

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #64



### Mulberry Tree

UNDERSTORY TREE

#### HABITAT

The mulberry is a fruit producing tree growing from 30-50' tall (9-15m). There are 19 species that grow throughout the world.

#### FUN FACT

While most trees only produce one leaf shape, God displays three different leaf shapes in mulberry trees! Entire, one lobe (mittens), and three lobes leaves add to the interest of this tree.

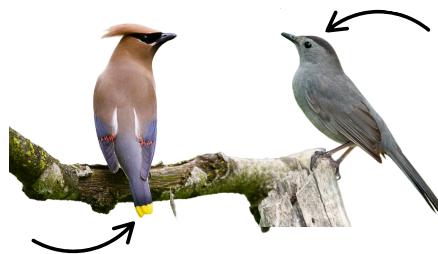


#### DO YOU EVER HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOUR FAVORITE SNACK?

Right now, my mulberry tree is loaded with white and pinkish mulberries. Throughout the day, the birds and squirrels visit the tree with anticipation. They are excited about the mulberry fruit ripening. Before the fruit ripens, it is toxic and can cause an upset stomach, even for animals.

I see hungry birds pecking at the unripe fruit but only consuming a small amount. They are hungry but don't want an upset belly. When the fruit is ripe, it will turn dark red or purple and be filled with protein, vitamin C, and fiber. They return daily in hopes that today will be the day!

Two of my favorite mulberry tree visitors are the gray catbird and the cedar waxwing. I look forward to their return every year. The catbird is named for the call it makes. It "meows" like a cat. It has a gray body with a little black cap of feathers on its head. The waxwing is named for the yellow ends of its feathers. It looks like it has been dipped in yellow wax.



I love the rhythm of nature. The seasons come and go and return a year later. Do you get excited to see migratory birds return or the first snow fall of the season? I love that God gives us first experiences over and over again. The birds remember where God grows their food and they return (Matthew 6:26). God wants us to be excited and filled with anticipation for the good that He has in store for us. Proverbs 10:28a says that "the hope of the righteous brings joy". Anticipating God's goodness should bring joy to our hearts.

