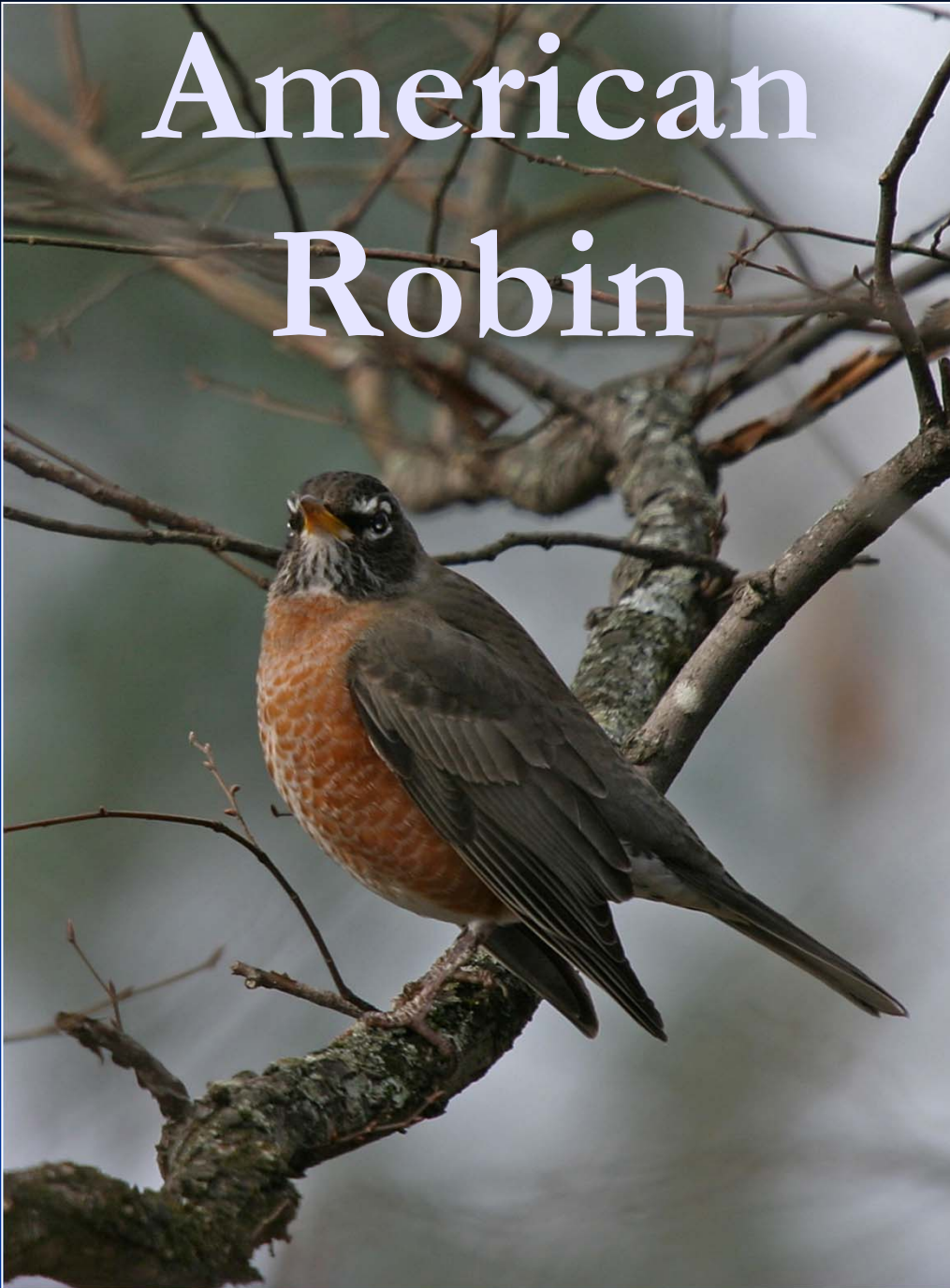


# Common Backyard Birds of Alabama

- **Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) state list includes 420 species:**
  - 158 species regularly breed in Alabama
  - 174 species regularly winter
  - 80 species migrate through Alabama
  - three are extinct & two are extirpated
  - four exotic (non-native) species

# American Robin



- Most Widespread North American Thrush
- Female w/ Lighter Head Color
- Prefer Short Grass Areas with Shrubs & Trees
- Forages in Yards
- Eat Worms in Morning & Fruit in Afternoon
- Make Grass & Twig Nest with Mud Lining (in Tree)
- Vulnerable to Pesticide Poisoning
- In AL Year-round (except in S AL in Summer)

# Mockingbird



- Male or Female
- Conspicuous White Wing Patches & White Feathers on Sides of Tail (seen in flight)
- Known for Its Long, Complex Songs, Mimics, and Noises
- 10" L & 14" WS
- Prefer Open Ground/Lawns & Shrubby Vegetation
- Eats Fruits & Insects
- Nest in Low Shrubs
- Year-round in AL

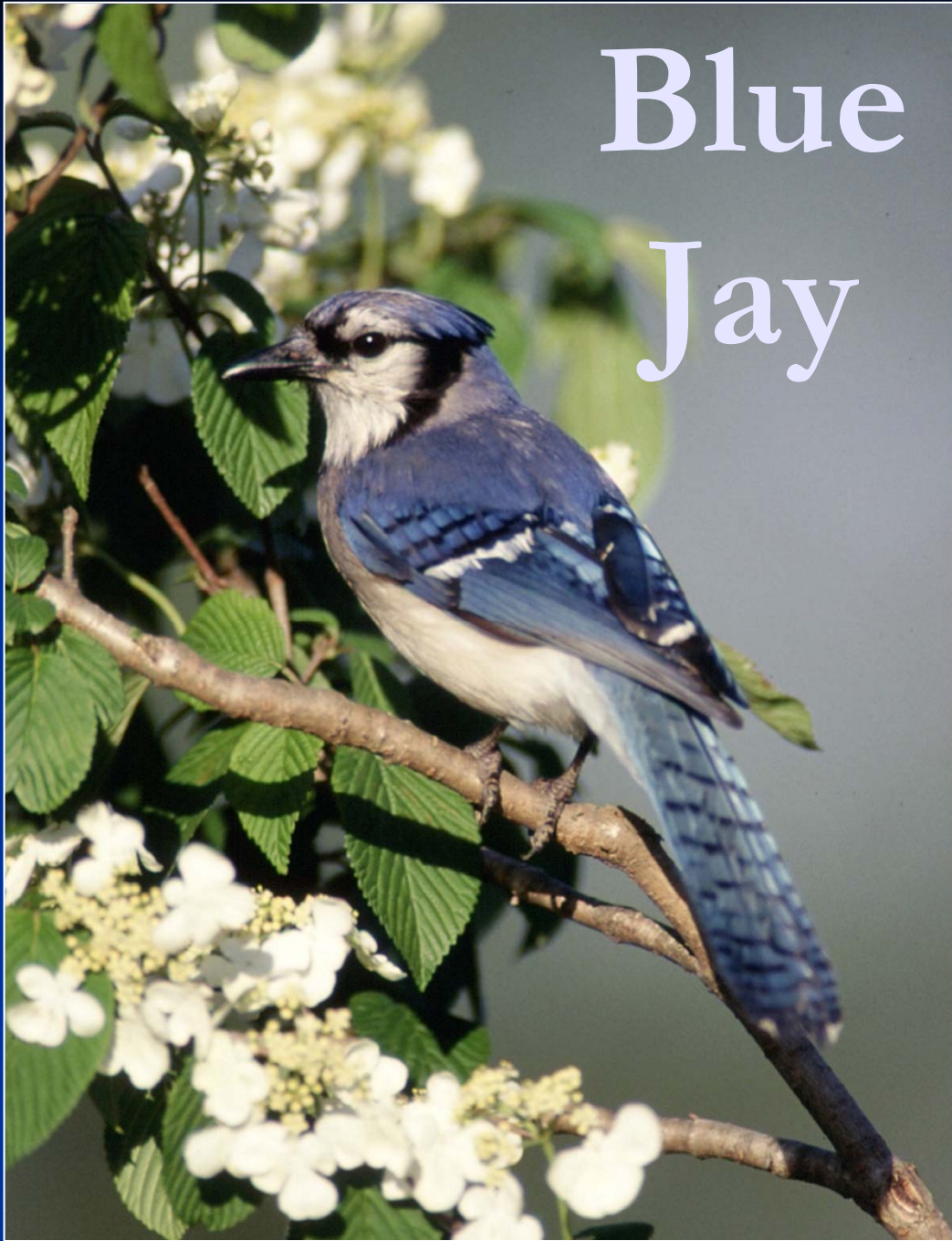


# Mourning Dove



- One of Five Species Found in AL
- Male or Female
- 12" L & 18" WS
- Live Anywhere from Agricultural Fields to Cities
- Seed-eating Ground Feeder
- Mostly Nest in Trees; Rarely on the Ground
- Drinks Water Like Horse (doesn't tilt its head back)
- Most Abundant & Wide-Spread North American Game Bird – Year-round Resident in AL

# Blue Jay



- Name Derived from Its Most Common Call
- Male or Female
- Large Songbird: 11" L & 16" WS
- Prefers Urban and Suburban Habitats
- Eats Acorns, Nuts, Fruits, Seeds & Insects
- Nests in Tree Limbs
- Sometimes Migrates/ Sometimes Not
- Population in Slight Decline
- In AL Year-round



# Eastern Bluebird



- Bright Blue Wings & Tail with Chest Brownish-Orange
- Very Territorial
- Male (darker color)
- 6-8" L & ~13" WS
- Prefer Open Fields
- Eat Insects, Meal Worms and Fruit
- Nest in Snag Cavity or Nesting Box
- Population Decline in 1960s – Increasing Now
- In AL Year-round

# Cardinal



- Also Called Red Bird
- Male Bright Red w/  
Bright Orange Bill
- 8-9" L & 12" WS
- Territorial –  
Known for Attacking  
Side-view Mirrors  
on Vehicles
- Prefer Shrubs, Small  
Trees & Suburban  
Habitat
- Eat Seeds, Fruits, Buds  
& Insects
- Nest in Thick Twigs or  
Vines
- Year-round in AL

# Northern Cardinal (Female)



- Female has Red, Orange, and Tan Earth Tones



# Red-bellied Woodpecker



- One of AL's 8 Woodpecker Species
- Male (darker head and larger bill)
- 8-10" L & 16" WS
- Prefers Forested Habitats or Suburban Areas
- Eats Arthropods, Fruit, Berries & Sap
- Stores Food in Cracks & Crevices of Trees
- Cavity Nester – Loses up to 50% of Nests to European Starlings
- In AL Year-round



# Northern Flicker



Or  
Yellow Hammer

- Alabama's State Bird
- Male (black cheek)
- 12-13" L & 20" WS
- Prefer Forest Edge, Open Woodlands or Suburban Areas
- Eat Insects (primarily Ants), Fruit & Seeds
- Prefers to Find Food on the Ground
- Nest in Snag Cavity or Nesting Box
- In AL Year-round

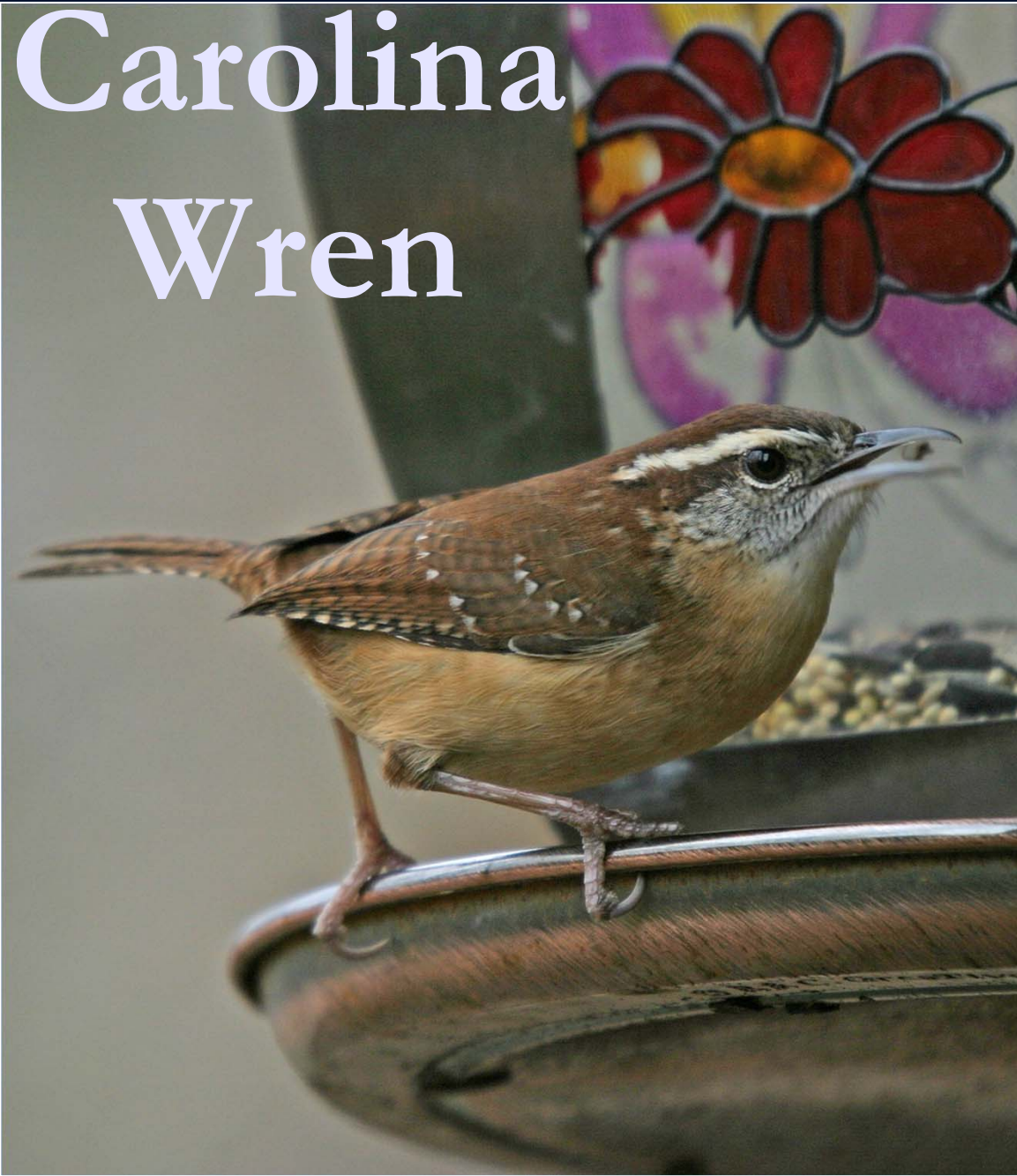
# Carolina Chickadee



- One of Calls Suggests Name
- Black Cap, Black Bib & White Cheeks
- Male or Female
- 4-5" L & 6-8" WS
- Found in Woodlands and Wooded Suburbs
- Insects, Spiders, Seeds & Fruits
- Cavity Nest in Snags or Nesting Boxes
- Slight Population Decreases in Range, but Doing Well in AL

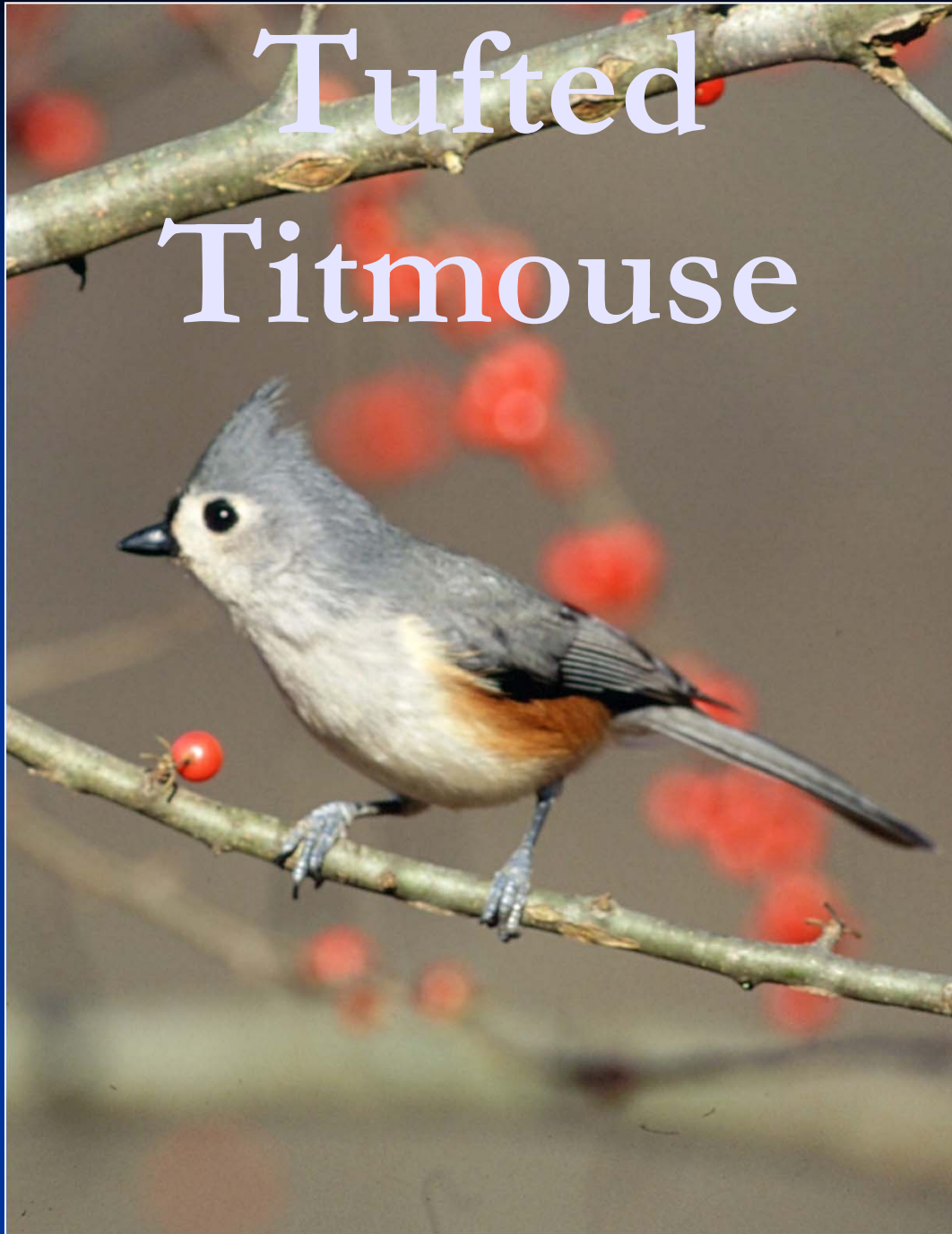


# Carolina Wren



- Male or Female
- 5-6" L & 7-11" WS
- Prefer Woodland Thickets & Wooded Suburbs
- Eat Insects, Spiders & Occasionally Seeds or Nuts
- Nest in Protective Cavity like Tree Cavities, Vine Tangles, Nesting Boxes or Tin Cans
- Mate for Life
- In AL Year-round

# Tufted Titmouse



- Small Gray Songbird with Gray Crest and Rusty Colored Flanks
- Male or Female
- 6-7" L & 8-10" WS (larger than Chickadees)
- Prefer Woodlands & Wooded Suburbs
- Eat Insects & Seeds
- Nest in Tree Cavities
- Use Hair/Fur in Nests
- In AL Year-round



# House Finch



- Male (red) – Females are Grayish-Brown with Stripes
- 5-6” L & 8-10” W
- Prefers Open Woodlands around Suburbs
- Eat Buds, Seeds & Fruit
- Nest in Tree Cavities, Bird Boxes & Building Ledges
- Eastern Population Cut in Half due to Eye Disease (Spread at Tube Feeders)
- In AL Year-round



# Ruby-Throated Hummingbird



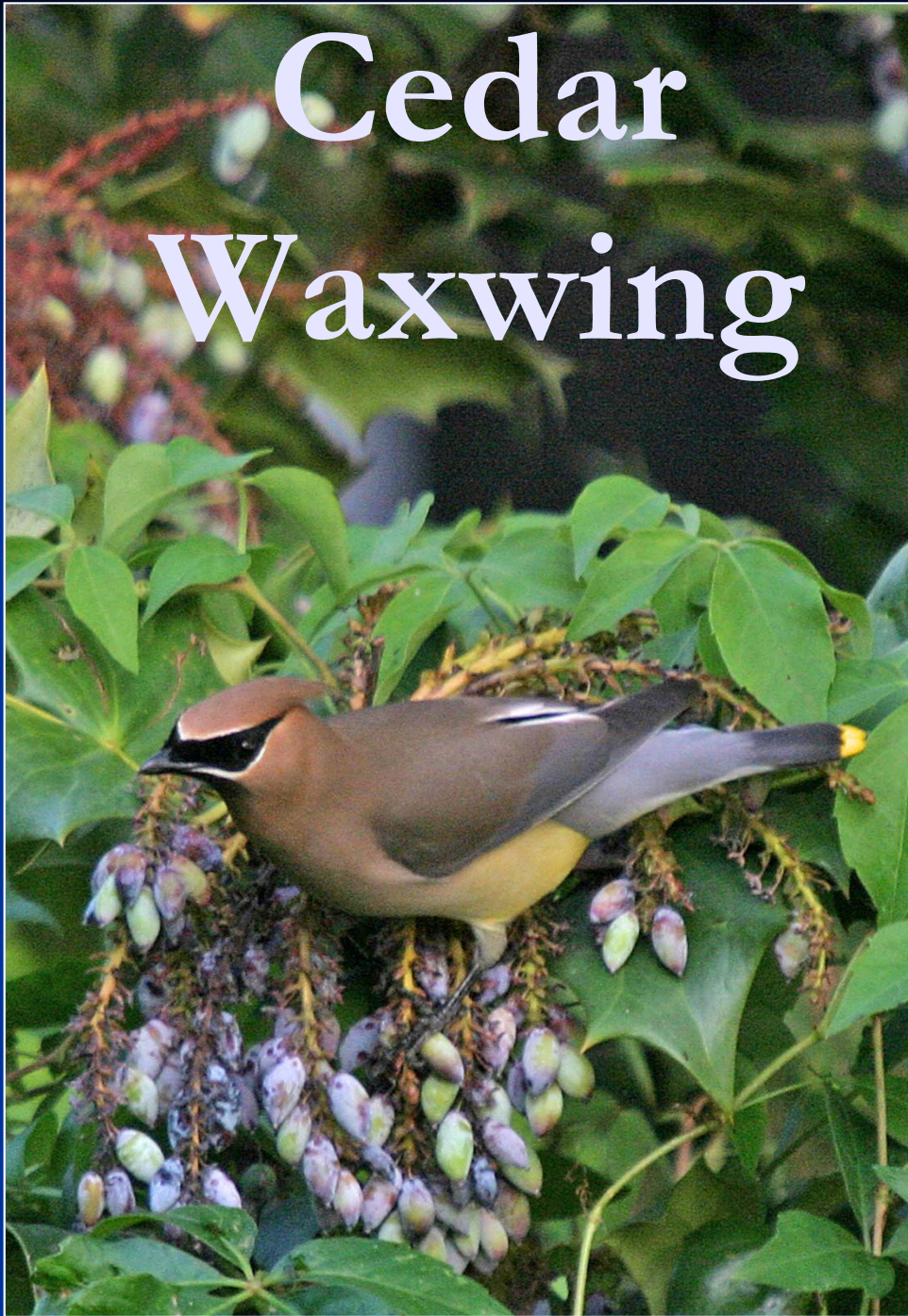
- Female
- 3-4" L & 3-4" WS
- Beats Its Wings 53 Times per Second
- Only One of Its Species to Breed in Eastern North America
- Breeds in Mixed Woodlands & Gardens
- Nest 2-3" Wide with Thistle and Dandelion Down, Held Together with Spider Web, and Covered with Lichens
- Eats Flower Nectar, Small Insects, and Tree Sap
- In AL Year-round except Winter (Migrates South to Tropics)



**Ruby Throated Hummingbird**  
**(Male)**



# Cedar Waxwing



- One of the Most Frugivorous Birds in N America
- 6-7" L & 9-12" WS
- Found in Open Woods or Suburbs
- Eat Fruit, Berries & Insects
- Susceptible to Becoming Drunk from Fermented Fruit
- Nests in Brushy Areas like Old Field & Stream Edges
- Common in AL; Some Migrate North in Summer to Breed



# Non-Native Invasives

- European Starling



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- English Sparrow

- Rock Dove

- Eurasian Collared Dove