



CHIRP, CHIRP, HURRAY!

BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

HOW TO HELP LOCAL BIRDS IN YOUR YARD

With a little bit of education and a lot of heart, we can achieve peaceful co-existence with wildlife throughout the urban forest, starting with our own backyards! Both LEAF and TWC have extensive information on our websites. Here are some tips on how to make your yard more bird friendly.

1. PROVIDE FOOD

Plant multi-layered yards with a variety of native plants to attract a variety of birds. Depending on the species and the season, local birds will consume insects, seeds, nuts, fruits and other plant matter. Plant species that fruit at different times of the year and let flowers go to seed.

2. PROVIDE WATER

Include a bird bath close to the ground. The water level should be less than 2 inches deep and the basin rough for traction. Clean it twice a week.

3. PROVIDE SHELTER

Plant evergreens to provide excellent cover year round, especially during the winter. Birds also use deciduous trees and shrubs as nesting sites.

4. KEEP THEM SAFE

Make a more hospitable environment for visiting birds by ensuring their safety. Avoid using chemical pesticides and fertilizers, break up reflective surfaces, install nest boxes, keep cats indoors or on leashes and replace birdfeeders with natural, year-round food sources.

WHICH TREES & SHRUBS ARE BEST FOR BIRDS?

Planting native trees and shrubs in urban yards can help local birds by providing much needed shelter and food sources year-round. Here are some of the best!

SHELTER



Silver maple
Acer saccharinum

In addition to the ecological benefits of being a very large tree, this species offers ideal conditions for cavity-nesting birds, like owls and woodpeckers, as it matures.



Red osier dogwood
Cornus sericea

The dense foliage of this shrub provides excellent shelter from predators and inclement weather. It is a favoured nesting site for the American goldfinch.



White spruce
Picea glauca

This evergreen tree, often planted as a single specimen, maintains its dense foliage year-round, sheltering birds from predators when most other trees are bare.



Eastern white cedar
Thuja occidentalis

This evergreen tree, often planted in a hedgerow, is great alternative for small yards. Its dense foliage provides much needed protection from harsh winter weather.

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SPRING & SUMMER FOOD SOURCES



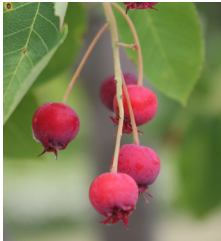
Eastern redbud
Cercis canadensis

This species is one of the first to bloom in the year with colourful magenta flowers that are known to attract nectar-seeking species, such as hummingbirds.



Common elderberry
Sambucus canadensis

This shrub produces clusters of sweet berries that mature in late summer and are enjoyed by tanagers, grosbeaks and other songbirds.



Serviceberry
Amelanchier laevis

This species produces tasty fruit in early summer that attract cedar waxwings and other fruit-eating birds to urban yards. The berries are delicious for humans, too!



Grey dogwood
Cornus racemosa

The small fruit of this species are a favourite among local birds in mid-to-late summer and will be sought out by robins, orioles and other fruit-eating birds.

FALL & WINTER FOOD SOURCES



Common ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius

The fruit of this shrub persist into winter. In the cold months, seed-eating, overwintering birds, such as the mourning dove, will feast on its seeds.



Common snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus

The white, waxy fruit of this shrub develops in clusters and persist through the winter, making it a great food source for cedar waxwings, thrushes and more.



Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

This hardy tree bears fruit that ripen in the fall and persist throughout the winter, providing woodpeckers and other overwintering species with a late-season food source.



Bur oak
Quercus macrocarpa

The acorns of this tree persist into winter providing overwintering blue jays and other local birds with one of the most highly nutritious, natural winter food sources.

TORONTO WILDLIFE CENTRE

If you find a sick, injured or orphaned wild animal, contact our Wildlife Emergency Hotline:

416-631-0662

And for more information, visit www.torontowildlifecentre.com

LEAF

LEAF offers subsidized planting programs that make it easy to help wildlife in your yard. To learn more about the trees, shrubs and garden kits offered, visit www.yourleaf.org or call 1-888-453-6504

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

OPG is committed to being a leader and innovator in advancing biodiversity education and protection by working with partners across Ontario.

Visit www.opgbiodiversity.ca

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