

A male cardinal with vibrant red plumage and a black face mask is perched on a branch with several bright red berries. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

Landscaping for Birds: Providing Bird-Friendly Backyards

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CFAES



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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General Birdscaping Tips:

- Look for any combination of these characteristics when choosing your plants:
 - ▣ Dense growth form
 - ▣ Evergreen leaves
 - ▣ Thorns or spines
 - ▣ Produces fruits, seeds, or nuts
 - ▣ Nectar-rich flowers
 - ▣ Shade-tolerance



General Birdscaping Tips:



Cedar Waxwing

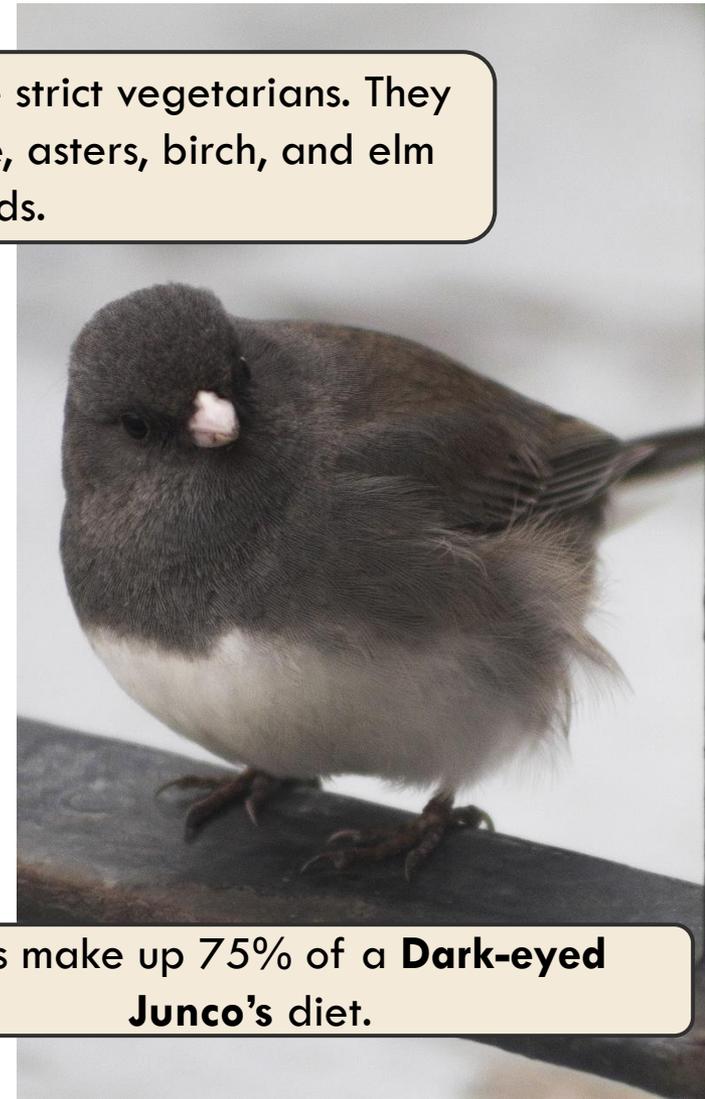
- Choose plants that bloom and provide food in different seasons, throughout the year.
 - ▣ Blossoms in spring
 - ▣ Summer fruit
 - ▣ Fall seeds
 - ▣ Winter-persistent berries or nuts

**** A variety of native plants will attract the greatest diversity of bird species.**

The Seed Eaters



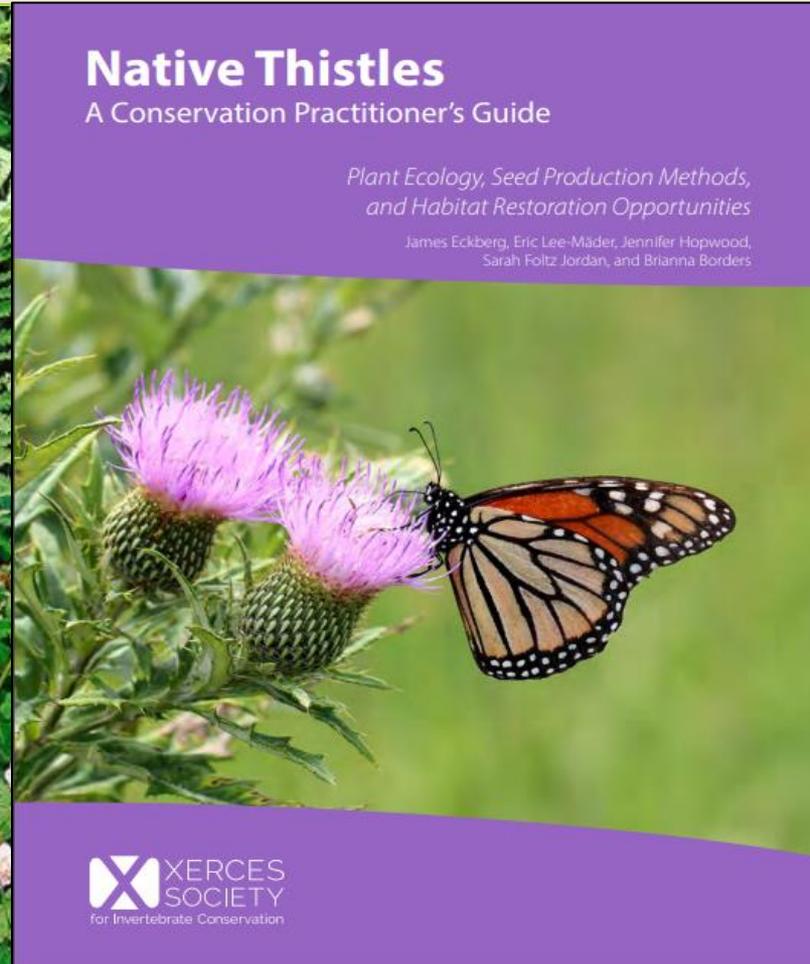
American Goldfinch are strict vegetarians. They prefer sunflowers, thistle, asters, birch, and elm seeds.



Seeds make up 75% of a **Dark-eyed Junco's** diet.

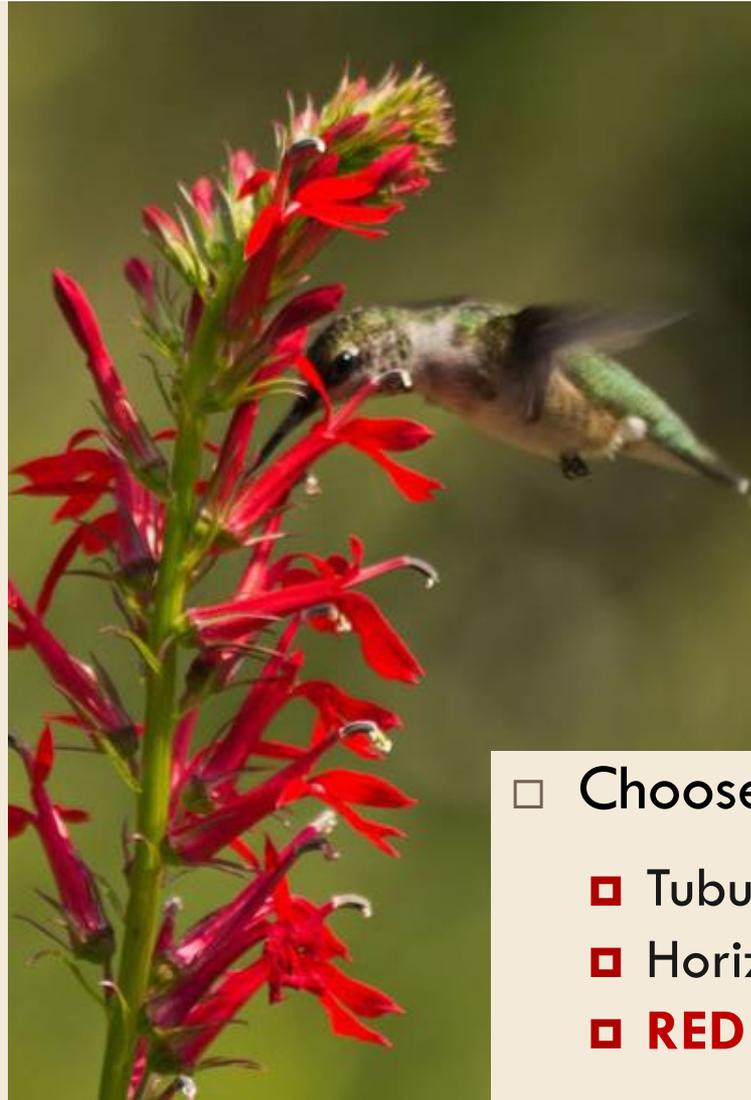
Herbaceous Plants

- **Great for a source of seeds, insects, & nesting material**
 - ▣ Sunflowers (*Helianthus*)
 - ▣ *Aster* spp.
 - ▣ Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia*)
 - ▣ Ironweed (*Vernonia*)
 - ▣ Coneflower (*Echinacea*)
 - ▣ *Coreopsis* spp.
 - ▣ Native goldenrods (*Solidago*)
 - ▣ **Milkweeds** (*Asclepias*)
 - ▣ **Cinnamon fern** (*Osmunda*)
 - ▣ **Native thistles**



Herbaceous Plants for Hummingbirds

- Cardinal flower
- Great blue lobelia
- Wild columbine
- Beards tongue
- Beebalm
- Butterfly weed
- Foxgloves
- Phlox
- Salvia (*S. azurea*)
- Hosta spp.
- Raspberry
- Jewelweed



- Choose flowers that are:
 - Tubular
 - Horizontally positioned
 - RED** and/or **Orange**

Trees & Shrubs for Birds

* = less tasty to deer

Shrubs

- Fragrant sumac*
- Staghorn sumac
- Viburnum
- Red osier dogwood*
- Yellow twig dogwood
- Winterberry holly
- Red chokeberry*
- Black chokeberry
- Spicebush
- American elderberry

Trees

- American crabapple
- American holly
- Chokecherries
- Flowering dogwood
- Hawthorn
- Persimmon
- Serviceberry
- Oaks, hickories, beech
- Willow, cherry, plum, birch

Trees & Shrubs for Birds AND Pollinators

Nectar/Pollen

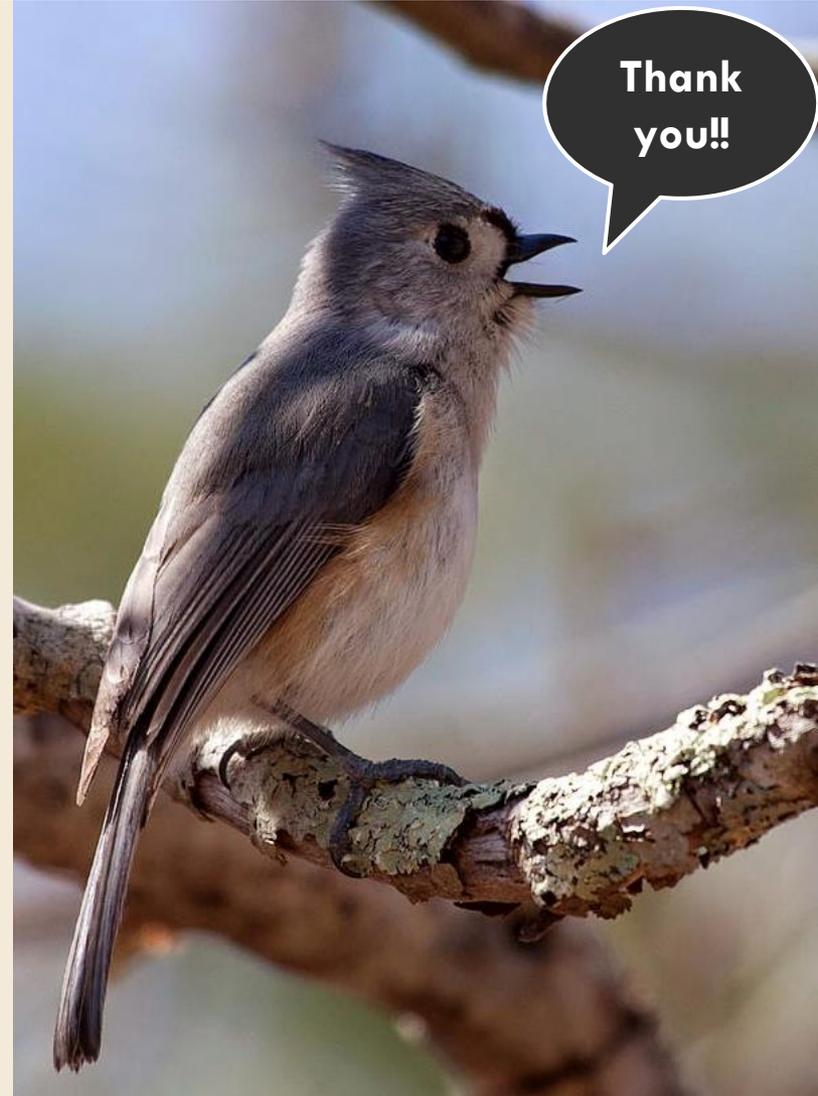
- Serviceberry
- Hackberry**
- Eastern redbud
- Maple**
- Apple, Plum**
- Persimmon**
- Hazelnut**
- Hawthorn
- Black gum**
- Sumac
- Viburnum

Host Plants

- Oak
- Willow**
- River birch
- Black cherry**
- Yellow poplar/tuliptree
- Crabapple
- Dogwood
- Spicebush**
- Sassafras**
- Elm

Want to Learn More?

- All About Birds – Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 - ▣ www.allaboutbirds.org
- Birds of North America
 - ▣ www.birdsna.org
- eBird – Animated maps
 - ▣ ebird.org/science
- Audubon Guide to NA Birds
 - ▣ audubon.org/bird-guide



Questions?



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