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January 2009

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

Backyard Birdland

It's back--our Mystery Plant puzzle!

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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Snowberry flower
(*Symphoricarpos albus* var.
laevigatus)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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About this Web Magazine



Red-Osier Dogwood
(*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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



Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)

A beautiful, ornamental deciduous shrub growing rapidly to 8-10.' The many upright stems lack the sharp spines of other currants. Gorgeous red to pink flowers bloom in spring before the leaves unfurl.

Hummingbirds flock to the flowers from their southern migrations. Black, glaucous fruits are edible but not tasty.

Native to the Pacific Coast (USDA zones 6-10), Red-Flowering Currant prefers dry, sunny locations and is not hampered by drought. One of the best natives for your garden, it requires little care but is reliably beautiful. I highly recommend this shrub.

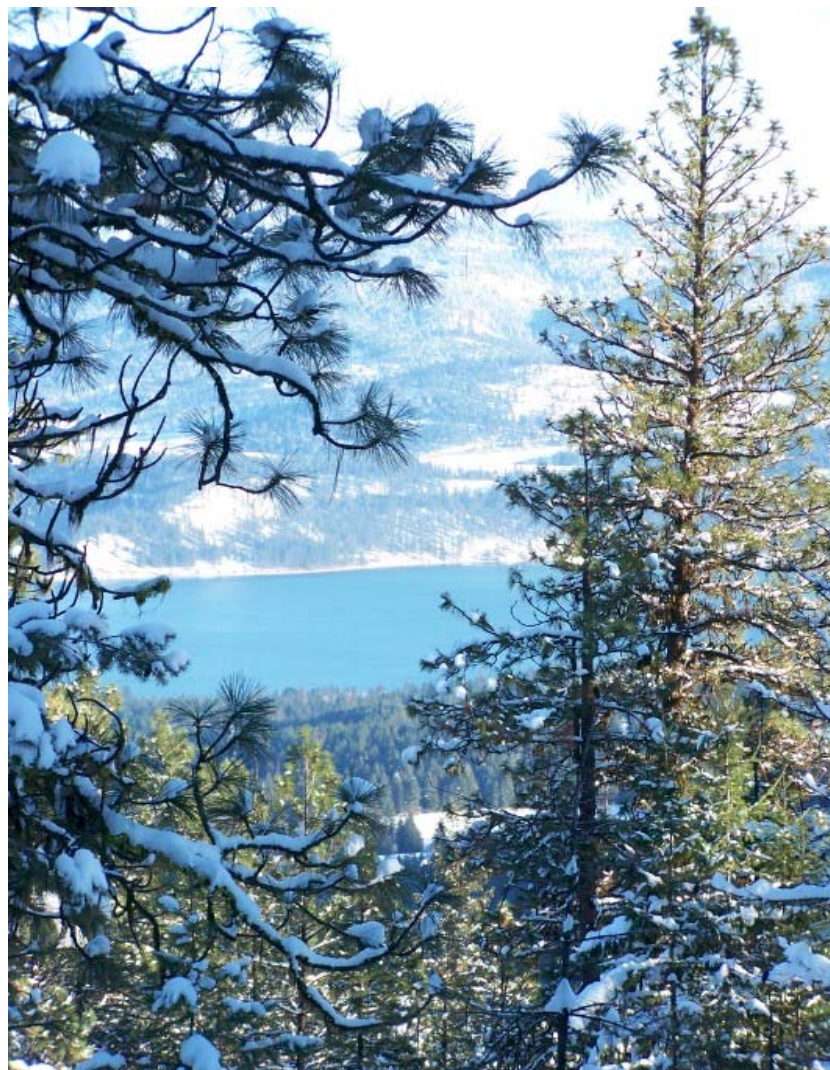
Red-Flowering Currant
(*Ribes sanguineum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1** – After the heavy snow, strong winds and plentiful rain, there is bound to be a plant or two in need of attention. Cut back broken branches, replace mulch where it ran away.
- 2** – Cuttings may be made now of dormant shrubs and trees and it is a good time to practice grafting.
- 3** – Indoor tasks:
 - plan for the coming spring
 - attend lectures and slide shows
 - photograph the garden now so you'll remember exactly how it looks when considering added winter interest.
- 4** – Remember the birds and other wildlife. If you're using feeders, keep them clean and full. Once birds come to depend on your garden for their winter fare, you must keep it up until springtime.
- 5** – Tend to your tools. And keep an eye out when you do your garden walkabout for tools that were left out in the elements.
- 6** – It's too early to force flowering shrubs but note which ones are producing buds and cut them in a couple of weeks.



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Well it's a good thing we have such a wonderful neighborhood of squirrels here in the nursery. That snow just about froze our little feets off! Fortunately we've got good strong nests and plenty of forage put by to tide us over until the weather gets more fun.

Each time the sun comes out we stretch and climb out of the nests to fill our empty bellies with good acorns and walnuts and filberts. After a quick sip of water we race up and down and across through the trees until we get warm and then it's back to the nest and good snuggles.

Everybody is quiet in these times of winter. Even Mr. Snorters isn't telling any stories. Grandma curls up and tells us to be still if we ask questions. I think this is because she gets cold if she talks too much. It's OK. We snooze and remember the stories from the summer, taking nice long naps and smiling.

I hope the two-leggers are taking care of one another. They don't do the nest thing the way we do but I've seen them taking coats and sweaters and blankets to the ones that are cold. They have special places that collect that stuff and the cold and hungry ones go there when they need to.

Diana asked me to remind everyone

about sharing the warm stuff that two-leggers put on (they don't have fur). Also she said to take extra food to the food banks. I think that's like our caches but it's not buried. So please to do these things, especially when it is brrrrrr cold outside.

Gotta go now, getting chilled. See you next time.

***Your friend,
Sparky***



Name This Plant



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Name this plant!

A clue to help you on your quest for the correct answer:

"After the blush of bloom, my fruit is often overlooked. Some call me robin's egg, some call me chinaberry, some say porcelain fruit. Hummers find me delicious but people--not so much."

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant. We'll name all those who answer correctly in our next journal!

Good luck!
Wally



Lullaby in Birdland

Wildlife habitats in your garden

All gardens can be hosts for wildlife, from the largest to the smallest. Even a container can attract birds or butterflies. And what you plant will determine which furred and feathered friends will come calling.

We've created a list of which native plants are preferred by specific birds who spend at least part of the year in the northwest. To make the decision on what to plant, we've included photos of many species in different seasons.

By no means is this a complete list: I doubt there is such a thing and if there were, it would resemble that gigantic old dictionary I remember in my high school library. It was about 1 1/2 feet tall, had thin, finely printed pages and stood on its own pedestal. I always had the feeling I should fold my hands and bow, Chinese style, to address it before touching those silken pages. Think of this as an idea list and not a how-to tome.

So come, find your favorite bird and see what you can include in your landscape to make it feel at home.



A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.

~ Maya Angelou



Blue Grey Flycatcher
Princeton Audobon

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Lullaby in Birdland, continued



Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)



Black-Cap Chickadee
(Photo by Shaton Stiteler)



Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*) Photo by Wally

Twinberry fruit (*Lonicera involucrata*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Bluebirds

Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Twinberry—*L. involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Buntings

Mugwort—*A. douglasiana*—(Shrub)—Nesting

Bushtits

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Flowers

Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Blueblossom—*Ceanothus* spp—(Shrub)—Seeds

Coyote brush—*Baccharis pilularis*—(Shrub)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Flowering Sage —*Salvia* spp—(Shrub)—Seeds

Chickadees

Pines—*Pinus* spp—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Redwood—*Sequoia sempervirens*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Twinberry—*L. involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Creepers

Pines—*Pinus* spp—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Redwood—*Sequoia sempervirens*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Poor indeed is the garden in which birds find no homes.
~ Abram L. Urban

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued



Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



Goldfinch Photo by Sharon Stiteler

Doves

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Seeds
Bladderpod—*Isomeris arborea*—(Perennial)—Seeds
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Finches

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Seeds
Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Seeds/flowers
Black walnut—*Juglans hindsii*—(Tree)—Nuts
Bladderpod—*Isomeris arborea*—(Perennial)—Seeds
Blueblossom—*Ceanothus* spp—(Shrub)—Seeds
Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Flowering Sage —*Salvia* spp—(Shrub)—Spent flowers
island mallow—*Lavatera assurgentiflora*—(Perennial)—Seeds
Lemonadeberry—*Rhus integrifolia*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Oregon grape—*Mahonia* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Pink-flower currant—*Ribes sanguineum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Strawberries—*Fragaria chiloensis*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Thistle—*Cirsium* spp—(Perennial)—Seeds
Wax myrtle—*Myrica californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Western redbud—*Cercis occidentalis*—(Shrub)—Seed
Western sycamore—*Platanus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild rose—*Rosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Willow—*Salix* spp—(Shrub)—Unripe fruit

Use the talents you possess - for the woods would be a very silent place if no birds sang except for the best.
~ Henry Van Dyke

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Lullaby in Birdland, continued

Flickers

Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Lemonadeberry—*Rhus integrifolia*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wax myrtle—*Myrica californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Grosbeaks

Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Seeds/flowers
Black walnut—*Juglans hindsii*—(Tree)—Nuts
Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Flowers/fruit
Native blackberry—*Rubus ursinus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit



Pacific Madrone
(*Arbutus menziesii*)
Photo by JoAnn
Onstott

Last year's bark
turned brown peels
off naturally to reveal
new cinnamon-col-
ored skin. Branches
twist and turn to
make fanciful shapes.



Black Headed
Grosbeak



Northern Flicker

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued

Hummingbirds

Alum Roots—Heuchera spp—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Bay—Umbellularia californica—(Tree)—Flowers
 Bladderpod—Isomeris arborea—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Bleeding heart—Dicentra formosa—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Buckeye—Aesculus californica—(Tree)—Flowers
 Columbine —Aquilegia formosa—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Flowering Sage —Salvia spp—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Gooseberry—Ribes spp—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Honeysuckle—Lonicera spp—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Hound's tongue—Cynoglossum grande—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Huckleberry—Vaccinium—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Indian pink—Silene californica—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Island bush—Galvezia speciosa—(Perennial)—Flowers
 island mallow—Lavatera assurgentiflora—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Kinnickinnick—Arctostaphylos uva-ursi—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Larkspur—Delphinium cardinale—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Leopard Lily —Lilium pardalinum —(Perennial)—Flowers
 Manzanita—Arctostaphylos spp—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Monkeyflower —Mimulus—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Oregon grape—Mahonia spp—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Penstemon —Penstemon—(Perennial)—Flowers
 Pink-flower currant—Ribes sanguineum—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Snowberries—Symphoricarpus spp—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Twinberry—L involucrata—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Western columbine—Aquilegia formosa—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Western redbud—Cercis occidentalis—(Shrub)—Flowers
 Western sycamore—Platanus racemosa—(Shrub)—Down for nests
 Wooly blue-curls—Trichostema lanatum—(Perennial)—Flowers



We never miss the music until the
sweet voiced bird has flown away.
~ O. Henry

Lullaby in Birdland, continued



Ruby Crowned Kinglet

Slate Colored Junco



Pacific
Dogwood
(*Cornus
nuttallii*)



Insectivores

Coyote brush—*Baccharis pilularis*—(Shrub)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Oak—*Quercus* spp—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Jays

Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Nesting
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Juncos

Pines—*Pinus* spp—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Redwood—*Sequoia sempervirens*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Kinglets

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Flowers
Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)

Mockingbirds

Blueblossom—*Ceanothus* spp—(Shrub)—Seeds
Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Nesting
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Manzanita—*Arctostaphylos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild grape—*Vitis californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings.
~ Salvador Dali

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued



Red Flowering
Currant
(*Ribes
sanguineum*)



Oregon
Quail



Flower (top)
Fruit (bottom)
Photos by
JoAnn Onstott

Nuthatches

Buckeye—*Aesculus californica*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Pines—*Pinus* spp—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Orioles

Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Pigeons

Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Kinnickinnick—*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*—(Perennial)—Flowers
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Flowers/fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild grape—*Vitis californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Quail

Blueblossom—*Ceanothus* spp—(Shrub)—Seeds/nesting
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Gooseberry—*Ribes speciosum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Lemonadeberry—*Rhus integrifolia*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Manzanita—*Arctostaphylos* spp—(Shrub)—Nesting
Pink-flower currant—*Ribes sanguineum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild ginger—*Asarum caudatum*—(Perennial)—Nesting
Wild rose—*Rosa*—(Shrub)—Shelter

Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn't people feel as free
to delight in whatever remains to them?

~ Rose Kennedy

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued

Pine Siskin from blog
Random Musings: a commentary on rural living



Robins

Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Huckleberry—*Vaccinium*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Fruit
Manzanita—*Arctostaphylos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Oregon grape—*Mahonia* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Pink-flower currant—*Ribes sanguineum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Thimbleberry—*Rubus parviflorus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Twinberry—*L. involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wax myrtle—*Myrica californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Sapsuckers

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Sap

Seed-eaters

Mules ears—*Wyethia* spp—(Perennial)—Seeds
Tidy-tips—*Layia platyglossa*—(Perennial)—Seeds

Siskins

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Seeds
Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Seeds/flowers
Western sycamore—*Platanus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild rose—*Rosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Songbirds

Willow—*Salix* spp—(Shrub)—Unripe fruit

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



Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.
~ Langston Hughes

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued



House Sparrows and Junco (above) and Thrush (below) captured on the webcam by Portland Oregon Backyard Birds



Sparrows

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Seeds
Bladderpod—*Isomeris arborea*—(Perennial)—Seeds
Coyote brush—*Baccharis pilularis*—(Shrub)—Seeds/nesting
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Flowering Sage —*Salvia* spp—(Shrub)—Flowers
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Fruit
Strawberries—*Fragaria chiloensis*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Willow—*Salix* spp—(Shrub)—Unripe fruit

Tanagers

Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Thrashers

Black walnut—*Juglans hindsii*—(Tree)—Nuts
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Thrushes

Gooseberry—*Ribes speciosum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Huckleberry—*Vaccinium*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Laurel sumac—*Rhus laurina*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Lemonadeberry—*Rhus integrifolia*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Fruit
Pink-flower currant—*Ribes sanguineum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Twinberry—*L. involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild grape—*Vitis californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Willow—*Salix* spp—(Shrub)—Unripe fruit

No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings.
~ William Blake

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued



Oregon Grape in November
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Spotted Towhee
Natural debugger at work in the nursery
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

It is not only fine feathers
that make fine birds.

~ Aesop

Titmice

Black walnut—*Juglans hindsii*—(Tree)—Nuts
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Oak—*Quercus* spp—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Towhees

Black walnut—*Juglans hindsii*—(Tree)—Nuts
Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit/nesting
Gooseberry—*Ribes speciosum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Oregon grape—*Mahonia* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Pink-flower currant—*Ribes sanguineum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Strawberries—*Fragaria chiloensis*—(Perennial)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Twinberry—*L. involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Oak Titmouse



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Lullaby in Birdland, continued



Cassin's Vireo

Cedar Waxwing



Vireos

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpus* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit

Warblers

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Flowers/seeds
Bay—*Umbellularia californica*—(Tree)—Seeds
Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Bark/foliage (insects)
Willow—*Salix* spp—(Shrub)—Unripe fruit

Waxwings

Alder—*Alnus rhombifolia*—(Tree)—Flowers
Catalina cherry—*Prunus ilicifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Madrone—*Arbutus menziesii*—(Tree)—Fruit
Manzanita—*Arctostaphylos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpus* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Thimbleberry—*Rubus parviflorus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Toyon—*Heteromeles arbutifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Western sycamore—*Platanus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Wild grape—*Vitis californica*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

We must be careful what we say.
No bird resumes its egg.
~ Emily Dickinson

⇒ More ⇒



Lullaby in Birdland, continued

Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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



Wren-tit
From MSN.com

Downy Woodpecker



Woodpeckers

Buckeye—*Aesculus californica*—(Tree)—Bark/foilage (insects)
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Oak—*Quercus* spp—(Tree)—Acorns
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Wren-tits

Flowering Sage —*Salvia* spp—(Shrub)—Seeds
Manzanita—*Arctostaphylos* spp—(Shrub)—Nesting
Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpos* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Thimbleberry—*Rubus parviflorus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Twinberry—*L. involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit

Learn a lesson from the birds. They feed those who cannot fly far. The bird relieves the itch of the buffalo by scratching it with its beak; they help and serve each other with no thought of reward.

~ Atharva Veda

⇒ More ⇒

Lullaby in Birdland, continued

These bird/plant combinations are really just a tiny sampling of what is known to work in building a bird refuge. And what works for your neighbor may not work for you. No two gardens are alike and that is part of the joy, the mystery, the great reward of becoming acquainted with birds.

Do your own research on this subject. Look in the library, search the internet, visit bird sanctuaries and talk to people who have been involved with birds and gardening for years.

The Audobon Society has contacts all over the nation and honors the work begun by John James Audobon (1785 - 1851) who attempted to paint and describe all the birds of America. Actually, Mr. Audobon followed Alexander Wilson (1766 - 1813) in this goal. But the society that grew from Audobon's passion serves as the foremost promoter of our feathered friends.

Here are a few websites I discovered in researching this article. Pay them each a visit for information and photos.

Portland Oregon Backyard Birds
<http://portlandbirds.blogspot.com/>

Birds cataloged by the Lewis and Clark Expedition
http://home.pacifier.com/~neawanna/observatory/landc_birds.html

Portland Audobon Society Backyard Wildlife
<http://www.audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife>

Lovely little patio bird garden with Red
Huckleberry, Oregon Grape, Salal and
Sword Fern.



Bird Garden Staples

The mighty oak: A must for bird gardens

Recipe for a bird garden
-First you plant an Oak tree.

An oak will provide many nest sites, including holes, and are full of spiders and insects year-round that are eaten by insectivorous birds—something there all the time for birds with a taste for that sort of thing! Acorns are the staple food of the Acorn Woodpecker. You name it, it is likely to visit, oak titmice etc. We like to call these friendly giants 'bird magnets.'

Garry Oak
(Quercus garryana var. garryana)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



Logo of Accrington Acorn Trail
By the Hyndburn Borough Council



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Bird Garden Staples, continued

These plants are liable to bring so many different birds into your garden you'll want to do a bird count of your own! There are trees, shrubs and herbacious perennials of all sizes and types, every one native to the northwest.

Choose your favorite flowers or fruits, fall color or overall shape. With this group of plants, you can please your own taste and prepare for a birdfest.

Various birds

American Cranberry—*Viburnum opulus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Bay—*Umbellularia californica*—(Tree)—Shelter
Big-leaf maple—*Acer macrophyllum*—(Tree)—Shelter/nesting
Bitter Cherry—*Prunus emarginata*—(Tree)—Fruit
Blackcap—*Rubus leucodermis*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Blackfruit gooseberry—*Ribes divaricatum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Blue elderberry—*Sambucus mexicana*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Cascara—*Rhamnus purshiana*—(Tree)—Fruit
Chinquapin—(Tree)—Nuts
Chokecherry—*Prunus virginiana*—(Tree)—Fruit
Dogwood—*Cornus*—(Shrub)—Shelter/nesting
Golden currant—*Ribes aureum*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Gooseberry—*Ribes* spp—(Shrub)—Fruit
Hawthorn—*Crataegus douglasii*—(Tree)—Fruit
Huckleberry—*Vaccinium*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Mountain Ash—*Sorbus scopulina*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Mugwort—*A. douglasiana*—(Shrub)—Nesting
Mugwort—*A. douglasiana*—(Shrub)—Shelter
Native Plum—*Prunus americana*—(Tree)—Fruit
Pacific Blackberry—*Rubus ursinus*—(Shrub)—Fruit



Salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis) has large, bright magenta flowers in spring. They are followed by luscious red fruits that are always enjoyed by wild things (even children!)



Many of these are so good you should plant at least two--one for the birds and one for you. Huckleberries, Native Blackberries, Gooseberries--all excellent for any table.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Bird Garden Staples, continued



Smooth Sumac has plumes of bright red berries in summer. Fall leaf color is beautifully surreal.

More trees and shrubs that attract a variety of birds. Native plants all, these are particularly nice in the landscape whether you prefer a formal design or one more casual.



Bramble berries such as Salmonberry and Thimbleberry are great along a fence where they can be trained to weave in and out so that both sides of the fence is represented. This type of fence covering keeps the brambles in check and the larger birds won't be able to rip loose large chunks of the plants. It also makes harvesting part of the fruit for the gardener's table an easy job.

Serviceberry is particularly delicious. We recommend planting at least two--some for the birds and some for you. They are so good, they are raised for market in British Columbia.

Various birds

Red elderberry—*Sambucus racemosa*—(Shrub)—Shelter/nesting
Russet Buffaloberry—*Shepherdia canadensis*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Salal—*Gaultheria shallon*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Salmonberry—*Rubus spectabilis*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Serviceberry—*Amelanchier alnifolia*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Smooth Sumac—*Rhus glabra*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Snowberries—*Symphoricarpos* spp—(Shrub)—Shelter/nesting
Thimbleberry—*Rubus parviflorus*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Twinberry—*Lonicera involucrata*—(Shrub)—Fruit
Western Crabapple—*Malus fusca*—(Tree)—Fruit
Western Hazelnut—*Corylus cornuta*—(Tree)—Nuts

A note about bramble type berries: If there be thorns, the plants are an excellent deterrent where traffic is not desired. A nice thorny shrub planted beneath a bedroom or bathroom window adds a layer of safety from would-be peeping toms and other pests.



The Bird Lady

Kathleen A. Robson

Kali Robson has been attracted to plants since childhood when she first gardened with her father. During a high school geology class field trip to Death Valley she begged the teacher to allow her to collect plants instead of rocks. He agreed, as long as she included information on the soils they were growing in as part of her class project.

After high school she worked in a wholesale nursery, did some landscape maintenance, and worked other odd jobs, but her attraction to plants kept nagging. Finally — deciding she had to know more about the secret lives of plants — she joined her local community college as a botany major. A few years later she transferred to the Botany Department at the University of California at Davis where she received her bachelor's degree. She completed graduate degrees studying at the University of British Columbia and the University of Nebraska.

In addition to studying rare plants, and plants of importance to the Columbia Basin tribes, she taught taxonomy for several years on both sides of the Cascades as adjunct faculty with Washington State University. Her deepest interests involve philosophy of science, evolutionary theory, and complexity and emergence, and she wrote monthly columns on gardening with northwest natives and related topics for The Columbian in Vancouver, Washington.

In her spare time Robson enjoys hiking, botanizing, vegetable gardening, and sampling the wonderful Pacific Northwest microbrews.



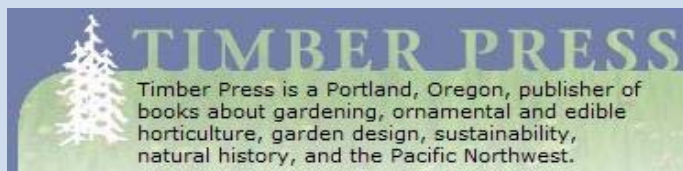
Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes



By Kathleen A.
Robson, Alice
Richter, and
Marianne Filbert

532 pp., hardcover

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Timber Press is a Portland, Oregon, publisher of books about gardening, ornamental and edible horticulture, garden design, sustainability, natural history, and the Pacific Northwest.

Kathleen speaks on:

- Creating backyard habitat with Northwest natives
- Native plants to attract fruit- and seed-eating birds
- Northwest native plants for butterflies and caterpillars

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This & That

Notes from Jennifer

I've got a new project! I became so wrapped up in the research for these bird articles I found myself returning again and again to a few blogspots that have birdcams set up.

What a fantastic idea! A camera pointed at bird attracting plants or feeders or whatever, anything that is drawing birds to eat or



bathe or just hang out, set to capture on a schedule that you control. You can have the images collected by a wireless connection to your computer or you can have a few memory cards that you swap and download every so often.

The examples I discovered of people doing this have taught me that just about anyone can do it and if you really can't, you probably have a friend who will be delighted to assist. At one time webcams were difficult to configure and the quality was blurry with much 'snow' on the images. Nowadays the technology has advanced to improve the product as well as the ease of use.

I don't for a minute doubt that there will be a lot of bad shots to wade through to get a good one or two but with digital cameras that's a non-issue. No film, no developing, no waiting to see what you got. You should be able to monitor the live output from your computer so you can ramp up the frequency of clicks when something good is happening outside.

One of the neatest facts about a webcam is that the subjects will have no idea you're watching, and thus evince natural behavior.

Eagle mom and offspring. Photo taken by a webcam. Both birds must have heard the shutter which drew their unconcerned attention.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

This & That, continued

I learned long ago that if you sit quietly in the garden, wild things will eventually come in as though you were not there. I've often been reading or just day-dreaming and had unexpected visitors. Once a robin decided to take a bath in my pond not 5 feet from where I sat. That bird had so much fun splashing water all over the place and making such a joyful noise I had to hold my breath for fear of laughing out loud. After the splashing he flew to a large rock on the far side of the pond and spent several moments grooming himself, putting things to rights.

And of course there was the elderberry party in this same garden when all the little birds in the neighborhood came at once and stripped the ripe berries from my tree. I have not heard so much goings-on before or since though this past summer there was a close second when the birds came to harvest my blackberries. This bunch sang more than the elderberry eaters. One would not expect that much racket out of such tiny little beings.

So, webcam here I come. I'm just beginning the research on these devices in earnest so it may be up to a year before I have one working but I'll share whatever I learn with you as well as the images captured.

On another topic, the squirrels who live closeby to my home are becoming very brave. When the weather was warm this past summer I allowed my dogs out to run and play in the backyard. The squirrels were careful to keep their activities in the upper story where the trees are within jumping distance and they can travel up and down the block without ever touching down. Now that it is much colder, my dogs are indoors most of the time and the squirrels have begun making forays among the shrubs and patio furniture. Twice now when I've opened the back door to let the dogs out and one of the squirrels were caught red-handed picking up something off the ground. The dogs went berserk and the poor little squirrel's face showed sheer panic for a nanosecond before he made a death-defying jump up the plum tree. Now wouldn't that have made a great cam shot? I've put bells on the door to warn backyard visitors before dogs explode out the door. So far, it's working.



Useful Native Plant & Related Info 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

American Bonsai Society

www.absbonsai.org/abs_home.html

Birdchick

www.birdchick.com/

Hundreds of photos of birds, bees, butterflies and other friendlies. Sharon Stiteler shares the joys of birding as well as insights on rabbits.

Bonsai web

www.bonsaiweb.com

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

CalPhotos

www.elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/

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

Cornell University online grafting course

www.instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html

Fire effects on plant species

www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/
USDA, Forest Service site.



Mountain Hemlock
(*Tsuga mertensiana*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒ More ⇒

Useful Native Plant & Related Info, Continued

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.



Red Osier Dogwood
(*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

⇒ More ⇒

Useful Native Plant & Related Info, Continued

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323>
Oregon's Clean River Agency website full of wonderful information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants at

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 with many interesting links.

Soil Science Society of America

<http://www.soils.org/>
Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

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.



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



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.

www.nwplants.com

Our website, 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!



Red-Osier Dogwood
(*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)
Photos by Jennifer Rehm