

Create Bird Friendly Habitat and Bring Your Landscape to Life Jane Tillman, June, 2020

Here are some resources that will help you with plant choices and other actions you can take to make life better for birds.

Visit Travis Audubon's [Bird Friendly Communities](#) which has excellent information on topics mentioned in the talk such as minimizing bird/window collisions. I have provided the website addresses for these in addition to the hyperlink which can sometimes be problematic.

- [Bird Habitat Plants for Travis County](https://travisaudubon.org/home/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Bird-PlantsTravis-September2010.pdf) <https://travisaudubon.org/home/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Bird-PlantsTravis-September2010.pdf> created by the TAS Urban Habitat Committee.
- [Hummingbird Plants for Central Texas](https://travisaudubon.org/home/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/TAS-Hummerhelper-v2.pdf) <https://travisaudubon.org/home/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/TAS-Hummerhelper-v2.pdf> created by the TAS Urban Habitat Committee.
- [Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas](http://texasento.net/CenTexPlnts.pdf) <http://texasento.net/CenTexPlnts.pdf> by Mike Quinn, local entomologist

The [Texas Bluebird Society](#) also has an excellent list of plants that songbirds like. (Eastern Bluebirds occur in Travis County.)

Visit their [resources](#) page and scroll down to find links for Plants providing Berries, Plants providing Insects, and Plants providing both Berries and Insects.

The [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) has lots of information on specific plants to help you select the right plants for your growing conditions. This [link](#) is particularly relevant to Central Texas.

Where to buy plants:

Remember that most nurseries (even those with native in their name) don't sell just natives. Common plant names can be confusing. Ask for native plants by their scientific names to make sure you get the plants you want.

[Barton Springs Nursery](#) Has a selection of natives.
3601 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746 512.328.6655

[Hill Country Natives](#) Grower of Texas Native Trees and Fruit Trees 308 Mesa Oaks, Leander, TX 78641 512.914.7519 (By appointment only)

[The Natural Gardener](#) Has a selection of natives.
8648 Old Bee Caves Road, Austin, Texas 78735 512.288.6113

[Native Texas Nursery](#) (Wholesale only). Sometimes you can request plants from your local nursery, and they can order from Native Texas Nursery. 16019 Milo Rd., Austin, TX 78725 512.276.9801

[Wright's Nursery](#) (By appointment only, call 512.489.2239)
6040 FM 2657, Briggs, TX 78608 about 5 miles east of Briggs, TX.

[Native American Seed](#) Mail order native seeds and live roots from Junction, TX.

Lady Bird Wildflower Center (801 La Crosse Ave, Austin, TX 78739 512.232.0100)

Native plant sale in October and April. <https://www.wildflower.org/plant-sales>

Austin and Williamson County Native Plant Society of Texas chapters have native plant booths at these LBJWC events. Part of the chapter's profits are donated to help support the LBJWC and its mission. Visit [Austin's Chapter](#), and [Williamson County Chapter](#). The Native Plant Society of Texas, Austin Chapter sometimes has free seeds and plants to give away and can occasionally help with identifying plants.

Books

Kress, Stephen W. *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small, 2nd Edition*. 2006. Cornell University Press.

Mizejewski, David. *National Wildlife Federation(R): Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife, Expanded Second Edition 17 Projects & Step-by-Step Instructions to Give Back to Nature*. 2019. Creative Homeowner.

Stephens, Rufus and Jan Wrede. *Attracting Birds in the Texas Hill Country: A Guide to Land Stewardship*. 2017. Texas A&M University Press.

Bender, Kelly Conrad. *Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife, the Texas Nature Guides ed.* 2009. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press.

Tallamy, Douglas. *Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. 2009. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Incorporated. There is also a revised and updated edition.

Tallamy, Douglas. *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*. 2020. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press.

Enquist, Marshall. *Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country*. 1989. Austin, TX: Lone Star Botanical.

Linex, Ricky J. *Range Plants of North Central Texas – A Land User's Guide to Their Identification, Value and Management*. 2014. Weatherford, TX: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Useful guide to ID and wildlife value of various native plants of which most occur in central TX. <https://shop.brit.org/products/range-plants>

Nokes, Jill. *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*, rev. and updated ed. 2001. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press. Good info on how to site your plants.

Stern, Sara. *Noah's Garden Restoring the Ecology of our Own Back Yards*. 1993. Houghton Mifflin. A story about a couple who experienced an epiphany after clearing their landscape (which drove off wildlife) and then restored it.

Wasowski, Sally, and Andy Wasowski. *Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region, 2nd ed.* 2003. Lanham, MD: Lone Star Books. An excellent introduction to Texas native plants with information on growth habit, light, soil and moisture needs.