

Gardening for the Birds

There are three main goals for gardeners who wish to create a bird-friendly garden environment. By ensuring a ready supply of food, water, and shelter, birds will feel right at home.

Eating Habits: Many plants rely on birds for the dispersal of their seed. These plants use an array of colorful berries, stems and foliage to attract birds. The majority of plants ripen fruit during the late summer or fall for the time of greatest potential for distribution during their migration.

Watery Oasis: Quite often the sound of water attracts the birds more than the water itself, so a simple dripping from a bucket or subtle running water within a fountain or pond will spike the interest of neighboring avian life. A well placed birdbath can provide moisture for birds when located in partial shade near a small tree or large shrub. Plantings near pond borders will also attract visitors.

Secure Shelter: When luring feathered friends into an area it is critical for them to feel safe and protected while eating, bathing, drinking, or nesting. From the cover, they can make sure the coast is clear of predators such as crows, cats, or birds of prey.

Annuals and Perennials

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Amaranthus	Love-Lies-Bleeding
Aster	Aster
Calendula officinalis	Calendula
Campanula	Bellflower
Celosia	Cockscomb
Centaurea cineraria	Dusty Miller
Centaurea montana	Bachelor's Button
Chrysanthemum	Mums
Cosmos bipinnatus	Cosmos
Echinacea	Coneflower
Eupatorium purpureum	Joe Pye Weed
Helianthus annuus	Sunflower
Liatis spicata	Liatis
Phlox	Phlox
Portulaca grandiflora	Moss Rose
Verbena hybrida	Verbena
Zinnia elegans	Zinnia

Shrubs

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Aronia arbutifolia	Red Chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry
Callicarpa	Beautyberry
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet
Cornus	Redtwig Dogwood
Hamamelis vernalis	Vernal Witch Hazel
Hypericum	St. John's Wort
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry Holly
Myrica pensylvanica	Northern Bayberry
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac
Ribes alpinum	Alpine Currant
Rubus	Raspberry
Symphoricarpos alba	Snowberry
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum
Viburnum	Cranberrybush

Gardening for the Birds cont.

Trees: Purchasing seedless cultivars will not provide direct food for the birds. The trees themselves will provide shelter and host insects which many birds will eat.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Amelanchier	Serviceberry
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple
Betula nigra	River Birch
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam
Cornus alternifolia	Pagoda Dogwood
Crataegus	Hawthorn
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree
Malus	Crabapple
Ostrya virginiana	Hop-hornbeam
Picea glauca	White Spruce
Pinus strobus	White Pine
Quercus alba	White Oak
Syringa reticulata	Japanese Tree Lilac
Thuja occidentalis	Arborvitae
Tsuga canadensis	Hemlock

Vines

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Vitis	Grape