



### More Bird-Friendly Tips

- **PLANT LIKE NATURE.** A diversity of native plants yields a diversity of insects and more birds.
- **ELIMINATE THE USE OF PESTICIDES.** A mix of insects and others will create a natural balance.
- **TOLERATE LEAF DAMAGE.** All native insects are beneficial and nibbled leaves means your yard is functioning.
- **PROVIDE FRESH WATER.** All birds bathe and drink.
- **BE VIGILANT.** Birds will transport invasives to your yard so learn to identify and remove exotic invasive plants. Native “weeds” on the other hand, might be beneficial.
- **CONSIDER COLOR AND TEXTURE.** Native flowers and other herbaceous plants come in a variety of shapes, colors, and textures to enhance your habitat garden.
- **EXPLORE YOUR WORLD.** Get out there and see what shows up.
- **STOP CLEANING UP.** Dead wood, fallen leaves and spent perennials host countless organisms so leave them in your ecological landscape.

### Resources

**Native plants** (where to buy, database, designs, etc.): [www.iconservepa.org](http://www.iconservepa.org)

**Plant/bird database**—more on what plants and why: [www.pabirdplants.org](http://www.pabirdplants.org)

**Register your bird habitat:** <http://pa.audubon.org>

**National Audubon Society:** [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

**Designing with natives:** [www.dwtm.net](http://www.dwtm.net)

**Great Backyard Bird Count:** [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)



BIRD TOWN  
PENNSYLVANIA

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# WHAT PLANT FOR WHICH BIRD?

Ten Great Plants  
for an Ecological  
Landscape in  
Pennsylvania



BIRD TOWN  
PENNSYLVANIA

## 1. OAKS (Genus: *Quercus*)

**Why:** Top tier producer for primary consumers: a critical host plant for caterpillars (Lepidoptera), which are a prime food source for birds during nesting season. There are also many other insects that rely on oaks. Oak mast (acorn crop) is an important resource for many birds, insects and other animals.

**What birds:** Jays, woodpeckers, warblers and many other birds that will either feed on acorns or the myriad of caterpillars and insects.

**Native examples:** White, black, swamp, pin, red, scarlet.

**General information:** Some grow to 100 feet. Most oaks are large, deciduous trees and do well in full sun.

## 2. DOGWOODS (Genus: *Cornus*)

**Why:** The well-known flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a valuable fall-fruiting tree, but most native dogwoods are multi-stemmed shrubs that provide important cover, food and nesting sites for birds.

**What birds:** At least 36 species including American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Cedar Waxwing, most thrush species, and vireo species.

**Native examples:** Red-osier, alternate-leaved, gray, silky, flowering.

**General growth habit:** Dogwood shrubs have a rounded form and can reach 15 feet in height. They are tolerant of variable sun/soil conditions and make great landscape plants.

## 3. CHERRY (Genus *Prunus*)

**Why:** One of the most valuable plants in any landscape, cherries are a favored food source for many birds and equally as important to Lepidoptera and other insects.

**Which birds:** 41 species including Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Thrasher, oriole species (food, nesting), all woodpecker species and all thrush species.

**Native examples:** Black, pin, chokecherry.

**General information:** Dry-moist soil, tolerates periods of drought, can reach 75 feet, often narrow, pyramidal shape to 25–40' spread.

## 4. HOLLY (Genus: *Ilex*)

**Why:** Great winter resource for birds providing both food and cover at a critical time of the year.

**Which birds:** 36 species including members of the thrush family, Brown Thrasher, White-eyed Vireo, and woodpeckers.

**Native examples:** Winterberry, Inkberry, American.

**General growth habit:** Evergreen and dense, winterberry is deciduous and tolerant of wet soil.



## 5. PINES (Genus: *Pinus*)

**Why:** Great winter cover, key nesting sites and important source of seed.

**Which birds:** 43 species including nuthatch species, several warblers, towhees, juncos, and woodpecker species.

**Native examples:** Eastern white, pitch, red

**General growing habits:** Medium to fast growing; dry, acidic, and/or sandy soils.

## 6. SERVICEBERRY (Genus: *Amelanchier*)

**Why:** High bird value in the fruit.

**Which birds:** 36 species including Brown Thrasher, Northern Flicker and Swainson's Thrush.

**Native examples:** Shadbush (Juneberry), smooth, downy.

**General growing habits:** Versatile soil dry/moist, sun/shade, grow to 40'.

## 7. BIRCH (Genus: *Betula*)

**Why:** Seeds and buds are highly prized by birds, butterfly host plant.

**Which birds:** 33 species including American Goldfinch, nuthatch species and orioles.

**Native examples:** Gray, river, yellow, sweet.

**General growing habits:** Fast growing tolerant of moist or wet soil (river) and partial shade.

## 8. APPLE (Genus: *Malus*)

**Why:** Fruits and other plant parts are eaten by many birds, key host plant, excellent nesting and cover site.

**Which birds:** About 28 species including Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Cedar Waxwings.

**Native examples:** Sweet (American), Southern (coastal plain).

**General growing habits:** Moist soil, part shade, susceptible to leaf rust.

## 9. ELDERBERRY (Genus: *Sambucus*)

**Why:** Fruits eaten by many birds, excellent cover plant for birds.

**Which birds:** At least 48 species including thrushes, woodpeckers, flycatchers, and grosbeaks.

**Native examples:** American black, red.

**General information:** To 12', tolerates wet and dry conditions.

## 10. VIBURNUMS (Genus: *Viburnum*)

**Why:** Fruiting-bearing shrubs, insect host plant, great cover plant, tolerant of varying conditions.

**Which birds:** At least 24 species including Cedar Waxwings, thrushes and several flycatcher species.

**Native examples:** Arrowwood, witherod, maple-leaved, cranberry

**General growing habit:** Globose or irregular, deciduous, winter interest, fall color, varied conditions.