


LMT Birdtown Bird of the Month – June: The Gray Catbird

Meet June’s featured bird, the **Gray Catbird**! This sleek, slate-gray songbird is a familiar summer resident throughout Lower Makefield Township and much of the eastern United States.

Why the name “catbird”? If you listen carefully, you’ll often hear its signature call—a raspy “mew” that sounds remarkably like a cat! But that’s only part of its vocal repertoire. Gray Catbirds are talented mimics and can imitate the songs of other birds, sometimes weaving dozens of sounds into a single performance.

Fun Catbird Facts:

- Despite their plain gray appearance, look closely and you’ll spot a rusty-red patch beneath the tail and a distinctive black cap.
- Gray Catbirds belong to the mockingbird family and are among North America’s most accomplished song mimics.
- They are one of the few bird species known to recognize and remove the eggs of Brown-headed Cowbirds, helping protect their own young from these nest parasites.
- Catbirds love dense shrubs and thickets, making native plantings especially valuable habitat.
- Their diet shifts with the seasons—from insects and spiders in spring and summer to berries and fruits later in the year.

 To attract Gray Catbirds to your yard, consider planting native shrubs such as dogwood, viburnum, or serviceberry, which provide both cover and food.

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