

## Landscaping for Birds and Other Wildlife in Oklahoma

One of the key elements for enhancing your yard for birds and other wildlife is the planting of trees, shrubs and vines that provide food and shelter. American Goldfinches, Purple Finches, White-throated Sparrows and Mourning Doves all benefit from trees such as Sweetgum, White Ash and Red Maple that provide seeds. Oaks and hickories produce nuts that provide food for Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Blue Jays and Nuthatches. Fruit-bearing plants attract a wide variety of birds based upon the season during which their fruit ripens. Northern Mockingbirds and American Robins are attracted to fruit throughout the year. Summer-fruiting plants attract Brown Thrashers and Northern Orioles, while winter-fruiting plants attract Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Still other plants produce flowers that are attractive to Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Some of the best trees and shrubs for wildlife are native species. Unfortunately, many of these are rare in the commercial nursery trade, but the increasing interest in native plants has made it more economically feasible to grow and sell these plants commercially than was the case 10 years ago. Below is a partial list of native and cultivated plants that will attract birds in central Oklahoma.

Some points to keep in mind:

- Some species of trees and shrubs have separate male and female plants with only the female producing fruit or seeds. These include hollies, bayberry, mulberry, persimmon, red cedar, sassafras, ashes. Usually one male is sufficient to pollinate 4 to 8 females so if you have the choice, purchase more female than male plants.
- Some trees and shrubs will produce many times more fruit if they are pollinated by another, unrelated member of their species. Where possible, plant two or three unrelated plants near one another especially if you are growing viburnums, dogwoods, cherries, plums or beautyberries.

### Medium to Large Trees:

White Oak (*Quercus alba*); native, produces acorns  
Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*); native, produces acorns  
Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*); native, produces acorns  
Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*); native, produces acorns  
Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardi*); native, produces acorns  
Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*); native, produces acorns  
Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*); native, produces acorns  
Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*); native, produces acorns  
Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*); native to the southeast, produces acorns, evergreen  
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*); native, produces nuts  
Black Hickory (*Carya texana*); native, produces nuts  
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*); native, produces spring seeds  
Boxelder (*Acer negundo*); native, produces fall seeds  
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*); native, produces fall seeds  
Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*); native, produces winter fruit  
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*); native, produces winter fruit  
American Elm (*Ulmus americana*); native, produces spring seeds  
Western Soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*); native, produces winter fruit  
Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*); native, produces summer fruit  
Asian Mulberry (*Morus alba*); Asian origin, produces spring fruit  
Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*); southern U.S. native, produces fall fruit, evergreen  
Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*); native, produces summer and fall fruit  
White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*); native, produces fall and winter seeds  
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*); native, produces summer fruit  
Chittamwood Tree (*Bumelia lanuginosa*); native, produces fall fruit, semi-evergreen

### Small Trees:

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*); native; produces late summer and fall fruit  
Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*); Asian origin; produces late summer and fall fruit  
Carolina Buckthorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*); native; produces late summer and fall fruit  
Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*); eastern U.S. native; produces fall and winter fruit  
Parsley Hawthorn (*Crataegus marshallii*); native, produces late summer and fall fruit  
Carolina Cherry Laurel (*Prunus carolinus*); southern U.S. native, produces fall and winter fruit, evergreen

Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*); native; produces summer and fall fruit  
Sour Cherry (*Prunus cerasus*); Asian origin, produces summer fruit  
American Holly (*Ilex opaca*); native, produces fall and winter fruit  
Eastern Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*); native, produces winter fruit  
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*); native, produces late summer and fall fruit  
Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*); native, produces summer fruit  
Sargent's Crabapple (*Malus sargentii*); Asian origin, produces fall and winter fruit  
Flowering Crabapple cultivars (multiple cultivars including: *Malus* 'Hopa,' 'Profusion,' 'Radiant,' 'Zumi,' 'Sugar Tyme,' 'Red Jade,' 'Royalty,' 'Eleyi,' and 'Snowdrift'); Asian hybrids, produce summer or fall fruit.

#### Large Shrubs (over 10 ft)

Standard Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*); native, produces fall and winter fruit, evergreen  
Deciduous Holly (*Ilex decidua*); native, produces winter fruit  
Warren's Red Deciduous Holly (*Ilex decidua* 'Warren's Red'); native, produces winter fruit  
Foster Holly (*Ilex x attenuata* 'Fosteri'); produces fall and winter fruit, evergreen  
Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*); native, produces summer and fall fruit  
Bayberry Waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*); native, produces fall and winter fruit, evergreen  
Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*); Chinese origin; produces fruit in fall; invasive in eastern Oklahoma  
Chinese Photinia (*Photinia serrulata*); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit, evergreen  
Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*); eastern U.S. native, produces summer and fall fruit  
Rusty Blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*); native; produces fall fruit  
Milky Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster lactea*); Asian origin, produces fall and winter fruit, evergreen  
Amur Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maacii*); Asian origin; produces fall fruit; invasive in eastern Okla.

#### Small to Medium Shrubs (3 to 10 feet)

Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*); eastern U.S. native; produces summer and fall fruit  
Willowleaf Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster salicifolia*); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit, evergreen  
Winged Euonymus (*Euonymus alata*); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit  
New Mexico Privet (*Forestiera neomexicana*); western U.S. native, produces late summer and fall fruit  
Glossy Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*); Asian origin, produces fall and winter fruit; evergreen  
Leatherleaf Grapeholly (*Mahonia bealei*); Asian origin, produces spring fruit, evergreen  
Oregon Grapeholly (*Mahonia aquifolium*); western U.S. native; produces summer fruit; evergreen  
American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*); native, produces fall fruit  
Chinese Beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma*); Asian origin, produces fall fruit  
Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*); native, produces summer and fall fruit  
Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*); native, produces summer and fall fruit  
Winged Sumac (*Rhus copellina*); native, produces fall and winter fruit  
Golden Clove Currant (*Ribes odoratum*); native, produces summer fruit  
Weeping Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria* "Pendula"); native cultivar, produces winter fruit, evergreen  
Leatherleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*); Asian origin, produces summer fruit  
Doublefile Viburnum (*Viburnum tomentosum*); Asian origin, produces summer fruit  
American Cranberry Viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*); eastern U.S. native, produces fall fruit  
European Cranberry Viburnum (*Viburnum opulus*); European origin, produces summer and fall fruit  
Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit  
Wintergreen Barberry (*Berberis julianae*); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit, evergreen  
Dwarf Burford Holly (*Ilex cornutum* 'Burfordi dwarf'); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit, evergreen  
Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*); Asian origin, produces winter and fall fruit, evergreen

#### Vines:

Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*); native, produces flowers for hummingbirds and summer fruit  
Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata*); southeast native, produces summer flowers for hummingbirds  
Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*); native, produces red flowers for hummingbirds  
American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*); native, produces fall and winter fruit  
Muscadine Grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*); native; produces summer and fall fruit  
Pepper Vine (*Ampelopsis arborea*); native, produces summer fruit