USING NATIVE PLANTS TO ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

In many cases, California native plants already play a part in the life of the birds. Native plants can provide food as well as an escape from predators. With water, cover and food, your garden will become a productive bird habitat.

Many common and uncommon birds will be attracted to fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. In addition to feeding on the fruit various small birds feed on the insects that frequent the plants. Avoid garden use of pesticides because of direct and/or indirect absorption by birds. (We distribute another information sheet covering California native plants that attract hummingbirds.)

THE FOLLOWING ARE TREES AND SHRUBS WHICH DO BEST IN DRY LOCATIONS. HOWEVER, THEY DO NEED WATER IN DRY WEATHER UNTIL THEY BECOME ESTABLISHED.

SHRUBS
- Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)
- Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica)
- Laurel Sumac (Rhus laurina)
- Manzanita (Arctostaphylos spp.)
- Oregon grape (Berberis spp.)
- Blue Elderberry (Sambucus mexicana)
- Sages (Salvia apiana, S. clevelandii, S. mellifera)
- Woolly Bluecurls (Trichostema lanatum)
- Western Redbud (Cercis occidentalis)
- Coyote Brush (Baccharis pilularis)
- California Wild Lilac (Ceanothus spp.)
- California Fuchsia (Zauschneria californica)
- California Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum)

TREES
- Oaks (Quercus spp.)
- Buckeye (Aesculus californica)
- Pines (Pinus radiata & other natives)
- Fan Palm (Washingtonia filifera)

THE FOLLOWING ARE TREES AND SHRUBS WHICH DO BEST IN MOIST LOCATIONS. THEY NEED TO HAVE SOME WATER AVAILABLE DURING THE DRY SEASON, SUMMER THROUGH FALL.

SHRUBS
- Honeysuckle & Twinberry (Lonicera spp.)
- California Wild Rose (Rosa californica)
- Creek Dogwood (Cornus spp.)
- Snowberry (Symphoricarpos spp.)
- Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus)
- California Wild Grape (Vitus californica)

TREES
- White Alder (Alnus rhombifolia)
- California Sycamore (Plantanus racemosa)
- California Cottonwood (Populus fremontii)
- Willow (Salix spp.)
REFERENCES: GARDENING FOR BIRDS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS DESIRABLE FOR GARDENS AND BIRD SANCTUARIES. THE THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION. SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA.

GARDENING FOR LIFE: AN INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE TO CREATING HEALTHY HABITAT. 2003 SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY.

SUNSET WESTERN GARDEN BOOK 1985 EDITION. KATHLEEN N. BRENZEL SUNSET PUBLISHING COMPANY.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE. SUNSET MAGAZINE, NOV. 2002. A GOOD ARTICLE WHICH GIVES INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEXT REFERENCE.

WILDLIFE HABITAT PLANNING GUIDE FOR BACKYARDS & BEYOND $14.95 FROM NWF BACKYARD HABITAT. 11100 WILDLIFE CENTER DR., RESTON, VA. 20190. TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN, REQUEST BY MAIL OR DOWNLOAD AT www.nwf.org/backyard_wildlife_habitat.


EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT. 2004. PLANTS and LANDSCAPES for SUMMER DRY CLIMATES of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION. (AN UPDATE OF BOOK PUBLISHED BY EBMUD, 1987, ABOUT GARDENING WITH WATER-THRIFTY PLANTS.)

THE BIRDERS HANDBOOK. 1988 EHRICH, DOBKin AND WHEGE.

AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND PLANTS: A GUIDE TO WILDLIFE FOOD HABITS. 1951. MARTIN, ZIM AND NELSON. DOVER Publications.

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO ATTRACTING BIRDS: 1995 SUNSET PUBLISHING COMPANY.

PLANTS AND BULBS FOR THE WESTERN GARDEN. CATALOG FALL 2003: HIGH COUNTRY GARDENS. 1-800-925-9387 www.highcountrygardens.com (notes plants as nectar source for hummingbirds, for butterflies, as well as resistance to rabbits and deer damage; also information appropriate for shade or xeriscape gardening).