

# Wildlife-Friendly Backyards

Discover more interesting facts along the WheatonArts Nature Trail.

Bird feeding stations have long contributed to an appreciation of nature, often sparking a lifelong interest in wildlife stewardship. For many people their first introduction to the natural world is in their own backyard, observing creatures going about their daily lives. While birds eat berries and seeds, it's important to recognize that insects, e.g. caterpillars, ants, and beetles, are just as crucial to their survival. Butterflies rely on nectar sources, and their caterpillars depend on specific food plants, so having the right native plants is vital to their survival.



**Blue Jay**  
*Cyanocitta cristata*



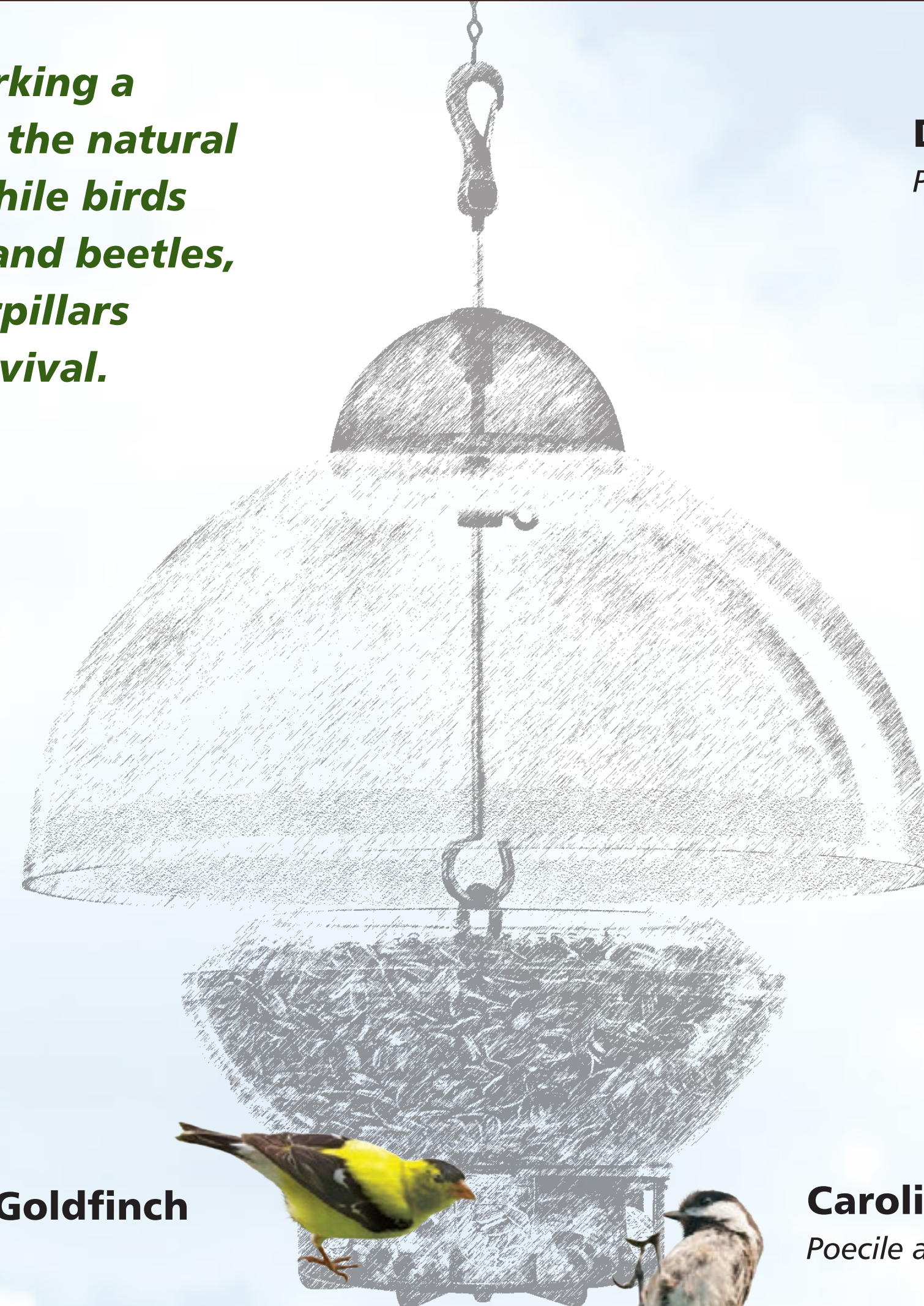
**Northern Mockingbird**  
*Mimus polyglottos*



**Northern Cardinal**  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*



**Mourning Dove**  
*Zenaida macroura*



**American Goldfinch**  
*Spinus tristis*

**Carolina Chickadee**  
*Poecile atricapillus*

**Tufted Titmouse**  
*Baeolophus bicolor*



**Slate-colored Junco**  
*Junco hyemalis*



Placing small piles of branches or a discarded Christmas tree at the base of your feeding station will give birds a place to escape predators.



**Downy Woodpecker**  
*Picoides pubescens*

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes carolinus*

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**  
*Archilochus colubris*  
Feeding on native flora — *Monarda fistulosa*



You Can Help!

**Make your outdoor living spaces friendly to native species by creating backyard habitat...**

- Reduce lawn areas
- Increase native plantings that wildlife depends upon
- Protect and provide for insect populations to support wildlife
- Install nesting boxes
- Keep cats indoors! The American Bird Conservancy estimates that 100 million free-roaming cats kill 2.4 billion birds a year in the USA alone.

Northern Mockingbird photo: copyright Tom Wicker — twicker@wickerfarm.com



Para obtener versión en español, visite:  
[cumauriceriver.org/signs/003s.html](http://cumauriceriver.org/signs/003s.html)