

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

TOP 10 NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS

If you want to bring birds to your own backyard, planting native species is the way to go! Birds have evolved alongside native plants, and have adapted to use them for their berries, as cover and nesting sites, and as hotspots to forage for the insects which also rely on native species. Below you will find our top ten list of native plants that are great for birds. Many of these species are available for purchase at our spring and fall [plant sales](#).

- 1. Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)**
 - A shrub that reaches 10 feet in height and spread
 - Flowers are inconspicuous and bloom in the spring
 - Fruits are grey to white in color and appear late in the summer, persisting through winter
 - Attracts over 85 species of birds, including tree swallows, chickadees, and warblers
- 2. Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)**
 - A shrub that grows up to 6 feet in height and spread
 - Showy white flowers in the spring
 - Dark purple fruits appear in early fall
 - Attracts over 21 species of birds, including chickadees, thrashers, and meadowlarks
- 3. Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)**
 - A shrub that grows up to 12 feet in height and spread
 - Blooms in clusters of small, white or pink-tinged flowers in the spring
 - Blueberries ripen in the summer
 - Attracts over 30 species of birds, including bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, cardinals, and robins
- 4. Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)**
 - A tree that grows up to 30 feet in height and spread
 - Showy white flowers bloom during the spring
 - Bright red fruits appear in the fall and persist until winter
 - Attracts over 40 species of birds, including cedar waxwings, cardinals, mockingbirds, and woodpeckers.
- 5. Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)**
 - A shrub that reaches 10 feet in height and spread
 - White flowers are showy and bloom from mid-spring to early summer
 - Dark blue fruits occur in the fall
 - Attracts over 35 species of birds, including flycatchers, eastern bluebirds, and flickers
- 6. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)**
 - A shrub that grows up to 12 feet in height and spread
 - Yellow flowers bloom during the spring
 - Fruits are bright red and occur in the fall
 - Attracts over 24 species of birds, including kingbirds and great-crested flycatchers
- 7. American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)**
 - A tree that reaches up to 30 feet in height and 20 feet in spread
 - Inconspicuous white flowers bloom in the spring
 - Showy red berries ripen in the fall and persist through winter
 - Attracts over 18 species of birds, including mourning doves, northern bobwhites, and wild turkeys
- 8. Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)**
 - A shrub that reaches 12 feet in height and 8 feet in spread
 - White flowers are showy and bloom in late spring through summer
 - Ball-like fruits are showy and persist through winter
 - Attracts over 25 species of birds, including towhees, robins, and kingbirds
- 9. Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)**
 - A shrub that reaches up to 9 feet in height and 12 feet in spread
 - Showy white flowers bloom from spring to early summer
 - White fruits are showy and appear in late summer
 - Attracts over 98 species of birds, including tanagers, catbirds and woodpeckers
- 10. Allegheny Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)**
 - A shrub that grows to 6 feet in height and 12 feet in spread
 - Flowers white and showy; bloom from spring to early summer. Blackberries ripen during the fall
 - Attracts over 145 species of birds, including white-throated sparrows, woodpeckers, and catbirds