

Bird Haven

Most would agree that Portlanders are lucky to live in a city with so much green space. Our combination of rivers, parks and mild climate allows Portland to host a vast array of birds and wildlife, and many will visit or even nest in local yards with a few easy changes.

Invite avian wildlife to your yard by:

- Creating cover
- Providing Food
- Providing Water

Cover

Birds tend to appear in places that make them feel secure. Security, from a bird's point-of-view, is all about good vantage points from which to survey for predators (domestic cats and hawks for example).

Descending from a high point, birds like to maintain cover, so the creation of a tiered, multi-level environment will be very inviting.

- Tall trees – 25 feet or higher
- Dense, eye-level shrubs – 6-12 feet
- Low shrubs – 1-4 feet

Including a broad variety of plants will in turn draw a wider variety of birds to your yard

Conifers – Cypress, Pine, Hemlock

Broadleaf Evergreens – Daphne, Osmanthus

Deciduous shrubs - Cotoneaster, Beautyberry

Perennials & annuals

Vines & Groundcovers

Information provided by Mike Wallace, Stephanie Mack & attractwildbirds.com

Food

Birds eat a varied diet of berries, seeds, nuts, grains, insects and nectars depending on their seasonal needs. For instance, some will want sugary berries during nesting season and fatty nuts toward winter. Your yard will be more habitable if you provide a variety of foods year round.

Plant trees and shrubs that will provide berries, nuts & seeds

DOGWOOD – CRABAPPLE – OAK - SUMAC
HEPTACODIUM – ARONIA - BARBERRY
HOLLY – COTONEASTER – SUNFLOWER

Plant flowers to provide nectar

HONEYSUCKLE – TRUMPET VINE –
DAYLILY
HOSTA – PENSTEMON – SALVIA

Install feeders for several different kinds of seeds, grains and fruits

STANDARD HOUSE FEEDER
FOR LARGE SEEDS LIKE
SUNFLOWER & SAFFLOWER



TUBE FEEDERS WORK FOR
THISTLE AND SMALL SEED
MIXES AND ARE AVAILABLE
WITH WIRE MESH FENCING
TO KEEP SQUIRRELS OUT

TRAY OR PLATFORM
FEEDERS ARE FOR FRUIT,
CORNCOBS, AND OTHER
LARGE TREATS



INCLUDE A NECTAR FEEDER TO ATTRACT
HUMMINGBIRDS YEAR ROUND

Seed buying guide

Cracked Corn – Jays, Woodpeckers

Fruit – Apples for Robins, Orange slices and dried fruit for Western Tanagers

Small grains & Seed Mix – Blackbird, Towhee

Suet – Chickadee, Jay, Warblers, Woodpeckers, Spotted Towhee

Sunflower – Chickadee, Finches, Jays, Woodpeckers

Thistle – Finches

Unsalted Nuts – Chickadee, Junco, Woodpecker, Jay

Nectar – 1 part sugar to 4 parts boiling water cooled completely for Hummingbirds, year round – food coloring is unnecessary & never substitute honey for sugar. Clean feeder every time it is refilled.

Nesting season is a good time to remove, clean and repair your feeders. Adults will bring their fledged young back to your feeders in late summer.

It should be noted that plants grown to provide fruit and berries for human consumption will also be attractive to birds.

Protect these plants with bird netting, reflective bird scare tape or motion sensing sprinklers.

Water

A third useful feature in your habitat garden would be a source of water for drinking and bathing. Bird baths should be placed among low-level cover plants.

Birds can misjudge the depth of water, so ponds should have wire mesh placed just below the surface. A protruding rock or driftwood will also provide a safe landing spot.

The Birds of Portland Nursery

The five acres of comparatively undeveloped land that make up Portland Nursery provide an unusually diverse plant community which serves many local birds as prime habitat. We host roughly 60 species in, near or flying over the nursery every year. Here is a list of some we have seen and heard.

Canada goose

Wood ducks

Mallards

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron - standing on our tables!

Turkey Vultures - overhead

Osprey - flying between the two rivers

Bald Eagles - cruising high overhead

Cooper's Hawk - regular hunter here

Red-Tailed Hawk - in tall trees surrounding the nursery

Sharp-shinned Hawk

American Kestrel - no longer as plentiful

Sandhill Cranes - in V formation overhead

Killdeer - trying to nest but wisely giving up

Rock pigeon - introduced old-world species

Band-tailed pigeon - in the tall conifers to the southeast of the nursery

Common Nighthawk - a rare visitor on summer evenings

Vaux's Swift - summer, especially at dusk

Anna's Hummingbird - year round

Rufous Hummingbird - migrating in spring

Belted Kingfisher - obviously headed to the pond at Laurelhurst Park

Downey Woodpecker - in our tree section

Hairy Woodpecker - also in the tree section

Northern Flicker - usually loudly calling in the tall trees around the neighborhood

Flycatchers and Pewees - several, but too hard to tell them apart

Cassin's and Warbling Vireos - usually in our tree section

Stellar's Jay - in the large conifers to the south

Western Scrub Jay - often in the junipers on back of the building

American Crow - almost everywhere!

Tree Swallow - early spring over the nursery

Violetgreen Swallow - most common summertime swallow

Barn Swallow - trying to nest in the warehouse in summer

Black-capped Chickadee - winter and spring

Chestnut Backed Chickadee - early spring

Red Breasted Nuthatch - heard in the tall conifers south of greenhouse 3

Bewick's Wren - a late winter singer in trees behind the fruit tree section

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - winter feeder in the shade tree section

American Robin - gathering in the tall deciduous trees prior to mating

European Starling - common introduced old-world species

Cedar Waxwings - in flocks, sometimes with the robins

Bushtits - resident in droves

Warblers:

Orange Crowned, Yellow Rumped, Townsend's,

Wilson's - mostly behind fruit tree section

Western Tanager - summer sightings

Spotted Towhee - spring singer in the brambles south of the share house

Song Sparrow - resident year round; nests are often parasitized by cowbirds

White Crowned Sparrow - late winter, migrating through

Golden Crowned Sparrow - late winter, but stays longer than the White Crowned Sparrow

House Sparrow - introduced old-world species, nests in our greenhouses

Dark-eyed Junco - winter and early spring

Brewer's Blackbird - briefly in summer

Brown-headed Cowbird - common in late spring and summer, very tame

House Finch - on phone wires singing in spring

Lesser Goldfinch - late winter through summer; nests here

American Goldfinch - occasionally in summer, becoming more common

Evening Grosbeak - in tallest deciduous trees surrounding the nursery; spring and summer

Attracting Birds to your Garden

Tips on creating your own backyard habitat

PLUS

Birds that visit the nursery
throughout the year.



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