



## Landscaping to Attract Birds in South Florida<sup>1</sup>

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One benefit of Florida living is the enjoyment of plants and wildlife in the landscape through most of the year. By proper plant selection, you can enhance your landscape to attract, feed, and shelter birds for year-round enjoyment. When selecting plants to incorporate into the landscape, keep in mind the need for birds to obtain shelter from inclement weather and from predators. A number of plant species can also attract birds by providing fruits as a source of food. Flowers of some species attract insects, which are in turn eaten by other types of birds. Migratory birds are particularly abundant along the coastal ridges in southern Florida. These birds can be attracted to landscapes by use of plants that provide seeds, fruits or insects during the fall and spring migrations. These food sources can be complemented by one or more bird feeders which must provide high quality seed with regularity. A good bird feeder should be conveniently located for viewing and large enough to hold food for at least 2-3 days, protect the seed from rain, and minimize seed spillage. Many bird guidebooks provide information on the bird species attracted by various seed types. Keep in mind that many of south Florida's songbirds are migrants or winter residents, and will thus require food or cover during the fall, winter, and spring months only.

### Landscape Principles to Attract Birds

Solid design concepts are important in any landscape project, and references on design principles are listed in this fact sheet under the heading of 'Recommended

References'. The following are additional considerations to remember when landscaping to attract birds.

- Provide shelter to entice birds into your yard and to protect them from the elements or predators.
- Select a variety of plants which offer a consistent supply of food over an extended period of time.
- Select plants that flower or fruit during the spring migrations and attract insects. Insects, in turn, attract insectivorous birds. In some areas in southern Florida, the flowering gumbo-limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) attracts large numbers of warblers in their spring breeding plumage as they migrate northward.
- Design plantings which offer enough food to meet the needs of the birds.
- Provide a source of water for drinking and bathing. Moving water in a gently sloping basin or trough is particularly attractive to birds.

These criteria can be met by careful planning during the design phase of the landscape project. Select a variety of plants to extend the fruiting period for a year-round supply of food. Group plants together to create habitats attractive to birds. Be sure to include enough plants of each species to provide food in a volume great enough for the dietary needs of the birds attracted to your yard. Table

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1 is designed to assist you in selecting plants which have attributes particularly attractive to birds.

### Recommended References

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**Table 1.** Listing of plants for South Florida which attract birds; noting origin, plant type, plant part of value, season, and bird attracted.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Plant Type	Value	Season	Birds Attracted
<i>Ardisia escalloniodes</i>	Malberry	native	shrub	fruit	fall; winter	Fruit-eating birds
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Scarlet Milkweed	exotic	shrubby perennial	flowers	year-round	Hummingbirds
<i>Bauhinia blakeana</i>	Hong Kong Orchid Tree	exotic	tree	flowers	winter; spring	Hummingbirds, Orioles, Warblers
<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	Gumbo-limbo	native	tree	fruit	summer	Mockingbirds, Vireos
<i>Calliandra haematocephala</i>	Powderpuff	exotic	shrub	flowers	winter	Hummingbirds
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Beautyberry	native	shrub	fruit	fall; winter	Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Catbirds, Thrashers
<i>Calypttranthes pallens</i>	Spicewood	native	shrub	fruit	fall	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Cestrum</i> spp.	Day- and night-flowering Jasmines	exotic	shrub	fruit	spring; fall	Mockingbirds, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Woodpeckers
<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	Cocoplum	native	shrub	fruit	summer	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	Pigeon Plum	native	tree	fruit	fall; winter	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Robins, Woodpeckers
<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	Sea-grape	native	shrub; tree	fruit	year-round	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Coccothrinax</i> spp.	Silver Palms	native	tree	fruit	summer	Mockingbirds, Blue Jays
<i>Colubrina arborescens</i>	Coffee Colubrina	native	tree	flowers	spring	Warblers, Gnatcatchers, Vireos, Flycatchers
<i>Dipholis salicifolia</i>	Willow Busic	native	tree	fruit	summer	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	exotic	tree	fruit	winter	Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Woodpeckers
<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	Surinam Cherry	exotic	shrub	fruit	spring	Mockingbirds, Waxwings, Orioles
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	Figs	native, exotic	tree	fruit; cover	year-round	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Blue Jays, Waxwings, Woodpeckers, Parrots
<i>Forestiera segregata</i>	Florida Privet	native	shrub	flowers	spring	Warblers, Vireos
<i>Guapira discolor</i>	Blolly	native	shrub, tree	fruit	summer	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Firebrush	native	shrub	flowers	year-round	Hummingbirds
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Dahoon Holly	native	tree	fruit	fall; winter	Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Waxwings

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<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	Southern Red Cedar	native	shrub; tree	fruit; cover	fall; winter	Tree Sallows, Waxings, Mockingbirds, Flickers, Sapsuckers
<i>Justicia brandegeana</i>	Shrimp Plant	exotic	shrub	flowers	year-round	Hummingbirds, Orioles, Buntings
<i>Lysiloma</i> spp.	Wild Tamarind	native	tree	flowers	spring; summer	Warblers, Flycatchers, Gnatcatchers
<i>Malpighia glabra</i>	Barbados Cherry	exotic	shrub	fruit	year-round	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>	Turk's Cap	exotic	shrub	flowers	year-round	Hummingbirds, Painted Buntings
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry	native	tree	fruit	spring	Woodpeckers, Kingbirds, Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, and other fruit-eating birds
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Orange-jasmine	exotic	shrub	fruit	summer; fall	Mockingbirds, Cardinals
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle	native	shrub	fruit	fall; winter	Warblers, Vireos, Tree Swallows, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Catbirds
<i>Myrsine guianensis</i>	Florida Myrsine	native	shrub	fruit	fall; winter	Fruit-eating Birds
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	native	vine	fruit	summer; fall	Mockingbirds, Robins, Thrashers, Woodpeckers, Great-crested Flycatchers
<i>Persea americana</i>	Avocado	exotic	tree	fruit	summer; fall	Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Orioles
<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	Wild Coffee	native	shrub	fruit	summer; fall	Cardinals, Blue Jays
<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Solitaire Palm	exotic	tree	fruit	year-round	Mockingbirds, Blue Jays
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	exotic	shrub	fruit	winter	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Blue Jays, Waxwings, Woodpeckers
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	Laurel Oak	native	tree	fruit	fall; winter	Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Warblers, Vireos
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live Oak	native	tree	fruit	fall; winter	Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Warblers, Vireos
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Royal Palm	native	tree	fruit	fall; winter	Mockingbirds, Robins, Blue Jays
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Sabal Palm	native	tree	fruit	fall; winter	Blackbirds, Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Robins
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	native	shrub	fruit	summer; fall	Fruit-eating birds
<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	Paradise Tree	native	tree	fruit	spring	Fruit-eating birds
<i>Sophora tomentosa</i>	Necklace Pod	native	shrub	flowers	winter; spring	Hummingbirds, Warblers, Vireos

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<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Cape Honeysuckle	exotic	vine	flowers	year-round	Hummingbirds, Catbirds, Orioles
<i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i>	Florida Tetrazygia	native	shrub	fruit	spring	Mockingbirds and other fruit eating birds
<i>Thrinax</i> spp.	Thatch Palms	native	tree	fruit	fall	Mockingbirds, Jays, and other fruit-eating birds
<i>Trema micrantha</i>	Florida Trema	native	shrub	fruit	summer	Fruit-eating birds