

## Songbirds

Due to the diversity of habitats throughout Contra Costa County, more than 180 species of birds can be found here. Many are year-round residents, while others pass through during spring and fall migration.

If you choose to keep a bird feeder and/or a birdbath, keep them clean. Dirty feeders spread disease. Once a week, wash your feeder with soapy water, rinse and soak in a diluted solution of bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water). Always use fresh, high-quality sterile seed. If the seed gets wet from rain, replace it with dry seed immediately before mold develops.

The American Bird Conservancy, the National Audubon Society and the Humane Society urge owners to keep cats confined indoors and controlled to protect birds and other wildlife. If your cat injures a bird, place the bird in a small container such as a paper lined box. Call Lindsay Wildlife Experience (see back page for number) for care information.



## Black-tailed Deer

Deer eat a variety of plants and seem particularly attracted to many of the trees, bushes and perennials commonly used in your yard. While eight to ten foot high fencing is the only sure method of preventing deer from eating your plants, an alternative is to erect screens or other barriers around individual plants to protect them.

Your local nursery can help you find plants less likely to be grazed by deer. Repellents can be successful, but instructions must be followed carefully. You may need to try several different brands of repellents to find one that actually repels deer in your yard. Deer repellents are available at nurseries and home improvement stores. Motion activated sprinklers work well to scare and startle deer from your garden.