

EVENT: PLANT THIS, NOT THAT

September 28, 2019, North Peninsula State Park (High Bridge Road in Ormond-by-the-Sea)

HRA hours: 8:15 to 11:30 am / **Public hours:** 9-11 am

MATERIALS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ---Table | ---Tent |
| ---Bungees | ---Plants for Birds brochures |
| ---Match Game – match the plant to the bird | ---Plants for Birds banner |
| ---Other Audubon printed materials | ---Audubon folks wearing Audubon tees and SMILES! |

WHAT TO SAY TO FOLKS ABOUT PLANTS FOR BIRDS

To Children

1. Do you know what baby birds need to eat to be able to fly and leave the nest?
 - a. If they say “bugs”, tell them “that’s right!” and move on to question 2
 - b. If after a few guesses, they don’t come up with bugs, tell them that almost all baby birds need bugs to grow up strong and able to fly and move to question 2
2. Do you know where bugs live?
 - a. If they say “on plants,” tell them “That’s right!” and move on to 3
 - b. If after some guesses, they don’t come up with plants, tell them that the bugs that baby birds need are found on plants, then go to 3
3. And the plants that the bugs for baby birds grow on are found on native Florida plants, the ones that have been here forever. Then invite them to play the game by matching the bird to the native plant.
- 4. And remember, *No native plants, no bugs. No bugs, no birds!***

To Adults

- We’re losing our songbirds, not just because of development, but because of how we landscape our developments, including our own backyards.
- 96% of land birds feed protein in the form of insects, to their chicks. Even hummingbirds! Even kites! Even if a bird matures to eat seeds and nuts, or fruit, or nectar, their chicks need bugs.
- The bugs they need for their chicks live almost exclusively on the plants they co-evolved with, which are native plants yet 80% or more of our backyards are landscaped with exotic, non-native plants, so they don’t offer food and often, they don’t even offer shelter to birds. And that’s why we’re losing our birds!
- If you’d like to learn more, Audubon has a website that can help you get started [show brochure]:
 - Go to <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds> [show them on brochure], input your zip code and you’ll get a list of plants for your area. You can filter them by plant type or by bird type. In addition, you can also find out about resources to find the plants you want. We also suggest you go “nextdoor” [to the next booth] and talk to the folks at the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society about resources, too.
- [Someone will ask “What about bird feeders?"]. Bird feeders are fine for adult birds. They provide adult birds with supplemental food to the native seeds, nuts, berries and nectar in a native landscape, but they provide nothing at all for baby birds.
- **And remember, *No native plants, no bugs. No bugs, no birds!***