

Volume 6, Issue 12-2008, December 2008

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine



It's all about  
the birds!

Published by The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

## A Monthly Web Magazine

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Rocky Mountain Juniper  
(*Juniperus scopulorum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# About this Web Magazine



This Journal was created under the direction of Wally Hansen – a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' Our goals are:

- A** — To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.
- B** — To help you create your own Native Plant Gardens, large or small, for home or work.
- C** — To help you propagate and “grow on” those species that interest you the most.
- D** — To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.
- E** — To help the reader enjoy native plants more by understanding the historical and cultural role of native plants (i.e.—use by Native Americans, Pioneers, Early Botanists, etc.).



# On the Cover

## Hummingbird in flight

The rapid flapping of the hummingbird's wings was much quicker than the camera's shutter speed but this is exactly how the human eye perceives the hovering hummer.

The dark green forest behind and the shrub in the foreground frame the ray of sun that chose this moment to spotlight of Wally's favorite bird species.

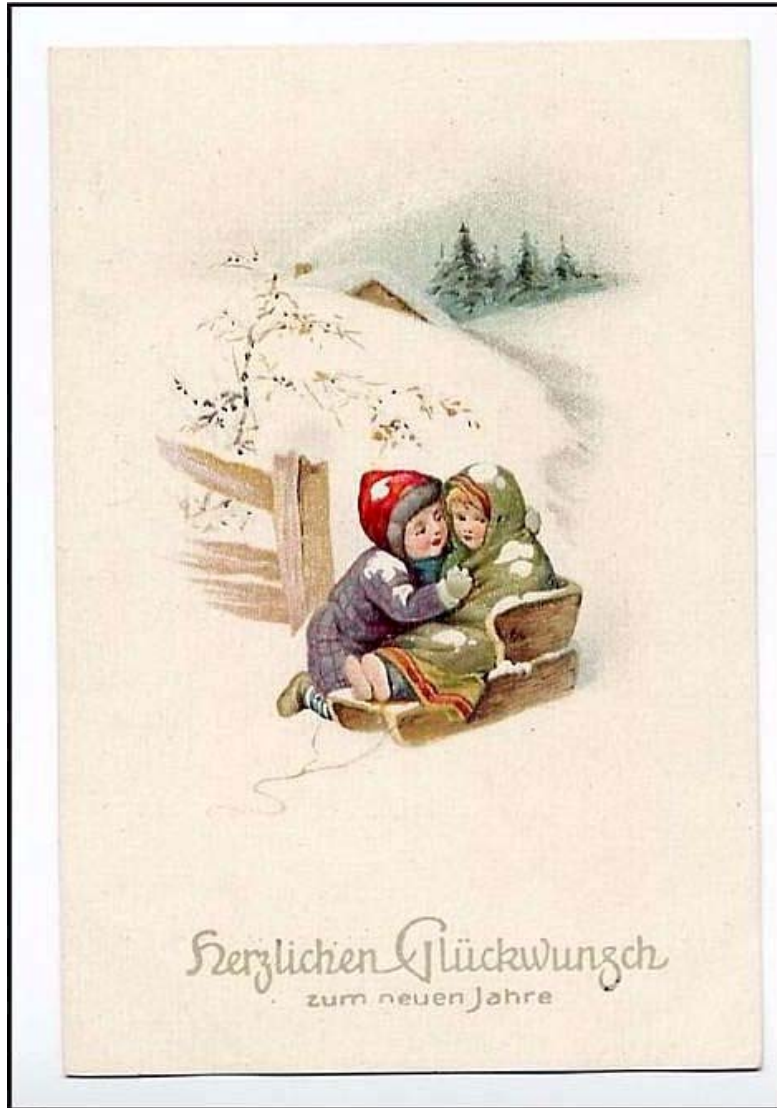
I wonder where the tiny feathered one was going when he/she paused to observe the photographer on this fine June day. Perhaps to the Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*) in bloom up the hill or the Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*) closeby. Both flowers are favorites of the hummingbirds we see here in Oregon.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# To Do List



## Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1 – When frost or snow threatens, put a light covering over tender plants that have planted during the past year. After a winter or two they'll toughen up but a bit of pampering the first year will be appreciated.
- 2 – Mulch if you haven't done so already.
- 3 – Enjoy armchair gardening when weather is inclement. Plan next year's garden, journal what happened this year.
- 4 – Cut small branches of conifers and other evergreens for fresh greenery indoors. Add some rose hips and snowberries for a pop of color.





# Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Winter.

Short jumps to find food and a quick drink, then  
back to the nest.

Sleep.

Snuggle.

Wait for sunrays.

That's a squirrel's winter.

Might be good for two-leggers, too.

Enjoy.

See you next time.

Your friend,

***Sparky***



# Bird Gardening

## Attract your favorite feathered friends with wise plant choices

As we learned in the 1989 movie, *Field of Dreams*, if you want a particular guest to visit, make a perfectly inviting space for that special guest and then wait.

And just like Kevin Costner dreamed, "if you build it, they will come." (Actually his line was 'if you build it, *he* will come.')

So, if you've got your heart set on seeing flocks of chickadees or hummingbirds or even Black-Bellied Plovers, prepare for their arrival. Remember, attracting birds requires four basic elements:

- Food
- Cover
- Water
- A place to rear their young.

Everything but the water can be provided by a garden of carefully selected native plants.

We'll begin by showing some favorite birds and the plants they love.



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California Quail painting by Ron Sumner  
Victor's birdhouse  
Snowberry in the background (*Symnocarpus*)  
Photo s by JoAnn Onstott



# Bird Gardening, continued

## Allen's Hummingbird

3"



## Hummingbirds

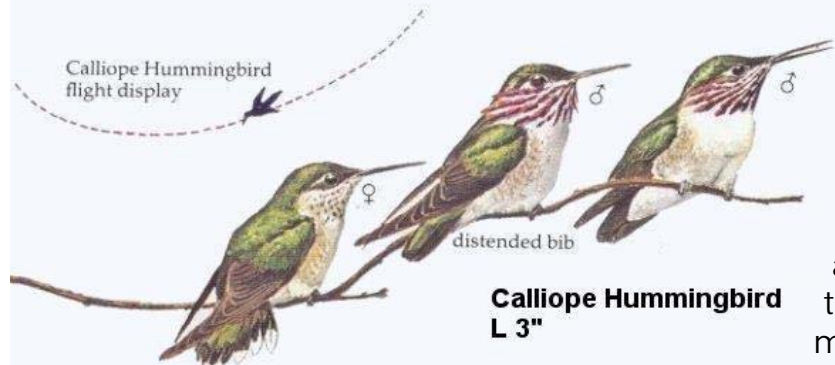
Hummers, as Wally calls them, are native to the Americas and are probably the most acrobatic of all birds.

They hover in mid-air by flapping their wings 15-80 times per second making a humming sound as they move the air around them. They can keep this up for several minutes at a time.

They are the only birds that can actually fly backwards. They can also fly vertically and laterally. They are also so cute it almost hurts to look at them. No matter how often

we see them, they never fail to make us freeze right in our tracks and listen to the sound of those fast-moving feathered wings.

Hummers follow the same trail day after day and do not stray far from that path. This is called traplining by birding enthusiasts.



Here's a trick to take advantage of their natural behaviour and vary their highway a little. After you've planted your bird garden, prepare a decoy potted plant, one that has loads of bright flowers. Watch and wait until you see the hummer trail. Place your decoy so that they can see it as they go by. Chances are in a day or two you will have an adventurer coming to see this new treat. Gradually move it closer to your bird garden, 3-4 feet per move. Soon they will add your garden to their daily route.

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Young hummer. Photo  
by JoAnn Onstott





# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

It is said that birds have little or no sense of smell, but they do have sharp eyes. It is the brightness of bloom that gains these little bird's attention and an abundance of nectar that brings them right in.

Hummingbirds are notorious for their love of things red so let nature be your guide here. A selection of flowering plants that bloom in succession will give a continuous supply of food. Native plants produce far more nectar than any cultivar.

Right, most beloved of all flowers for hummingbirds, Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*). Photo by JoAnn Onstott  
Below, a Texas lady tries a successful experiment!



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# Bird Gardening, continued

## Chickadees

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

These little birds are my personal favorite. Their little caps sit atop their heads like half-masks and their bright eyes don't miss a thing. They are brave and industrious, pecking away at gravel and sidewalks, between cracks in brickwork, wherever a bug or seed might be found.

Mating games are not very structured or elaborate. The nest will usually be located in a cavity of a tree and lined softly to protect the eggs. The male will gather food and call the female out to feed her before she flits back to keep the eggs warm. Sometimes the female will do food duty and bring the bounty to her mate.



Chickadees are a gardener's helper, eating every spruce budworm or cankerworm within their hunting grounds.

As smart as they are charming, chickadees will stash food away when it is plentiful, saving it for times when the pickings are sparse.

**Black-Capped Chickadee**  
**L 4.75"**

Good community birds, when a fine feast is discovered the chickadees announce it to one and all and welcome other birds such as nuthatches, kinglets and woodpeckers to share. Because they are not migratory, they usually know where to find the good stuff.

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

Pines are a favorite of the chickadee because of the plentiful bugs and commodious nesting areas.

Most native perennials are an attraction because of the seeds that follow the flowers. Elderberries are a chickadee magnet with all those clusters of juicy fruits.

The non-migratory status means winter-bearing fruited trees and shrubs will be welcome. Snowberries are good cold weather food. The Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) keeps its seeds most of the year, a perfect bird garden plant.



Remember that food-hoarding activity we mentioned? The chickadee stores away an astonishing amount of food and prepares each morsel before stashing. They remove the head of bugs and spiders and take the husks of seeds. Only when properly dressed does the little chickadee put it away in many different locations. Never will the chickadee put all his or her goods in one basket!

This is another need the big conifers fill--plenty of hiding places in an old Doug Fir to store up extra food.

**Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)**  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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# Bird Gardening, continued



## Finches

Year-round residents in Oregon, the Goldfinch is easy to identify--who else has such a bright yellow coat? They flock in fields of weeds, roadsides and wherever seed-bearing trees are found. An especial treat for them is dandelions.

Very happy in company of other birds, the Goldfinch sings in flight and sort of bounces along on the air currents. It's a joyful noise and a feast for the eyes. It is said the brilliant color comes from the plant materials in the diet.

A peculiarity of the American Goldfinch is the way it uses its feet when feeding. It hangs upside down to get at seeds more easily. When the object of its appetite is a spring catkin, it will pull it up with its beak and use its toes to hold the catkin against a branch while it eats its fill. Ingenious!

Canadian Goldenrod  
(*Solidago canadensis*  
var. *salebrosa*)  
Photo by JoAnn  
Onstott



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# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

Fortunately there are many alternatives to dandelions to attract Goldfinches.

Purple coneflowers are always good for a finch garden, as are Evening Primroses (*Oenothera*) and Goldenrod (*Solidago*), lots of native shrubs-- the wild roses, Oregon Grape (*Mahonia*), Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*), birches, alders, conifers, asters and berries. They like to use the soft down of Milkweed to line their nests.



From top: Milkweed, Rosehips, Evening Primrose (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hirsutissima*) Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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# Bird Gardening, continued

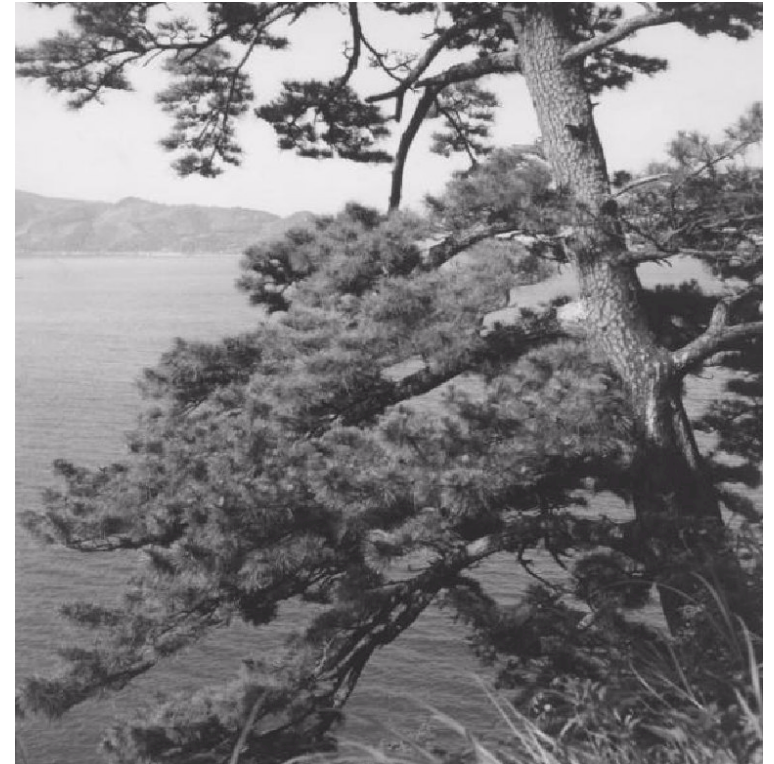
## Black-Bellied Plover

A large shorebird, the Black-bellied Plover hangs out with other shorebirds of similar size. It's role in the community is to provide an alarm system whenever danger threatens. It is this quality that helps it to resist hunters and even when other species are devastated the alert Black-bellied Plover remains steadily safe. Always on the lookout for trouble, it will flush from nest or resting place when a potential predator is still far away, only to return when danger is past.

This is the only American plover that has a hind toe on its foot, albeit a quite small one that is not easy to see from afar.

Breeding occurs along the coasts pretty nearly world round. From the Arctic to Eurasia, from the West Indies to South Africa, from Australia to New Zealand, from South American up through Alaska.

They will not come to stay in your garden but if you live along the coastline they may visit as they pass by. They'll be looking for bugs on the ground.



This shore pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*) is from John W. Bennett's book, Doing Photography and Social Research in the Allied Occupation of Japan, 1948-1951: A Personal and professional memoir.



# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

Coastal gardens are, due to their location, windblown and salt-sprayed and the wise gardener picks plants that like that environment.

The Coastal Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*) is a perfectly suited groundcover with lovely little flowers followed by small but extremely tasty fruits. Coast Buckwheat grows natively here as does Farewell-To-Spring (*Clarkia amoena*).



A little taller groundcover is Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) which is a tough understory to coastal forests. Western Spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*), Coast Willow (*Salix hookeriana*) and Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*) are good shrubs for food and shelter.

Besides the Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta*), Douglas Firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) and Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) are all excellent trees in a bird garden.

**Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is a must for any coastal garden. the shedding bark is used by birds for nest foundations, creamy white flowers are treasured by hummingbirds and the fruit is a delicacy to birds and people. Evergreen, ever-changing and always wildly beautiful.**

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## Western Wood-Pewee

Small and non-descript, the Western Wood-Pewee likes a change of scenery from time to time. They enjoy open coniferous forests, woodland streams and forest edges. They are flycatchers and will take bees, wasps, moths. Nor are ants and beetles excused from dinner. This bug-eating bird will perch on branches and glean the bugs from both sides of leaves. Quite appreciated by the gardener.



If intruders approach the nest, the Western Wood-Pewee makes a clapping noise with its bill as it chases and attacks those who encroach on its territory. They are fearless when protecting the nest.

They will not winter over, but will gladly spend the warm season in your garden.

There is an Eastern Wood-Pewee also, and while they sometimes overlap in range, they may co-exist for a time but they do not interbreed.

Fun fact: A group of pewees are called a "dribble" or a "squirt" of pewees.

**Western Wood-Pewee**  
**L 6.25"**



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Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) is a must for every bird garden. Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

You'll want a tall conifer or two for nesting and for perching to wait for unsuspecting insects to fly by. An Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *garryana*) will also be appreciated.

To round out the insect diet, your Western Wood-Pewee visitors will love a few huckleberry bushes (*Vaccinium*), some Red-Osier or Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *occidentalis* or ssp. *stolonifera*), or an American Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*).



At left, Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *garryana*) and American Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*). Photos by JoAnn Onstott

Above, Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## Pine Grosbeak

A year-round resident in the northwest, Pine Grosbeak hang out in coniferous and mixed forests during breeding season, but come winter they head for wherever they find food and shelter. Not bothered by the cold weather, their only reason for moving to a new area is food and plenty of it. They are good bird garden visitors if their favorite foods are plentiful.

Nests are not tidy, but they are sturdily constructed in shrubs or trees. Twigs, pieces of roots, moss, grass and lichen form the framework and softer materials are used for the lining. Between two and six eggs are incubated for about two weeks. The young take two or three weeks to be flight-ready.

Pine Grosbeaks are friendly, agreeable birds and ordinarily are not a bit shy around humans. They have a sweet, flowing song that will add new tones to your garden birds.



This Pacific Crabapple (*Malus fusca*) will soon replace the white blossoms with little crabapples

Note: If you are a holiday tree farmer, you may find Pine Grosbeak visitors are more of a pest than a friend because they feed on conifer buds.

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to plant

This big finch forages high and low for seeds including those of conifers, maples, ashes, and herbaceous plants.

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), Cedar (*Chamaecyparis*), Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*), Dogwood (*Cornus*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*), Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) are all enjoyed by the Pine Grosbeak.

During most of the year 99% of their diet is vegetable matter, especially buds, seeds and fruits.

They feed their young a diet of mainly insects and spiders often mixed with vegetable matter.



Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*)  
Photo by Rory Nichols

Hairy Manzanita  
(*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Bird Gardening, continued

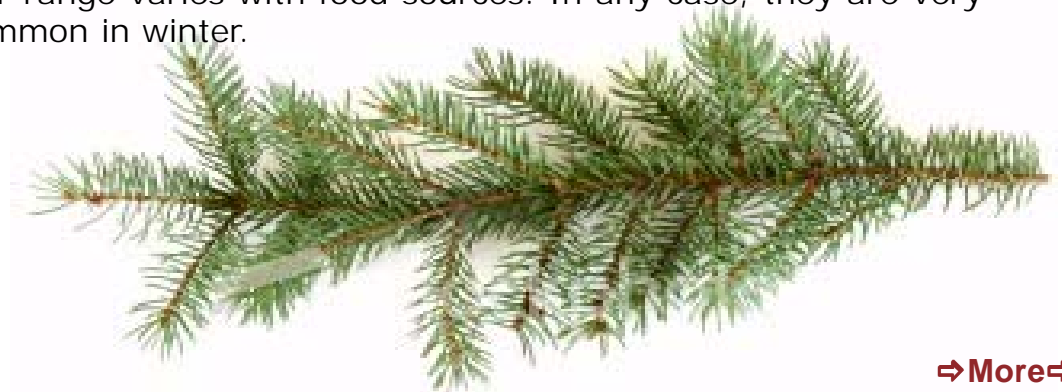
## Western Bluebird

Western Bluebirds are fond of open coniferous forests openings and clearings, and some agricultural areas. They do not like large meadows. In winter, they inhabit a wider variety of open and semi-open terrain, especially piñon-juniper forests, farmlands, and deserts. Western Bluebirds are often seen perching alone on fence wires, posts, snags, or tree branches, pouncing on the ground to catch insects

Occasionally Western Bluebirds have helpers at the nest. They can even be helped by birds far beyond family members. Violet-green Swallows have been observed feeding and defending nests of Western Bluebirds. Most of the extra birds attending nests are helping their presumed parents, some after their own nests have failed. Genetic studies showed that 45% of nests had young that were not fathered by the defending male, and that 19% of all the young were fathered outside the pair bond.



The least migratory of the bluebirds, much of the Western Bluebird's migration is altitudinal rather than latitudinal. In eastern Washington, most birds migrate south in the fall to locations throughout the southwestern United States and central Mexico. Small flocks occasionally remain through the winter in valleys, especially in mild winters. To the west of the Cascades, most of the population retreats to lower elevations in the winter. On both sides of the mountains, the winter range varies with food sources. In any case, they are very uncommon in winter.



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# Bird Gardening, continued

Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## What to Plant

Bluebirds eat mainly insects (grasshoppers, katydids, beetles, caterpillars, ants), they want berries and some seeds in colder weather. They have been known to eat the berries of mistletoe (found on oaks (*Quercus*), pines (*Pinus*), firs (*Abies*) Incense Cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*), juniper (*Juniperus californica*), and the berries of elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Oregon Grape (*Mahonia*).



Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*) Photo from Reed College, Portland, OR

For nesting, the Western Bluebird selects an area with a few large trees or shrubs and open areas with low, non-woody plants. An open area of grasses and herbs with some bare ground for bug-picking between this herbaceous space and some trees nearby is just right. In fact, that perfectly describes most landscapes!

Add some fruit bearing shrubs or small trees for winter supplements and you will have yourself a garden tailor-made for these beautiful blue birds.

Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## Oregon Junco

The Oregon Junco breeds in coniferous and mixed forest and winters in fields, suburbs, cemeteries, chaparral, parks, gardens, grassy dunes, and fencerows. It builds its nest in hollows in the ground under low bushes. The nest is constructed flush with the surface and in holes among the roots of bushes and trees, and under woodpiles. Usually, the nest is made of dry grasses loosely placed together, a lining of cow hair, and has four or five handsome greenish-white eggs, spotted and wreathed with purple.

Unique facts about this bird from Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website, [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/):

The Dark-eyed Junco includes five forms that were once considered separate species. "**Slate-colored junco**" is the grayest, from Alaska to Texas and eastward.

"**Oregon junco**" is boldly marked blackish and brown, with a distinct dark hood, inhabits the western half of the continent. "**Gray-headed junco**" has a brown back and gray sides, lives in central Rocky Mountains. "**White-winged junco**" is gray with white wingbars, reeds only near the Black Hills of South Dakota. "**Guadalupe junco**" of Baja California is dull and brownish. Two other forms may be distinguishable: "**Pink-sided junco**," a pale version of the Oregon junco, living in the northern Rocky Mountains, and "**Red-backed junco**," a gray-headed junco with dark upper bill, found in mountains near the Mexican border.



Below: Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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# Bird Gardening, continued

Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

## What to Plant

Consider the Oregon Junco's habits and plan for them in your garden accordingly. Whatever they eat, they want it on the ground rather than up high.

They eat mostly bugs which are on the ground but winter bugs are harder to find. Plants for them should be big conifers where insect eggs and larvae can be found. Trees like Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*), Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), or White Fir (*Abies concolor*).

Juncos are seed eaters. Plant natives that produce a lot of seed. Examples are Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Rocky Mountain beeplant (*Cleome serrulata*), Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), Pine bluegrass (*Pos secunda*).

Fruited shrubs for winter feeding such as Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Oregon Grape (*Mahonias*), Wolfberry (*Symphoricarpus occidentalis*), huckleberries (*Vaccinium*).

If you want to supplement the garden with feeders, Juncos are fine with that. They seldom crowd feeders like house sparrows and house finches. They're more often on the ground beneath a feeder, getting seeds the birds on the feeder knock off. You might see blue jays, cardinals, house sparrows, finches, chickadees, tufted titmice and white-breasted nuthatches be eating on the feeder and there will be several dark-eyed juncos, snowbirds, on the snow on the ground below.



Common Rush  
(*Juncus effusus*)

Closeup of Salal  
berry (*Gaultheria  
shallon*) Photo by  
JoAnn Onstott

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## Spotted Towhee

Watch a Spotted Towhee feeding on the ground; you'll probably observe its two-footed, backwards-scratching hop. This "double-scratching" is used by a number of towhee and sparrow species to unearth the seeds and small invertebrates they feed on. One Spotted Towhee with an unusable, injured foot was observed hopping and scratching with one foot.

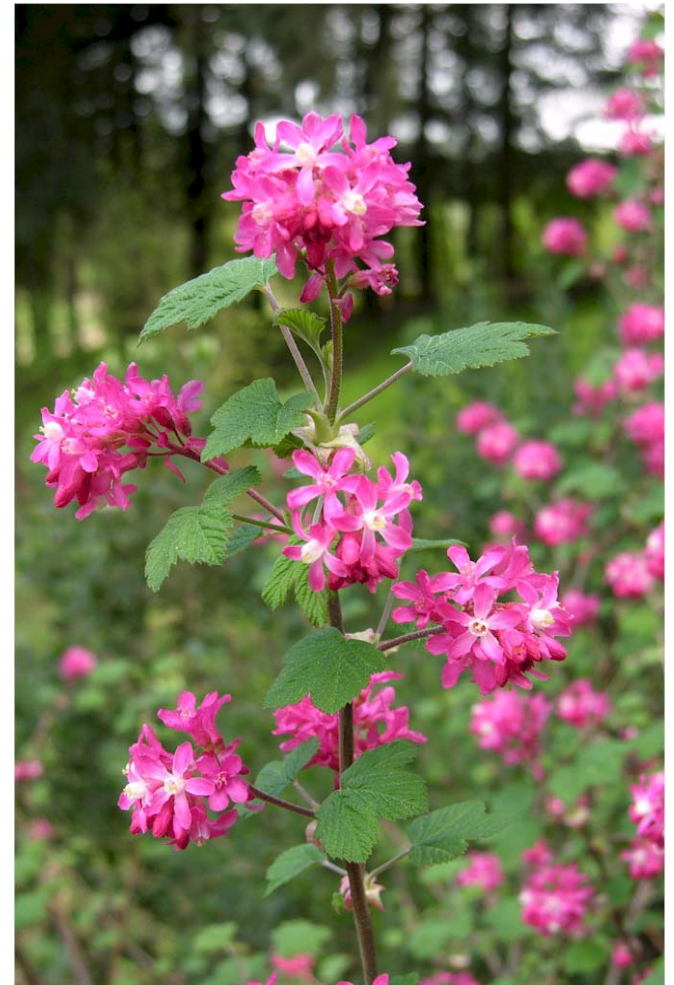
The Spotted Towhee hybridizes with the Eastern Towhee where their ranges meet in the Great Plains. It also hybridizes with the Collared Towhee where their ranges meet in Mexico.

Twenty-one different subspecies of Spotted Towhee are recognized, three on islands off the Pacific Coast. The race from Isla Guadalupe off Baja California is extinct. The small race on the island of Socorro off Baja California and the larger race on Santa Catalina Island off southern



California are vulnerable to extinction because of their restricted ranges. The Santa Catalina form formerly was found on San Clemente Island, but disappeared from there by 1976.

From All About Birds



Red-Flowering Currant  
(*Ribes sanguineum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

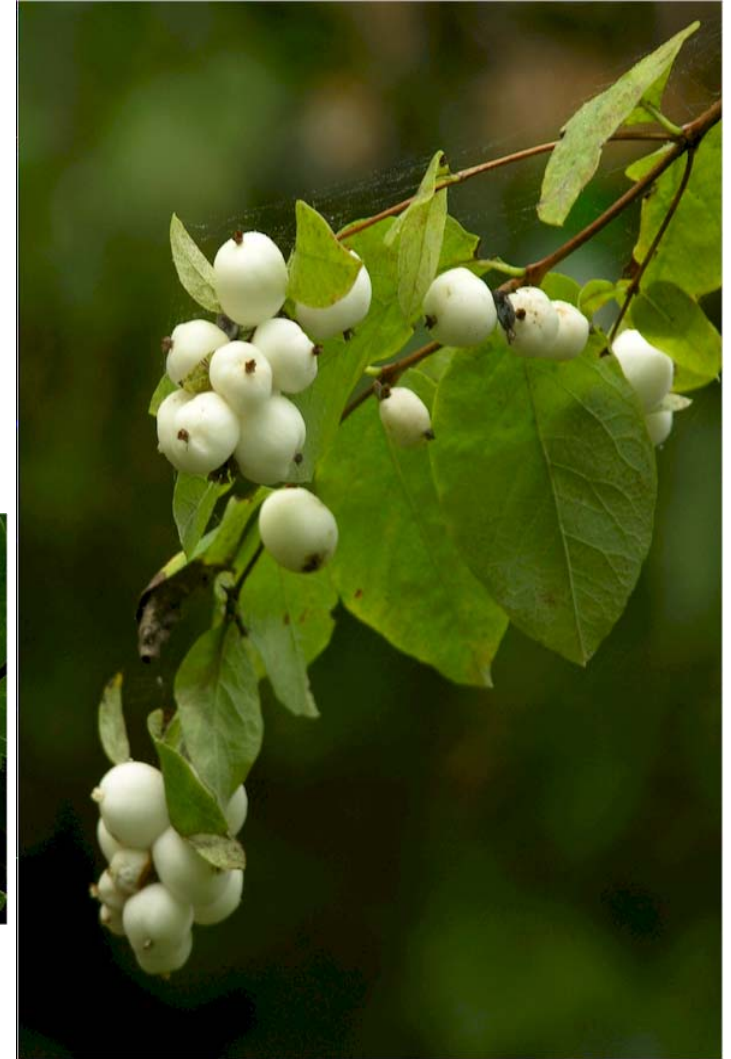
Wild Strawberries (*Fragaria*), Catalina Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *Lyonii*), Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), Oregon Grape (*Mahonia*), Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*).



Black Gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

# Bird Gardening, continued

Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## Yellow-rumped Warbler

One of the most common warblers in North America, the Yellow-rumped Warbler is consistently conspicuous.

It is the only warbler that can digest the waxes found in bayberries and wax myrtles. This allows it to winter farther north than any other warbler, even as far as Newfoundland.

The northwestern United States has the distinction of one of the few areas above the Mason-Dixon where this Warbler can survive year round.

Breeding range is in mature coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous woodlands. Wintering is more in open areas along the



edge of the woodland. They like second growth forests, dunes, marshes and residential areas.

The nest is an open cup of twigs, pine needles and grasses that are woven with bits of root, hair, mosses and lichens and lined with finer hair and feathers. They are usually placed on horizontal branches of conifers.

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# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to Plant

Willows (*Salix*), White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), Pacific Bayberry (*Myrica gale*), Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*).

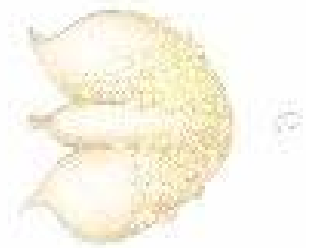
White Alder  
(*Alnus rhombifolia*)



Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Arrowwo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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# Bird Gardening, continued

## California Quail

The California Quail is a small ground-dwelling bird. It is the state bird of California. They have a curving crest or "plume," made of six feathers, that droops forward - black in males and brown for females; the flanks are brown with white streaks. Males have a dark brown cap and a black face with a brown back, a grey-blue chest and a light brown belly. Females and immature birds are mainly grey-brown with a light-colored belly.

Their closest relative is Gambel's Quail which has a more southerly distribution and, a longer crest, brighter head and a scalier appearance. The two species separated about 1-2 million years ago, during the Late Pliocene or Early Pleistocene.

The California Quail is a highly sociable bird that often gathers in small flocks known as "coveys." One of the daily communal activities is the taking of dust baths.

A group of quail will select an area where the ground has been newly turned or is soft, and using their underbellies, will burrow downward into the soil some 1-2 inches. They then wriggle about in the indentations they have created, flapping their wings and ruffling their feathers, causing dust to rise in the air.

They seem to prefer sunny places in which to create these dust baths, and an ornithologist is able to detect the presence of quail in an area by spotting the circular indentations left behind in the soft dirt, some 7-15 cm (3-6 in.) in diameter.

I often come upon a dust-bath party when driving country roads. They quickly compose themselves and scurry off to the weeds alongside the road.





# Bird Gardening, continued

## What to plant

Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*), California Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp), Wild Rose (*Rosa*).



Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Blueblossom in snow (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Bird Gardening, continued

The bird paintings in this article are from the wild and wonderful website of Paul and Bernice Noll. They call it their “Window on the World” and they’re not kidding. They cover China, the Korean War, learning English, web cameras, canning, cooking, wildflowers and bird information.

I had so much fun poking around their website I often forgot why I went there in the first place. This was not a side effect of my ADD, but a tribute to a wealth of brain food in one place:

[www.paulnoll.com/](http://www.paulnoll.com/)

Take a look at their contact page to get a synopsis of the Nolls in just one photo. You can see the joy in their lives:

[www.paulnoll.com/I-copyright-notice.html](http://www.paulnoll.com/I-copyright-notice.html)

In coming issues of our journal we will bring more information on backyard bird habitats featuring native plants.



Incense Cedar trunk and branch  
(*Calocedrus decurrens*)  
Photos by JoAnn Onstott





# This & That

## Notes from Jennifer

They're here! Willamette U's Star Trees are aglow--have you seen them? They are so beautiful--majestic--regal, even. And when you stand in their shelter and look up to the sky through those gently swaying branches you know deep within your heart that everything is going to be just fine.

It is, you know. Fine I mean. Plants will grow and birds will sing. Butterflies will meander through the garden on a summer's day. Deer will pause right at the brink of danger before they cross a road. They look and then take another step, then one more, all the time on red alert with neck craning to see and nostrils flaring to smell. They may suddenly bolt across the road, they may take measured steps to the other side.

I was driving up the valley one evening, it was deep dark and the moon was shining amid the stars. Suddenly all the cars in front of me stopped--there were 7 or 8 of them--just stopped in their tracks and nobody moved. I was looking up ahead trying to discern what it was that put us all in statue mode, could not see a thing. I rolled my window down, the better to see with and sensed something out there very near. It was a huge buck standing approximately 10 inches from my vehicle. That buck and I were up close and personal and I for one saw my life flash before me. I looked into his eyes and read pure undeterred arrogance. How dare I cut off his path!

I immediately averted my eyes and rolled up that window with speed I never knew I had. My reaction was natural, I had no time to consider. I assumed the pose of submission. It's probably what saved my life. Had he decided to strike my window with those hooves one of us would have been seriously hurt.

Ordinarilly a deer will avoid confrontation but I think because I happened to get in that exact spot, he was as surprised as me but his reaction was much different than mine. He was protecting his herd from this old red-haired Cherokee who had the unmitigated gall to get in his way. Thanks be to the angel who protected me that night.

I leave you with something Curtis Spencer said once: "What if the hokey pokey really is what it's all about?"

Happy holidays, everyone.

May joy and peace find their place in your heart.



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web

Here is a good collection of web data bases that will be useful to professional growers and all native plant gardeners. This list is from a larger list compiled by Lawyer Nursery in 2002 and published in one of their flyers. I wish to thank them for this public service.

*Wally*



Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## American Bonsai Society

[http://www.absbonsai.org/abs\\_home.html](http://www.absbonsai.org/abs_home.html)

## Birdchick

<http://www.birdchick.com/>

Hundreds of photos of birds, bees, butterflies.

## Bonsai web

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## CalPhotos

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/>

Over 33,000 plant images from the University of California, Berkley

## Cornell University online grafting course

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html>

## Fire effects on plant species

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

USDA, Forest Service site.

⇒ More ⇒



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued



Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## Flora of North America Web Site

<http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/>

Taxonomic relationships, distributions, and morphological characteristics of all plants native and naturalized found in North America.

## Forest Types of the United States

<http://forestry.about.com/library/tree/bltypdex.htm>

Maps of the most common forest types.

## Forestry index

<http://forestryindex.net/>

Links to news & info on the forestry industry.

## Growit.com Rooting Database

<http://www.growit.com/Know/Rooting.htm>

"Extensive information on rooting cuttings of woody plants, organized by botanical name. Developed for commercial growers."

## ModernBackyard

<http://www.modernbackyard.com>

Landscape architecture provides exceptional, affordable landscape design online.

## The Native Plant Network

<http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/network/>

Information on how to propagate native plants of North America.

⇒ More ⇒

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued



Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323>

Oregon's Clean River website of wonderful information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants

## River Corridor and Wetland Restoration

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/>  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

## Soils

<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>

A website about soil fertility, chemistry, and pH.

## Soil Science Society of America

<http://www.soils.org/>  
Website for soil science professionals..

## This week in the woods

<http://www.share3.esd105.wednet.edu:80/rsandelin/NWNature/NWNature.htm>

## Woody Plant Seed Manual

<http://www.wpsm.net/>  
Manual by the US Forest Service covering seed biology, genetic improvement of forest trees, seed testing, certification of tree seeds and other woody plant materials, and nursery practices.





From all of us here at the nursery-

Happy Holidays



Embracing the  
Culture



Happy  
Kwanzaa



PEACE



HANUKKAH



**NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED**

**In November 2010,  
Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plants  
Native Plant Nursery and Gardens  
closed permanently.**

**Many thanks to all our gardening friends for your interest in the native plants of the Pacific northwest. It has been our pleasure to serve you.**

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**[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)**

**Our website, [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com), is no longer commercial. Our goal is to continue Wally's legacy of generating interest, even passion, in the magnificent native plants of the Pacific Northwest through information and illustration.**

**Good luck! Good gardening!**



**Giant Sequoias  
(Sequoiadendron  
giganteum)  
Willamette University Star Trees**

**Giant trees in their daytime  
garb become enchanted trees  
filled with stars in December  
nights.**

