

REEMS CREEK NURSERY

Birds

A Garden Guide

Birds are delightful, wonderful additions to any garden. To attract them, provide year round access to food, water, and shelter. Habitat loss is a significant issue for many birds. Gardeners can be part of the solution by planting native species and creating wildlife habitat.



Water

* Birds are attracted to the sound of dripping water. Good sources can be a fountain, drip bath, or slow sprinkler. A birdbath is another option - be sure to keep it clean.

Food & Shelter

* Think layers - a mixed variety of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, & wildflowers is best for providing food and shelter throughout the year. **Native species are best.** Note that the standard American lawn provides little useful habitat or food for birds.

* “Right now, about 80% of our ornamental plants are from Asia. Our local insects can’t eat them because they haven’t evolved to deal with the defensive chemicals within the plants. Now at the same time, 96% of birds are rearing their young on insects. In fact, about six to nine thousand caterpillars are used to rear one clutch of chickadees. So we end up creating these landscapes that are actually one of the biggest hits on biodiversity.” - Professor Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware

* Don’t deadhead flowers. Leave the stalks up thru the winter & cut them down in early spring. Many birds such as Finches, Sparrows, Towhees, Buntings, Thrashers & Juncos relish the later winter treats they find on members of the Aster family & more. For inspiration, check out some of the extraordinary spaces garden designer Piet Oudolf has created.

* Allow leaves to remain on the ground, and create brush piles.

Selected species for attracting birds in Western North Carolina

Botanical name	Common name	Birds attracted includes
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maples	Mockingbirds, Finches, Vireos, Nuthatches, Wrens, Cardinals, Crows, Bluejays, Sparrows, Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, Woodpeckers, Orioles
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maples	Orioles, Nuthatches, Wrens, Vireos, Thrushes, Woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, Crows, Bluejays, Wood-warblers, Mockingbirds, Chickadees, Titmice, Finches
<i>Aesculus sp.</i>	Buckeyes	Hummingbirds feed on early nectar
<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>	Juneberries, Serviceberries	Orioles, Tanagers, Bluebirds, Towhees
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking Sticks	Sparrows, Nuthatches, Thrushes, Orioles, Mockingbirds, Vireos, Wood-warblers, Cedar Waxwings, Crows, Bluejays, Woodpeckers
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberries	Vireos, Wood-warblers, Sparrows, Thrushes, Woodpeckers, Crows, Bluejays, Meadowlarks, Catbirds, Cedar waxwings, Mockingbirds, Orioles
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberries	Wild Turkeys, Bluejays, Mockingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Orioles, Vireos, Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Sparrows
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birches	Sparrows, Thrushes, Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Waxwings, Orioles, Finches, Crows, Bluejays, Mockingbirds, Vireos, Wrens
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Purple Beautyberries	Crows, Bluejays, Vireos, Woodpeckers, Orioles, Robins, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Sparrows, Chickadees, Titmice, Wood-warblers, Wrens,
<i>Callicarpa americana lactea</i>	White Beautyberries	Bobwhites, Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Thrushes
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Musclewood	Thrushes, Orioles, Wrens, Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmice, Vireos, Finches,

		Woodpeckers, Mockingbirds, Sparrows, Nuthatches, Ruffed Grouse, Wood Ducks, Yellow-rumped Warblers
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickories	Crows, Bluejays, Sparrows, Finches, Nuthatches, Orioles, Chickadees, Titmice, Mockingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Woodpeckers, Cardinals, Wood-warblers, Thrushes, Nuthatches
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	Bobwhites
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbushes	Vireos, Mockingbirds, Wrens, Cedar Waxwings, Cardinals, Sparrows, Wood-warblers, Nuthatches, Finches, Orioles, Thrushes, Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds catch insects on this shrub
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbuds	Chickadees, Cedar Waxwings, Wrens, Nuthatches, Titmice, Sparrows, Wood-warblers, Cardinals, Thrushes, Woodpeckers, Mockingbirds, Crows, Bluejays, Vireos
<i>Clethra acuminata</i>	Cinnamon Bark Clethras	Hummingbirds
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweets	Hummingbirds
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwoods	More than 90 species of birds feed on Dogwood fruits including Vireos, White-throated Sparrows, Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Kingbirds, Thrushes, and many Warblers; other birds hunt for insects in their bark.
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Pale Dogwoods	
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Roughleaf Dogwoods	
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwoods	
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnuts	Downy Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, Bluejays
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	American Persimmons	Wood-warblers, Chickadees, Titmice, Cardinals, Vireos, Woodpeckers, Wrens, Mockingbirds, Thrashers,

		Cedar Waxwings, Nuthatches, Orioles, Crows, Bluejays, Sparrows
<i>Eutrochium sp.</i> (formerly <i>Eupatorium</i>)	Joe Pye Weeds	Thrushes, Sparrows, Vireos, Titmice, Wood-warblers, Waxwings, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Nuthatches, Wrens, Crows, Bluejays, Orioles, Cardinals, Chickadees
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beeches	Grouse, Wild Turkeys, Woodpeckers, Crows, Bluejays, Finches, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Sparrows, Wrens, Thrushes, Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmice, Orioles, Vireos, Cedar Waxwings
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American Witchhazels	Orioles, Chickadees, Titmice, Finches, Woodpeckers, Wrens, Nuthatches, Vireos, Cardinals, Sparrows, Thrushes, Crows, Bluejays, Mockingbirds, Thrashers
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangeas	Wild Turkeys, Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Crows, Bluejays, Thrushes, Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Nuthatches, Sparrows, Cardinals, Woodpeckers, Vireos
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Hollies	Wood-warblers, Cardinals, Vireos, Chickadees, Titmice, Cedar Waxwings, Nuthatches, Wrens, Crows, Bluejays, Sparrows, Orioles, Catbirds, Bluebirds, Robins, Hermit Thrushes
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Hollies	Mockingbirds enjoy holly fruit.
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnuts	Sparrows, Nuthatches, Cardinals, Vireos, Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Wood-warblers, Mockingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Crows, Bluejays, Orioles, Carolina Wrens, Chickadees

<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedars	Woodpeckers, Finches, Orioles, Nuthatches, Mockingbirds, Bluebirds, Catbirds, Evening Grosbeaks, Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Crossbills, Cedar Waxwings
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Northern Spicebushes	Robins, Bluebirds, Gray Catbirds, Great Crested Flycatchers, Hermit Thrushes, Red-Eyed Vireos, Veeries, Wood Thrushes
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet Gums	Sparrows, Finches, Thrushes, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Cardinals, Wood-warblers, Chickadees, Towhees, Carolina Wrens, Cedar Waxwings, Vireos, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Titmice, Juncos
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Poplars	Purple Finches, House Finches, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Wood-warblers, Wrens, Orioles, Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Thrushes, Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Mockingbirds, Thrashers
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckles	Hummingbirds, Bluebirds, Finches, Wood-warblers, Orioles, Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Woodpeckers, Sparrows, Crows, Bluejays, Chickadees, Titmice, Thrushes, Cardinals, Nuthatches
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber Trees	Red-eyed Vireos, American Redstarts, Towhees, Robins, Grouse, Wild Turkeys, Northern Flickers, Pileated
<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf Magnolias	
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweet Bay Magnolias	
<i>Morus sp.</i>	Mulberries	Woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatchers, Bluejays
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Northern Bayberries "the Big Mac of plants" due to high fat content in berries	Robins, Waxwings, Cardinals
		Robins, Chickadees, Cedar Waxwings, Gray Catbirds, Kinglets, Red-Eyed Vireos, Tree Swallows, Yellow-rumped Warblers

<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gums	Crows, Bluejays, Woodpeckers, Wrens, Cardinals, Thrushes, Wood-warblers, Orioles, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Nuthatches, Vireos, Chickadees, Titmice, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwings
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwoods	Wild turkeys, Bobwhites, Grouse
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Maypops	Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Vireos, Chickadees, Titmice, Sparrows, Woodpeckers, Waxwings, Orioles, Cardinals, Wood warblers, Crows, Bluejays, Finches
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebarks	Ducks, Geese, Doves
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeweed	Chickadees, Titmice, Cardinals, Orioles, Woodpeckers, Crows, Bluejays, Finches, Thrushes, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, Sparrows
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pines	Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Chickadees, Titmice, Wrens, Sparrows, Wood-warblers, Vireos, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Thrashers
<i>Pycnanthemum sp.</i>	Mountain Mint	Wood-warblers, Finches, Orioles, Cedar Waxwings, Sparrows, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Vireos, Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmice, Crows, Bluejays, Nuthatches
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oaks	Wrens, Finches, Vireos, Sparrows, Thrushes, Crows, Bluejays, Orioles, Chickadees, Bobwhites, Turkeys, Cedar Waxwings, Grosbeaks, Woodpeckers, Titmice, Cardinals, Grouse. Oaks are widely used for food and nesting sites.
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oaks	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oaks	

<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	Sweet Azaleas	Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, Vireos, Cardinals Woodpeckers, Orioles, Nuthatches, Wood-warblers, Crows, Bluejays, Wrens, Chickadees, Titmice, Sparrows
<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba Rhododendrons	Nuthatches, Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Chickadees, Titmice, Sparrows, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Orioles, Woodpeckers, Cardinals, Wrens, Crows, Bluejays, Wood-warblers
<i>Rhus sp.</i>	Sumac	More than 95 species have been observed eating sumac berries including Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Tanagers
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	White Sassafras, Cinnamon Wood	Cedar Waxwings, Vireos, Nuthatches, Wood-warblers, Crows, Bluejays, Chickadees, Titmice, Thrushes, Wrens, Orioles, Sparrows, Woodpeckers, Cardinals
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Blue Stems	Woodpeckers, Crows, Bluejays, Nuthatches, Wood-warblers, Cardinals, Finches, Thrushes, Vireos, Chickadees, Titmice, Waxwings, Sparrows, Wrens
<i>Solidago sp.</i>	Goldenrods	Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Thrushes, Crows, Bluejays, Woodpeckers, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Orioles, Wood-warblers, Nuthatches, Wrens, Vireos, Chickadees, Titmice
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberries	Cardinals, Vireos, Crows, Bluejays, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Wrens, Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Orioles, Waxwings, Wood-warblers, Sparrows
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwoods	Robins, Grosbeaks, Thrushes, Nuthatches, Vireos, Wrens, Crows,

		Bluejays, Wood-warblers, Chickadees, Titmice, Sparrows, Orioles, Cardinals, Cedar Waxwings, Catbirds, Thrashers, Towhees, Bobwhites, Cuckoos, Bluebirds, Woodpeckers
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Possum Haws	
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Black Haws	

SOURCES: National Audubon Society, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Reems Creek Nursery staff experts, Pine Ridge Gardens.

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