

The Boy and the Garden Birds



Jane MEADOW

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Lucas loved birds. Every morning, he stood by the window and watched them flit from tree to tree. He wished they would visit his garden more often. His garden had a few trees and a patch of grass, but it felt empty. "Where do the birds go?" Lucas wondered. He decided to find out and make his garden a home for them.



Lucas put on his mustard-yellow t-shirt, blue denim overalls, and green gardening gloves. He grabbed his red watering can and pulled on his brown boots. With a notebook in hand, he marched outside. He watched the birds from a quiet corner. They seemed to be looking for something. Lucas wrote down what he saw and thought about how to help.



Lucas's garden had a big oak tree, a small bush, and a patch of grass. But the birds didn't stay long. They flew away quickly. Lucas noticed they needed food and safe places to rest. He remembered learning that native plants give birds both. "I can plant shrubs that birds love!" he said. His round cheeks glowed with excitement.



Lucas visited the garden center with his mom. He asked for plants that were native to the area. The helper showed him shrubs with berries and seeds. "These will feed the birds," she said. Lucas chose a few small shrubs and paid for them. He couldn't wait to plant them in his garden. His brown eyes sparkled with joy.



Back home, Lucas dug holes with his small shovel. He planted each shrub carefully. He patted the soil and watered them with his red watering can. "These will give you food and a cozy place to rest," he told the birds. He worked all afternoon, his curly dark hair bouncing as he moved. He felt proud of his new garden.



The next day, Lucas filled a shallow bowl with fresh water. He placed it near the shrubs. He also cleaned up some old leaves and made sure the garden was quiet. "Birds need water to drink and bathe," he said. He sat quietly on a bench and waited. The garden felt peaceful and inviting. Lucas hoped the birds would come.



While Lucas was watering his new shrubs, he heard a loud chirp. A small brown bird with a black bib hopped on the ground. It had streaky chestnut wings and a pale grey belly. "A sparrow!" Lucas whispered. The sparrow cocked its head and chirped again. It seemed to say, "I like your garden!" Lucas smiled and stayed very still.



The sparrow hopped around the shrubs, pecking at the ground. Then a flash of yellow caught Lucas's eye. A tiny bird with a red face and black wings with white bars landed on a branch. It sang a cheerful tune. "A finch!" Lucas breathed. The finch flitted from shrub to shrub, adding bright color to the garden. Lucas felt his heart flutter.



Later, a calm bird with a round orange-red breast and a dark head flew in. It perched on a shrub and watched the garden. "A robin," Lucas said softly. The robin hopped down to the water bowl and took a sip. It looked around calmly, as if it felt safe. Lucas was thrilled. The garden was coming alive with new friends.



Each day, more birds visited. The sparrow hopped on the ground, the finch sang from the branches, and the robin rested in the shrubs. Lucas watched them from his bench. He noticed they liked the native shrubs best. They found seeds and berries to eat. The water bowl was always busy. Lucas felt like a real bird host.



One morning, Lucas saw that the birds seemed nervous. A cat from next door was prowling near the garden. The birds flew away quickly. Lucas didn't want them to be scared. He thought of a kind solution. He built a small fence around the garden using sticks and string. It wasn't scary, just a gentle boundary to keep the cat out.



Lucas also asked his neighbor to keep the cat indoors during the day. "The birds need a safe place," he explained. The neighbor agreed. Soon, the garden was peaceful again. The sparrow returned first, hopping boldly on the grass. Then the finch and the robin came back. Lucas was relieved. His kindness had made a difference.



Lucas learned that even small acts of care can protect habitats. He kept the garden clean and quiet. He made sure the water bowl was always full. He planted a few more native shrubs. The birds rewarded him with their songs and colors. Lucas felt happy. He had created a little bird paradise in his own backyard.



Now, every morning, Lucas sits on his bench with a smile. The sparrow chirps, the finch sings, and the robin watches calmly. They are his friends. He knows that when we care for nature, we make room for wonderful new friends. His cheerful garden shows that small acts of planting and care can help many creatures thrive.



Lucas's garden is full of life. The shrubs grow tall and provide food and shelter. The birds visit every day. Lucas takes care of them, and they bring him joy. He learned that protecting habitats helps many creatures. Even a small garden can make a big difference. Lucas is proud of his bird-friendly garden and the friends he has made.



Lucas hopes other children will make bird-friendly gardens too. He tells his friends about the sparrow, the finch, and the robin. He shows them how to plant native shrubs and put out water. "It's easy," he says. "And the birds will thank you with their songs." Lucas's garden is a happy place, and he knows he will always care for it.