The biggest threat to birds is habitat loss. Luckily, anyone can improve habitat for birds by planting native plants! Native plants (plants that occur naturally in a region without human introduction) are an essential resource for birds. In addition to supplying food in the form of nuts, seeds, fruits, and nectar, native plants are important hosts for the insects that birds need to feed themselves and raise their young. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony can provide vital resources for migrating birds and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds.

Special thanks to the artists in our flock for their beautiful drawings, Roseanne Guerra (cover art, native plants, insects) and Anne McCallum (birds), and to Cherokee Garden Club for their support of this educational outreach.
After the flowers fade, purple coneflowers produce ________ that American Goldfinches love to eat. Dried flowers and messy gardens have a lot to offer birds!

American Goldfinch

Purple Coneflower
Dogwood trees produce red ________ in fall that are an essential part of the diet of the American Robin and other birds fattening up for migration and winter months.

Flowering Dogwood

American Robin
The Brown–headed Nuthatch uses its pointy bill to pry open _____________ in search of seeds.
In fall, Blue Jays gather and bury hundreds of __________ as a winter food source. The ones they forget may grow into __________!
Georgia’s state __________, the Brown Thrasher, loves the bright purple or white berries of American Beautyberry!
In addition to providing delicious berries, blueberry bushes are a host plant (food source) for the __________ (larva) of several moths and butterflies, which means a buffet for Carolina Wrens!
In spring, the dark purple ________ on a Mulberry tree are a favorite of the Northern Cardinal. Can you tell the male from the female?
Red-bellied Woodpeckers use their sturdy _________ to crack open hickory _________. They might find a juicy Luna moth caterpillar in a hickory tree, too, since hickory is a host plant for these beautiful moths.
Tulip poplar trees provide food and shelter for small animals like __________, a regular part of a Red-tailed Hawk’s diet.
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fatten up on nectar from tube-shaped ____________ like crossvine to get energy for their long migrations.
Answer Key

1. seeds
2. berries
3. pinecones
4. acorns; oak trees
5. berries
6. caterpillars
7. bird
8. beak/bill; nuts/seeds
9. squirrels
10. flowers
Building places where birds and people