Brighten Your Garden for the Birds and Bees

Ann DeBolt, Idaho Botanical Garden
WHY?

- Increases diversity, observation ability
- When done properly, might make life easier for birds
- Great way to introduce young people to nature
- The whole family can share (and neighbors too)
- Wildlife-friendly yard has never been more important - nearly 80% of wildlife habitat in the U.S. is privately owned
- 2.1 million acres/year converted to residential use
- Contribute to “citizen science” – Great Backyard Bird Count, Project Feeder Watch, Great Pollinator Project, etc.
SOMERVILLE, Mass. — Wedged between train tracks and a busy thoroughfare, Jerry Lauretano's hair salon relies on berry-producing trees to attract a range of lovely birds — as well as some not-so-lovely ones.

Last winter, customers saw cardinals, robins and goldfinches. On an April morning, however, pigeons and squirrels had the yard to themselves.

"Not every square foot needs to be business, business, business," says Lauretano, whose parcel ranks among **128,000 backyards that have been certified as wildlife habitats by the National Wildlife Federation.** "People love to come here. And that fulfills your heart."
BACKYARD HABITAT ESSENTIALS
- Food
- Cover/Shelter
- Water
- Nest Sites
Purple Sage  *Salvia dorrii*
Feeders are an easy way to attract birds.
Dark-eyed junco
House Finch

USGS Map, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Diversity of plants provides birds/bees with a **variety of food** in the form of flower buds, fruit, seeds, nectar, and sap.

Also provides a variety of insects associated with those plants.
Turn Your Yard Into a Winter Refueling Spot for Birds

January-February 2013 Audubon Magazine, S. Tweit

To survive freezing nights, many birds must sustain themselves with berries rich in fats and antioxidants

this article lists 12 top ten berry producers
Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
Drought-tolerant, craggy tree with knobby bark; fruits eaten by many bird species; attracts butterflies and moths

**Skunkbush sumac** (*Rhus trilobata*)
Tolerates some drought; often single-sexed colonies formed from one parent; berries high in vitamin C

**Western sandcherry** (*Prunus pumila var. besseyi*)
Sandy to clayey soils; partial shade; sprawling shrub; white flowers form cherry-like fruits in fall

**Western Mountain Ash** (*Sorbus sitchensis*)
Large shrub/small tree; needs moist soil; flowers white; leaves yellow to red in fall; waxwings and other birds love berries
Common hackberry
(*Celtis occidentalis*)

Medium sized tree to 60 feet tall with wide spreading crown

Grown around here in parks

Native to middle and eastern U.S.
*Celtis reticulata*
Netleaf hackberry

Our native hackberry
10-30 feet tall, often shrubby
Long-lived
Hackberry emperor

gall psyllids (*Pachypsylla* sp., aphid-like bug)

many different birds love hackberries too!
Oakleaf sumac, Lemonade bush (Rhus trilobata)
Western Sandcherry
*Prunus besseyi*

3-8 feet tall deciduous shrub
Bronze to red fall color
Drought tolerant
Sorbus spp.  Mountain ash
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>% Fat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern bayberry (Myrica pensylvanica)</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern arrowwood (Viburnum dentatum)</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gray dogwood (Cornus racemosa)</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern spicebush (Lindera benzoin)</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American burningbush (Euonymus atropurpurea)</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Fruit Bearing Plants
Wax Currant, *Ribes cereum*

Golden Currant, *R. aureum*
Chokecherry  \textit{Prunus virginiana}
Perennial Flower Food
Firecracker penstemon  *Penstemon eatonii*
Black-chinned hummingbird
Hummingbird Trumpet
*Agastache rupestris*
Hummingbird trumpet

*Epilobium canum* ssp. *garrettii* = *Zauschneria garrettii*
Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea*
American Goldfinch
COVER/SHELTER

Plants also provide nest sites, nest material, hiding places.

Larger variety of plants, greater the variety of birds & bees your yard will attract.
Whether it is a safe place for:

• Sleeping

• A protected haven from the elements

• A hiding place to elude predators

or

• A secure nesting spot..............................
Providing shelter is an important way to make your property bird and bee friendly.
California quail
The larger the variety of plants you grow, the greater the variety of birds & pollinators your yard will attract.
WATER
Birds need water for drinking and bathing
Other Plants for Attracting Birds & Bees
Penstemon venustus  Venus penstemon
Showy milkweed
Asclepias speciosa
Butterflyweed  *Asclepias tuberosa*
Honeybee on saffron crocus in late October
In Southern Idaho, native species include:

Munro globemallow

Gooseberryleaf globemallow

Sphaeralcea munroana

S. grossulariifolia
Tufted Evening-primrose  \( (Oenothera caespitosa) \)
GREAT PLANTS FOR ATTRACTING BIRDS
(SOME PERSONAL FAVORITES)

Ash
Lilac
*Penstemon
Snowberry
*Purple coneflower
*Hackberry
Hawthorne
Maple
Trumpet vine
*Agastache
Box elder
Willow

*Golden currant
Elderberry
Serviceberry
*Oakleaf sumac
Blue spruce

* = some of the plants we have discussed
For Wildlife

- Food-producing plants
- Nectar-producing plants
- Evergreens for thermal cover
- Bird houses
- Let fallen trees decay
- Brush piles
- Feeders and *birdbaths*
- Create or keep *snags*
Red-breasted nuthatch