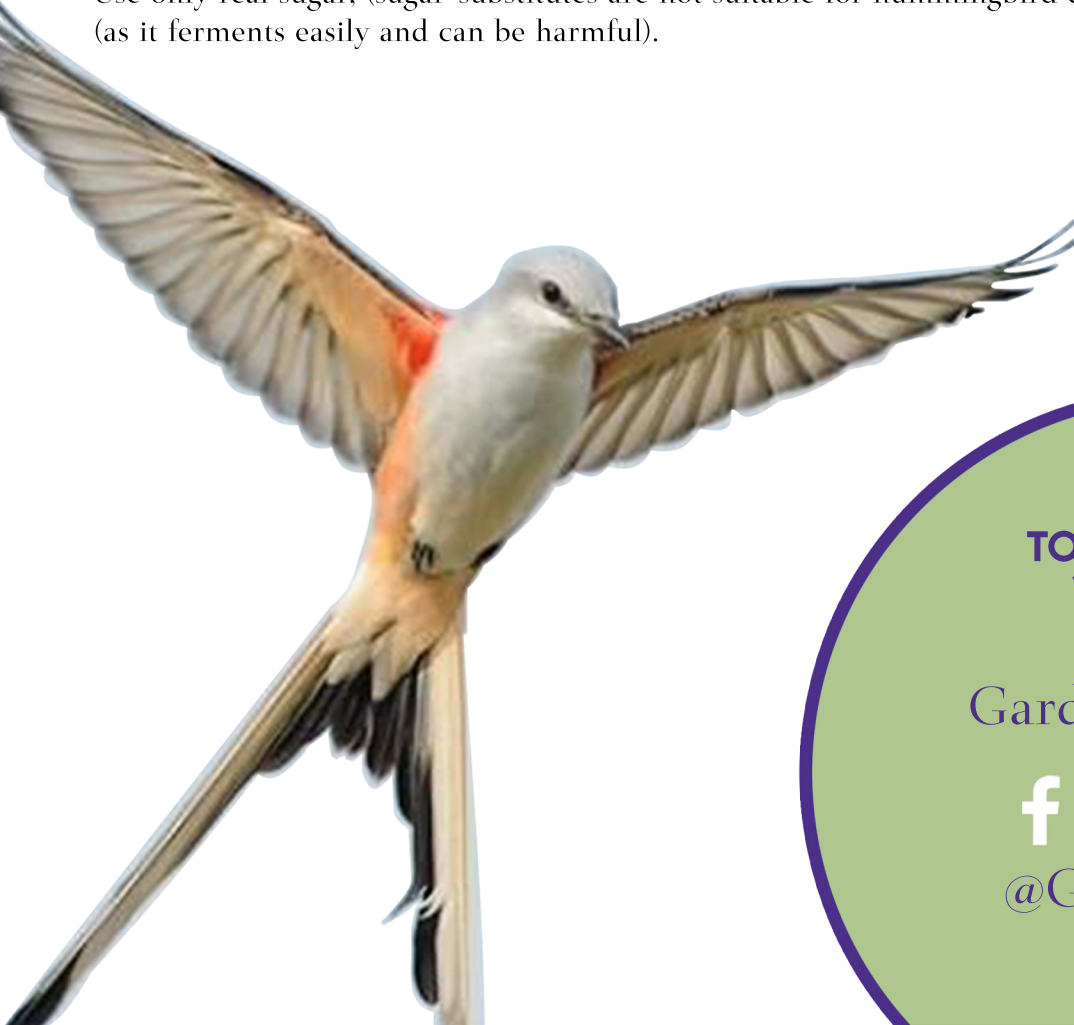


RUFIOUS TAILED HUMMINGBIRD

SINGING IN THE SHOWER of a fountain, waterfall, or pond - birds need access to clean water year-round! If you opt for a shallow source of stagnant water (like a birdbath) remember to replace the water regularly (every two to three days). No one wants to bathe in or sip on sludge. Birds are no exception!

CLEAN NOT MEAN. When cleaning birdbaths, shelters, or even deterring pests, make sure you use bird-safe cleaning products and avoid inorganic pesticides. We completely understand not wanting a space overran by bugs, but they're a huge source of food for the birds. So, keep them at bay the natural way!

FEEDERS act as a buffet that should (if your garden is equipped with the previously listed resources) attract feathery friends from miles around to stop in and stay a while. Native seeds are a great nutritious snack choice for many types of birds. Fruits from your area are also a good offering. If making your own "nectar" for hummingbirds, avoid using red dye (which is harmful to the digestive systems of our fluttering friends). Use only real sugar, (sugar-substitutes are not suitable for hummingbird digestion) and avoid honey (as it ferments easily and can be harmful).



SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER,
STATE BIRD OF OKLAHOMA

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