Backyard Birds
by Patricia Sutton
(November 2026)

Patricia Sutton
Wildlife Habitat / Conservation Gardening Educator for over 50 years
patclaysutton@comcast.net
www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com

"Backyard Birds Attracted to a Wildlife Habitat, Create it and They Will Come" by Patricia Sutton

For many years I did not give permission to groups to record and share my educational presentations after the fact and to be available forevermore. First, as I continue to learn and document (with photos) amazing happenings in my 40+ year-old wildlife habitat and in natural areas, I regularly refresh and update my presentations. Secondly, programs and their income enable me to pay for and maintain my website and all its resources, and to pay for Constant Contact, the service I use to share great learning opportunities, native plant sources, nature notes, and gardening tips with my "Garden Gang."

But, as I wind down and take more time for me, and more time for Clay & me to visit with long-time friends near and far, I gave permission to Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens to record and share my February 20, 2025, zoom presentation, "Backyard Birds Attracted to a Wildlife Habitat, Create It and They Will Come." The recording of this presentation can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=52_8Lrx7TII

To answer questions you may have after viewing this program, I've put together this handout which briefly shares some of my favorite books, resources, tools, protection measures, etc. that I include in this program.

1 **To learn more about creating a wildlife habitat**, refer to Pat Sutton's many handouts covering different aspects of this topic. They can be found on her website under the header "Native Plant Resources" at: www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/native-plant-resources/ All of these handouts should prove helpful to those wishing to make their properties more attractive to wildlife. **Be sure to start with Pat's handout "Gardening for Pollinators," which is her most in-depth handout and the backbone to many of the other handouts**. It includes many, many links to terrific resources that will save you time, energy, and money as you garden for wildlife, including pollinators.

2 One attendee was amazed by the "before" and "after" photos of our **invasive-filled woods** and asked how we tackled it. To see a few more photos and learn how we transitioned our woods from an impenetrable wall of 12' high Multiflora Rose and Japanese Honeysuckle **to our beautiful woods of natives today**, go to Pat's website under the header "About," and then click on "Our Wildlife Garden" here: www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/our-wildlife-garden/

3 **FIELD GUIDES TO BIRDS (Identification)** – there are many, many field guides, far too many to list here. The Sibley Guides are PAT'S FAVORITES:
   a. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, 2nd Edition*, written and illustrated by David Allen Sibley, (Knopf, 2016). The "little" Sibley covers the East; there is another edition for the West.
   b. *The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Edition*, written and illustrated by David Allen Sibley (Knopf, 2014). The "big" Sibley covers both the East & the West.

4 **NATURAL HISTORY INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS** – there are undoubtedly many more books that cover this topic, but Pat's Favorite and the first to do so, *The Birder's Handbook*, can't be beat!
   a. *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*, by Paul Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, Darryl Wheye (Simon & Schuster, 1988). PAT'S FAVORITE – the one she showcased in her program "Backyard Birds."
   b. *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, by David Allen Sibley (Knopf, 2001).
   c. *Lives of North American Birds (Peterson Natural History Companions)*, by Kenn Kaufman (Houghton Mifflin, 1996).
   d. *The Atlas of North America's Migratory Birds, Tracking Movement Across Seasons and Continents*, by Peter Marra and Amy Scarpignato (Princeton Univ. Press, 2026). Be prepared to be flabbergasted with all you learn from this amazing book.

(OVER)

Patricia Sutton
Wildlife Habitat / Conservation Gardening Educator for over 50 years
patclaysutton@comcast.net
www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com

5 **ONLINE RESOURCES** – there are many, but these are exceptional

a. Birds of the World – this priceless online resource is complete and kept up to date as more is learned! It requires a subscription. The Cape May County Library is one of a very few libraries in the US that has a subscription; residents of Cape May County, NJ, can access it with their library card. See if your library system will subscribe! Here is how to reach it otherwise: www.birdsoftheworld.org/bow/home
b. Cornell Lab "All About Birds" is the 2nd best online resource and can be reached here (it requires no subscription): www.allaboutbirds.org/news/

6 **BOOKS ABOUT BIRD WATCHING (covering optics, record keeping, etc.)** – there are far too many to include, but these were some of the first!

a. *The Complete Birder: A Guide to Better Birding*, by Jack Connor (Houghton Mifflin, 1988).
b. *Bird Watching for Dummies*, by Bill Thompson (IDG Books, 1997).
c. *Sibley's Birding Basics: How to Identify Birds, Using the Clues in Feathers, Habitats, Behaviors, and Sounds*, by David Allen Sibley (Knopf, 2002).

7 **BOOKS ABOUT BIRD WATCHING SPOTS** – today there are so many resources (online as well as books), but these are the two I mentioned in my program:

a. *Birds & Birding at Cape May: What to See and When and Where to Go*, by Clay & Pat Sutton (Stackpole, 2006).
b. Delaware Valley Ornithological Club's website: www.DVOC.org -- The "Birding" link takes folks to Birding Hotspots in the Philadelphia / Delaware Valley area, and Monthly Recommendations (what to see and where). "The Calendar" on the home page shares dates of scheduled bird walks, DVOC Meetings, and more!
c. Support your local nature center, bird observatory, and arboretum. Many of them offer bird watching walks and/or classes.

8 **THE BEST HEATED BIRD BATH**

Pat keeps her popular post **"Water in the Winter Wildlife Garden,"** updated on her website to include where her favorite heated bird bath, the **Pole Mounted ERVA Heated Birdbath**, can be acquired and why it is her favorite (she's had hers for over 25 years): www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/water-winter-wildlife-garden/

9 **PROTECT BIRDS FROM FLYING INTO WINDOWS AT YOUR HOME AND WORKPLACE**

The company, **Feather Friendly**, founded in 2006 is now known as a world leader in bird-glass collision prevention products that include visual markers that are durable and can be easily applied on problematic windows: https://featherfriendly.com/

The company, **Acopian Bird Savers**, makes window strike protection units using cords, spaced 4" apart, that can be hung outside problem windows. The logic is that birds avoid flying between 4" openings. Prior to the availability of this option, Pat drew thin white lines 4" apart with a white china marker on three glass sliding doors in our sunroom. This solution worked until the lines began to wear off. One can order Acopian Bird Savers from this company to fit your problem windows. OR you can make your own; the Acopian Bird Savers website shares a step-by-step "how to" guide showing how to make your own, including helpful videos, and more. Visit their website and take a walk through all the options and learning videos; this company is providing a priceless product and service: www.birdsavers.com/