



Audubon | ROCKIES

Habitat Hero

**PLANTING A BETTER WORLD
FOR BIRDS AND PEOPLE**





Metrics

Empowering Engagement

Promote citizenship through hands-on activities that can benefit the greater community!

- Habitat Hero Certifications, 260+
- Educational Programming, 74 events/3,026 individuals
- Volunteers, 158
- Online Resource Library
- Social Media
- Demonstration Gardens + Signage

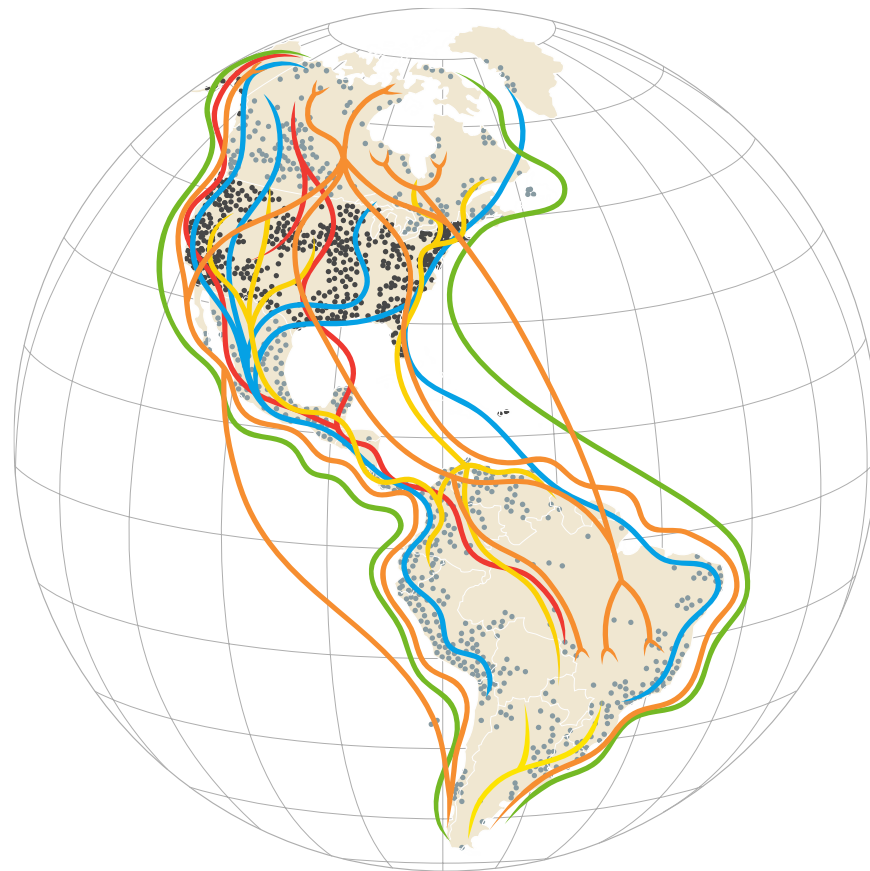
Why Native Plants are Better for Birds, People & Planet

- Better for Birds
- Better for People
- Better for our Planet
- Save Water
- Watershed Value
- Use Fewer Chemicals
- Reduce Maintenance
- Creates Beauty



Flyways of the Americas

Each year, billions of migratory birds follow these flyways from wintering to breeding grounds and back again.



Shorebirds



Land birds



Seabirds



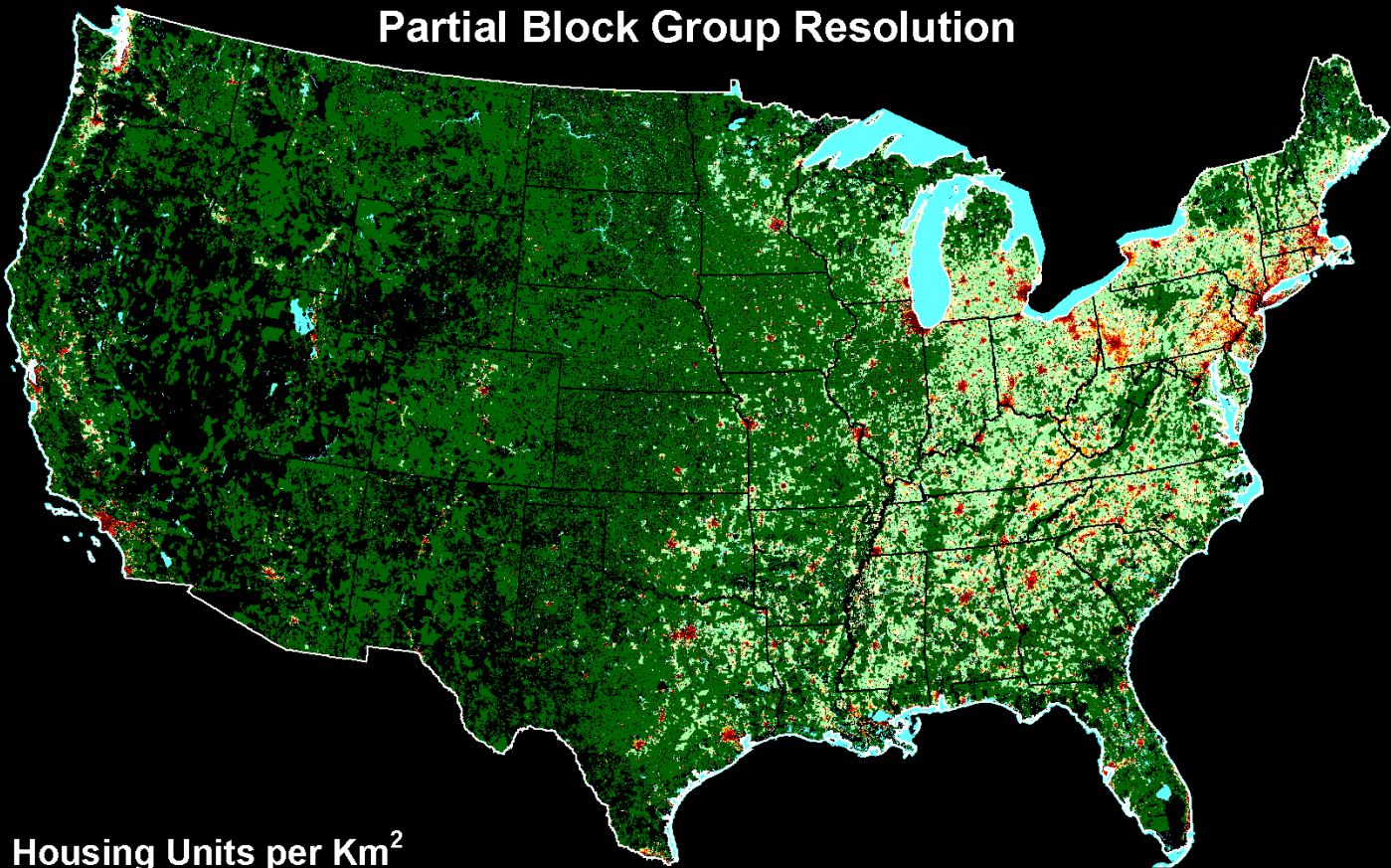
Raptors



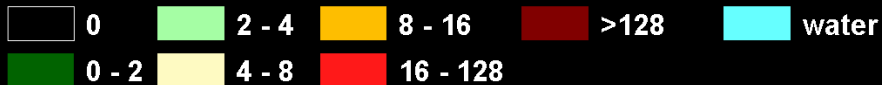
Waterfowl

Housing Density 1940

Partial Block Group Resolution

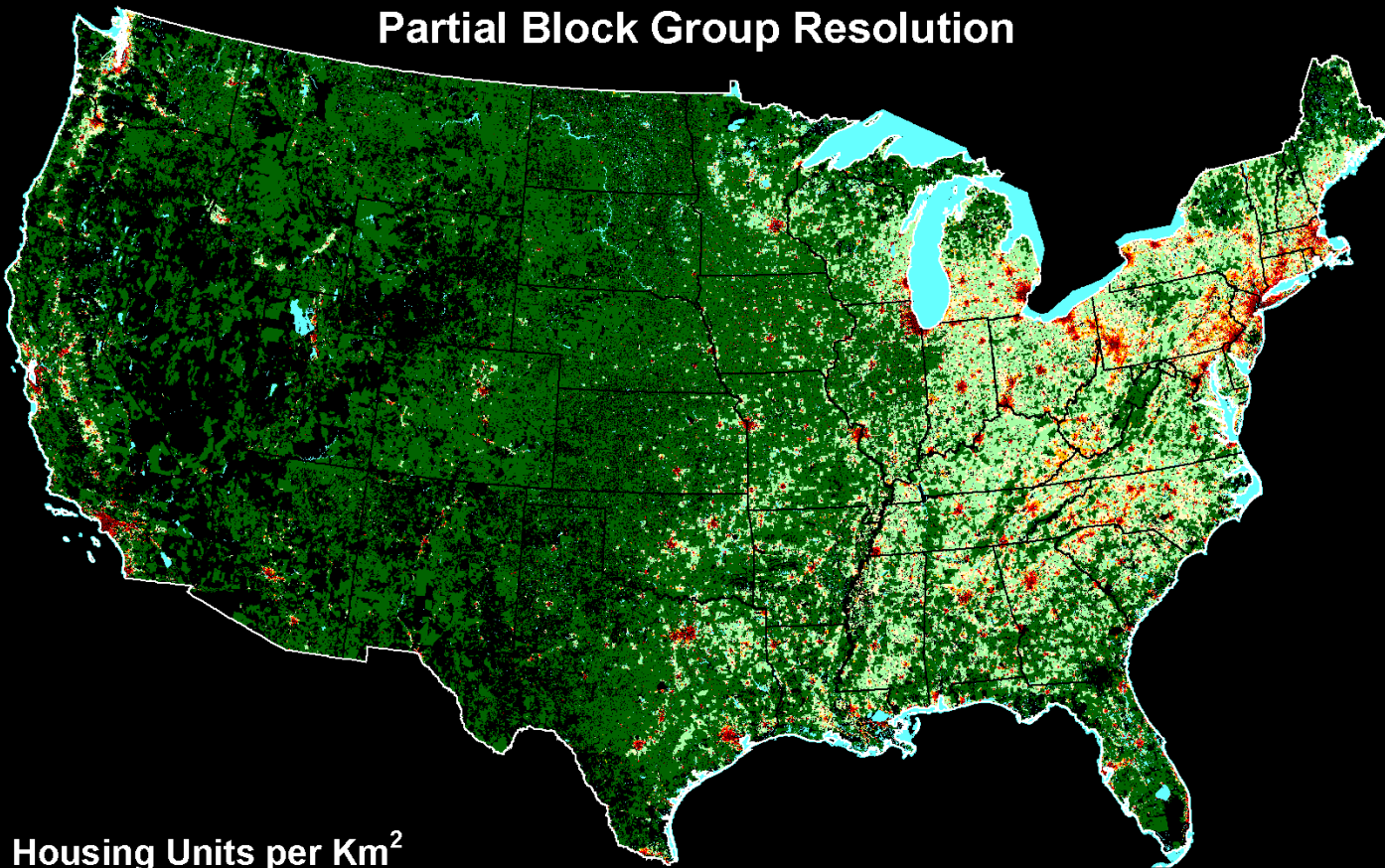


Housing Units per Km²

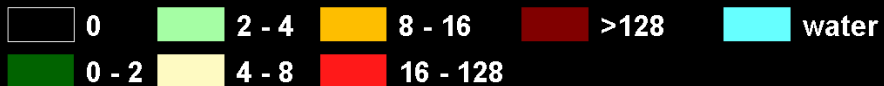


Housing Density 1950

Partial Block Group Resolution

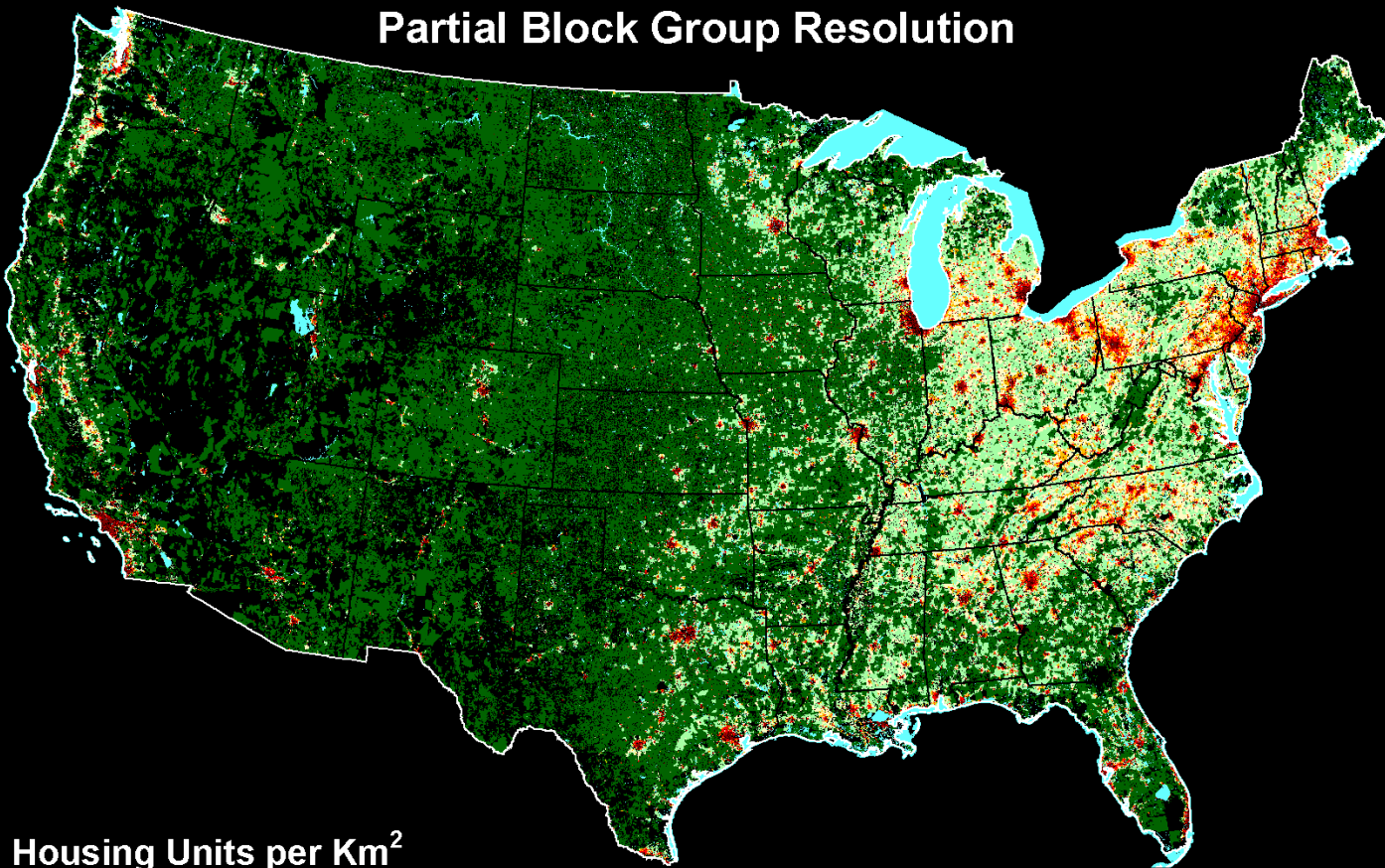


Housing Units per Km²

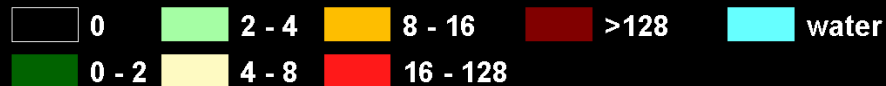


Housing Density 1960

Partial Block Group Resolution

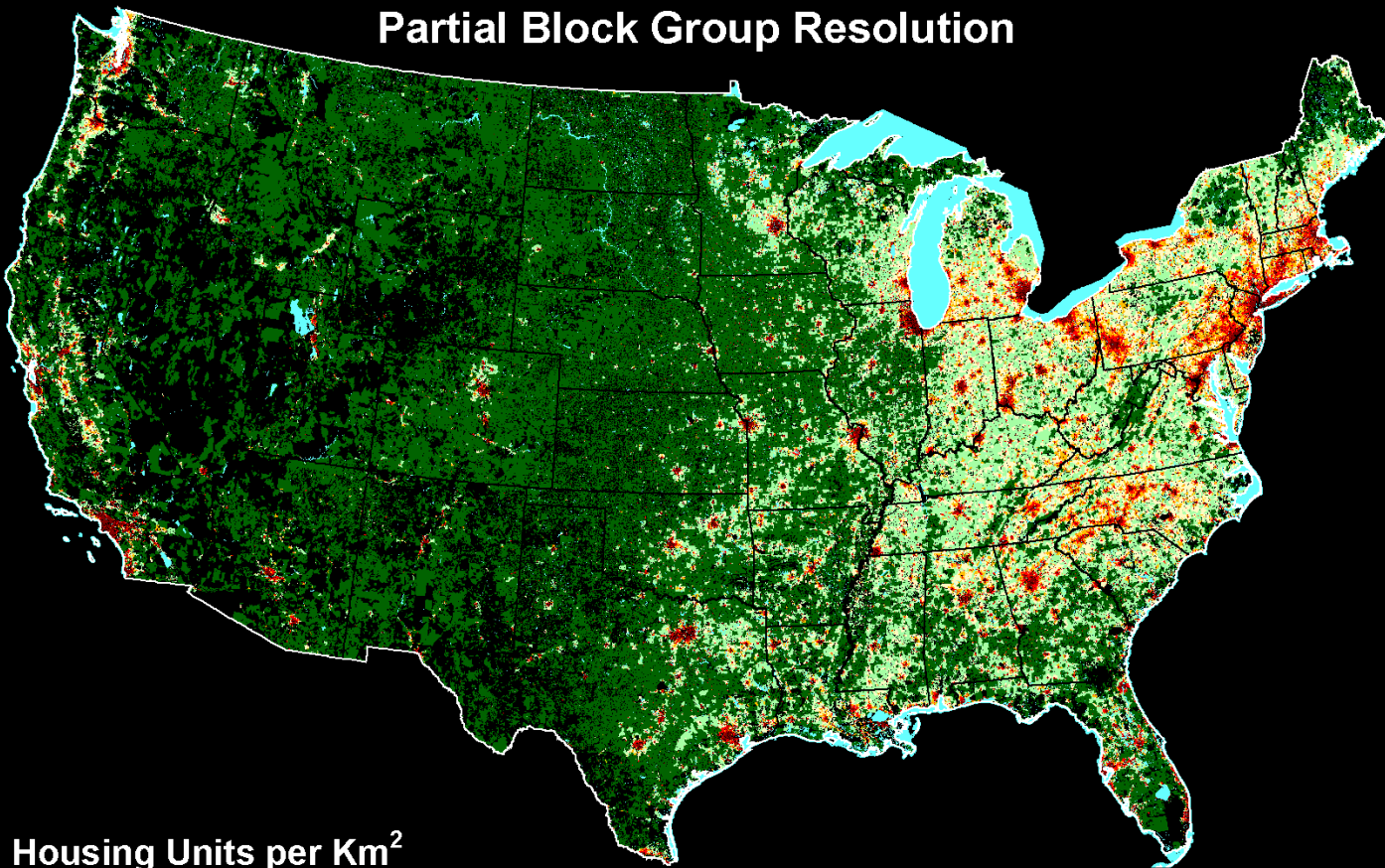


Housing Units per Km²

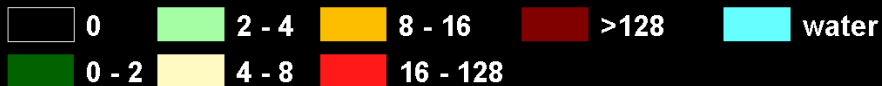


Housing Density 1970

Partial Block Group Resolution

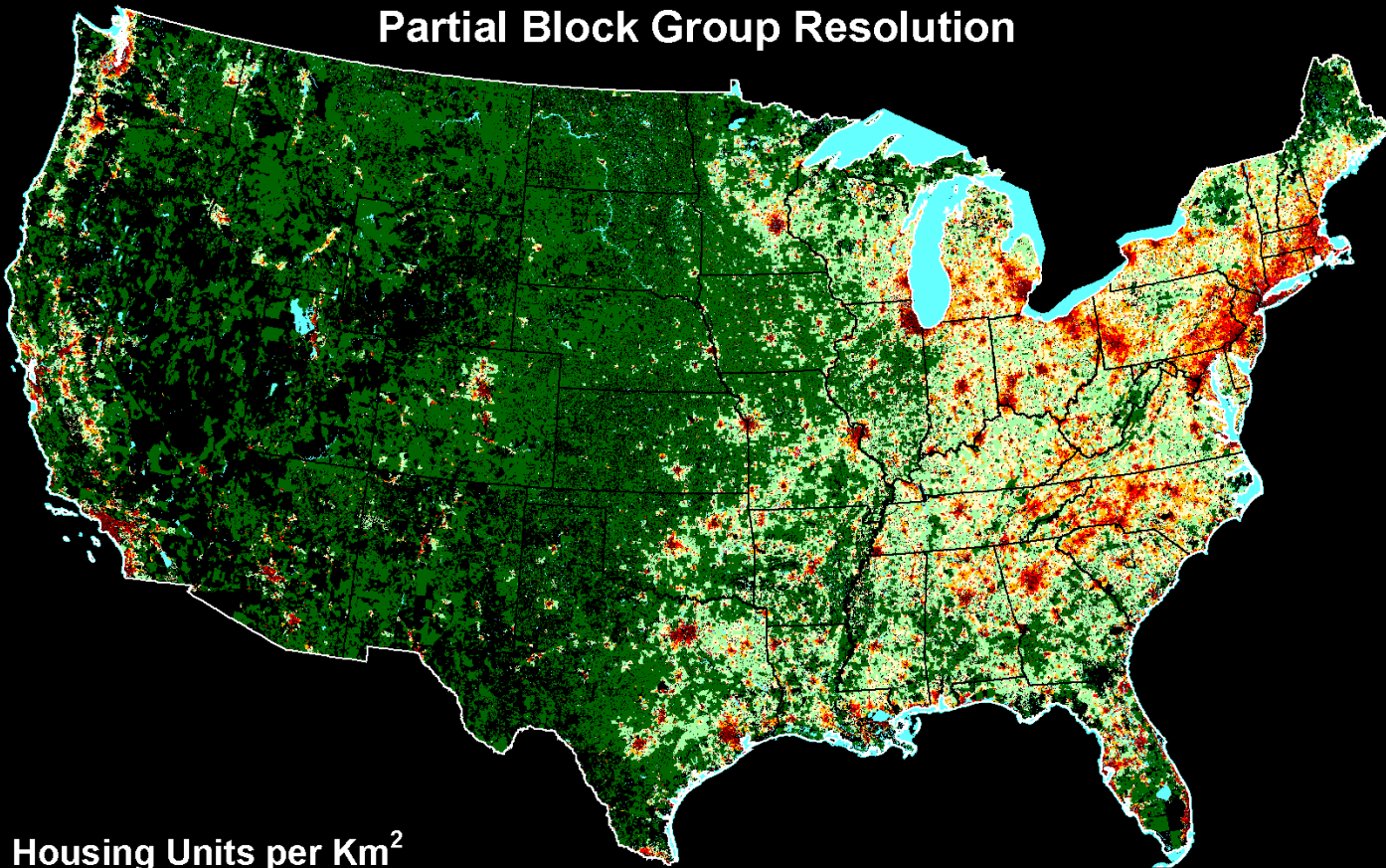


Housing Units per Km²

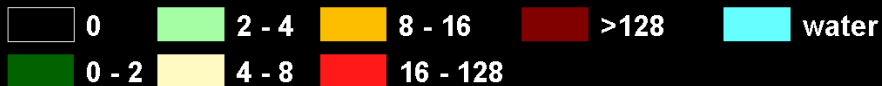


Housing Density 1980

Partial Block Group Resolution

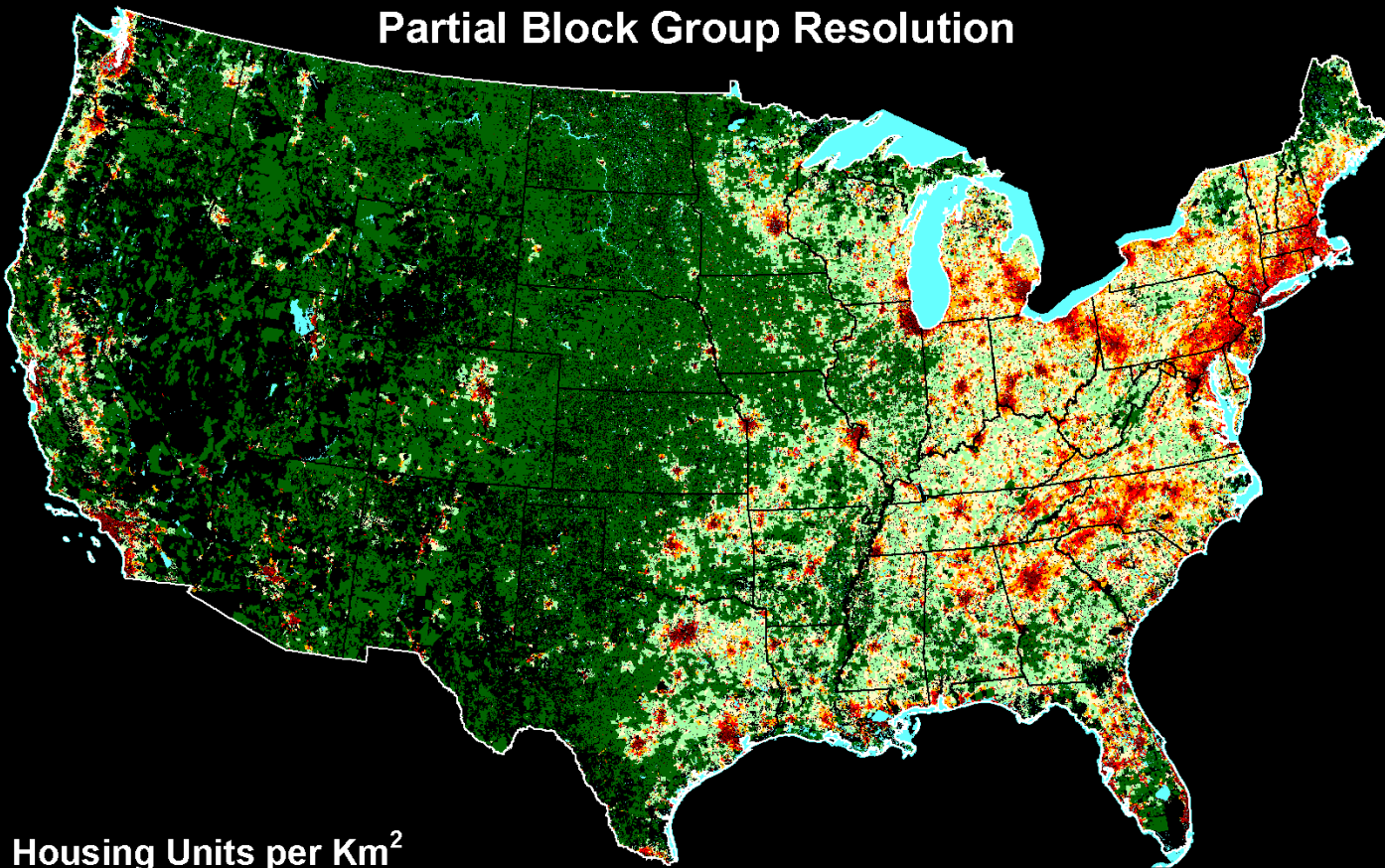


Housing Units per Km²

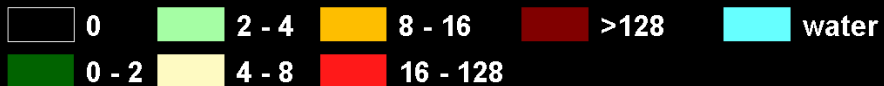


Housing Density 1990

Partial Block Group Resolution

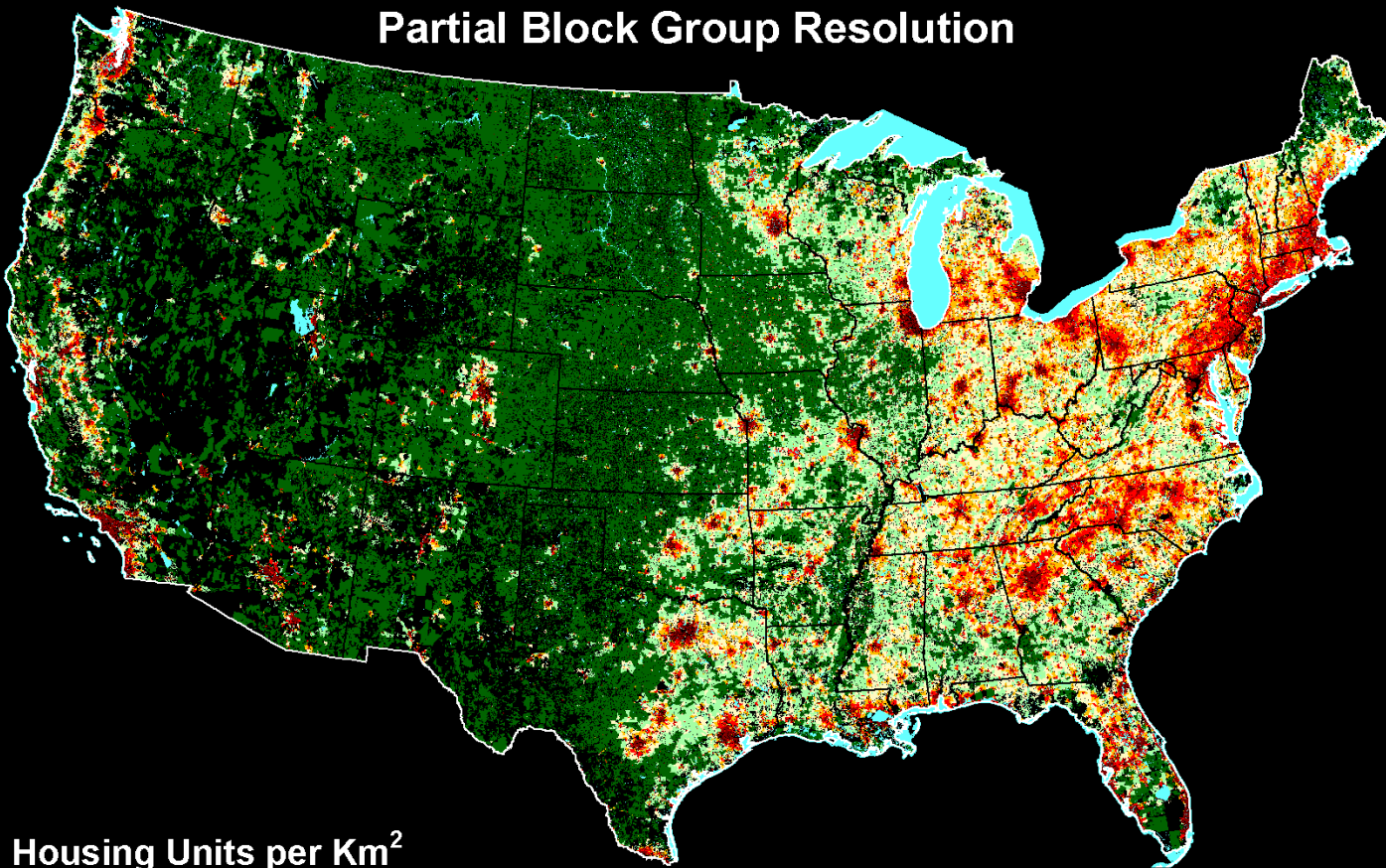


Housing Units per Km²

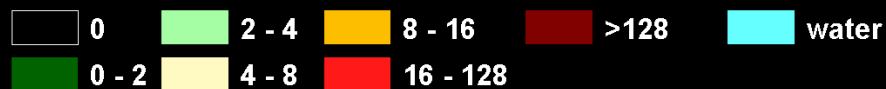


Housing Density 2000

Partial Block Group Resolution

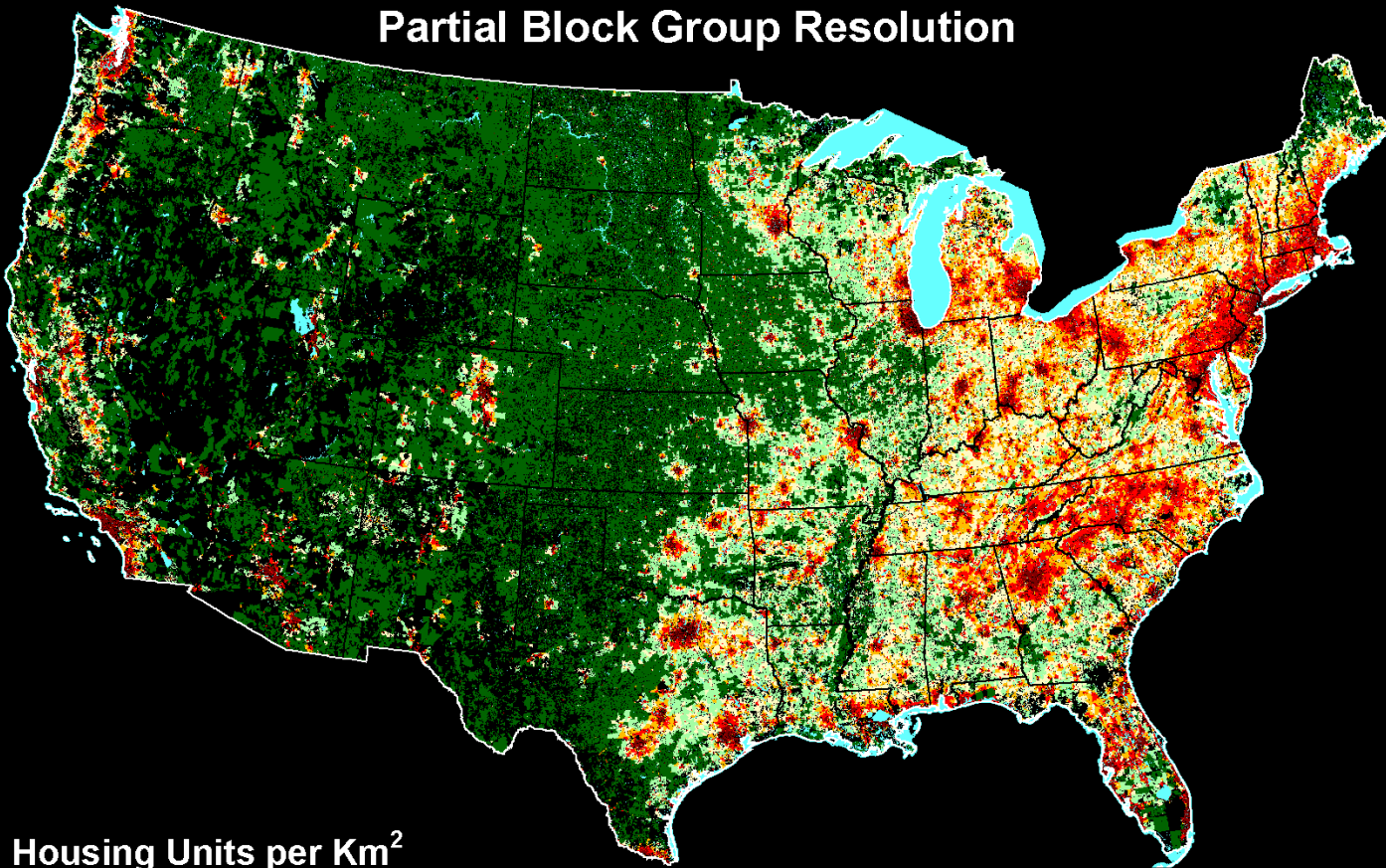


Housing Units per Km²

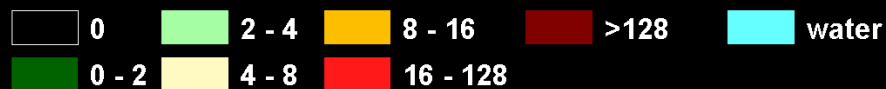


Housing Density 2010

Partial Block Group Resolution

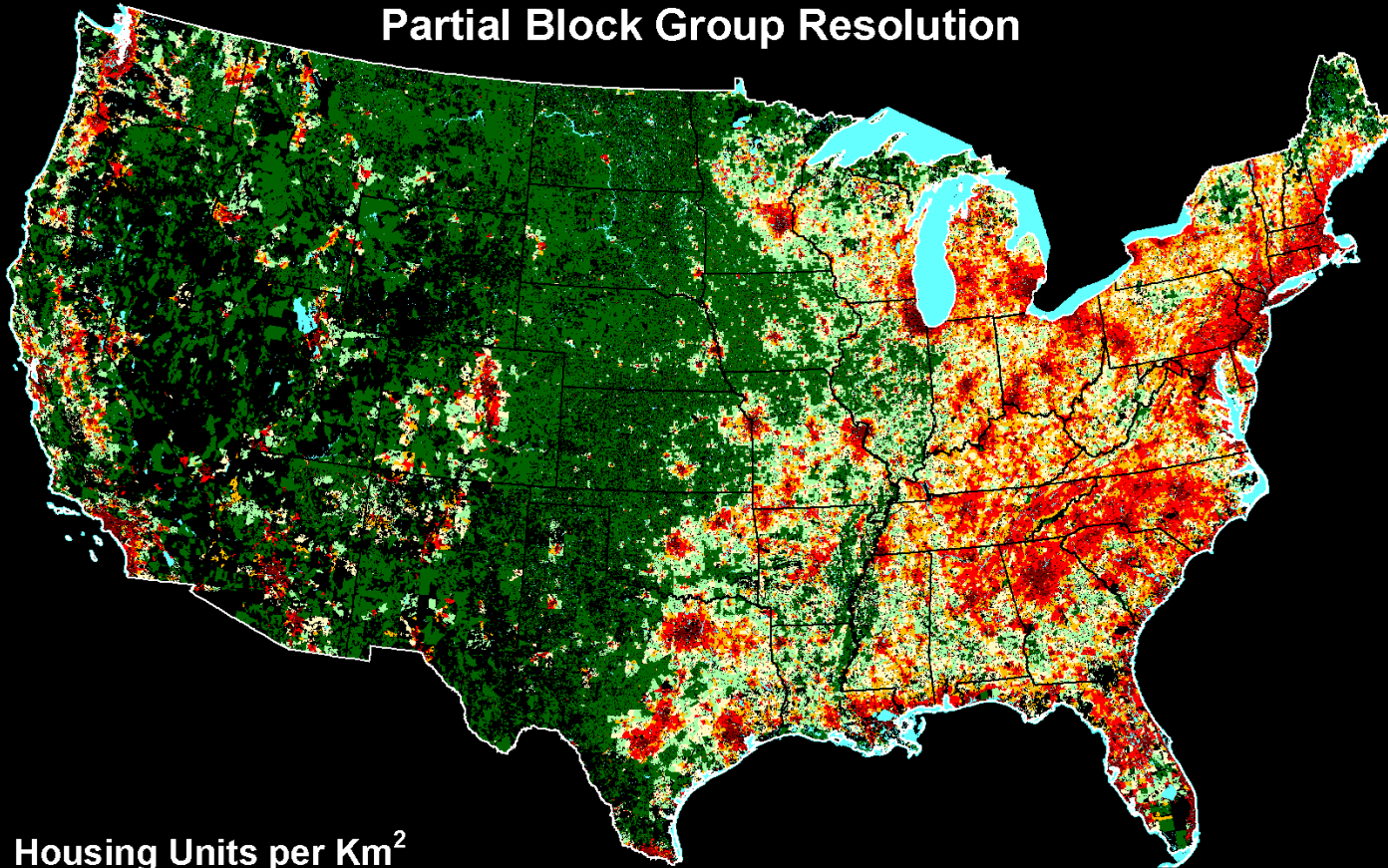


Housing Units per Km²

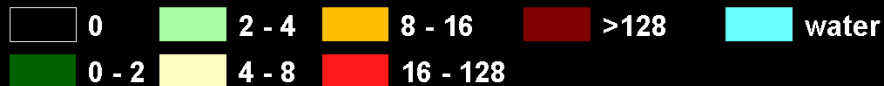


Projected Housing Density 2030

Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Units per Km²



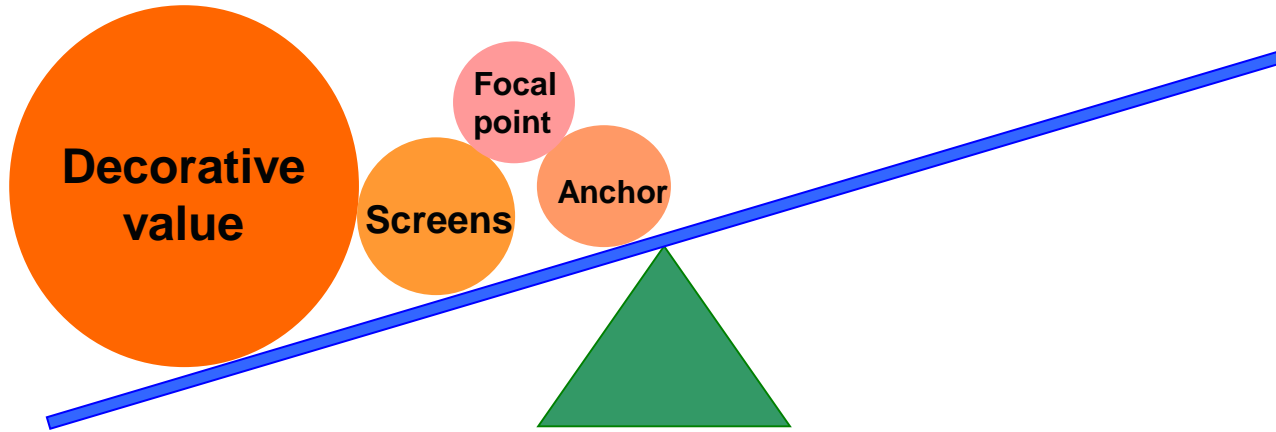




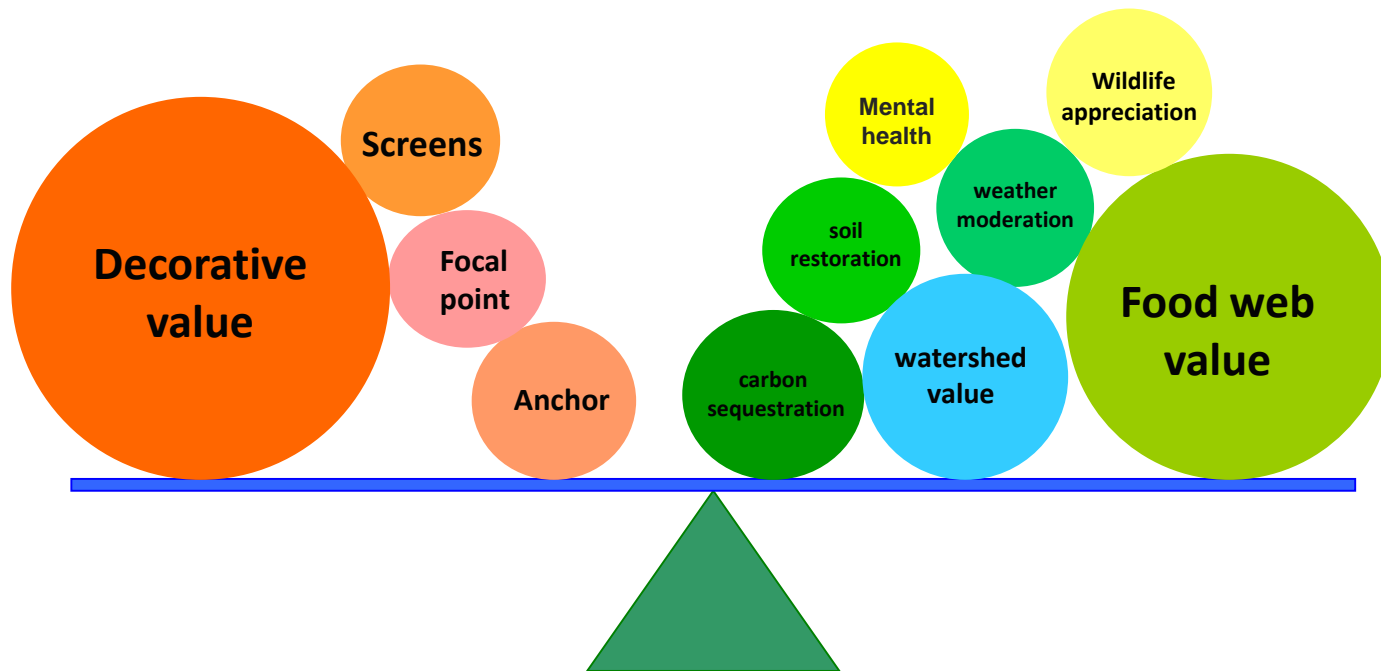
Habitat Hero Garden

Components of bird-friendly gardens...

- Diversity of Native Plants
- Habitat Structure
- Water Sources
- Removal of Invasive Plants
- No Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Elimination of Hazards
- Added Stewardship Components
- Community Science
- Volunteer



Past criteria for choosing plants for our
landscapes



Future criteria for choosing plants for our landscapes



Plants Provide Food for Birds

- **Insects**
- **Berries**
- **Nectar**
- **Seeds**
- **Nuts**

Insects

Tell most compelling story on why native plants matter

Specialization is Key

- **90% of the herbivorous insects can only eat the plants with which they co-evolved.**
- **A world without insects is a world without biological diversity**





537 species of caterpillars



4 species of caterpillars



Best Plants for Caterpillars



Shrubs

- Sandcherry
- Snowberry
- Red Elder
- Serviceberry
- Wood's Rose

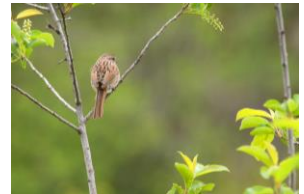
Trees

- Hawthorn
- Plums
- Ash-leaf Maple
- Lodgepole Pine
- Ponderosa Pine
- Rocky Mountain Juniper

Birds Need Insects!

96% of terrestrial birds feed their young insects

- Woodpeckers
- Finches
- Swallows
- Flycatchers
- Blackbirds
- Sparrows
- And, so many more!



Berries

Flash and persistent fruit

Best Plants for Berries & Fruit



Shrubs

- **Three-leaf Sumac**
- **Golden Currant**
- **Boulder Raspberry**
- **Elderberry**
- **Snowberry**
- **Buffalo Berry**
- **Service Berry**

Trees

- **Chokecherry**
- **Hackberry**
- **Rocky Mountain Juniper**

Birds that Love Fruit!

- Waxwings
- Orioles
- Solitaires
- Thrushes
- Grosbeaks
- Crows



Nectar

High-octane fuel

Best Nectar-Producing Plants

Early-season Blooming Perennials

- **Penstemons**
- **Nodding Onion**
- **Sulphur Flower**
- **Wallflower**
- **Pasque Flower**
- **Golden Banner**

Mid-season Blooming Perennials

- **Milkweed**
- **Harebells**
- **Aspen Daisy**
- **Blanket Flower**
- **Bee Balm**
- **Black-eyed Susan**

Late-season Blooming Perennials

- **Rabbitbrush**
- **Sunflowers**
- **Gayfeather**
- **Aster**
- **Goldenrod**
- **Rocky Mtn. Bee
Plant**

Pollinators Need Nectar!

Not just the birds and the bees...

- **Butterflies**
- **Wasps**
- **Ants**
- **Beetles**
- **Dragon Fly**
- **Moths**
- **Bats, ... so many more!**



Nuts and Seeds

Protein & Winter-food Source

Best Plants for Nuts & Seeds

Grasses

- **Big Bluestem**
- **Blue Grama**
- **Switchgrass**
- **Indian Wheat Grass**
- **Prairie Cord Grass**

Perennials

- **Coneflowers**
- **Mexican Hats**

Trees

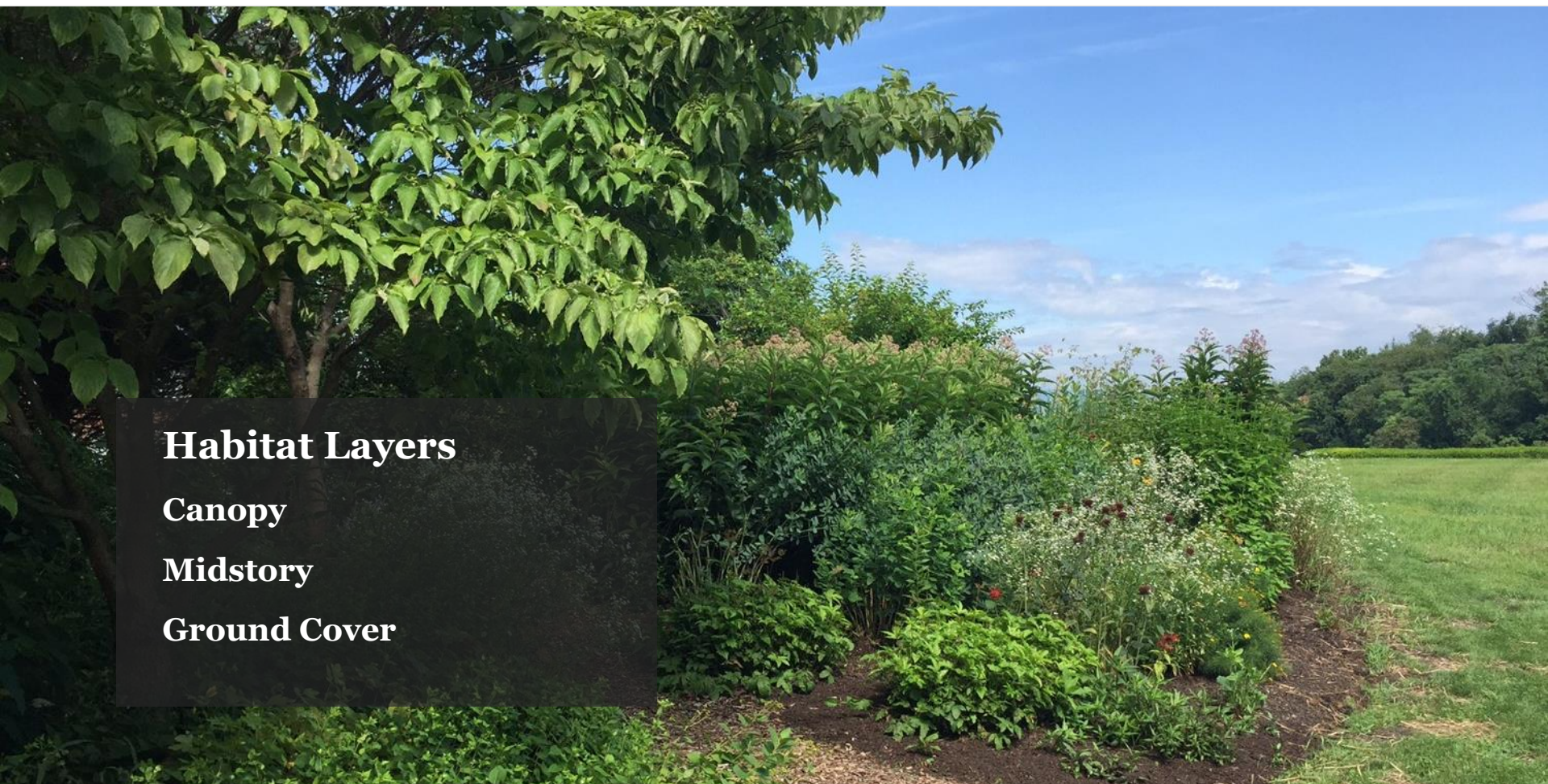
- **Hawthorn**
- **Pine (Lodgepole/
Ponderosa)**



Great winter-food source

- **Juncos**
- **Chickadees**
- **Finches**
- **Sparrows**
- **Grosbeaks**
- **Thrushes**





Habitat Layers

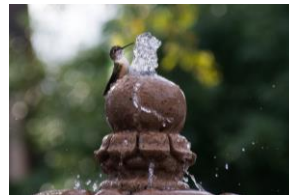
Canopy

Midstory

Ground Cover

Additional Components to Enhance Landscape

- **Water Source**
- **Shelter & Nest Sites**
- **Brush Pile**
- **Leaf Litter**
- **Snags**
- **Bird & Pollinator Houses**
- **Feeders**





Get Involved

Learn

- Events & Resources

Certify

- Provides recognition for your work and inspires other gardeners

Volunteer

- Help us grow the native plant movement – planting, tabling, garden tours, word of mouth...

Q&A

A man with short grey hair, wearing a blue and white plaid button-down shirt, is smiling and holding a red circular button in his right hand. The button has white text on it. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a hallway or office, with recessed ceiling lights.

**YOU
ARE WHAT
HOPE
LOOKS LIKE
TO A BIRD**

ASK ME WHY

Audubon



Audubon



Thank you!

Additional Questions, Reach Out...

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 www.rockies.audubon.org



Photo Credits

Slide 1: Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo: Larry Rotenburger/Great Backyard Bird Count

Slide 2: Photo: Judith Friend/Habitat Hero

Slide 14: Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Slide 17: House Finch. Photo: Peter Arnold/Cheyenne High Plains Audubon Society

Slide 19: Butterfly. Photo: Douglas Tallamy/Bringing Nature Home

Slide 20: Oak. Michael W. Ray/Creative Commons. Ginkgo. Photo: Landhalauts/Creative Commons

Slide 21: American Kestrel. Photo: Christopher Ciccone/Audubon Photography Awards

Slide 22: Western Tanager on Douglas Fir. Photo: Timothy Lenahan/Audubon Photography Awards

Slide 23: Downy Woodpecker. House Finch. Photos: Peter Arnold. Barn Swallow. Photo: Brent Daniel. Western Kingbird. Photo: Mike Daniels/Audubon Photography Awards. Common Grackle. Photo: Peter Arnold. Song Sparrow. Photo: Brent Daniel.

Slide 25: Cedar Waxwing & Black Cherry. Photo: Will Stuart

Slide 26: Cedar Waxwing. Photo: Erik Eckholm/Audubon Photography Awards. Bullock's Oriole. Photo: Rick Derevan/Audubon Photography Awards. Townsend's Solitaire. Photo: John Morrison. Swainson's Thrush on Red Elderberry. Photo: Mick Thompson/Flickr-CC by NC 2.0. Black-headed Grosbeak. Photo: Rick Derevan/Audubon Photography Awards. American Crow. Photo: Jim Vandegriff / Great Backyard Bird Count

Photo Credits

Slide 29: Swallowtail. Photo: Will Stuart. Wasp. Photo: Susan J. Tweit. Ant on Penstemon. Photo: USDA Forest Service. Beetle on Goldenrod. Photo: Amy Yarger. Dragonfly & Hawk Moth. Photos: Marie Shetty.

Slide 31: Goldfinch on Coneflower. Photo: Will Stuart.

Slide 32: Dark-eyed Junco. Photo: Shirely Donald/Audubon Photography Awards. Black-capped Chickadee. Photo: Becky O'Neill/Audubon Photography Awards. Goldfinch. Photo: Megumi Aita/Audubon Photography Awards. White-crowned Sparrow. Photo: Adam Wilson/Audubon Photography Awards. Pine Grosbeak. Photo: Audrey Mihalko / Great Backyard Bird Count. American Robin. Photo: Dennis Atwell / Great Backyard Bird Count

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Slide 34: Hummingbird. Photo: Judith Friend. Mourning Dove. Photo: Tom Moody/Audubon Photography Awards. Wood Thrush. Photo: Will Stuart. Tree Swallows. Photo: Donald Mullaney.

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Slide 36: Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo: Jutta Arkan/Habitat Hero

Slide 38: Dark-eyed Junco. Photo: Dennis Derby/Audubon Photography Awards