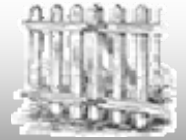


MY BACKYARD in Kingston Chase



Photography by Allen Hart



Cedar Waxwing

My wife and I got started in backyard bird watching quite some time ago when a friend gave us a feeder that we put up in our yard. As our interest in bird watching grew so did the number and variety of our feeders. Now we have a tube feeder and tray on a pole, two different thistle feeders, a peanut feeder, a small hanging tube feeder in a cage, a larger hanging tube called the “Whipper”, a cage style suet feeder, and a hanging suet log. In future columns, I will talk about why we have so many feeders and how we chose the ones we have.

It is fun to watch all the regular visitors who are common in our neighborhood such as American Robins, Northern Cardinals, House Finches, American Goldfinches, House Sparrows, Common Grackles, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmice, and Gray Catbirds. But it is especially fun to be on the lookout for birds that are less common visitors to our backyard. One example is the Cedar Waxwing.

When we chose our lot in Kingston Chase, we liked that there were several mature trees that were along what was a fence line of the original farm property. One of those is a Mulberry. The window at the end of our upstairs hall looks out into the branches of the tree. We had been in our house for a number of years and

hadn't taken any particular notice of the birds that came to the tree. Then one Mother's Day we just happened to look out the hall window and discovered that there were Cedar Waxwings in the tree feasting on the mulberries. There were over 200 of them!

Now, every May we make sure to be on the lookout for the Waxwings, and almost every year they come back to enjoy the mulberries. Many other birds also enjoy the berries. So if you have a mulberry tree in your yard (or in a neighbors) be sure to take a look a few mornings in May and you just might see Cedar Waxwings visiting the tree for a feast.