



## Living Bird Feeders

Native plants are a cost effective and low-maintenance solution to attract birds all year!

Wild bird populations need our help! It's estimated in the last 50 years there has been a 29% decrease in breeding bird populations. This is 2.9 billion birds, or 1 out of 4, lost since 1970 ([3billionbirds.org/findings](https://3billionbirds.org/findings)). We can help protect birds by supporting land conservation efforts and creating bird habitat in our own yards.

### Tips for Supporting Birds in the Landscape:

🐦 **Add Host Plants:** Adult birds can **only** feed their babies soft bodied insects like caterpillars, and they need A LOT of them! Dr. Tallamy's research found that one chickadee needs 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to raise one nestling batch. Adding host plants that feed caterpillars helps provide birds with enough food for their young.

🐦 96% of terrestrial birds rely on insects supported by keystone plant species (National Wildlife Federation). **Keystone species** including **Oaks**, **Red Maple**, and **Goldenrod** can feed hundreds of different types of caterpillars. For more information on host plants, check out our Plants for Butterflies lists.

🐦 **Plant a Tree Grove:** Birds won't make nests in areas that don't have enough caterpillars or safe locations to build a nest. Planting a tree grove of 3 or more trees 6 feet apart can maximize the diversity of resources and help trees stay smaller and sturdier.

🐦 **Add a mix** of plants that offer berries, nuts, and fruit to attract a wide range of birds. Try to add species that offer food resources at different times of the year. Winter food resources are especially valuable.

🐦 **Add Bunchgrasses** like **Switchgrass**, *Panicum virgatum*, **Bluestems**, *Anatherum* or *Schizachyrium* spp., or **Lovegrass**, *Eragrostis* spp. Birds will eat the seeds and gather grass blades to build their nests with.

🐦 **Watch out for invasives!** Birds may still eat berries from non native or invasive plants, but it isn't always good for them. Non native plants don't have the same nutritional components and some may even harm birds. Heavenly Bamboo, *Nandina domestica*, is an invasive shrub commonly found in landscapes. It has red berries that birds eat, but the berries contain Cyanide and can harm birds. **Removing invasive plants from our landscapes is one of the best things we can do to protect biodiversity and support birds.**

🐦 **Protect Birds from Windows** especially large windows that reflect habitat. There are resources online for decals that can be applied to the outside of windows to help protect birds from flying into them.

🐦 **Create a bird friendly backyard.** Keep cats inside or in an outdoor "catio" where they can't harm birds. Omit pesticide applications that reduce bird's food supply. Turn off lights at night to help migrating birds find their way. Leave some open soil if possible for birds to take dust baths. Consider adding a small water feature. Fountains, bubblers, misters, or bird baths with moving water can help birds find the water.

# Living Bird Feeders List

KEY: 🍇 Fruit or Seeds for Adult Birds 🌿 Host Plant Feeds Baby Birds 🏠 Nesting Habitat

## Small to Medium Shrubs 3-5 Feet Tall:

- 🌿🍇 Compact Inkberry, *Ilex glabra* 'Compacta'
- 🌿🍇 Dwarf Wax Myrtle, *Morella cerifera* 'Don's Dwarf'
- 🌿🍇 Darrow's Blueberry, *Vaccinium darrowii*
- 🌿🍇 Dwarf Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*  
'Taylor's Rudolph'
- 🍇 Dwarf Walter's Viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*
- 🍇 Virginia SweetSpire, *Itea virginia* 'Henry's Garnet'

## Large Shrubs up to 12 Feet Tall:

- 🍇 American Beauty Berry, *Callicarpa americana*
- 🌿🍇 Blueberry, *Vaccinium* spp.
- 🌿🍇 Arrowwood Viburnum, *Viburnum dentatum*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Saw Palmetto, *Serenoa repens*
- 🍇 Hearts-a-bustin' *Euonymus americanus*

This list is not all inclusive. Many native plants support birds and play a role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Sizes are approximate. Final size will depend on the species and the location where it is planted. Trees will stay smaller when planted in a grove.

Please check our plant profiles on our website for more information on tree sizing ranges.

All species are residential friendly!

## XL Shrubs and Small Trees: Up to 25 Feet Tall:

- 🌿🍇 Plum, *Prunus* spp.
- 🍇 Deciduous Holly, *Ilex decidua*
- 🍇 Dahoon Holly, *Ilex cassine*
- 🍇 Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Myrtle Oak, *Quercus myrtifolia*
- 🍇 Simpson's Stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*
- 🍇 Button Bush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*

## Medium Sized Trees: 25 - 40 Feet Tall:

- 🌿🍇 American Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*
- 🍇 Topal Holly, *Ilex x attenuata*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Sand Live Oak, *Quercus geminata*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Sand Pine, *Pinus clausa*

## Canopy Up to 50 Feet Tall:

\* Indicates tree may be taller in open ideal conditions

- 🌿🏠🍇 White Oak, *Quercus alba*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra*
- 🌿🏠🍇 River Birch, *Betula nigra*
- 🌿🏠🍇 Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*
- 🌿🏠🍇 \*Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*
- 🌿🏠🍇 \*Longleaf Pine, *Pinus palustris*
- 🌿🏠🍇 \*Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*

# Living Bird Feeders

Native Trees and Shrubs to Support Wild Birds

KEY: 🍇 Fruit or Seeds for Adult Birds 🌱 Host Plant Feeds Baby Birds 🏠 Nesting Habitat

## Small to Medium Shrubs 3-5 Feet Tall:



🌱🍇 **Compact Inkberry**  
*Ilex glabra* 'Compacta'  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Any Soil Type



🌱🍇 **Dwarf Wax Myrtle**  
*Morella cerifera* 'Don's Dwarf'  
Any Light and Soil Type



🌱🍇 **Darrow's Blueberry**  
*Vaccinium darrowii*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Dry - Average Soil



🌱🍇 **Dwarf Yaupon Holly**  
*Ilex vomitoria* 'Taylor's Rudolph'  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Any Soil Type  
Tolerates poor sand and clay



🍇 **Dwarf Walter's Viburnum**  
*Viburnum obovatum*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Average Soil  
Adaptable to most conditions  
except deep shade or extra dry  
soils



🍇 **Virginia SweetSpire**  
*Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet'  
Part Sun - High Shade  
Moist - Dry Soil

## Large Shrubs up to 12 Feet Tall:



 **American Beauty Berry**  
*Callicarpa americana*  
Shade - Part Sun  
Any Soil Except Flooded



 **Blueberry**  
*Vaccinium spp.*  
Full Sun - High Shade  
Dry - Average Soil



 **Arrowwood Viburnum**  
*Viburnum dentatum*  
High Shade - Part Sun  
Wet - Average Soil



 **Saw Palmetto**  
*Serenoa repens*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Dry - Average Soil



 **Hearts-a-bustin'**  
*Euonymus americanus*  
Part Sun - Full Shade  
Dry - Moist Soil

## XL Shrubs and Small Trees up to 25 Feet Tall:



 **Plum**  
*Prunus spp.*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Dry - Average Soil



 **Deciduous Holly**  
*Ilex decidua*  
Full Sun - High Shade  
Average - Wet Soil



 **Dahoon Holly**  
*Ilex cassine*  
Full Sun - High Shade  
Any Soil



 **Elderberry**  
*Sambucus canadensis*  
Full Sun - Filtered Light  
Moist - Dry Soil



  **Myrtle Oak**  
*Quercus myrtifolia*  
 Full Sun - High Shade  
 Dry - Average Soil



 **Simpson's Stopper**  
*Myrcianthes fragrans*  
 Full Sun - Part Sun  
 Dry - Average Soil



 **Button Bush**  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
 Full Sun - Part Sun  
 Flooded - Average Soil



  **Yaupon Holly**  
*Ilex vomitoria*  
 Full Sun - Part Sun  
 Any Soil Type

## Medium Sized Trees 25 - 40 Feet Tall:



  **American Persimmon**  
*Diospyros virginiana*  
 Full Sun - High Shade  
 Dry - Average Soil



 **Topal Holly**  
*Ilex x attenuata*  
 Full Sun - Part Sun  
 Any Soil Type



  **Sand Live Oak**  
*Quercus geminata*  
 Full Sun - High Shade  
 Dry - Average Soil



  **Post Oak**  
*Quercus stellata*  
 Full Sun - Part Sun  
 Dry - Average Soil



  **Eastern Red Cedar**  
*Juniperus virginiana*  
 Full Sun - High Shade  
 Any Soil Type



  **Sand Pine**  
*Pinus clausa*  
 Full Sun  
 Very Dry - Average Soil

## Canopy Trees Up to 50 Feet Tall:

\* Indicates tree may be taller in open ideal conditions



🌿🏠🍷 **White Oak**  
*Quercus alba*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Dry - Average Soil



🌿🏠🍷 **Red Maple**  
*Acer rubrum*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Any Soil Type



🌿🏠🍷 **Pignut Hickory**  
*Carya glabra*  
Any Light Conditions  
Dry - Average Soil



🌿🏠🍷 **River Birch**  
*Betula nigra*  
Full Sun - High Shade  
Any Soil Type



🌿🏠🍷 **Black Gum**  
*Nyssa sylvatica*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Any Soil Type



🌿🏠🍷 **\*Bald Cypress**  
*Taxodium distichum*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Any Soil Type



🌿🏠🍷 **\*Longleaf Pine**  
*Pinus palustris*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Any Soil Type



🌿🏠🍷 **\*Black Cherry**  
*Prunus serotina*  
Full Sun - Part Sun  
Average - Dry Soil

Check out [Francis M. Weston Audubon Society](#) to learn more about supporting birds and [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) for stationary bird feeders to compliment living bird feeders.