

**Better for birds, better for the environment.** Attract birds to your home by choosing native plants—and give your feathered friends the food and shelter they need to thrive, all year long.

Did you know that with some careful plant choices, you can create a wild-bird haven in your own garden, patio, or balcony, and help both resident and migratory birds in the face of habitat loss and climate change? All you need to do is choose native plants—plants that naturally occur in the area where you live. You'll bring more birds to your home—and more beauty in the form of a colorful array of native flowers, shrubs, and trees. You'll also help bird populations across the country adapt and flourish, now and in the future.

## About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon's state programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon's vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive.

Visit Audubon online for more information and tips on creating your bird-friendly space.

[audubon.org/plantsforbirds](http://audubon.org/plantsforbirds)



**Audubon**

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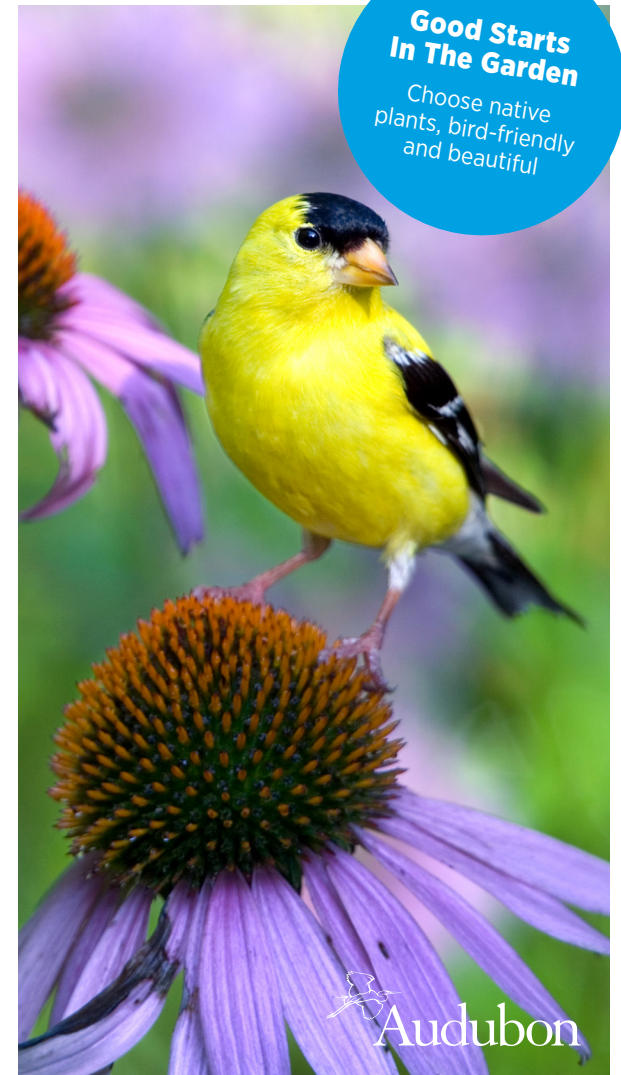
PLANTS FOR BIRDS

# Creating a Bird-Friendly Space with Native Plants

A program of Audubon's Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants

**Good Starts  
In The Garden**

Choose native  
plants, bird-friendly  
and beautiful



**Audubon**

# Gardening with Native Plants—8 Plants to Get You Started



MILKWEEDS



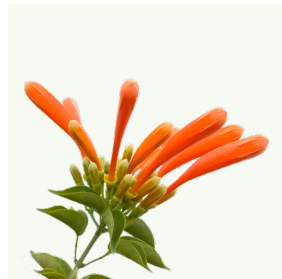
SUNFLOWERS & CONEFLOWERS



ELDERBERRIES



PINES



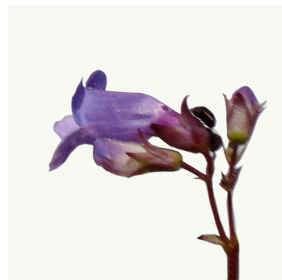
HONEYSUCKLES



OAKS



SERVICEBERRIES



PENSTEMONS

By growing a native plant garden, each patch of habitat you create becomes part of a collective effort to repair and sustain the living landscape for birds. Native plants provide essential, nourishing food in the form of nuts, seeds, and fruit for birds such as Wood Thrushes, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Bullock's Orioles—all threatened by the changing climate—and nectar for pollinators such as hummingbirds. Natives also host many kinds of insects—particularly moth and butterfly caterpillars—that young birds need to grow healthy and strong.

Since native plants are adapted to local precipitation and soil conditions, they don't need artificial fertilizers or pesticides, and generally require less upkeep—therefore helping the environment and saving you time, water, and money.

The key to getting started is picking the right plants for your area. These eight plant groups are a great starting point because they're found across North America, are easy to grow, and are available at native plant nurseries. But remember, there are thousands of native plants out there, many unique to your part of the country. Find out what particular species grow where you live at [audubon.org/nativeplants](https://www.audubon.org/nativeplants).

## MILKWEEDS (*ASCLEPIAS* SPP.)

Milkweeds, perennials best known for hosting monarch butterfly caterpillars, attract loads of insects that are eaten by a range of birds. Hummingbirds also feed at milkweed flowers, while orioles and finches use the plants' soft seed pod fiber to weave their nests.

## SUNFLOWERS (*HELIANTHUS* SPP.) AND CONEFLOWERS (*ECHINACEA* SPP.)

Sunflowers and coneflowers attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. After they go to seed, these closely related plants provide feasts for goldfinches, siskins, and other birds.

## ELDERBERRIES (*SAMBUCUS* SPP.)

In early summer, the white flower clusters of this vigorous shrub attract many pollinators. In late summer its bright dark-blue fruits provide food for many birds including the Brown Thrasher and Red-eyed Vireo.

## PINES (*PINUS* SPP.)

During the cold winter months, pine "nuts" provide nourishing food for finches, nuthatches, and many other birds. The evergreen foliage of conifers such as pine, spruce, juniper, and hemlock also shelters birds from predators and the elements.

## HONEYSUCKLES (*LONICERA* SPP.)

The tubular flowers of native honeysuckle vines are magnets for hummingbirds and other pollinators, while the vines' berries provide fall and winter food for birds like Purple Finches and Hermit Thrushes.

## OAKS (*QUERCUS* SPP.)

These trees are an integral part of the food chain, so planting just one really helps your yard's diversity. Both migrating and breeding songbirds are drawn to the abundance of insects on oaks; woodpeckers, jays, and others feast on the ripe acorns. Birds also use the cavities and crooks of these trees for nesting and shelter.

## SERVICEBERRIES (*AMELANCHIER* SPP.)

Tanagers, grosbeaks, and many other bird species gorge themselves on the tasty fruit of the serviceberry. This flowering shrub is also a host for many insect species, providing important nutrition for growing birds.

## PENSTEMONS (*PENSTEMON* SPP.)

Penstemons bear flowers in a variety of colors, and are attractive to hummingbirds and other pollinators. The tiny seeds of these perennials are eaten by ground-feeding birds.

## Create Your Own Bird-Friendly Space

To find the best plants for your area, visit Audubon's native plants database at [audubon.org/nativeplants](https://www.audubon.org/nativeplants). Create a customized list of plants native to your area, learn what types of birds they'll attract, and get connected to your local Audubon, native plant nurseries, and other resources. You'll also find informative articles and tips on how to make your garden, patio, or community space an environmentally healthy haven for birds and other wildlife. Wherever you live, you can help sustain our country's birds with native plants.