

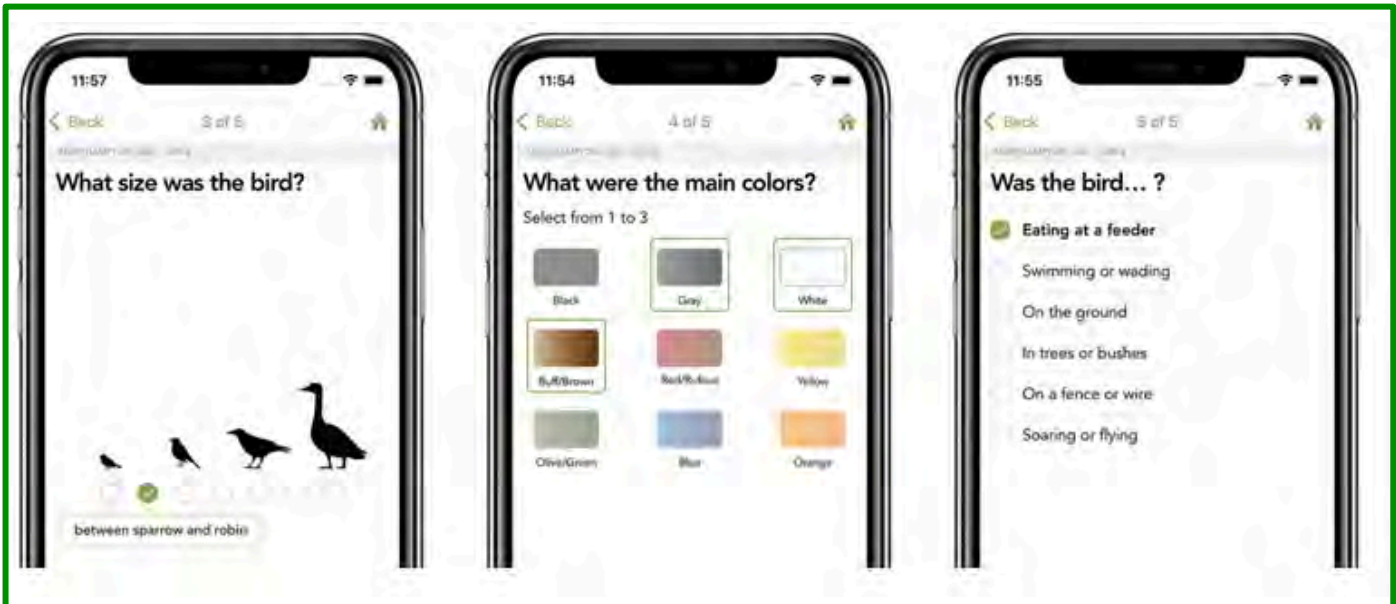


PROJECTS COMPLETED BY THE G&LC

- Palms were trimmed throughout the entire IOB
- Bark pathway was widened and new bark was put down on pathway to Dela Gaye Dock
- New bark pathway was installed from Islands Avenue through Belle Grove Park and bark was refreshed around playground
- Pine straw was installed on Deer and Cotton Islands

Need Help Identifying Birds? Get the Merlin Bird ID App

Have you ever wondered, “What is that bird?” There are many experienced birders in the IOB but not all of us know a Pine Warbler from a Yellow-throated Warbler... or can identify the call of a Red-winged Blackbird or a Marsh Wren. With Merlin Bird ID you can easily identify the birds you see and hear. It’s a very user friendly app that taps into eBird, a database with millions of bird sightings from birders throughout the world.



Answer three simple questions about a bird you are trying to identify and Merlin will give you a list of possible matches

Merlin Bird ID leverages the power of eBird observations to help beginners identify common birds. Merlin uses this data to create a short list of birds that match the user’s description and are likely to be found at the location and time of the sighting. A team at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology created the platform in 2002, and it became widely used by birders within a few years. As of 2020, it has collected more than 860 million global bird observations from over 597,000 registered birders. Your observations will be collected and maintained for you, and shared with everyone around the world.

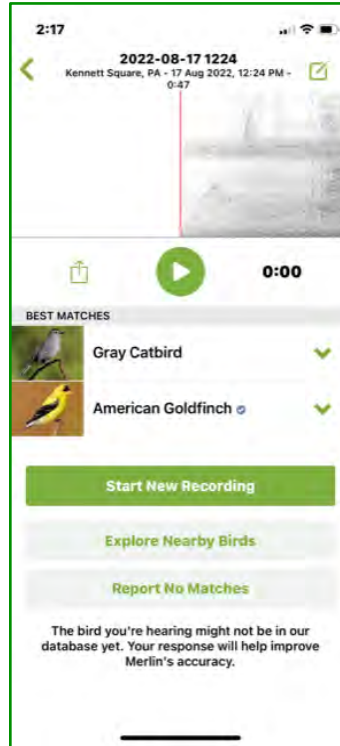
Merlin can also identify birds by sound and by photo

Merlin offers quick identification help for all levels of bird watchers enabling you to learn about the birds across the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania.

If you find yourself trying to figure out birds in your area, leading bird walks, doing public outreach, or sharing your love of birds with friends and family, you'll love the ease of using Merlin Bird ID. ...And the app is free.

For more information go to <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> OR visit your app store to download the app.

You may also want to check out the guide on "Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds" <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/seven-simple-actions-to-help-birds/> (scroll down to find article)

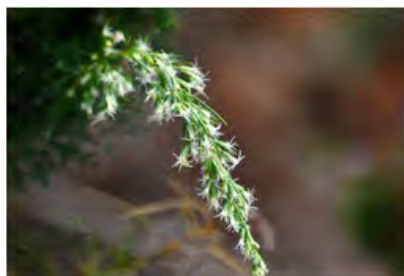


Record bird calls to identify; take or upload a photo to learn what bird you see. Follow the instructions... it's easy!

What is Dogfennel? Is it Harmful or Helpful?

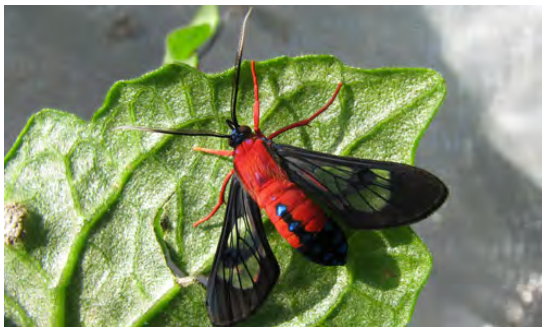
Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), can be found around the IOB, even in your own yard. If ingested in **large quantities** by insects or mammals (including humans) it's poisonous. Wildlife and cattle don't forage on dogfennel; most animals, including dogs, know to steer clear of it.

The name comes from its superficial resemblance to the kind of fennel commonly consumed in Mediterranean diets. The poisonous chemicals it contains repel insects, and was strewn about dog pens to ward off fleas and ticks. Hence dogfennel. Its native range extends from Florida, up the east coast to Connecticut and west to Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas and back to Florida. It grows in a variety of habitats, pastures, marshes and scrub.



Dog fennel is a tall wispy plant than can grow up to 9 ft. It goes dormant in the winter.

Dogfennel can be a weedy nuisance if it becomes established, but its wispy blooms add a softening effect to late autumn landscapes. Deer can often be seen stepping into clusters of dogfennel and disappearing. Around the IOB we maintain a bush hogging schedule that keeps the plant mostly in check, but it will sprout up again until it is taken over and shaded by trees in the forest, or given over to development. Due to its fibrous root system, removal of individual plants can prove difficult, and care must be taken to ensure that all roots are removed to prevent re-sprouting. Hand-removal of seedlings before the development of an extensive root system is effective for your own yard.



Scarlet-bodied wasp moth, [Cosmosoma myrodora](#)

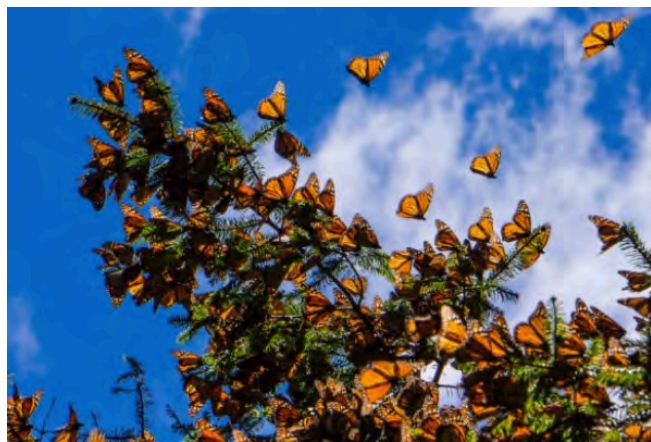
The poison in dogfennel, pyrrolizidine alkaloids, are needed by one particular insect: the Scarlet-bodied wasp moth. The male of the species lights on the plant and promptly throws up on the leaves. This dissolves the pyrrolizidines into a liquid, which the moth drinks and stores in a special pouch. He then finds a lady wasp moth and coats her with the concoction. The pyrrolizidines now protect both male and female moths by repelling potential predators, as they mate for the next nine hours. With this protective coating, the female can lay her eggs in safety.

The pyrrolizidines protect the eggs from ants and other bugs that otherwise might eat them. To test how effective pyrrolizidines were in protecting the moths, researchers took one and placed it in the web of a banana spider. The banana spider cut the moth from the web and set it free. The Scarlet-bodied wasp moth, *Cosmosoma myrodora*, is a member of the tiger moth family and is considered a pollinator.

Dogfennel is a member of Asteraceae, the sunflower family. You can find out more about dogfennel and how to control it at Clemson Extension. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/dogfennel/>

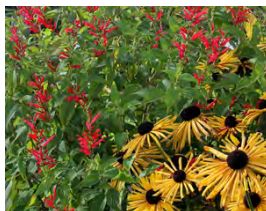
Monarch Migration Coming Soon!

Each fall, millions upon millions of monarch butterflies migrate from their summer roosts found in Canada and the northern region of North America to a number of main destinations in both Mexico and the U.S., where they overwinter until spring returns. The journey takes place between September and November.



The journey southward takes place between Sept – Nov; actual dates vary each year based on weather and other factors.

Best plants for fall monarchs and other pollinators: *Purple Asters, Sunflowers/Coreopsis, Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed, Beauty Berry, Pineapple Sage, Coneflowers, Dahlias*. If you'd like to add to your garden for the fall pollinators, many of these plants are available in nurseries now. You can't go wrong with something colorful.



Have a beautiful lowcountry autumn! – Grounds & Landscaping Committee