

Landscaping For Birds

To provide climate adaptable habitat – shelter, water, food throughout the year – for as many kinds of birds as possible, try to incorporate all of these in your yard.

Conifers

- Pines, spruces, firs, and junipers
- Shelter, nest sites, seeds, insects

Grasses

- Native grasses - hair grass, switchgrass, little bluestem, pink muhly grass, purple love grass, big bluestem, Northern sea oats
- Cover for ground-nesting birds; seeds

Nectar

- Tubular flowers - Beebalm, trumpet honeysuckle, cardinal flower, salvia, columbine, turtlehead
- Nectar, insects

Summer fruit

- Cherry, native honeysuckle, serviceberry, blackberry, blueberry, native mulberry, elderberry
- Cover, nest sites, food during the breeding season

Autumn fruit

- Dogwoods, mountain ash, chokecherry, raspberry, mountain holly, beach plum, cotoneaster
- Cover, nest sites, food for migration and pre-winter for non-migrators

Winter fruit

- Viburnums, sumac, native bittersweet, winterberry, crab apple, Virginia creeper
- Cover, nest sites, food source for winter residents and early-returning migrants

Nuts and Acorns

- Oaks, hickories, black walnuts, beeches, and hazels
- Cover, nest sites, fall and winter food for wintering mast-eaters; insects drawn to flowers important food for spring migrators

Water

- Birdbath (on the ground, or on a pedestal if predators are frequent) – not too deep, clean regularly,
- Small in-ground pond with plenty of protective cover around it; moving water is especially attractive to bird

Specific Recommendations

Deciduous Trees

Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* species)

Description: Medium-sized shrub/trees, 10-20 feet high; masses of white flowers in spring and reddish berries in summer

Food type: Summer fruit

Attracts: Robins, waxwings, cardinals, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, others

Also provides: Nest sites

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Description: small understory tree to 30 feet high; white or pink flowers in spring; scarlet berries in fall

Food type: Fall fruit

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, tanagers, grosbeaks, many others

Also provides: Nest sites

Oaks (*Quercus* species)

Description: Small-large trees depending on species; good for acorns and spring insects in flowers

Food type: Acorns

Attracts: Woodpeckers, jays, Wild Turkeys, grouse, Wood Ducks, others

Also provides: Nest sites, cover

Crabapples (*Malus* species)

Description: Medium-sized trees; white spring flowers; fall fruit

Food type: Flower buds, flowers, fall fruit that persist into winter

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, finches, many others

Also provides: Nest sites, cover

Coniferous Trees

Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Description: evergreen, 20-50 feet tall; pale blue, berry-like cones borne on female trees

Food type: Fall fruit that persists into winter

Attracts: Waxwings and others

Also provides: Excellent nest sites and cover

Spruces (*Picea* species)

Description: evergreen, 30-150 feet tall

Food type: Fall seed-bearing cones; insects in needles in early spring

Attracts: Crossbills and other seed-eaters in fall and winter; migrating warblers for insects in spring.

Also provides: Nest sites, cover

Shrubs

Dogwoods - Red-osier (*Cornus sericea*), **gray dogwood** (*C racemose*), **silky dogwood** (*C amomum*)

Description: Hardy shrubs; high fat content fruit

Food type: Fall fruit

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, vireos, kingbirds, juncos, cardinals, warblers, Wild Turkey, grouse, others

Also provides: Nest sites, cover

Viburnums – Nannyberry (*V. lentago*), **American highbush cranberry** (*V. opulus* var *trilobum*), **Mapleleaf** (*V. acerifolium*), **hobblebush** (*V. lantanoides*),

Season: Fall fruiting, some fruits are winter persistent

Description: Large genus of easy-to-grow shrubs; white flowers in spring; red, yellow, blue or black berries

Food type: Fall fruit some persist in winter

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, finches, waxwings, others

Also provides: Nest sites, cover

Hollies - Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), **Mountain Holly** (*Ilex mucronata*)

Season: Fall fruiting, winter persistent fruits

Description: Hardy shrubs tolerant of wet conditions; scarlet berries; need several female and one male plant to get fruit

Food type: Fall fruit that persist in winter

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, waxwings, others.

Also provides: Cover

Northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

Season: Fall fruiting, winter persistent fruits

Description: Semi-evergreen shrub produces fragrant, waxy, silver-gray berries

Food type: Fall fruit that persists in winter

Attracts: Tree Swallows, catbirds, bluebirds, many others

Also provides: Nest sites, cover

Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)

Description: tall, suckering shrub; brilliant red fall foliage; spikey clusters of hairy red fruits

Food type: Fall fruit that persists in winter

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, chickadees, starlings, Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, many others

Vines

Wild grape (*Vitis* species)

Description: Climbing vine; dense greenery

Food type: Fall fruit

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, orioles, Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, mockingbirds, thrashers, many others.

Also provides: Excellent nest sites, nest material (shredding bark), cover

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Description: Tree-climbing vine with brilliant scarlet foliage in autumn;

Food type: Fall fruit that persists in winter

Attracts: Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, starlings, Wild Turkey, vireos, warblers, Pileated Woodpecker, many others

Also provides: Nest sites, cover