

## Bringing Wildlife Home - Creating Native Gardens for Birds and Butterflies\*

The biggest impact for attracting and sustaining diversity is to focus on natives that are well suited for your bay area microclimate (see Sunset Climate Zones <http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map>), and building a vertical structure with a variety of plants that provide full season and life-cycle support. Key elements are water, shelter, safety from cats and window collisions and chemical free. This list of plants are ones that have a high value for wildlife. Value may be food in the form of nectar or berries, cover or nesting sites. Consider starting with a few plants, and aim for a minimum 50% native greenscape on a balcony, small patio, or established urban backyard. Get to know the birds, butterflies and other pollinators in your area and plant for them – they will come. Be fearless, dig in, go vertical and ENJOY.

\*The following list is not intended to be complete, but as suggestions for a starting point with plants of the highest wildlife value for your green patch.

### CANOPY

Boxelder ( <i>Acer negundo</i> )	Full sun/part shade Deciduous	Birds, butterflies, insects	Black-headed & Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee, Brown Creepers, Bewick's Wren, warblers
Cal Buckeye ( <i>Aesculus californica</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Birds, butterflies, insects	Anna's Hummingbird
Coast Live Oak ( <i>Quercus agrivolia</i> ) Valley Oak ( <i>Quercus lobata</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Both oaks have HI VALUE for all native birds + insects	Acorn WP, Titmice, Flickers, Mourning Doves, Scrub Jay White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Evening Grosbeak, Downy & Hairy Woodpecker, Western Tanager
Arroyo Willow ( <i>Salix lasiolepis</i> ) Red Willow ( <i>Salix laevigata</i> )	Full sun Full sun/part shade	Both have HI VALUE for insects, butterflies, dense cover, and nesting	Anna's Hummingbird, Wilson's & Yellow Warbler

### UNDERSTORY

Blue Ceanothus ( <i>C. thyrsiflorus</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Nectar, butterflies, dense cover	Quail
Western Redbud ( <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Nectar, for hummingbirds, bees	Hummingbirds, goldfinch
Red Osier Dogwood ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> )	Part shade	Fruits for birds in summer/fall	Summer Tanager, N. Flicker, Downy Woodpecker Robin, Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo Evening Grosbeaks, Mockingbird, sparrow

Cal Coffeeberry ( <i>Frangula californica</i> )	Full sun/part shade	HI VALUE all year for fruit, cover	Robin, Cal Thrasher, thrush and Western Tanager
Toyon ( <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> )	Full sun/part shade	HI VALUE all year	Towhees, Quail, Robins, Thrush, Western Bluebird Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Purple Finch
Holly Leaf Cherry ( <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Fruits for birds, butterfly larvae, cover	Scrub Jay, Robin, towhees, Mockingbird, finch, Cedar Waxwing, Black-headed Grosbeak

## SHRUBS

Cal Wax Myrtle ( <i>Myrica californica</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Hi VALUE fruit for birds, cover, and nesting. Fed on by 85 bird species Use as screen or hedge	Yellow-rumped Warbler, Scrub Jay, Cedar Waxwing, Flicker, Robin, Purple Finch, Downy Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, Wrentit, chickadee, Tree Swallow
Lemonade Berry ( <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> )	Full sun	Berries, butterfly adult & larvae, and cover. Fragrant, winter berries Used by 98 bird species	Flickers, chickadee, Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Bluebirds, tanagers, Black Phoebe, White- crowned sparrow, Downy Woodpecker
Flowering Current ( <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> )	Shade tolerant	HI VALUE nectar, fall berries Used by 31 bird species	Sparrows, thrush, Flicker, Bluebirds, hummingbirds
Blue Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus caerulea</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Hi VALUE: nectar, fruits, birds and Butterflies. Used by 21 species of birds	Robin, Bluebirds Black-headed Grosbeak, towhees, Flicker, Cedar Waxwing, Titmouse, Phainopepla, White-crowned Sparrow, doves, finch, warblers, Lesser Goldfinch, White-breasted Nuthatch

## GRASS

Purple Needlegrass ( <i>Stipa pulchra</i> )	Shade	Seeds & cover for birds, butterfly larvae	Dark-eyed Junco, finch, sparrows
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## FLOWERING PLANTS (low shrubs)

Black Sage ( <i>Salvia melifera</i> )	Full sun	Hi VALUE for bees & hummers	Hummingbirds
Yarrow ( <i>Achillea millefolium</i> )	Medium shade	Insects & bees	
Columbine ( <i>Aquilegia formosa</i> )	Shade	Bees & hummers	Hummingbirds
Milkweek ( <i>Asclepias species</i> )	Full sun	HI VALUE butterflies	Monarch butterflies
Ceanothus ( <i>C. thrysiflorus v. griseus</i> )	Full sun	Low lying cover, insects, hummers	Hummingbirds
California Fushia ( <i>Epilobium canum</i> )	Shade	HI VAUE: hummers, butterflies	Hummingbirds
Cal Buckwheat ( <i>E. fasciculatum</i> )	Full sun	Insects & bees	
Alum Root ( <i>Heuchera micrantha</i> )	Shade	Under oaks or rocky feature	
Penstemon ( <i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Bees, hummers	Hummingbirds
Cleveland Sage ( <i>Salvia clevelandii</i> )	Full sun	HI VALUE for hummers, butterflies	Hummingbirds
Purple Sage ( <i>Salvia leucophylla</i> )	Full sun	HI VALUE for hummers, butterflies	Hummingbirds
Hummingbird Sage ( <i>S. spathacea</i> )	Shade	HI VALUE for hummers, bees	Hummingbirds
Cal Bee Plant ( <i>Scrophularia californica</i> )	Shade	Bees	
Pacific Aster ( <i>Symphotrichum chilense</i> )	Full sun/part shade	Fall flowers for butterflies, insects, seeds	Goldfinch, sparrows, chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Titmice, towhees

### References:

1. Cal Flora. An enormous data base for native California plants. [www.calflora.org](http://www.calflora.org)
2. Las Pilitas Nursery and web site has information about native plants and the birds & insects they support. [www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com)
3. Guide to North American Birds web site for habitat and feeding information. [www.audubon.org/bird-guide](http://www.audubon.org/bird-guide)
3. Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site links to individual birds for their habitat and feeding needs. [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)
4. *Gardening for the Birds: How to Create a Bird-Friendly Backyard* by George Adams
5. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas W. Tallamy
6. *Bay-Friendly Gardening: from your backyard to the Bay* from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority & Source Reduction & Recycling Board
7. *Birds of Northern California* by David E. Quady, J. Dunn, K. Garrett, B. Small. Includes habitat information
8. *Backyard Birds of California: How to Identify and Attract the Top 25 Birds* by Bill Fenmore. Good starting guide for beginning birder gardeners

## Nurseries which may stock or order natives

### **Bay Natives**

10 Cargo Way (Pier 96), San Francisco (415) 287-6755, Fax: (415) 285-2240. [www.baynatives.com](http://www.baynatives.com) *Native plants for SFBay Area gardens and landscapes.*

**Berkeley Horticultural Nursery**, 1310 McGee Avenue, Berkeley, (510) 526-4704. [www.berkeleyhort.com](http://www.berkeleyhort.com) *Retail plants –with some natives.*

**Buckeye Nursery**, 2425 Adobe Road, Petaluma (707) 559-7081. [www.buckeye-nursery.com](http://www.buckeye-nursery.com) *Grower of California native plants*

**Capitol Wholesale Nursery, Inc.**, 2938 Everdale Drive, San Jose, (408) 239-0589. [cwnsales@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwnsales@sbcglobal.net) *Wholesale, retail and broker nursery that emphasizes sustainable landscapes.*

**East Bay Wilds**. 2777 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, (510) 409-5858. <http://www.eastbaywilds.com>. *Will also do design and installation with natives.*

**Main Street Trees**, 2751 Beard Road, Napa, (707) 257-2783. [www.MainStreetTrees.com](http://www.MainStreetTrees.com) *Native trees & shrubs, non-natives & fruit trees.*

**Mostly Natives Nursery**, 27235 Hwy One, P.O. Box 258, Tomales, (707) 878-2009. [www.mostlynatives.com](http://www.mostlynatives.com) *Wholesale & retail plants, coastal natives and drought-tolerant plants.*

**North Coast Native Nursery** 2710 Chileno Valley Rd. Petaluma, (707) 769-1213. [www.northcoastnativenursery.com](http://www.northcoastnativenursery.com) *Native plants for woodland, coastal and riparian habitats, wholesale & retail seed & plants, contract collect & grow, re-vegetation and restoration, call ahead.*

**Oaktown Native Plant Nursery**, 702 Channing Way, Berkeley, (510) 387-9744. <http://www.oaktownnativenursery.info> *Wholesale and retail grower of species from all major plant communities of the greater Bay Area and beyond.*

**Ploughshares Nursery**. 2701 Main St., Oakland, (510) 755-1102. <http://ploughsharesnursery.com>. *Offers gardening classes, natives and succulents.*

**Sonoma Valley Wholesale Nursery**, 19655 Arnold Dr., Sonoma, (707) 815-8600. Hours: 8:00 - 4:00 M-F; 8:00-12:00 Sat. [www.sonomavalleynursery.com](http://www.sonomavalleynursery.com). *Locally-owned wholesale nursery dedicated to sustainable organic methods. Specializing in California natives and plants particularly suited to thrive in our region. Open to public on Tuesdays 8:00-4:00 year round, and on Saturdays 8:00-12:00 from April-October.*

**SummerWinds Nursery**, 725 San Antonio Rd. Mountain View, CA.(650)967-3154. <http://summerwindsnursery.com> *Good selection of natives.*

**The Watershed Nursery**, 601 A Canal Blvd., Richmond, Ca. 94804, (510) 234-2222. [www.TheWatershedNursery.com](http://www.TheWatershedNursery.com) *Grows a wide variety of plants providing for a high degree of native plant/habitat biodiversity.*

**Yerba Buena Nursery@ Pastorino Farms**, 12511 San Mateo Rd. (Highway 92), Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, (650) 851-1668. [www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com) *Retail plants and some seed, specializing in Drought Tolerant California Natives. Generally over 200 varieties of Natives in stock. In operation since 1960, offering expert staff and garden design services.*

## Garden Notes and Bird Sightings

The information herein was produced using the many sources available as noted above by Pati Rouzer for the Sequoia Audubon Society with the support of a grant by the National Audubon Society to promote preparedness for a changing landscape and to establish resilience in our urban green spaces for our birds and pollinators. All errors and omissions are the responsibility of Rouzer.

February 2016