# Designing Landscapes for Life!





Oak Hairstreak

Carolina Wren

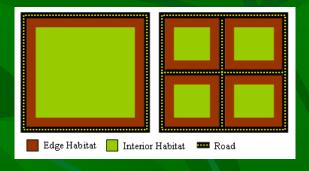
## Typical landscape attracts what kind of wildlife?





### **Conversion and Development**







#### Challenge: Invasive Exotics





A Must Read: Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy

### Challenge: Water





Wintering Whooping Cranes at Granger Lake, 2012

Photo by Dr. Birdie (Byron Stone)

## We Can Make a Difference for Wildlife

- Recipe for Success
  - Food native plants
  - Water
  - Shelter
  - Places to raise young
  - Space



#### What is a Native Plant?

- Population of plants (trees, shrubs, grasses or any other plant) in a geographic area that exist there without direct or indirect human introduction
- Indigenous plants that evolved in an ecosystem naturally, without human introduction
- Ask for natives by their scientific name



Vs.



#### Think Web of Life



Argiope sp.

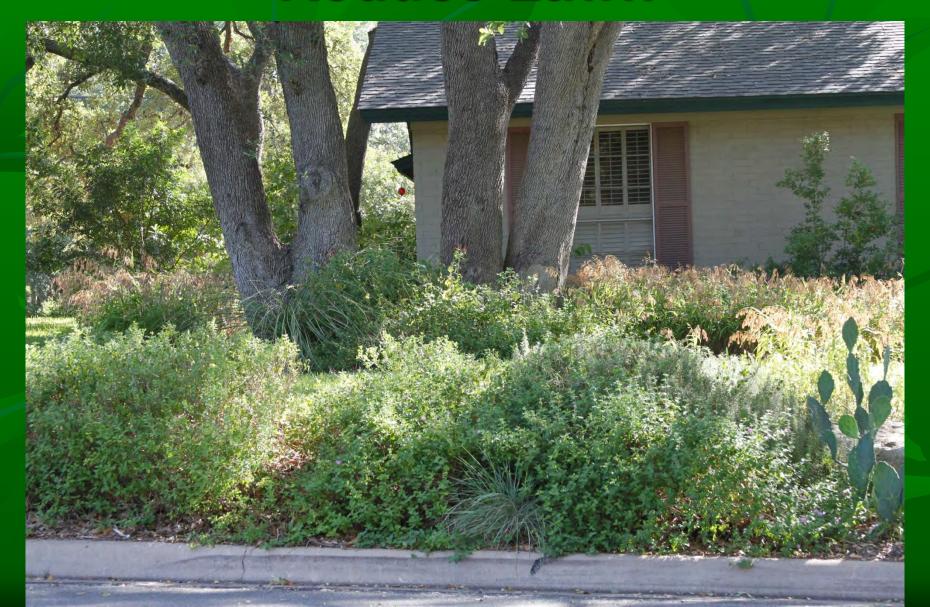


Black-chinned on nest

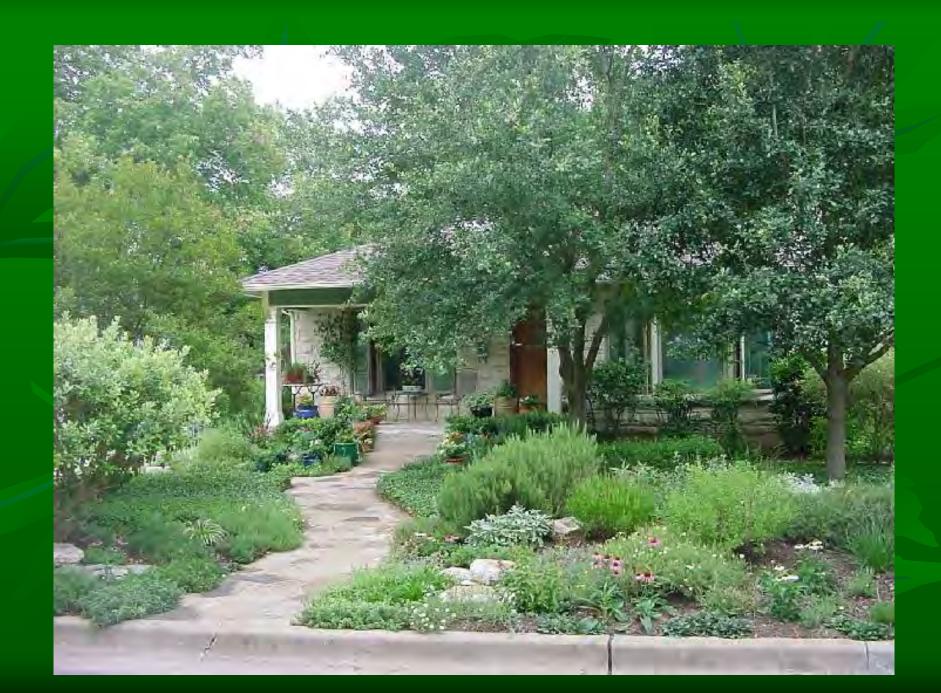
### Wildscape



### Reduce Lawn







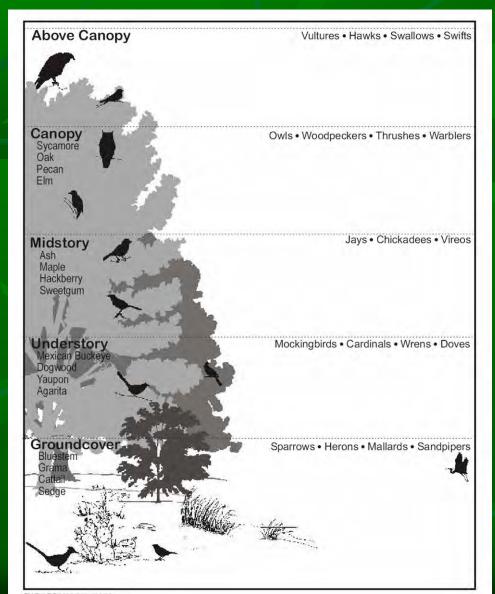


# Create Different Levels Add Variety



Purple coneflower

#### Provide vertical niches





Canopy – owls, robins warblers, tanagers

Midstory – jays, chickadees, titmice

Understory- cardinals, wrens, mockingbirds, doves

Ground level- sparrows, cardinals, doves, wrens

Texas Parks and Wildlife

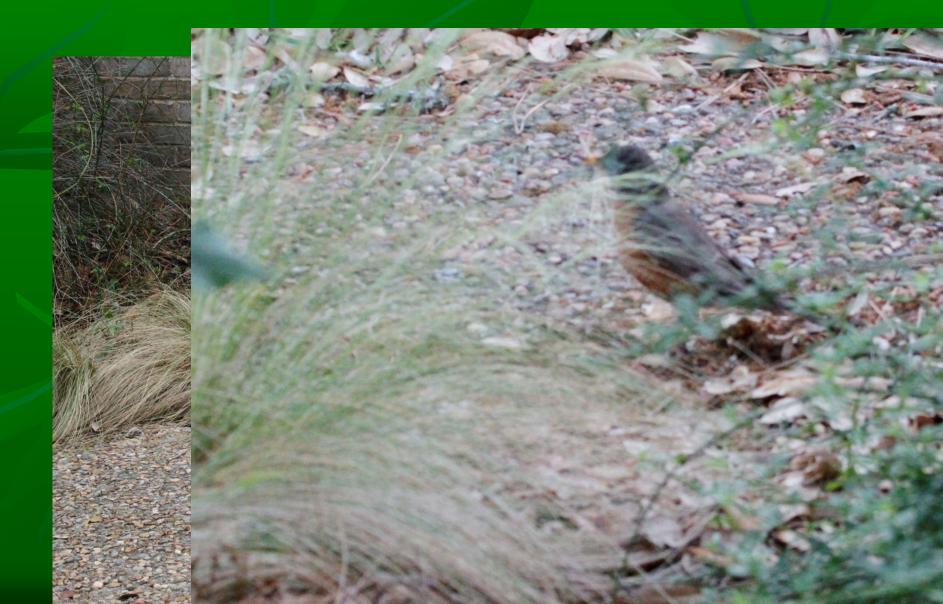
#### **Ground Layer**



Grasses: Try clump forms
Big Muhly
Yellow Indian Grass
Pine Muhly
Gulf Coast Muhly



#### **Mexican Feather Grass**



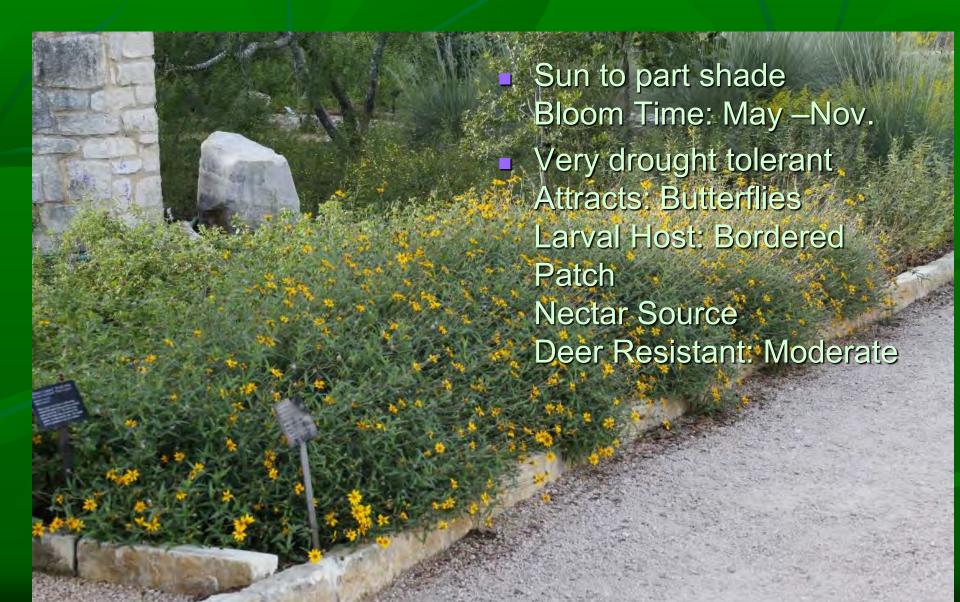
#### **Inland Sea Oats**



## Dalea greggii



#### Zexmenia (Wedelia texana)



### Creek Sedge (Carex blanda)



### Blue Mistflower Several different species



#### Shrub Layer as Understory



American Beautyberry





# White Mistflower Ageratina havanensis



#### **Small Trees/Large Shrubs**

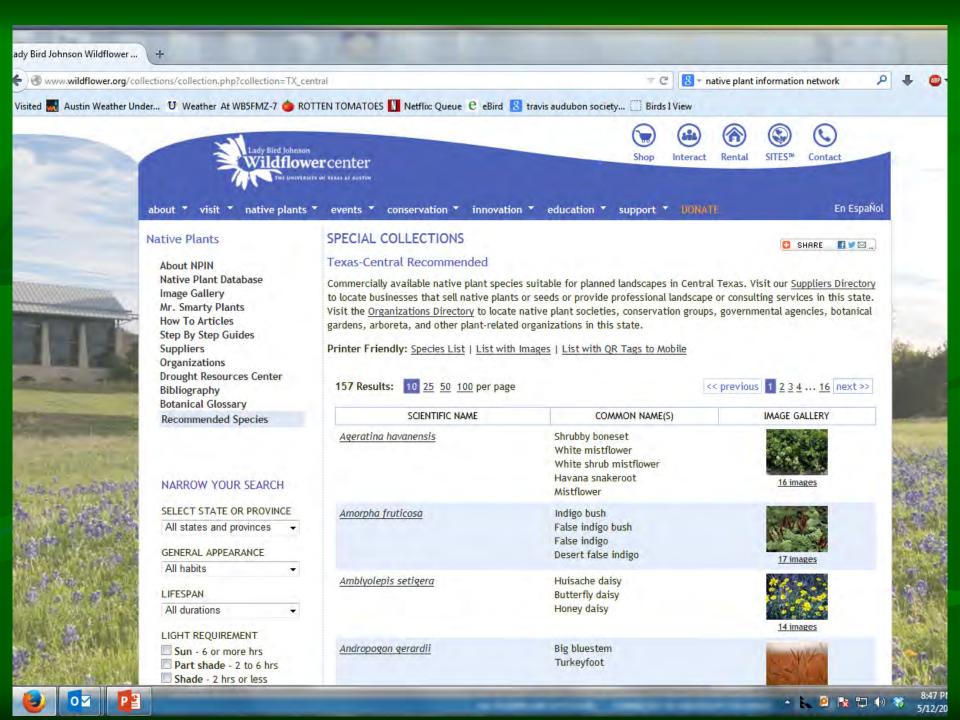




#### Mid-Story Layer



**Native Plant Information Network** 



#### Mid-Story Layer

- Ashe juniper!
- Yes, it's native
- Tremendous wildlife value



## Canopy Layer



## Provide Food Throughout the Seasons















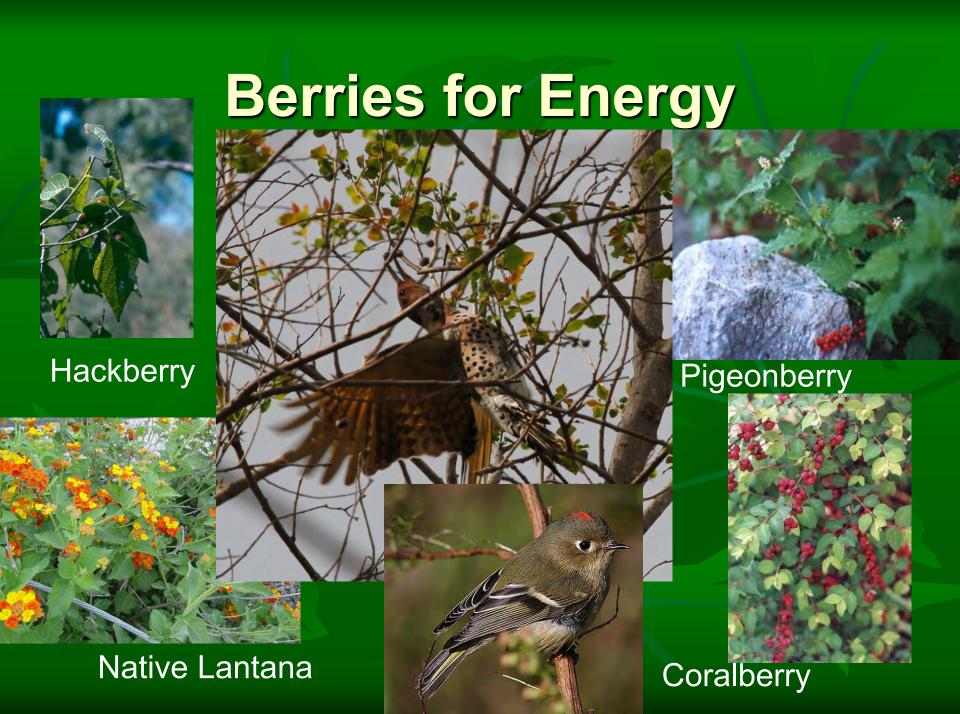




#### Coral Honeysuckle

- Roots in the shade
- Sleeps, creeps and leaps taking 3 years to get established
- Nectar and berries
- Hummingbirds and mockingbirds
- Snowberry Clearwing





## Keep foods pure - pesticides kill!





# Impact of Pesticides/Fertilizers?









# Caterpillar Friendly Gardening

- Plant host plants in various spots in garden to improve chances of survival
- Minimize disturbance of soil and mulch



- Some caterpillars spend time hiding on ground next to host plant during the day and feed only at night.
- Others use soil around base of host plant when pupating.
- Leave leaf litter and plant stems over winter

### Shelter/escape cover





- Examples:
  - Prickly natives
  - Brush piles
  - Toad abodes



### Shelter, wildlife corridor



### **Shelter: Unmortared Rock**

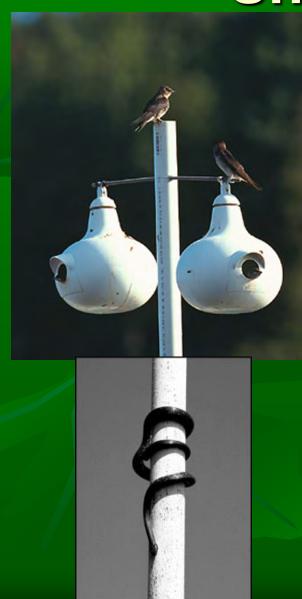




# Shelter: lower branches and leaf litter



### **Shelter: Cavities**







**Chimney Swift Tower** 

### Snags are homes



#### **Shelter: Nestbox**



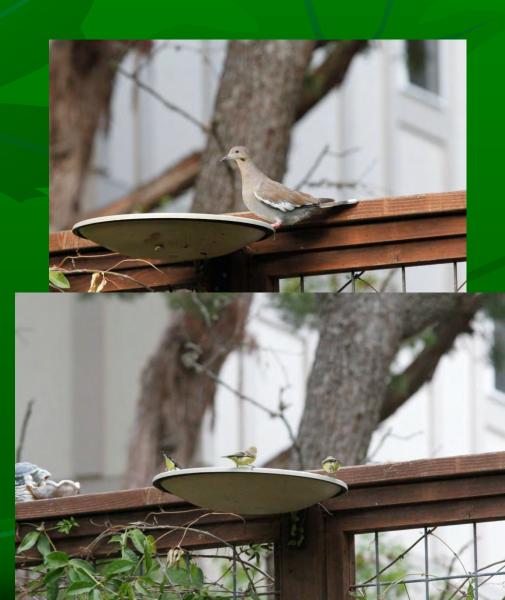
Lynn Hill

- No perch
- Can be opened to clean
- Drainage holes
- Thick walls at least 3/4 inch
- Ventilation holes
- Made from untreated wood
- Easy to access for monitoring and cleaning
- Morning sun and afternoon shade



### **Provide Shallow Water**





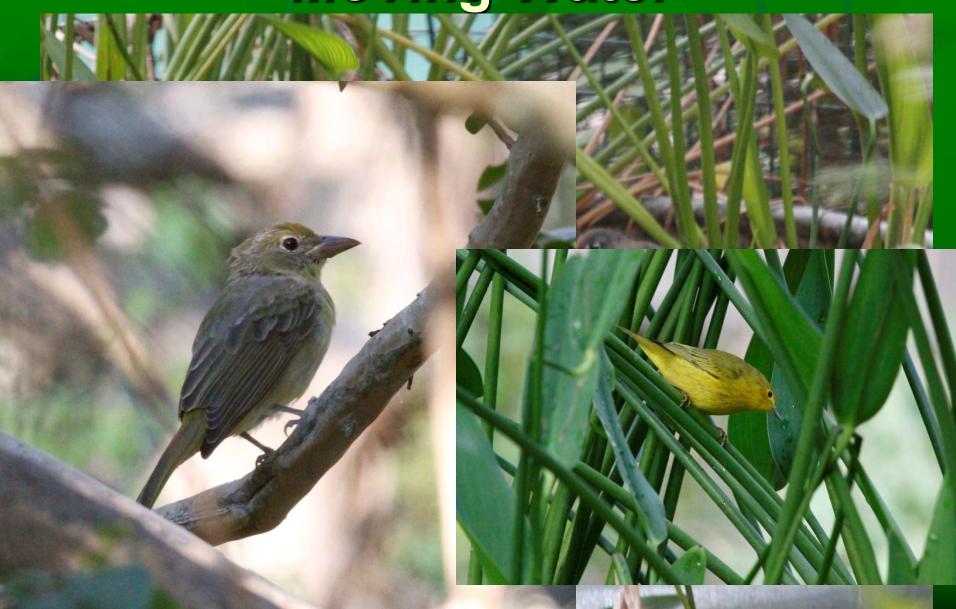
### Out of Harm's Way



### Bird Raft







### **Moving Water**

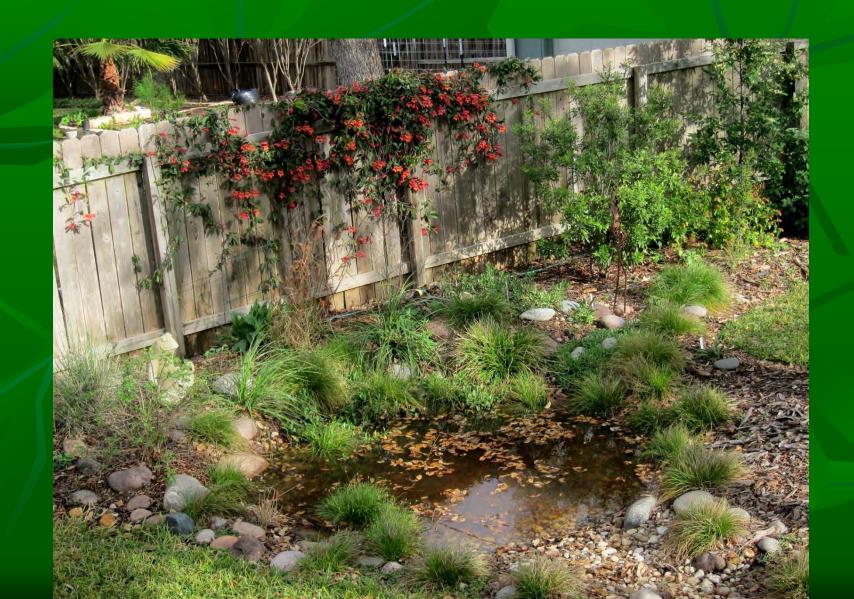




### Stream



### Rain Garden











### **Create a Puddling Station**



### **Bird Seed**



### Lesser Goldfinch Love Niger



### Millet, Sunflower Seeds, Seed Cakes and Suet





### Be a responsible habitat host

- Keep feeders clean
- Keep feeders 10-12 feet away from dense shrubbery
- Cats indoors







### **NWF Certified Wildlife** Habitat<sup>™</sup> Requirements

- Food Sources
- Water Source
- Cover
- Places To Raise Young
- Practice at least (2)Sustainable GardeningPractices





### Gardening for Wildlife is Fun

- Less mowing
- Reduced raking of leaves
- Less deadheading
- Less noise
- Less watering

- More birds
- More flutterbys
- More time to enjoy



### If we build it they will come.



**Green Violetear** 





### **Learn More About Birds**



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Inspiring Conservation
Through Birding

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