

Urban

American robin

General information

American robins use a wide assortment of vegetation types, from mowed grassy areas to forested areas. In urban areas, robins use large open areas and nearby trees and shrubs. Parks, golf courses, and lawns in residential areas are attractive to robins. They are found throughout North America, though they may migrate out of northern latitudes during winters with sustained cold and snow.



Robins build a nest of grass and mud on a tree or shrub limb, but will occasionally nest on building ledges. Robins spend considerable time on the ground feeding on earthworms, but also will perch on branches to eat berries, fruit, and insects.

Habitat requirements

Diet: insects and worms during spring and summer; soft mast from shrubs and trees in winter; seldom use artificial feeders
Water: require water daily in warm seasons; obtain water from low-lying areas, ponds, and rain-filled gutters
Cover: shrubs, evergreen trees, and deciduous trees used for nesting and escape; evergreen trees often used for early nests



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to reduce habitat quality for American robins

Plant Shrubs: where soft mast is lacking; examples might include dogwoods, hollies, golden currant and winterberry

Plant Trees: both deciduous and evergreen; where nesting sites may be limiting

Set-back Succession: prescribed fire, disking, and mowing can be used to set-back succession and provide suitable structure for robins

Water Developments for Wildlife: birdbaths and pans of water can be provided in urban areas; do not place water in areas where cats can catch the birds; cats should be removed

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts and point counts are used to estimate trends in populations

Mowing: to maintain suitable structure for robins in Urban areas

Big brown bat

General information

Big brown bats are one of 46 bat species in North America. They use a variety of vegetation types, from farmland to mature deciduous forest. Big brown bats are common in urban areas, including cities, parks, and suburban neighborhoods. They frequently use buildings and houses for daytime summer roosts and sometimes as winter hibernacula, but most hibernate in caves.



Big brown bats are insectivores. Lactating females will eat their weight in insects daily. Males and females may roost individually or in small numbers, but males and females usually roost separately. Females may roost together in a maternal colony when pups are born and nursing. Females usually give birth to one or two pups, often in a hollow tree or attic. Big brown bats, as well as all other bat species, are nocturnal and are the only mammals capable of flying. Big brown bats will drink “on-the-wing” by dipping their lower jaw into water. Big brown bats hibernate in the winter in northern latitudes. They do not actively feed during winter months, and rely on stored fat reserves.



Habitat requirements

Diet: night-flying insects, especially beetles

Water: free-standing water is required daily when active

Cover: buildings and hollow trees are often used for daytime roosts; bat houses may also be used for daytime roosting; caves, mines and buildings are used for hibernation



Wildlife management practices

Create Snags: to provide roost sites (only in areas where they pose no danger to human structures or health when they fall)

Nesting Structures: may provide additional roost sites if natural roost sites are limiting

Plant Trees: in large open areas where few trees are present to promote future old trees that may provide roost sites

Set-back Succession: *Chainsawing* and *Prescribed Fire* (in rural areas) can be used to maintain more than 50 percent open areas for foraging

Water Developments for Wildlife: where available open water is not available, small ponds and shallow impoundments may be constructed for drinking and to attract insects; water developments should be constructed with nothing above the water (such as fencing or bracing) so bats have an unobstructed flight path

Wildlife Damage Management: may be necessary when roosting or hibernating in areas occupied by humans

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts are used to estimate population trends

Mowing: may be used in urban areas to maintain openings

Common nighthawk

General information

Common nighthawks are found throughout the U.S. during summer, but migrate to South America during winter. Common nighthawks are found in grasslands, open woodlands, cities, and towns. In cities and towns, they are often seen flying over city parks and other open areas in late evening and early morning. Common nighthawks nest on bare soil or gravel areas common in fields or on rooftops. They use open fields for foraging. They are nocturnal and feed “on-the-wing” on flying insects.



Habitat requirements

Diet: flying insects, including flying ants, mosquitoes, moths, and June bugs

Water: obtain ample water from diet, but water sources attract insects, which provide food for nighthawks

Cover: riparian areas, ridge tops, flat rooftops, and other places with numerous sand and gravel areas are favorite nesting locations



Wildlife management practices

Livestock Management: grazing regimes that maintain open herbaceous areas provide foraging sites for common nighthawks

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire*, *Disking*, and *Mowing* can maintain early successional areas for foraging; *Disking* and *Herbicide Applications* can promote bare ground for nesting; *Chainsawing* can convert wooded areas to open, early successional areas

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts can be used to estimate trends in populations

Mowing: can be used to maintain open areas in Urban environments

Coyote

General information

Coyotes are found throughout the continental U.S. and have even been observed in large cities and urban areas. Grasslands, shrubland, and farmland provide optimal habitat for coyotes, but they also use forested areas as well. Coyotes den in a variety of places, including brush-covered slopes, steep banks, rock ledges, thickets, and hollow logs. Coyotes are most active at night, during early morning, and around sunset, but they may be active throughout the day. Coyotes live in packs, alone, or in mated pairs, depending on the time of year. Coyotes have an extremely varied diet that fluctuates with the seasons.



Habitat requirements

Diet: rodents, rabbits, and other small mammals, insects, birds, eggs, deer, carrion, and soft mast; livestock and wild ungulates (deer, elk) are usually represented in coyote stomachs as carrion; in some cases,

coyotes prey heavily on deer fawns, and can limit reproductive success in some limited situations

Water: requirements are not well documented; necessary water is probably obtained in diet

Cover: grasslands, shrublands, regenerating forest, mature forest; crevices and burrows along river banks, rock ledges, brushpiles, and holes under stumps or abandoned buildings are used as den sites for raising pups



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation reduces habitat quality for coyotes or prey species

Edge Feathering: to increase cover and food availability for prey species around fields

Field Borders: to increase usable space for prey species around fields

Forest Management: *Forest Regeneration (Clearcutting, Shelterwood, Seed-tree, Group Selection)* and *Timber Stand Improvement* can improve habitat for prey and lead to more abundant prey

Livestock Management: should maintain adequate cover for prey species

Plant Native Grasses and Forbs: where additional early successional cover is needed for prey and planting is necessary

Plant Shrubs: in areas where additional shrub cover is needed to attract prey and provide security cover for coyotes

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire, Disking, Chaining, and Herbicide Applications* are recommended to maintain herbaceous openings; *Prescribed Fire* can be used to enhance forest understory structure and composition; *Chainsawing* can be used to create additional forest openings where necessary

Decrease Harvest: where hunting or trapping has limited population and additional coyotes are desired

Increase Harvest: through hunting or trapping where populations need to be lowered

Wildlife Damage Management: may be necessary where livestock or pet depredation is a problem

Wildlife or Fish Survey: track counts and camera surveys are used to estimate population trends

Eastern bluebird

General information

Eastern bluebirds are found across the eastern U.S. They use herbaceous openings, savannas, pastures, parks, backyards, edges of hayfields and cropfields, and other early successional communities well-interspersed with trees and shrubs, for perching, foraging and nesting (where cavities are available). Large open areas without interspersed hedgerows, fencerows, and scattered trees may not receive as much use by bluebirds as those areas with more structural diversity.



Bluebirds forage in open areas, but typically near trees, shrubs, or a fence that provide perches.

Insects dominate the diet during spring and summer, whereas various fruits are most prevalent during fall and winter. Eastern bluebirds nest in cavities, especially old woodpecker cavities, as well as nest boxes. Clutches are normally 3-6 eggs. Eastern bluebirds may have 1-3 broods per year. Nest box programs have had a major impact in restoring eastern bluebird populations.



Habitat requirements

Diet: insects, especially grasshoppers, crickets, adult beetles and larvae, as well as other invertebrates, such as spiders; various fruits, such as black cherry, sumac, blueberry, blackberry, blackgum, hollies, dogwoods, pokeweed, and hackberry

Water: necessary water obtained from diet, but may use free-standing water when available

Cover: nest in cavities of trees and fence posts



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to compete with native vegetation and reduces habitat quality for eastern bluebirds

Create Snags: where cavities are limited to provide potential nest sites and perching sites in open areas (not in woods because eastern bluebirds do not use woods)

Edge Feathering: to increase foraging opportunities, perching sites, and potential cavity trees (if trees are killed and left standing) around fields

Field Borders: to increase foraging opportunities around crop fields

Livestock Management: livestock must be excluded from recently planted trees and shrubs

Nesting Structures: should be erected where a scarcity of natural cavities may be limiting the population; nest boxes should be approximately 5 feet high with an entrance hole 1½ inches in diameter; nest boxes should be placed no closer than 80 yards apart to limit territorial fighting among males

Plant Native Grasses and Forbs: to aid in establishing herbaceous groundcover where planting is necessary; forb component is important to attract insects

Plant Shrubs: in relatively large open areas where perching sites or winter foods may be limiting

Plant Trees: in relatively large open areas where perching sites are limiting; may provide potential nest sites in distant future

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire, Disking, Herbicide Applications, Mowing, Chaining, and Drum-chopping* can be used to maintain and rejuvenate early successional areas and prevent them from becoming dominated by young trees and shrubs; *Chainsawing* and *Root Plowing* can be used to convert forested areas to savannas and early successional communities

Wildlife or Fish Survey: point counts can be used to monitor bluebird populations; nest boxes should be checked to monitor use and nest success

Mowing: can be used to maintain open areas in Urban environments

Eastern cottontail

General information

Eastern cottontails occur in the eastern half of the country. They prefer brushy cover interspersed with herbaceous openings. Eastern cottontails are also found in suburban areas, parks, golf courses, and stream corridors. Eastern cottontails are prey for the majority of carnivorous predators within its range. They are prolific breeders; females may have 7 litters per year, with 3 to 6 young per litter. This reproductive rate is required to perpetuate populations because 70 to 80 percent of all rabbits die each year.



Habitat requirements

Diet: forbs and grasses, browse, and soft mast from spring through fall; in winter, bark of shrubs and trees, as well as buds, grain, and browse

Water: necessary water obtained from diet

Cover: shrub cover, brushpiles, native warm-season grasses and forbs for loafing and escape cover; burrows are also used for denning and escape



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: where nonnative invasive vegetation is competing with native vegetation and limiting habitat for cottontails

Edge Feathering: to increase usable space around fields

Field Borders: to increase usable space around fields

Forest Management: *Forest Regeneration (Clearcut)*, provides optimal brushy cover for a few years

Leave Crop Unharvested: to provide additional food and cover, especially corn, alfalfa, and wheat

Livestock Management: should exclude livestock from food plots and prevent overgrazing to allow sufficient herbaceous vegetation for nesting, cover, and forage

Plant Food Plots: where additional forage or grain is needed; best situated adjacent to dense brushy cover

Plant Native Grasses and Forbs: where early successional cover is limiting and planting is required to promote additional grasses and forbs

Plant Shrubs: in relatively large openings with few shrubs; field borders, fence rows, and other idle land areas are good places to plant

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire, Disking, and Herbicide Applications* are recommended to maintain herbaceous openings, especially when litter accumulation or woody encroachment is excessive;

Chaining, Prescribed Fire, and Herbicide Applications can be used to rejuvenate shrublands, especially where herbaceous groundcover is shaded out; in areas dominated by mesquite, *Chainsawing and Root-plowing* can be used to convert forest cover to early successional communities

Tillage Management: cropland tillage may be delayed in spring to allow use of standing stubble for cover; tillage may be eliminated in the fall to allow access to waste grain

Decrease Harvest: may be necessary when additional rabbits are desired and hunting or trapping efforts are limiting growth; low rabbit populations are almost always a result of inadequate habitat, not harvest levels

Increase Harvest: where populations can sustain additional hunting or trapping pressure for recreation or where populations need to be lowered

Wildlife Damage Management: shooting, trapping, and exclusion techniques can be used where there is damage to ornamental and garden plants

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts, track counts, hunter harvest data, and transect flush counts can be used to estimate population trends

Mowing: can be used to maintain herbaceous openings in Urban areas

Eastern gray squirrel

General information

The eastern gray squirrel lives primarily in mature deciduous forests and woodlands. They also forage along the edge of crop fields, especially mature cornfields. Eastern gray squirrels have adapted to parks and other urban areas where mature trees are available. Eastern gray squirrels forage both in trees and on the ground. They den in cavities of mature trees and also build nests, generally 30 feet or more aboveground. Eastern gray squirrels will use nest boxes, but nesting structures are not necessary because squirrels build nests when cavities are not available. Thus, cavities are not a limiting factor for eastern gray squirrel populations.



Habitat requirements

Diet: a variety of hard and soft mast, miscellaneous seeds, grains, bark, buds, and mushrooms; they may also eat eggs

Water: necessary water is generally obtained through diet, but free-standing water is also used

Cover: mature forest and woodlands; suburban and urban areas with mature trees; den in tree cavities and also build nests of leaves and twigs



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to compete with native species and reduce habitat quality for eastern gray squirrel; several nonnative trees, such as tree-of-heaven and royal paulownia, and nonnative groundcover and vines, such as Japanese stiltgrass, kudzu, and English ivy, can displace more valuable native species and make finding food difficult

Edge Feathering: can enhance forest structure and increase food availability in forested areas surrounding fields

Forest Management: *Forest Regeneration (Group Selection, Single-tree Selection)* can increase soft mast and availability of various seed-producing plants used by eastern gray squirrels; *Timber Stand Improvement* can encourage larger crowns of mast-producing trees and enable oaks, hickories, beech, and others to produce more mast; can also increase soft mast availability and provide snags for potential den sites

Livestock Management: should not allow overgrazing in woodlands; livestock should be excluded from forests to prevent overgrazing of the forest understory; livestock should be excluded from riparian areas in open landscapes where tree cover is largely limited to riparian areas; livestock should be excluded from areas where trees have been planted to enhance habitat for eastern gray squirrels

Plant Food Plots: grain food plots, especially corn, can provide an important food source, during winters with poor mast availability

Plant Trees: plant mast trees (especially oaks and hickories) where they are limiting; most

appropriate for large open areas that do not represent habitat for gray squirrels; may also be appropriate where composition of wooded areas is lacking mast and limiting gray squirrel population

Decrease Harvest: may be necessary when additional gray squirrels are desired and hunting pressure is limiting population growth

Increase Harvest: where populations can sustain additional hunting pressure for recreation and where populations need to be lowered

Wildlife Damage Management: may be required if squirrels become a nuisance around houses

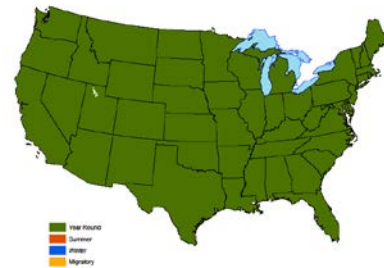
Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts are most often used to estimate population trends

Artificial Feeders: may be used in Urban areas

European starling

General information

European starlings are found throughout North America. They were introduced to the U.S. from Europe and are considered pests. They commonly cause damage to crops and in urban areas. They exclude native species from cavities and deplete food resources for native wildlife. As a consequence, wildlife damage management is necessary to reduce starling populations and exclude them from areas where they are causing damage. Starlings prefer older suburban and urban residential areas with large trees and shrubs interspersed with open areas but are also abundant in agricultural areas. Starlings are cavity nesters and nest in large trees or old buildings. Starlings feed on the ground and eat a variety of insects, seeds, grain, and soft mast. Practices to attract or benefit starlings should not occur in any situation.



Habitat requirements

Diet: insects, soft mast, seeds, earthworms, grain, human garbage, and even dog and cat food

Water: require free-standing water during warm seasons

Cover: nest in tree cavities, old buildings

Wildlife management practices

Wildlife Damage Management: exclusion practices to prevent access to buildings and other areas where they are not wanted; food, water, and cover available to starlings around buildings should be removed; various harassment practices may be effective; trap and euthanasia are appropriate to reduce starling populations

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts, point counts, and wildlife damage management questionnaires are used to monitor starling populations

House finch

General information

House finches are native to the western U.S., but were introduced in the eastern U.S. in 1940. Since, they have spread throughout the eastern U.S. and have become one of the most common birds in the U.S. They are found in a wide variety of urban, suburban, and agricultural areas that have trees, shrubs, and some herbaceous openings. They are also found in canyons and semi-arid regions in the western part of the country. House finches nest in a variety of raised locations and make a nest from weed stems, small branches, and leaves. House finches are vegetarians and eat a variety of seeds, soft mast, and buds, both from the ground and in trees.



Habitat requirements

Diet: soft mast, buds, and weed seeds; in the warm season, house finches eat some insects

Water: free-standing water is needed daily in the warm season

Cover: nest 5 feet to 7 feet aboveground on low branches of trees, branches of bushes, in natural cavities, old holes excavated by woodpeckers, and any projection or ledge they can find on houses and buildings



Wildlife management practices

Plant Native Grasses and Forbs: to provide forb seed in rural areas where forbs are lacking **Plant Shrubs:** for nesting and hiding cover adjacent to open areas where shrubs are lacking

Plant Trees: for nesting cover in areas where trees are lacking

Water Developments for Wildlife: birdbaths and pans of water can be provided, or a low area in the yard can be filled with water; do not place water in areas where cats can catch birds

Wildlife or Fish Survey: point counts are used to estimate trends in populations

Artificial Feeders: may be used to attract finches in Urban areas; millet and sunflower seeds are favorites

Mowing: can be used to maintain open areas in Urban areas

House sparrow

General information

House sparrows are found throughout the U.S. They are an introduced species from England (they are also called English sparrows) and are found throughout the US, and are very common in Urban areas. House sparrows are also very common in and around buildings in agricultural areas where grain is available. They are a nuisance, and management objectives are often needed to reduce the quality and quantity of food and cover. *Wildlife Damage Management* is often needed and commonly implemented. House sparrows are cavity nesters and will frequently occupy buildings and houses to nest within the eaves or other areas with a cavity or opening. House sparrows feed on the ground and in woody vegetation for seeds, insects, and soft mast. House sparrows outcompete bluebirds for cavity nesting space and compete with several other native birds for food and space.



Habitat requirements

Diet: variety of insects, soft mast, buds, forbs, weed seeds, and waste grain

Water: free-standing water is required daily in warm seasons

Cover: nest in natural cavities, low branches of trees, and bushes 5 feet to 7 feet aboveground, and on any projection or ledge they can find on buildings or other structures



Wildlife management practices

House sparrow populations often grow to levels where they cause wildlife damage or will cause detrimental conditions for native wildlife by out competing native species for habitat requirements; therefore, wildlife damage management will most likely be necessary in almost all situations, especially in suburban/urban and agricultural areas. Habitat management to attract house sparrows should never occur.

Wildlife Damage Management: trap and euthanasia are often appropriate to reduce house sparrow populations; exclusion practices may prevent house sparrows from accessing an area; remove food, water, and cover available to house sparrows; various harassment practices may be effective

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts, call counts, and questionnaires related to wildlife damage management are useful in estimating trends in populations

House wren

General information

House wrens are found throughout the U.S. during the breeding season, and migrate to the Deep South during winter months. In Urban areas, house wrens prefer older residential areas with large shrubs and trees. House wrens are also found in forests with herbaceous openings at higher elevations, as well as in aspen stands. House wrens nest in a variety of elevated cavities, as high as 30 feet aboveground. They forage both on the ground and aboveground.

Habitat requirements

Diet: spiders, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, caterpillars, ants, bees, ticks, earthworms and millipedes; artificial feeders are usually not used

Water: necessary water is obtained from the diet

Cover: nest in natural cavities in trees old buildings and other structures

Wildlife management practices

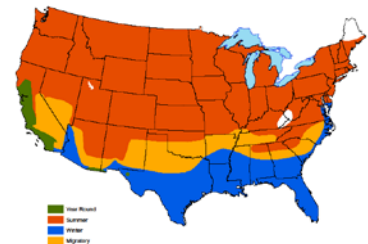
Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative species begin to compete with native vegetation and degrade habitat for house wrens

Nesting Structures: nest boxes may be provided where adequate nesting sites are lacking; boxes should be placed high on a tree trunk or under the eaves of a house; the hole should be small to prevent house sparrows and starlings from entering and excluding house wrens

Plant Shrubs: where lacking for cover while feeding and for nesting

Plant Trees: where trees are lacking for cover and nesting

Wildlife or Fish Survey: point counts are used to estimate trends in populations



Northern flicker

General information

Northern flickers are found in forests and woodlands interspersed with herbaceous openings. Northern flickers are often found along riparian zones and urban areas. They prefer older urban residential areas with large trees, golf courses, and parks. Flickers create cavities in trees for nesting; these cavities later become nesting and roosting sites for other species. Thus, flickers are considered an important species for biological diversity. Flickers eat insects, especially ants, as well as soft mast and seeds. Flickers can become problematic in urban areas where they may create holes in wood siding on houses or damage ornamental trees. *Wildlife Damage Management* may be necessary. European starlings often overtake flicker cavities for their own nests. Appropriate action should be taken to prevent starlings from occupying nesting cavities of flickers and other cavity- nesting wildlife.



Habitat requirements

Diet: ants are a favorite food and make up about 50 percent of the diet; seeds, soft mast, and earthworms are also eaten; flickers are partial to poison ivy fruit and may use artificial feeders

Water: daily water requirements unknown; sufficient water is probably obtained from diet

Cover: tree cavities are used for nesting; old, mature trees that show signs of senescence (old age) or decay are often used; softwood trees, such as yellow poplar, cottonwood, and willow, are preferred; flickers will nest in posts, holes in banks, and holes in houses and structures where trees are unavailable

Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative species begin to compete with native vegetation and degrade habitat for flickers

Create Snags: to enhance possible sites for cavities where snags are limiting

Forest Management: *Forest Regeneration* will provide more open area and possibly snags for a short time; *Timber Stand Improvement* can open the structure of the forest and provide snags; snags should be retained during forest management activities

Plant Shrubs: soft mast-bearing shrubs provide food resource when limiting in open areas

Plant Trees: in large open areas without trees

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire* will consume litter layer and facilitate foraging on ground

Wildlife Damage Management: may be necessary to prevent damage from foraging, drumming, and excavating wooden buildings; exclusion practices can prevent access to buildings; harassment can repel flickers from an area

Wildlife or Fish Survey: point counts are used to estimate trends in populations

Artificial Feeders: may be used to attract flickers in Urban areas; suet is preferred

Mowing: can be used to maintain openings in Urban areas

Opossum

General information

Only one species of native marsupial is in North America, the opossum. It is common statewide, particularly in heavily timbered bottomlands and mountainous regions of the state. Opossums generally inhabit deciduous woodlands near streams or swamps. They take shelter in burrows of other animals, tree cavities, brush piles, and other cover. In urban areas, they sometimes den in attics and garages where they may make a messy nest.



Although opossums have a top running speed of only 7 miles per hour, they are well equipped to escape enemies. They readily enter burrows and climb trees. When threatened, an opossum may bare its teeth, growl, hiss, bite, screech, and exude a smelly, greenish fluid. If these defenses are not successful, an opossum may play dead. Although examination of their skull reveals a relatively small brain case, they are surprisingly intelligent. They rank above dogs in some learning and discrimination tests.

Habitat requirements

Diet: preferred foods are animal matter, mainly insects or carrion; also eat considerable amounts of vegetable matter, especially fruits and grains; persimmon a favorite fruit, but seeds rarely eaten (scats with large numbers of persimmon seeds are more likely to be from raccoons or coyotes); corn and fruits constitute substantial portion of diet in fall and early winter; in urban environments, may visit compost piles, garbage cans, or food dishes intended for dogs, cats, and other pets

Water: open water sometimes needed when sufficient water not obtained from diet

Cover: den in sheltered spots such as hollow logs, brush piles, rockpiles, under exposed roots of uprooted trees or partially undermined trees along streams, or under buildings

Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to reduce habitat quality for opossums.

Create Snags: provide nesting and escape cover, & insect habitat.

Leave Crop Unharvested: especially cornfields adjacent to woodlands.

Livestock Management: exclude livestock grazing from forest to encourage vegetation.

Plant Shrubs: provide soft mast; create cover, corridors and riparian buffers in open areas

Plant Trees: fruit trees provide a food source.

Set-back succession: apply periodic prescribed fire and herbicides to open understory and favor fruit-bearing shrubs and trees.

Tillage Management: eliminate fall tillage of grain crop residue adjacent to cover to make waste grain available as an additional food source.

Water Developments for Wildlife: in areas lacking water, construct a permanent water source from a dugout, shallow impoundment, or small backyard pond.

Decrease Harvest: if hunting pressure is limiting population growth and an increase in opossums is desired.

Increase Harvest: where populations can sustain additional trapping pressure for recreation and/or where populations need to be lowered for various reasons.

Wildlife Damage Management: certain individuals may be a nuisance near homes where they may get into garbage, bird feeders, or pet food; accused of destroying poultry, game birds, and their nests, though some experts claim other predators are to blame; closing openings to cages and pens that house poultry and install electric fence wire near top. Fasten garbage can lids with a rubber strap. Opossums typically are not wary of traps and may be easily caught with a cage trap.

Peregrine falcon

General information

Peregrine falcons are found primarily along the coasts and mountain ranges of North America where congregations of shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl occur. They also may be found in urban and industrial areas with skyscrapers, smokestacks, bridges, and other tall structures and where abundant rock dove and European starling populations occur. Nests are often located on the ledges of cliffs or buildings from 25 to more than 1,300 feet high. They are one of the fastest birds on the planet, with a cruising speed of 25-34 mph to more than 200 mph in pursuit of prey.



Habitat requirements

Diet: mostly birds, but also bats, which falcons catch during flight

Water: requirements largely unknown; likely obtain water needs from foods they consume

Cover: require tall cliffs, buildings, and other tall structures for nesting and perching



Wildlife management practices

Nesting Structures: nesting platforms can be added to cliffs and skyscrapers

Wildlife Damage Management: peregrine falcons can prey

upon domestic birds, such as homing pigeons; exclusion practices should be used to discourage damage

Wildlife or Fish Survey: visual surveys near known nesting areas can be used to monitor population trends

Raccoon

General information

Raccoons are found in a variety of vegetation types, but are usually most abundant near riparian areas and wetlands. They also are found in urban areas. Raccoons den in hollow trees, in burrows under stumps or brush piles, or in chimneys, attics, and crawl spaces of houses and buildings. They are omnivorous and eat a wide variety of foods. Raccoons can become pests in urban areas and wetlands (depredating waterfowl nests). Raccoons also have been identified as major predators on game bird nests and young game birds.



Habitat requirements

Diet: crayfish, birds, eggs, small mammals, insects, lizards, snakes, worms, fish, carrion, grains, seeds, hard and soft mast, and foods prepared for human and pet consumption

Water: require water frequently during warm seasons

Cover: riparian areas, bottomland hardwoods, and along other wetlands; natural tree cavities are used for denning and daytime loafing; raccoons also den in ground burrows under stumps, brush piles, junk piles, old abandoned buildings, and rocky cliffs and ledges



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to reduce habitat quality for raccoons

Create Snags: where denning sites are limited

Edge Feathering: to increase usable space for prey around fields

Field Borders: to increase usable space for prey around fields

Forest Management: *Forest Regeneration (Clearcut, Shelterwood, Seed-tree, Group Selection, Single-tree Selection)* and *Timber Stand Improvement* can stimulate soft mast production and cover for prey

Leave Crop Unharvested: especially cornfields adjacent to bottomland hardwoods and riparian areas

Livestock Management: livestock should be excluded from riparian areas and other wetlands; this may include development of livestock watering facilities in uplands to discourage congregation in and overuse of riparian areas

Plant Food Plots: annual grain food plots, especially corn, may be planted where food is limiting and where an increase in raccoon population is desired (this situation is exceptionally rare)

Plant Shrubs: where soft mast is lacking and to provide corridors across large open areas

Plant Trees: in riparian areas and adjacent to wetlands where few trees are present to maintain riparian corridors; maintain approximately 50 percent deciduous forest cover; also in large open areas where there are few trees

Repair Spillway/Levee: if not functioning properly.

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire* is recommended to rejuvenate old decadent wetland vegetation;

Prescribed Fire and *Disking* can maintain herbaceous openings; *Prescribed Fire, Herbicide Applications, Chaining,* and *Root-plowing* are recommended to rejuvenate decadent shrub cover.

Tillage Management: eliminate fall tillage of grain crop residue adjacent to cover to make waste grain available as an additional food source.

Water Control Structures: to control water levels and provide water less than 2 feet deep and stimulate emergent vegetation and enhance habitat for prey.

Water Developments for Wildlife: shallow impoundments can provide a water source and additional habitat for various prey species.

Decrease Harvest: if hunting pressure is limiting population growth where an increase is desired (this situation is rare)

Increase Harvest: where populations can sustain additional hunting or trapping pressure for recreation and where populations need to be lowered for various reasons

Wildlife Damage Management: is often necessary when raccoons get into garbage cans, occupy residences or buildings, or prey upon poultry; exclusion is cost-effective; cultural modification, such as using wildlife-proof trash cans, is effective; trap and euthanize is most effective for problem raccoons.

Wildlife or Fish Survey: track counts and camera surveys may be used to monitor population trends.

Rock pigeon

General information

Rock pigeons (commonly called pigeons) are an introduced species found year-round throughout urban and agricultural areas in the U.S. They are considered pests because they are generally protected in urban areas where they develop dense populations and damage buildings and other structures with accumulations of droppings. They also cause severe problems in agricultural areas by contaminating feed. Pigeons also can carry and spread diseases, including salmonella, encephalitis, Newcastle disease, and others, to people and livestock through their droppings. Droppings of rock pigeons may also contain histoplasmosis, a fungal disease that can cause respiratory problems in humans.



Wildlife Damage Management practices are often required to control overabundant rock pigeon populations. Rock pigeons are regularly found around large buildings, parks, and open areas. They create a shallow nest of sticks, leaves, and other vegetation, and nest aboveground and on or around buildings. Rock pigeons primarily feed on the ground and eat small grains, seeds, crumbs, and garbage.



Habitat requirements

Diet: waste grain and weed seeds; in urban areas, rock pigeons commonly eat human handouts

Water: free-standing water is required frequently during warm seasons

Cover: barn lofts, window ledges, roof tops, bridges, and a variety of other structures

Wildlife management practices

Wildlife Damage Management: shooting (including pellet guns in urban areas), toxicants, and trapping are recommended direct control techniques; exclusion practices prevent access to livestock feed; food, water, and desirable cover should be removed when possible and when it does not impact desirable wildlife species; harassment practices may be effective; habitat management to attract rock pigeons should never occur

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts and questionnaires related to wildlife damage management are used to estimate trends in populations

Ruby-throated hummingbird

General information

There are 18 species of hummingbirds found in North America. The ruby-throated hummingbird is the most widespread species. Other than a couple of exceptions, hummingbirds migrate into Central and South America during winter. Hummingbirds use areas with flowering plants from which they can feed on the nectar. In urban settings, they prefer areas with large trees and nearby flowering plants. A hummingbird's nest is constructed in the shape of a small cup and is built of lichens and other vegetation. Hummingbirds require high energy foods. Nectar is high in sugars that supply needed energy. Insects are an important source of protein.



Habitat requirements

Diet: nectar from flowers and insects found on flowers

Water: necessary water obtained from diet

Cover: trees and shrubs for nesting; flowers for feeding



Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to compete with native vegetation and reduce habitat quality for ruby-throated hummingbirds

Plant Shrubs:

flowering shrubs and vines that provide nectar may be planted where nesting sites and food resources are limited; favorites include hibiscus, trumpet vine, and lilac

Plant Trees: where potential nesting sites are limited; flowering dogwood and various fruit trees are favorites

Wildlife or Fish Survey: observation counts, especially visitation at feeders, are used to estimate trends in populations

Artificial Feeders: artificial feeders filled with sugar-water (1 part sugar to 4 parts boiled water) may be used where flowers are limited; multiple feeders may reduce problems with territoriality; never give honey-water to hummingbirds because honey ferments faster than sugar and quickly develops a mold that can kill hummingbirds

Plant Flowers: preferred flowers include petunias, gladiolus, nasturtiums, begonias, morning glory, evening primrose, columbine, and cardinal flower

Rooftop/Balcony Gardens: can provide source of nectar if appropriate flowers are planted

Note: *Plant Flowers* should not be recommended to establish *Rooftop/Balcony Gardens*

Song sparrow

General information

Song sparrows inhabit all of the U.S., but will migrate from extreme northern areas during the colder months of the year. Song sparrows typically use shrubby areas interspersed with herbaceous openings and forest, especially along riparian areas. Song sparrows often nest along forest edges. The nest is made of grass and leaves and in the shape of a cup. Nests are often placed on the ground under a shrub or in thick herbaceous cover. Song sparrows primarily feed on the ground and eat seed, insects, and fruit.

Habitat requirements

Diet: weed seeds, insects, soft mast

Water: free-standing water is required frequently during the warm seasons

Cover: thick shrubs and herbaceous cover for nesting, loafing, and escape

Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when nonnative invasive vegetation begins to compete with native vegetation and degrade habitat for song sparrows

Forest Management: *Timber Stand Improvement* practices can stimulate increased brushy cover where lacking

Plant Native Grasses and Forbs: where lacking to provide cover for nesting **Plant Shrubs:** to provide soft mast where there is little soft mast available **Set-back Succession:** *Chainsawing* can create additional brushy cover

Water Development for Wildlife: drinking water may be provided in birdbaths or pans of water

Wildlife or Fish Survey: point counts are used to estimate trends in populations **Artificial Feeders:** for use in Urban areas;

millet and sunflower seeds are favorites **Mowing:** can be used to maintain openings in Urban areas



White-tailed deer

General information

The white-tailed deer is the most important game animal in North America. There are more than 30 subspecies of white-tailed deer that occur throughout the U.S. and southern Canada, except for California and Nevada. They are extremely adaptable and are found in a wide variety of areas including deciduous and coniferous forests, tropical evergreen forest, dry grasslands, and shrub desert. They are adaptable to humans and exploit suburban areas very well. Whitetails thrive in areas with fragmented habitat containing several well- interspersed vegetation types. White-tailed deer are ruminants and are classified as browsers, but have distinct dietary preferences through the seasons. Where overabundant, they can cause significant damage to ornamental plantings and row crops and can be hazardous for motor vehicles.



Habitat requirements

Diet: forbs, browse, acorns, beechnuts, grains, grasses, and mushrooms; in the northern parts of the range, coniferous browse is important in winter

Water: obtain most of their water from diet, but will drink free-standing water when available

Cover: dense woody vegetation as well as relatively tall early successional cover, including native grasses, forbs, and shrubs

Wildlife management practices

Control Nonnative Invasive Vegetation: when

nonnative invasive vegetation begins to reduce habitat quality for white-tailed deer; sod grasses and sericea lespedeza can be particularly problematic in fields and Japanese stiltgrass often reduces forage availability in forests; although white-tailed deer may eat many nonnative invasive plants in some seasons to some extent, control of many of those plants, such as kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, and Chinese privet, can lead to increased plant species diversity and increased forage quality during various seasons

Edge Feathering: to increase forage availability around fields and enhance fawning cover

Field Borders: to increase forage availability (forbs and brambles) around crop fields

Forest Management: *Forest Regeneration (Clearcut, Shelterwood, Seed-tree, Group Selection)* will provide increased browse, soft mast production, and dense escape cover; *Timber Stand Improvement* can provide increased browse and soft mast production and stimulate better cover in stands with a poorly developed understory

Leave Crop Unharvested: to provide additional food resource, especially near escape cover **Livestock**

Management: livestock should be excluded from forests managed for deer to avoid destruction of the forest understory; livestock should be excluded from riparian areas, especially in the Great Plains Grassland Ecoeion; should prevent overgrazing in woodlands and savannas

Plant Food Plots: when naturally occurring food sources are limited, food plots may provide additional nutrition, particularly in late summer and winter of most ecoregions

Plant Native Grasses and Forbs: where early successional cover is limiting and planting is necessary for establishment

Plant Shrubs: where needed to provide additional soft mast, brushy cover, and browse; ravines, field borders, other idle land areas and across large open areas to provide travel corridors

Plant Trees: in large open areas to maintain at least 30 to 40 percent forest cover; where mast producers are lacking, particularly oaks

Set-back Succession: *Prescribed Fire* and *Disking* is recommended to maintain herbaceous openings;

Prescribed Fire is recommended to stimulate the forest understory for increased forage and soft mast;

Chaining can be used to rejuvenate shrub cover; in areas dominated by mesquite, *Root-plowing*

combined with seeding grasses and legumes may be the best way to increase herbaceous groundcover;

Chainsawing and *Root-plowing* when converting forest to early successional cover to increase forage and enhance fawning cover

Tillage Management: eliminate fall tillage of grain crop residue adjacent to cover to make waste grain available as an additional food source

Water Developments for Wildlife: where lacking (within one-half mile), dugouts, ponds, and shallow impoundments can provide free-standing water

Decrease Harvest: if hunting pressure is limiting population growth where an increase is desired

Increase Harvest: when populations can sustain additional harvest pressure for hunting recreation and when populations need to be lowered because of overpopulation and habitat degradation; in these cases, it is necessary to concentrate increased harvest on females

Wildlife Damage Management Techniques: fencing, repellents, and scare tactics may be helpful to keep deer from ornamental plantings, vegetable gardens, and crops; reducing the population through shooting is recommended when widespread overabundance is causing crop depredation and increasing vehicle collisions

Wildlife or Fish Survey: camera surveys, browse surveys, and hunter observation and harvest data are used to estimate population trends