

## *Songbirds*

In the U.S., cats kill millions, perhaps hundreds of millions, of birds every year. The American Bird Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, and the Humane Society urge owners to keep cats confined and controlled to protect birds. If your cat injures a bird, place the bird in a small container such as a paper bag or paper towel-lined box. Do not feed it or give it water. Call Lindsay Wildlife Museum (see the back page for more information).

If you choose to keep a bird feeder, keep it clean. Dirty feeders spread disease to birds. 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 seed. If the seed gets wet from winter rains, replace it with dry seed immediately before it gets moldy.

## *Black-tailed Deer*

Deer eat a variety of plants and seem particularly attracted to many of the trees, bushes and perennials commonly used in our yards. 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.

