



Dagny Gromer

BENEFICIAL BIRD NATIVE PLANT CHART

CALIFORNIA



INTRODUCTION

Help to take care of birds in California by providing native plants they prefer and they will better help control pests in the farm and garden. Begin using this chart by deciding on the size and type of native plants you want to install, and if you'd like them to be evergreen, deciduous or both. Next consider selecting a variety of plants that provide floral resources and other plant food for birds to consume throughout the year.

Continue selecting plants, making sure that some support a high number of caterpillars that birds eat—these plants will be the keystone species of the area. Also make selections based on the most bird use recorded for general habitat, food and nesting habitat. Lastly, select plants that support climate benefits, including those that exist in 3+ regions in California, which makes them more resilient to climate change; those that offer year-round cover for birds that will increasingly be stressed by climate change; and those that are better at storing carbon. By providing native plants, more suitable habitat will be available for birds now and into the future.



Produced by Wild Farm Alliance (WFA). WFA is a national organization with a mission to promote healthy, viable agriculture that helps to protect and restore wild nature. Our work is bringing nature back to our farms and ranches. WildFarmAlliance.org



A Chestnut-backed Chickadee uses a live oak tree, which provides habitat and food resources over multiple seasons.

Photo: Doug Greenberg



Red-shouldered Hawks often hunt from deciduous trees.

Photo: Diane Rose



Lupine hosts very many caterpillars, as this Song Sparrow knows.





































































































































































Photo: Claudine Lamothe



Elderberry provides nesting habitat for many birds, including Red-winged Blackbirds that laid their eggs here.

Photo: Breslin Farms

CHART


















































































































































































Common Name	Genus	Species	Plant Characteristics	Bird Species Use of Plant Genera	Climate Benefits
LARGE SHRUBS AND TREES					
Maple, Big Leaf	<i>Acer</i>	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	    	  	 
Elder, Box	<i>Acer</i>	<i>Acer negundo</i>	     	  	 
Buckeye, Calif.	<i>Aesculus</i>	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	    	 	 
Alder, White	<i>Alnus</i>	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	   	  	 
Madrone	<i>Arbutus</i>	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	    	  	  
Manzanita, Common	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>	    	  	  
Saltbush, Quailbush	<i>Atriplex</i>	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>	   	  	  
Cedar, Incense	<i>Calocedrus</i>	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	    	 	  
Ceanothus, 'Ray Hartman'	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</i>	  	  	 
Ceanothus, Deerbrush	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i>	    	  	 
Ceanothus, California Lilac	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	   	  	  
Ceanothus, Carmel	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. griseus</i>	   	  	  
Button Willow	<i>Cephalanthus</i>	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	   	  	 
Redbud, Western	<i>Cercis</i>	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	     		 
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus</i>	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	   	 	  
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis</i>	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	    	 	 
Dogwood, Brown	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>Cornus glabrata</i>	    	  	 

KEY

-  Deciduous
-  Evergreen
-  Spring Flowers / Food
-  Summer Flowers / Food
-  Fall Flowers / Food
-  Winter Flowers / Food
-  Suitable for 3+ Regions
-  Provides Cover for Birds Year-round

-  High
-  Medium
-  Low
-  Caterpillars
-  Bird Count General Habitat
-  Bird Count for Food
-  Bird Count for Nesting
-  Amount of Carbon Stored

























































































































































































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Dogwood, Western	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	   	  	 
Coffeeberry	<i>Frangula</i>	<i>Frangula californica</i>	    	  	  
Ash, Oregon	<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	   	  	 
Flannel bush	<i>Fremontodendron</i>	<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	    		  
Silktassel Plant	<i>Garrya</i>	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	 		  
Silktassel Plant, Fremont	<i>Garrya</i>	<i>Garrya fremontii</i>	  		 
Cypress, Monterey	<i>Hesperocyparis</i>	<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>	 	 	 
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles</i>	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	    	  	  
Ocean Spray	<i>Holodiscus</i>	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	    	 	 
Walnut, California Black	<i>Juglans</i>	<i>Juglans californica</i>	   	  	 
Tree Mallow	<i>Malva</i>	<i>Malva assurgentiflora</i>	     	 	 
Wax Myrtle	<i>Morella</i>	<i>Morella californica</i>	   	  	  
Pine, Gray	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>Pinus sabiniana</i>	     	  	 
Sycamore	<i>Platanus</i>	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	    	  	 
Cottonwood, Fremont	<i>Populus</i>	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	   	  	 
Cottonwood, Black	<i>Populus</i>	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	   	  	
Cherry, Hollyleaf	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	     	  	  
Cherry, Catalina	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>Prunus ilicifolia subsp. lyonii</i>	     	  	  
Oak, Coast live	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	     	  	 

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Oak, Canyon live	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	     	  	 
Oak, Blue	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	     	  	 
Oak, California black	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	     	  	
Oak, Valley	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	     	  	 
Oak, Interior live	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	   	  	  
Redberry, Hollyleaf	<i>Rhamnus</i>	<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	    	  	  
Lemonade Berry	<i>Rhus</i>	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	     	  	  
Sugar Bush	<i>Rhus</i>	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	    	  	  
Willow, Red	<i>Salix</i>	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	   	  	 
Willow, Yellow	<i>Salix</i>	<i>Salix lasiandra</i> var. <i>lasiandra</i>	   	  	 
Willow, Arroyo	<i>Salix</i>	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	   	  	 
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>caerulea</i>	    	  	 
Redwood, Coast	<i>Sequoia</i>	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	    	 	  
Giant Sequoia	<i>Sequoiadendron</i>	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	    		  
MEDIUM SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS					
Chamise	<i>Adenostoma</i>	<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	    	  	  
Serviceberry, Western	<i>Amelanchier</i>	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	   	  	 
Manzanita, 'McMinn'	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i>	   	  	  
Manzanita, Whiteleaf	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	<i>Arctostaphylos viscida</i>	   	  	 

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Bird Count General Habitat



Bird Count for Food








































































































































































Bird Count for Nesting





Amount of Carbon Stored















































































































































































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Sagebrush, California	<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	    	  	
Saltbush, Fourwing	<i>Atriplex</i>	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	   	  	  
Coyote Brush, Pigeon Point	<i>Baccharis</i>	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	     	 	  
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis</i>	<i>Baccharis pilularis ssp. consanguinea</i>	   	 	  
Mulefat	<i>Baccharis</i>	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	     	 	  
Oregon Grape	<i>Berberis</i>	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	    	  	  
Spicebush	<i>Calycanthus</i>	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	   		 
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria</i>	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	  		  
Ceanothus, 'Concha'	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus 'Concha'</i>	  	  	 
Ceanothus, 'Dark Star'	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus 'Dark Star'</i>	 	  	 
Buckbrush	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	     	  	 
Ceanothus, Point Reyes	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i>	   	  	 
Ceanothus, Yankee Point	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. griseus</i>	  	  	  
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus</i>	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	     	  	
Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria</i>	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	   	  	
Yerba Santa	<i>Eriodictyon</i>	<i>Eriodictyon californicum</i>	    		  
Buckwheat, California	<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	    	  	  
Buckwheat, Giant	<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	    	  	  

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Sunflower, Wooly	<i>Eriophyllum</i>	<i>Eriophyllum staechadifolium</i>	   		 
Coffeeberry, Eve Case	<i>Frangula</i>	<i>Frangula californica</i>	    	  	  
Coffeeberry, Mound San Bruno	<i>Frangula</i>	<i>Frangula californica</i>	    	  	  
Island Snapdragon	<i>Gambelia</i>	<i>Gambelia speciosa</i>	  		  
Twinberry	<i>Lonicera</i>	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	  	  	 
Lupine, Silver Bush	<i>Lupinus</i>	<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	    	  	  
Bladderpod	<i>Peritoma</i>	<i>Peritoma arborea</i>	     	 	  
Mock Orange, California	<i>Philadelphus</i>	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	    		 
Oak, Nuttall's Scrub	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus dumosa</i>	   	  	  
Redberry	<i>Rhamnus</i>	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	     	  	  
Sumac, Fragrant	<i>Rhus</i>	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	   	  	
Gooseberry, Fuschia-flowered	<i>Ribes</i>	<i>Ribes californicum</i>	   	  	 
Currant, Chaparral	<i>Ribes</i>	<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	   	  	 
Currant, Red-Flowering	<i>Ribes</i>	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	    	  	 
Rose, Wild	<i>Rosa</i>	<i>Rosa californica</i>	    	  	 
Blackberry, California	<i>Rubus</i>	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	    	  	 
Sage, White	<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	    	  	  
Sage, Cleveland	<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	   	  	  

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Bee Plant, California	<i>Scrophularia</i>	<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	   	 	 
Spiraea	<i>Spiraea</i>	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	   	 	 
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	    	  	 
Snowberry, creeping	<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>	   	  	 
Huckleberry, California or Evergreen	<i>Vaccinium</i>	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	    	  	 
SMALL SHRUBS AND FORBS					
Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i>	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	   		  
Manzanita, Emerald Carpet	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	<i>Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'</i>	    	  	  
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	    	  	 
Milkweed, Woolypod	<i>Asclepias</i>	<i>Asclepias eriocarpa</i>	  		 
Milkweed, Narrowleaf	<i>Asclepias</i>	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	   		 
Milkweed, Showy	<i>Asclepias</i>	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	  		 
Coyote Brush, Twin Peaks II	<i>Baccharis</i>	<i>Baccharis 'Twin Peaks II'</i>	   	 	  
Ceanothus, Carmel Creeper	<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Ceanothus griseus horizontalis</i>	   	  	  
Clarkia, Farewell to Spring	<i>Clarkia</i>	<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	  		 
Clarkia, Red Spotted	<i>Clarkia</i>	<i>Clarkia speciosa</i>	  		
Monkeyflower, Sticky	<i>Diplacus</i>	<i>Diplacus aurantiacus</i>	    	 	  

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Bird Count General Habitat



Bird Count for Food


















































































































































Bird Count for Nesting



Amount of Carbon Stored



Common Name	Genus	Species	Plant Characteristics	Bird Species Use of Plant Genera	Climate Benefits
Monkeyflower, Sierra Bush	<i>Diplacus</i>	<i>Diplacus grandiflorus</i>	    	 	 
Fuschia, California	<i>Epilobium</i>	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	   	  	  
Seaside Daisy	<i>Erigeron</i>	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	    		 
Buckwheat, Coast	<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	   	  	 
Buckwheat, Seacliff	<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>	     	  	 
Buckwheat, Sulfur	<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	   	  	 
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum</i>	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	    		 
Monkeyflower, Seep	<i>Erythranthe</i>	<i>Erythranthe guttata</i>	    		 
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia</i>	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	     		
Strawberry, Beach	<i>Fragaria</i>	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	    		  
Gumplant, Great Valley	<i>Grindelia</i>	<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	    		  
Gumplant, Spreading	<i>Grindelia</i>	<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	    		 
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i>	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	  	  	
Sunflower, California	<i>Helianthus</i>	<i>Helianthus californicus</i>	   	 	
Lupine, Minature	<i>Lupinus</i>	<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	  	  	
Lupine, Manycolored	<i>Lupinus</i>	<i>Lupinus variicolor</i>	  	  	
Coyote Mint	<i>Monardella</i>	<i>Monardella villosa</i>	  		  
Baby Blue Eyes	<i>Nemophila</i>	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	  		 

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Primrose, Hooker's Evening	<i>Oenothera</i>	<i>Oenothera elata</i>	   		  
Pricklypear, Beavertail	<i>Opuntia</i>	<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>	     	  	  
Penstemon, Foothill	<i>Penstemon</i>	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	    	 	  
Phacelia, California	<i>Phacelia</i>	<i>Phacelia californica</i>	   		  
Oak, Huckleberry	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus vaccinifolia</i>	     	  	 
Sage, Black	<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	    	  	 
Sage, Hummingbird	<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	    	  	  
Goldenrod, California	<i>Solidago</i>	<i>Solidago californica</i>	   	 	  
Hedge Nettle	<i>Stachys</i>	<i>Stachys ajugoides</i>	    	  	  
Hedge Nettle	<i>Stachys</i>	<i>Stachys bullata</i>	    	  	 
Aster, California	<i>Symphyotrichum</i>	<i>Symphyotrichum chilense</i>	   		 
Wooly Blue Curls	<i>Trichostema</i>	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	     		  
Vinegar Weed	<i>Trichostema</i>	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	  		 
VINES					
Dutchman's Pipe	<i>Aristolochia</i>	<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	   		 
Clematis, Chaparral	<i>Clematis</i>	<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	   		  
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i>	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	     	  	 
Wild Grape	<i>Vitis</i>	<i>Vitis californica</i>	    	  	 

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GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES					
Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis</i>	<i>Agrostis exarata</i>	   	 	  
Nutka Reed Grass	<i>Calamagrostis</i>	<i>Calamagrostis nutkaensis</i>	   	 	 
Sedge, Valley	<i>Carex</i>	<i>Carex barbarae</i>	  	  	  
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis</i>	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	   	  	  
Rush, Spike	<i>Eleocharis</i>	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	   	  	  
Wildrye, Giant	<i>Elymus</i>	<i>Elymus condensatus</i>	   	 	  
Wildrye, Blue	<i>Elymus</i>	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	   	 	  
Slender wheatgrass	<i>Elymus</i>	<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	  	 	
Wildrye, Creeping	<i>Elymus</i>	<i>Elymus triticoides</i>	   	 	 
Fescue, Three-Week	<i>Festuca</i>	<i>Festuca microstachys</i>	  	 	 
Fescue, Red	<i>Festuca</i>	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	   	 	 
Meadow Barley	<i>Hordeum</i>	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	   	  	 
Rush, Wire	<i>Juncus</i>	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	   	  	  
Rush, Common	<i>Juncus</i>	<i>Juncus patens</i>	 	  	  
California Oniongrass	<i>Melica</i>	<i>Melica californica</i>	   		 
Deergrass	<i>Muhlenbergia</i>	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	   		  
Purple Needlegrass	<i>Stipa</i>	<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	   	 	  
Cattail	<i>Typha</i>	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	    	  	 
























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SYMBOL DESCRIPTIONS

Symbol	Name	Description
<i>Plant Characteristics</i>		
	Deciduous	Plant dormancy is deciduous for part of the year
	Evergreen	Plant dormancy is evergreen year around
	Spring Flowers / Food	When flowers, fruits, seeds or nuts are available for birds
	Summer Flowers / Food	When flowers, fruits, seeds or nuts are available for birds
	Fall Flowers / Food	When flowers, fruits, seeds or nuts are available for birds
	Winter Flowers / Food	When flowers, fruits, seeds or nuts are available for birds
	Very Many Caterpillars	30+ species of moth & butterfly caterpillar species hosted by this plant
	Many Caterpillars	10-29 species of moth & butterfly caterpillar species hosted by this plant
	Some Caterpillars	1-9 species of moth & butterfly caterpillar species hosted by this plant
<i>Bird Species Use of Plant Genera</i>		
	High Bird Count Gen. Habitat	General habitat support for 20+ bird species
	Moderate Bird Count Gen. Habitat	General habitat support for 5-19 bird species
	Low Bird Count Gen. Habitat	General habitat support for 1-4 bird species
	High Bird Count for Food	Food support for 20+ bird species
	Moderate Bird Count for Food	Food support for 5-19 bird species
	Low Bird Count for Food	Food support for 1-4 bird species
	High Bird Count for Nesting	Nesting support for 20+ bird species
	Moderate Bird Count for Nesting	Nesting support for 5-19 bird species
	Low Bird Count for Nesting	Nesting support for 1-4 bird species
<i>Climate Benefits</i>		
	Suitable for 3+ Regions	A larger regional footprint makes it more resilient to climate change
	Stores High Amount of Carbon	Larger trees and shrubs sequester the most carbon
	Stores Medium Amount of Carbon	Medium trees and shrubs sequester more carbon than small plants
	Stores Low Amount of Carbon	Small shrubs, vines and grasses sequester more carbon than bare soil
	Provides Cover for Birds Year-round	Leaf retention year-round provides more cover for climate-stressed birds

NOTES

1. This chart is extracted from WFA's Beneficial Bird Habitat Assessment and Native Plant Tool which prioritizes practices and actions taken to best support birds. As part of that, the tool also synergistically analyzes and combines data from several sources to prioritize which native plants birds prefer and offer the most climate benefits.
2. Plant dormancy data is from Calscape.org; seasonal flowers and food data is from Calscape.org, Calflora.org and NRCS Plants Database; the caterpillar data is from butterflies and moths "likely" hosted by a plant species on Calscape.org.
3. The bird general habitat, food and nesting data is derived from Cornell Ornithology's Birds of the World database. We cross-referenced 160 bird species' resource uses with the plant genera of 159 California native plant species.
4. Plant species regional data is derived from Calscape.org; carbon storage amount data is derived from Jepson's plant size data; the year-round carbon storage data is derived from Calscape's dormancy data.

