

April 18-19, 2020 CVAS-WFVZ Bird-Friendly Virtual Garden Tour

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*)

This evergreen provides excellent cover and nesting sites. Birds eat the tiny apple-like fruits, and pendulous urn-shaped flowers sustain hummingbirds in winter. May attract: California Scrub Jay, Black-headed Grosbeak, Northern Mockingbird, Fox Sparrow, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird.

<i>A. densiflora</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Can grow to 6 feet tall by 6 feet wide and naturally occurs on slopes, hillsides, and canyons. Likes full sun and tolerates heavy soils. Features white to light pink flowers and blooms later and longer than many other manzanitas. Makes a great screen.
<i>A. edmundsii</i> 'Little Sur'	This grows as a dense groundcover 10 inches high by 5 feet wide with white flowers from January through March. Needs afternoon shade inland. Can grow somewhat quickly with water. Prefers well-drained soil.
<i>A.</i> 'Emerald Carpet'	Low, dense groundcover with dark green foliage and white flowers grows 1 foot high by 3-5 feet wide. Moderate grown rate, and tolerant of heavy soils. Partial sun inland, full sun at coast.
<i>A. manzanita</i> 'Dr. Hurd'	Multi-trunked, tree-like specimen that grows 15 feet high by 10 feet wide with grey green leaves and mahogany bark. White flowers in winter/spring. Can handle slopes, heavy soils, and rocky soils. Likes full sun. Like most manzanitas, grows slowly.
<i>A.</i> 'Sunset'	4-5 feet tall by 4-6 feet wide. Full to part sun. Heavy white to pink blooms, peeling red bark. Heavy soils okay. Great hedge.

California Lilac (*Ceanothus*)

Another evergreen that provides good cover and nesting sites for many species; birds eat its seeds and insect populations. May attract: California Quail, a variety of sparrows, and gleaning birds. Also attracts many butterfly species both as larvae (foliage) and adults (flower nectar). Bees love them.

<i>C. gloriosus</i> 'Anchor Bay'	A dense, low-growing shrub about 3 feet tall by 6 feet wide, with blue flowers and dark green foliage. Works well in both coastal and interior gardens, best planted in part shade inland.
<i>C.</i> 'Matilija Bob'	Grows to 6 feet tall by 6 feet wide. Blue flowers. Works in sun or part shade, and tolerates heavy soils.
<i>C.</i> 'Ray Hartman'	At 12 feet tall by 10 feet wide, this makes a great screen. Grows well near coast or inland. Profuse medium-blue flowers, glossy leaves. Grows quickly and tolerates heavy soil.
<i>C. thyrsiflorus</i> var. <i>griseus</i> 'Yankee Point'	This easy to grow ground cover reaches 3-4 feet tall by 6-10 feet wide. Does well in full or part sun, at the coast or inland, and tolerates heavy soils. Flowers are light blue. Can be planted under oak trees.
<i>C. thyrsiflorus</i> var. <i>thyrsiflorus</i> 'Snow Flurry'	This tall shrub (6-12 feet tall by 20 feet wide) creates large sprays of white flowers in profuse blooms against shiny green leaves. Grows quickly. Full to part sun. Grows on slopes and in canyons. Prefers well-drained soils.

Buckwheat (*Eriogonum*)

Provides good cover, and many birds eat the leaves, flowers, and seeds. May attract: House Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Grosbeak, California Horned Lark, Bell's Sparrow, California Towhee, Spotted Towhee, California Quail, and many others. Also attracts many butterfly species with nectar-rich flower heads.

<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i> Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat	This evergreen shrub has a compact and mounding appearance, growing to a height of 3 feet and width of 5 feet. It grows fast in full sun in a range of soils and is especially great for slope erosion control. Light pink to chocolate flowers in summer.
<i>Eriogonum cinereum</i> Ashy-Leaf Buckwheat	A fast-growing evergreen ground cover growing 2 feet high by 6 feet wide. Gray foliage with light pink flowers in summer. Grow in full sun to part sun. Tolerates a range of soils. Great for erosion control on slopes and hillsides.
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>fasciculatum</i> , CA Buckwheat	This evergreen shrub grows to a height of 3-4 feet and a width of 4 feet in full sun. Grows quickly in a range of soil types. Cream-colored flowers emerge in summer and slowly turn rust-colored. Does great on dry slopes, in washes, and in canyons.
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Warriner Lytle'	This is a drought-tolerant ground cover that grows and quickly in full sun and a range of soils. It reaches a height of 2 feet and spreads 5 feet. Pink to chocolate flowers appear in summer. Blue butterflies are especially attracted to this plant.

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<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i> var. <i>giganteum</i> St. Catherine's Lace	A striking rare and endangered plant from Catalina Island that reaches up to 6 feet high by 6 feet wide. Silvery gray leaves add visual interest to the garden, and large umbels of creamy white flowers in spring turn rust-colored with age, making attractive and long-lasting flower arrangements. Grows quickly in full to part sun. Prefers well-drained, even rocky soil.
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Oak (*Quercus*)

The ultimate anchor plant, as it is the most useful plant for birds! Provides excellent cover and nesting sites, birds eat acorns and leaf galls (which act as nurseries for nutritious insect larvae), pick insects off leaves, twigs, and bark crevices, and store acorns in the bark. May attract: California Scrub Jay, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse, a variety of woodpeckers, Bushtits, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, California Quail, and many others.

<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> var. <i>agrifolia</i>, Coast Live Oak	This evergreen tree grows to a stately height of 20-75 feet and width of 30-60 feet. Requires full sun, but can grow in a variety of soil types. Flowers in the spring, and acorns mature in fall. Fabulous on slopes.
<i>Quercus berberidifolia</i> California Scrub Oak	If you would like to plant an oak but don't have space for a tree, this is an excellent choice, as it grows about 3-10 feet high and 5 feet wide. This evergreen shrub can be used as a hedge and for erosion control in full to part sun on well-drained soil.
<i>Quercus lobata</i> Valley Oak or Roble	A winter deciduous tree even larger than coast live oak (up to 90 feet high by 30 feet wide). Grows in full sun to part shade in a variety of soil types. Yellow flowers in spring, acorns mature in fall. Grows in valleys and foothills. Beautiful lobed leaves.

Sage (*Salvia*)

Birds work the flowers and eat the seeds. May attract: Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds; Lesser, American, and Lawrence's Goldfinches; and insect gleaning birds. Also attracts butterflies and bees.

<i>Salvia apiana</i> White Sage	A beautiful and fragrant evergreen shrub with white foliage and dramatic white flower stalks up to 6 feet long in spring and summer. Grows quickly in full or part sun. Grows in a variety of soil types, including slopes. A ceremonial plant.
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Allen Chickering'	A mounding shrub up to 5 feet tall by 5 feet wide with profuse lavender flowers from spring into summer. Will enter into summer dormancy. Grows quickly on a range of soil types.
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i> 'Bee's Bliss'	Grows as a perennial groundcover up to 2 feet high and spreading up to 5 feet wide in full or part sun. Lavender to pink flowers appear in spring and into summer. Prefers well-drained soils. Will enter into summer dormancy.
<i>Salvia mellifera</i> 'Terra Seca'	This is a perennial groundcover growing up to 2 feet high and spreading up to 6 feet with dark green foliage and contrasting white flowers in spring. Does very well on slopes as erosion control in either full or part sun, on a variety of soil types.
<i>Salvia spathacea</i> Hummingbird Sage	This species grows well under the canopy of oak trees, spreading to form a colony 2 feet high with magenta flowers much of the spring and summer. Fragrant. Does best in shade.

Toyon (*Heteromeles*)

This large, evergreen shrub was the inspiration for Hollywood's name, as it graces the Hollywood Hills and displays ripe red berries in winter. It provides good shelter and nesting sites. Attracts Western Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Hermit Thrush, Mourning Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Mockingbird, and any other bird that likes berries.

<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Toyon	A large evergreen shrub or small tree that grows up to 15 feet high by 15 feet wide. Grows quickly in full or part sun and a variety of soil types. White flowers in summer. The 'Davis Gold' variety produces yellow berries.
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Above information was taken from <https://www.wfvz.org/education/more-about-birds/28-all-about-birds/157-what-you-can-do-to-help-with-bird-conservation>, [http://theodorepayne.org/nativeplantdatabase/index.php?title=California Native Plant Library](http://theodorepayne.org/nativeplantdatabase/index.php?title=California%20Native%20Plant%20Library), <https://www.laspilitas.com/bird.htm>, and <http://www.matilijanursery.com/california-native-plant-availability/>, and from *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien. You can find more information about other plant species and their attractiveness to birds at the above web sites.

Bird-Friendly Garden and General Bird Resources

Overview

Installing native plants in your yard can help attract native birds. There are many ways to utilize natives in the landscape. Some like a more manicured yard, and some prefer a wild and woolly look. Through our bird-friendly garden tour, we hope to inspire you with ideas and encourage you to consider turning your yard into a bird-friendly habitat. This is so important now, as birds face more pressures from climate change and habitat loss. By creating a bird-friendly garden at your home, you're contributing to a patchwork of stepping stones that birds rely on for survival. Thank you for doing your part!

Key Planting Points

Thinking of creating a bird-friendly garden? We can help!

- Summer planning → Fall planting (weather cools off, rain waters plants naturally)
- California native plants in your landscape help lower monthly water and gardener costs (no more lawn mowing!)
- Native plants support native insects, and native insects support native birds

Conejo Valley Audubon Society Lawns to Habitat Program (next window opens fall 2020)

- Design help & \$200 of native plants:
<http://www.conejovalleyaudubon.org/grantapplication.php>
- Also check out our Conservation tips:
<http://www.conejovalleyaudubon.org/conservation.php>

To learn more about birds

- Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology: <https://www.wfvz.org/index.php>
- Conejo Valley Audubon Society: <http://conejovalleyaudubon.org/>
- National Audubon Society: <https://www.audubon.org/>
- Ventura Audubon Society: <https://www.venturaaudubon.org/>
- San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: <https://www.sfvaudubon.org/>
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

To learn more about California native and how to avoid invasive exotic plants

- California Native Plant Society (CNPS): <https://calscape.org/> and <https://www.cnps.org/>
- L.A./Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of CNPS: www.lasmmcnps.org
- Channel Islands Chapter of CNPS: <http://www.cnpsci.org/>
- Invasive Plants: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/prevention/landscaping/dpp/?region=socal>

Native Botanic Gardens and Nurseries

- Matilija Nursery (Moorpark; offering 20% discount coupon!): <http://www.matilijanursery.com/>
- Conejo Valley Botanic Garden: <http://conejogarden.org/>
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Nursery: <https://www.sbbg.org/>
- Theodore Payne Foundation (Sunland): <http://theodorepayne.org/>
- California Botanic Garden and Nursery (Claremont): <https://www.calbg.org/>
- Las Pilitas Nursery (Santa Margarita; ships plants): <https://www.laspilitas.com/>

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Bird-Friendly Vegetation Trimming Guidance

- http://www.conejovalleyaudubon.org/Links/CVAS%20Tree%20Trimming%202016_04_13.pdf
- <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/TreeTrimming/TreeTrimmingPacket.html>
- If you can, allow plants to keep their lower branches. Many birds like to scuttle and feed on the ground. Brushy areas provide cover. However, be sure to follow local fire prevention recommendations: <https://vcfd.org/images/prevention/standards/515---Defensible-Space-and-Fuel-Modification-Zones-Standard.pdf>.

Maintenance Tips

Download a handy guide to maintaining your native plant garden here:

<https://californianativeplants.com/plants/planning-tools/maintenanceguide/>

Find suggestions for pruning and keeping both insect and plant pests at bay here:

<https://www.cnps.org/gardening/digging-deeper>

You can also download the California Friendly® Landscape Maintenance Guide here:

<http://www.bewaterwise.com/garden.html>



If you want to try an alternative herbicide, industrial strength vinegar may be a good option. As with any herbicide, be sure to follow directions on the label.

If your garden provides 1) Food, 2) Water, 3) Cover, 4) Places to Raise Young, and 5) Sustainable Practices, you might be able to Certify it as Wildlife Habitat

- National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Create.aspx>

A Word About Cats...

Cats are amazing and we love them. The only problem is they're really good at hunting birds, and are likely partly responsible for the decline in bird populations. It's best to keep cats indoors, but if your cat insists on going outside, try building them a "catio." Check out this site for some inspiration:

<https://catioworld.com/catios/>