



Plants That Attract Birds



Every year millions of Americans discover the pleasures of attracting wild birds to their gardens. In fact, bird watching is second only to gardening as America's favorite hobby. This increase is due in large part to increased awareness of the delicate balance between birds and humanity.

As people strive to understand this complex coexistence, there are many more simple reasons why bird attracting has gained such popularity. Birds add color, activity and music to our gardens in all seasons. They add a special element of nature up close in our own backyards. Birds are fascinating to watch and observe and people, children especially, gain an appreciation of nature by watching birds. Birds are beneficial.

They eat large quantities of insects and act as pollinators of plants. Their ability to act as Nature's pest control is worth the effort it takes to attract birds to our home landscapes.

If we give careful thought to the planning and planting of our landscape, we can greatly increase the chances that birds, as well as other types of wildlife, will make their homes in our yards and gardens. Landscape plantings function in many ways to make these areas attractive to birds. Plants can offer year-round shelter and protection from natural elements and predators. Proper plantings provide safe nesting sites for birds to raise their young and also provide food in the form of fruit, seeds, nectar, and insects. Attractive landscapes also make a good stopping-off place for migratory birds.

In selecting trees, shrubs, vines and flowers for the landscape, keep in mind their general landscape value as well as their value for bringing birds to your backyard habitat. You can have both by selecting plants with good foliage, attractive flowers and fruit, interesting branching, and good aesthetic value.

The following is a partial listing of some trees and shrubs to consider for attracting birds to the landscape. Keep in mind that a great many annual and perennial flowers attract birds as well. From sunflowers, phlox, bachelor buttons and daylilies to delphinium, foxglove and ornamental grasses. Simply ask your local garden center which will work best for you - and the birds - in your garden.



Woody Plants That Attract Birds

Trees -

Acer species
Alnus glutinosa
Amelanchier species
Betula species
Celtis occidentalis
Cornus species
Crataegus species
Elaeagnus angustifolia
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Malus
Ostrya virginiana
Prunus americana
Prunus cerasifera
Prunus maackii
Prunus padus commutata
Prunus pensylvanica
Prunus serotina
Prunus virginiana
Prunus x cistena
Sorbus species
Syringa reticulata
Viburnum lentago

Maples
Black Alder
Serviceberry
Birch
Common Hackberry
Dogwood
Hawthorn
Russian Olive
Green Ash
Crabapple varieties
Ironwood
American Plum
Newport Plum
Amur Chokecherry
May Day Tree
Pin Cherry
Wild Black Cherry
Canada Red Select Cherry
Purpleleaf Sand Cherry
Mountain Ash
Japanese Tree Lilac
Nannyberry

Shrubs -

Acer ginnala
Amelanchier species
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Aronia species
Berberis species
Chaenomeles species
Cornus species
Corylus americana
Cotoneaster species
Elaeagnus species
Euonymus species
Ilex species
Ligustrum
Lonicera species
Myrica pensylvanica
Prunus besseyi
Prunus maritima
Prunus tomentosa
Prunus virginiana
Prunus virg melanocarpa
Rhus aromatica
Rhus glabra
Rhus trilobata
Rhus typhina
Ribes alpinum
Ribes aureum
Rubus odoratus
Viburnum species

Amur Maple
Serviceberry
Massachusetts Bearberry
Chokeberry
Barberry
Flowering Quince
Dogwood
American Hazelnut
Cotoneaster
Silverberry, Autumn Olive
Burning Bush
Winterberry, Holly
Privet
Honeysuckle
Bayberry
Western Sandcherry
Beach Plum
Nanking Cherry
Canada Red Cherry
Western Chokecherry
Fragrant Sumac
Smooth Sumac
Skunkbush Sumac
Staghorn Sumac
Alpine Currant
Yellow Flowering Currant
Flowering Raspberry
Cranberrybush

Vines -

Actinidia

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata

Campsis radicans

Celastrus species

Lonicera species

Parthenocissus inserta

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Parthenocissus tricuspidata

Hardy Kiwi

Porcelain Berry

Trumpetvine

Bittersweet

Honeysuckle

Woodbine

Engelmann Ivy

Boston Ivy