

Bird-Friendly Anchor Plant List from the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

Along with a GREAT article from the **California Native Plant Society**

Most of the gardens on our tour include examples of our **6 Recommended California Native Plants to “Anchor” a Bird-friendly Garden**. These plants will be present in different species, varieties, and stages of maturity. We hope it will be helpful you to see examples of these six plants as it is often difficult to gauge what plant will be *juuuuuust right* for your space! **Look for the chalkboard signs in each garden denoting examples of these six genera of “anchor” plants.** We encourage you to photograph and note your favorites!

GENUS	COMMON GENUS NAME	BIRDS SUPPORTED
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	<i>Manzanita</i>	Manzanita provides excellent cover as well as nesting sites for our local and migratory birds. Birds feed on fruit, and its January flowers provide winter sustenance for hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Manzanita attracts a variety of birds including California Scrub Jay, Black-headed Grosbeak, Northern Mockingbird, Fox Sparrow, Anna’s and Allen’s Hummingbirds.
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>California Lilac</i>	Ceanothus provides good cover and nesting sites. Birds feed on the seeds and glean insects from the plant. May attract: California Quail, various sparrows, and gleaning birds. Also attracts many butterfly species.
<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>Buckwheat</i>	Buckwheat provides good cover, and many birds eat its leaves, flowers, and seeds. Buckwheat 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.
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Oak</i>	Oak is the ultimate anchor plant as it is the most useful plant for birds! It provides excellent cover and nesting sites. Birds eat its acorns and leaf galls (which act as nurseries for nutritious insect larvae), pick insects off its leaves, twigs, and bark crevices, and store acorns in the bark. Oak attracts a variety of birds including: California Scrub Jay, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse, various woodpeckers, Bushtits, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, California Quail, and many others.
<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Sage</i>	Salvias are pollinator magnets. Many birds rely on nectar packed salvia flowers, while others eat the seeds. Some eat the insects that regularly visit the plant such as bees and butterflies. Salvia may attract: Anna’s and Allen’s Hummingbirds; Lesser, American, and Lawrence’s Goldfinches; and insect gleaning birds.
<i>Heteromeles Arbutifolia</i>	<i>Toyon</i>	Toyon is a large, evergreen shrub that displays red berries in winter giving it a similar appearance to holly. The shrub inspired Hollywood’s name, as it grew abundantly on the surrounding hills. Toyon provides good shelter and nesting sites, and birds eat its berries. Toyon attracts a variety of birds including: Western Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Hermit Thrush, Mourning Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Mockingbird and many more!

Sources include: <https://www.wfvz.org/education/more-about-birds/28-all-about-birds/157-what-you-can-do-to-help-with-bird-conservation>,

<https://www.laspilitas.com/bird.htm> and <http://theodorepayne.org/learn/guides/>. **More information can be found in this excellent article from the**

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY <https://www.cnps.org/gardening/native-plant-gardening-for-birds-in-southern-california-5150>