

Gardening for Birds

What to Plant and Who Likes It - Nancy Gilbert, December 2014

Natives:

Vaccinium corymbosum (Highbush Blueberry) – many species including oriole, bluebird, titmouse, red-eyed vireo, veery, scarlet tanager, towhee, flicker, kingbird. Also used for nesting and shelter.

Vaccinium angustifolium (Lowbush Blueberry)

Aronia melanocarpa (Black Chokeberry) - robin, catbird, mockingbird, thrushes

Aronia arbutifolia (Red Chokeberry) - cedar waxwing, brown thrasher, robin

Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red' (Winterberry) - many species including mockingbird, catbird, hermit thrush, robin, waxwing. Also used for nesting and shelter.

Viburnum lentago (Nannyberry) - catbird, robin, bluebird, waxwing, towhee, rose-breasted grosbeak, hermit thrush, cardinal, brown thrasher, hermit thrush

Magnolia virginiana (Sweetbay magnolia) – catbird, robin

Cornus florida (Flowering Dogwood) – many species including flicker, scarlet tanager, downy and hairy woodpecker, catbird, robin, wood and hermit thrush, veery, bluebird, cardinal, vireo, rose-breasted grosbeak, bobwhite, mockingbird, sparrows. Also used for nesting and shelter.

Amelanchier canadensis (Serviceberry) – downy and hairy woodpecker, wood and hermit thrush, rose-breasted grosbeak, robin, catbird, cardinal, blue jay, mourning dove, phoebe

Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower) - finches, sparrows, seed eating birds

Rudbeckia spp - finches, sparrows, seed eating birds

Helenium spp (Sneezeweed) – seed eating birds, host plant for butterflies.

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed) – insect eating birds, host plant for butterflies

Cornus sericea (Red and Yellow Twig Dogwood) - song birds. Also used for nesting and shelter.

On the Wild Side:

Ilex opaca (American Holly) - waxwing, bluebird, mockingbird, towhee. Also used for nesting and shelter.

Ilex glabra 'Compacta' (Inkberry) - many species including bobwhite, thrushes

Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar) - many species including yellow-rumped warbler, brown thrasher, mockingbird, catbird, robin, waxwing, tree swallow, bobwhite, flicker. Also used for nesting and shelter.

Sassafras albidum (Sassafras) - kingbird, bluebird, catbird, ruby-throated hummingbird

Prunus serotina (Black Cherry) – many species including waxwing, robin, catbird, mockingbird, bluebird, woodpecker, cardinal, thrushes. Host and nectar plant for butterflies.

Prunus maritima (Beach Plum) - many bird species, small mammals

Rhus copallina (Winged or Shining Sumac) - many species including robin, waxwing, mockingbird, bobwhite, wild turkey. Also used for nesting and shelter. Host and nectar plant for butterflies.

Myrica pensylvanica (Bayberry) – yellow-rumped warbler, thrushes, bobwhite, tree swallow, finches, chickadee, bluebird, catbird, brown thrasher, towhee, oriole.

Rosa virginiana (Wild Rose) - cardinal, catbird, brown thrasher, wood thrush, chickadee, vireos. Also used for nesting and shelter.

In Praise of Weeds:

Solidago canadensis (Goldenrod) - finches, sparrows, pine siskin, junco

Solidago sempervirens (Seaside Goldenrod)

Helianthus tuberosus (Jerusalem artichoke) – many species including goldfinch, chickadee, nuthatch, titmouse

Helianthus (Lemon Queen)

Aster linariifolium (Stiff Aster) - finches, sparrows, cardinal, chickadee, nuthatch, titmouse, towhee, indigo bunting

Verbascum thapsus (Common Mullein) - downy woodpecker, goldfinch

Asclepias syriaca (Milkweed) – host and nectar plant for butterflies, songbirds, ruby-throated hummingbird

Phytolacca decandra (Pokeweed) – bluebird, catbird, thrushes, vireos, cardinal, waxwing

Eupatorium purpureum (Joe-Pye Weed) - host and nectar plant for butterflies, songbirds, ruby-throated hummingbird

Parthenocissus quinquefolia (Virginia Creeper) - many species including thrushes, woodpeckers, warblers, vireos. Also used for nesting and shelter.

Exotics:

Viburnum setigerum (Tea Viburnum)

Viburnum dilatatum 'Asian Beauty'

Callicarpa bodinieri (Beautyberry)

Malus 'Centurion' (Crab Apple)

Malus 'White Cascade' (Crab Apple)

Lady Apple

Rosa 'New Dawn'

Rosa moyesii 'Highdownesis'

David Austin rose 'Perdita'

Ribes sativum (Red Currant)

Crocosmia 'Lucifer'

Verbena bonariensis (Brazilian Vervain)

Tithonia rotundifolia (Mexican Sunflower)

Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

Cotoneaster divaricatus

For Additional Information:

George Adams, *Gardening for Birds*

Douglas Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*

Stephen W. Kress, *The Bird Garden*

Lee Reich, *Landscaping with Fruit*

John Turner, *Exploring the Other Island*

Karen Blum, *Long Island Native Plants for Landscaping: A Source Book*