

## *Using Trees and Shrubs to Attract Migratory Birds in Palmetto Bay*

The Planning & Zoning Division recently compiled information for the Mayor and Village Council regarding the different types of trees and shrubs available in our area that can be used to attract and support migratory birds. Many of these birds stop briefly in our Village on their way to other destinations, while others will stay in the Village and surrounding area for several months before leaving moving on. However, since the 1960s, the population of migratory birds has declined by about 50 percent due to habitat destruction and manmade obstacles. To address the loss of habitat, private landowners and the public are working with governmental agencies at all levels, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide needed habitat for these birds while still maintaining their current uses.

One of the most common species of migratory birds found in the Palmetto Bay area is the songbird, but attracting them and other migratory birds is a special challenge. This species is attracted to areas where there is an ample supply of insects and fruit that is high in carbohydrates (which allows birds to store fat that will be used as energy while migrating). Popular literature on this subject recommends planting native trees and shrubs in your yard or garden, which serves to attract insects that birds like to eat. Residents are also encouraged to provide several water sources (bowl of water, a fountain, birdbath, a pond or stream) throughout their yards or garden areas, which is key to attracting birds. In addition, when pruning trees, it is recommended to pile the branches in a secluded corner of the yard to create a brush pile. This will provide the birds with a safe environment in which to rest.

Such recommendations are invaluable to ensuring the survival of these magnificent birds, which are an important component to a balanced ecosystem.

Please review the attached matrix with information regarding trees and shrubs that can be planted by local residents to attract both migratory and native birds to their properties.

*–Planning & Zoning*