



**Native Plants for Birds**  
 Recommended by  
 Wild Ones Greater DuPage Chapter

By creating different levels of plants in your home landscape, you can provide both shelter and food for birds. Use a diversity of plants, including large and small trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses, which provide berries, associated insects, nectar, nesting sites and nesting materials and shelter throughout the year.

\*Please Note\* this is only a partial list of native plants used by birds in DuPage County, & those that are not subject to disease & insect problems.

**Trees** (provide shelter, nesting sites & food)

Common Name	Latin Name	Food Provided
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Nectar, seeds
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Seeds
Ash-Leaf Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Seeds
Eastern Hop Hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Seeds
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Fruit
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Fruit
Oak (bur, red, white, etc.)	<i>Quercus spp.</i>	Acorns, caterpillars
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Nectar
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Fruit
Smooth Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Fruit
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Sap, seeds
Wild Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Caterpillars, fruit

**Shrubs** (provide shelter, nesting sites, & food)

Common Name	Latin Name	Food Provided
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Nuts
Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Fruit
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Nectar
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Fruit
Common Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Seeds
Elderberry, common	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Fruit
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Fruit
Illinois Rose, etc.	<i>Rosa setigera</i>	Fruit
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Fruit
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Fruit
Wild Gooseberry	<i>Ribes missouriense</i>	Fruit

## Native Plants for Birds cont.

### Flowers (Forbs) (provide food)

Common Name	Latin Name	Food Provided
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Nectar, seeds
Asters	<i>Aster spp.</i>	Seeds
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Nectar
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Seeds
Cup Plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Seeds, water
Foxglove Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Nectar
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Seeds
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Seeds
Royal Catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	Nectar
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	Seeds
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Nectar

### Grasses (provide shelter, nesting material & food)

Common Name	Latin Name	Food Provided
Common Oak Sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Seeds
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Seeds
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Seeds
Nodding Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Seeds
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Seeds
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Seeds
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Seeds

### Vines (provide shelter, nesting material & food)

Common Name	Latin Name	Food Provided
Grape Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera reticulata</i>	Fruit, nectar
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Fruit
Wild Grape	<i>Vitis spp.</i>	Fruit

### **Water**

In addition to a landscape with different levels of vegetation; a healthy bird habitat should include a source of water. This can be a simple bird bath, or as complex as a pond or stream.

#### References:

Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds by Mariette Nowak

[www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info)