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**For the Birds Garden Workshop Handout**

***Powerhouse Plants (my top woody genera):***

* ***Amelanchier* (shadbush, serviceberry)**
* ***Aronia (chokeberry)***
* ***Cornus* (dogwood, shrubs or trees)**
* ***Ilex*(holly, including winterberry)**
* ***Juniperus virginiana* or *scopulorum* (Eastern/Rocky Mtn. red cedar)**
* ***Lindera benzoin* (spicebush)**
* ***Malus* (crabapple; not native)**
* ***Myrica* (bayberry)**
* ***Parthenocissus* (Virginia and thicket creepers)**
* ***Rhus* (sumac)**
* ***Sambucus* (elderberry)**
* ***Vaccinium* (blueberry, huckleberry)**
* ***Viburnum* (emphasize natives\*\*; note some Asian species are becoming invasive in some spots, like *V. setigerum*, *dilatatum* and even doublefile)**
* ***Vitis* (wild grape)**
* **Also: Oaks (*Quercus*) bring in lots of insects and caterpillars**
* **Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a widespread native appealing to 33 bird species, says Wildflower.org**
* **More conifers: *Picea* (native spruces), native pines (*Pinus*), hemlock, etc. for shelter, nest sites, seeds**
* **I add native *Aralia* (spikenard) to the list…if you have space**

\*\*Some native viburnum are covered in this story from Brooklyn Botanic

<https://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/viburnums>

***Reference Help, Online and Old-Style***

I have many interviews (podcasts and transcripts) with leading ornithologists on my website, at this link for browsing:

<https://awaytogarden.com/category/nature/bird-sh-t/>

**Native Plant Resources**

Ways to find out which natives are appropriate are many, including this new one and some older databases.

New: The location-specific native plant finder on National Wildlife Federation’s website, search by your Zip Code for local natives:

<https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/>

Also:

* [Go Botany](https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/) (New England regional), from the New England Wild Flower Society
* [Atlas of the Flora of New England](http://neatlas.org/) by Ray Angelo and David Boufford of Harvard. Doesn’t specify native, but does mention if the species’ origin from other countries/continents is known.
* [Native Plant Information Network](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/) (National, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Garden): Get an alphabetized list of all the plants (8,593 species) on which they have data, then narrow your search to a particular state.
* [New York Flora Atlas:](http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/) search for a list of plants recorded for a particular NY county. You can then restrict that list to native plants or non-native plants. For other states try starting at…
* [The Biota of North America Program (BONAP)](http://www.bonap.org/) allows you to map species to county, for each state, and  search on a particular species and understand what its distribution is, native and non-native. Coming: tools that allow you to create a checklist for your own county.
* [The USDA Plant database](https://plants.usda.gov/java/), including maps and the ability to [search by state](https://plants.usda.gov/checklist.html), for example.
* Missouri Botanical Garden: The Missouri Botanical Garden and more than 30 U.S. and Canadian institutions are collaborating on a printed and computerized inventory of the 21,000 species of [plants of North America north of Mexico](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/media/fact-pages/flora-of-north-america.aspx). Dr. George Yatskievych oversees the program and is director of the Flora of Missouri project. World project aiming for completion by 2020. Work to date is at [the Flora of North America website](http://floranorthamerica.org/families), and will be published in print as well.
* You can also use [MIssouri Botanical Garden’s Plant Finder](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx), which specifies native range in the results of each plant description (but doesn’t include maps).
* [NatureServe Explorer:](http://explorer.natureserve.org/) Searchable database on 70,000 plant, animal, and fungi species, updated in 2016.

**Books**

I am crazy about field guides. Some I rely on:

<https://awaytogarden.com/favorite-field-guides-real-field-guide-freak/>

**Online Resources**

**Xerces Society (pollinator-focused)**

Downloadable pdf region-specific pollinator plant lists

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/>

**Audubon native plants database by Zip code**

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

**All About Birds/Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

Species-by-species guide to birds, plus articles, and interactive features like All About Feathers and Bird Song Hero and more. Join and support their work; get their e-newsletters.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org>

**eBird**

Record your sightings in this online checklist program whilecontributing to citizen science database, plus browse your area for recent or historical sightings. (Use the “Explore Data” navigation tab to sort by place and then refine by date for newest, etc.)

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

**BirdCast migration reports**

Migration reports in real time, from Cornell.

<http://birdcast.info>

**All About Bird Houses from NestWatch**

As it says; again from Cornell…

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/>

…and their **“Right Bird, Right House” searchable tool** (very cool), where you enter your region and the type of habitat you live in (e.g., forest or wetland or etc.) and it tells you which birds you could put up boxes for – and which species need it most:

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/right-bird-right-house/>

**Re: bluebirds, Sialis.org**

From nest-box protocols and plans and how to monitor them, to bluebird biology and predator-prevention info.

<http://sialis.org/>

**Re: Insect ID, BugGuide.net**

Browse for help ID’ing insects, or even upload a photo of your own for expert ID help.

[http://bugguide.net/](http://bugguide.net/node/view/15740)

**BirdNote**

2-minute public-radio show and podcast about (you guessed it) birds.

<http://birdnote.org>