



Garden Talk

Plants the Attract

Garden Birds

Better Plants & Better Advice

Gardening for birds is easy, fun and rewarding. Bird life varies widely through the seasons, and Arizona is one of the major migratory routes from North to South. Birds will want to rest, nest and feed from you home when provided with three basic essentials. When attracting birds keep in mind these three basics . . .

Cover, Water & Food

Many new birders start with the feeder and wonder why so few birds visit their home. Birds want to feel safe and the height of trees, cover of shrubs or the fruit and colors of flowers provide safety. Plants that provide berries, fragrant flowers and dense cover will promote more bird activity. The attached list of plants is designed to attract a larger flock and variety of birds.

Water - Birds like to bath, drink and play in water that is no deeper than 3 inches. A simple bird bath will

suffice, but you can get much more elaborate with ponds, waterfalls and fountains. Just make sure there is a spot for birds to frolic in the water features. Birds are like people in that they prefer a bathing area similar to a beach sloping into the water. As things begin to freeze in winter, water becomes more important. Water can be kept open by pouring hot water in a birdbath each morning, or try using a bird bath heater.

Food - Feeders for seed, thistle socks, suet holders and Hummingbird and Oriole feeders are excellent additions to a backyard habitat planted with seed and fruit producing trees, shrubs and flowers. Titmice, Chickadees, Jays and many others are attracted to sunflower seed, and Goldfinch especially love thistle seed. Suet is enjoyed, even needed in winter, by all insect eating birds.

The Beginnings

We Plan, You Plant design service. Take advantage of this valuable designing service offered exclusively by Watters. Visit wattersonline.com and print out the 'We Plan, You Plant', design service.

First take stock of your existing landscape. Most of the native plants are utilized by different species of birds. Many shrubs don't look showy to us, but are a virtual gourmet grocery store to birds.



Make a simple sketch of your home, outdoor living areas, utility areas and existing trees and shrubs so we can better plan a suitable bird friendly yard that welcomes new visitors.

Next - Decide on the types of plants you like from the attached list. It is entirely possible to have a lovely yard that is also bird friendly. An arrangement of tall, medium and short plants is best for attracting birds. Cover and food type plants come in all sizes. Different types of birds feed and live at all levels of the yard. From the ground loving Quail and Flycatchers, to the high flying Oriole and Cardinals there are habitats for each. If you are interested in attracting a particular type of bird, then add more of their favorite plants.



Finally

The addition of shorter grasses and even weeds will attract more birds. The seed formed from weeds and grasses are a staple diet for many birds. If you have the space add mounds of rocks, brush piles and even leaving dead trees upright or fallen will attract a broader variety of birds.

Try to avoid spraying insecticides in the birds habitat. A large number of insect eating birds will be attracted to the new habitat you've created. The more birds, the more insect eating creatures you have in the yard. They will keep bugs under control. If you do need to spray, remove feeders and bird baths from the area. Avoid spraying during the peak feeding times before 9 AM and after 4 PM.

Now you can put the bird feeders and houses up to supplement your birds natural wildlife habitat.

Tall Canopy Plants

Aspen
Cherry
Chokecherry
Cottonwood
Fir
Golden Chain Tree
Golden Rain
Hackberry
Hawthorn



Currant
Desert Willow
Elderberry
Euonymus
Fruit Trees
Gooseberry
Honeysuckle
Juniper
Lavender
Lilac
Manzanita
Mimosa, Albezia
Mock Orange
Mountain Mahogany
Nanking Cherry
Oregon Grape, Mahonia
Plum
Potentilla
Privet
Pyracantha
Quince
Red Tipped Photinia
Redbud
Rhododendron
Roses

Sand Cherry
Service Berry
Snowberry
Spirea
Squawbush, Rhus
Sumac
Weigela

Low Growing Plants

Autumn Sage, Salvia
Aster
Astilbe
Akebia
Beans
Bee Balm
Blackberry
Blanket Flower, Gaillardia
Borage
Butterfly Weed, Asclepias
Candytuft
Clematis
Columbine
Cornflower, Echinacea
Coral Bell
Coreopsis
Cosmos
Cupids Dart, Catananche
Delphinium
Dianthus
Fleabane, Erigeron
Forget-Me-Not
Foxglove
Fuchsia
Gayfeather, Liatris
Geranium
Gladiolus
Goldenrod, Solidago

Grapes
Hollyhock
Honeysuckle
Iris
Ivy
Junipers Beard, Centranthus
Lobelia
Lupine
Marigolds
Monkey Flower, Mimulus
Oregon Grape, Mahonia
Oregano
Penstemon
Phlox
Pincushion Flower, Scabiosa
Potentia
Ranunculus
Red Hot Poker
Rubeckia
Sage
Salvia
Sea Pink Thrift, Armeria
Sedum
Shasta Daisy
Silver lace Vine
Snap Dragon
Speedwell, Veronica
Spider Flower, Cleome
Spirea
Strawberries
Sweet Peas
Trumpet Vine
Virginia Creeper Winter creeper
Yarrow
Zinnia

Medium Canopy Plants

Abelia
Algerita
Apache Plume
Apples
Barberry
Beauty Bush
Blue Beard, Caryopteris
Buckwheat
Buffalo Berry
Burning Bush
Butterfly Bush
Chase Tree, Vitex
Chitalpa
Clethera
Cliff Rose
Cotoneaster
Crabapple



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