Many plants are beneficial to birds by providing food or shelter. The following plants have been selected specifically as a food source. Leave an open area for a bird bath or a water feature with moving water. Songbirds will squat into beds of dry soil and take a dust bath to help control external parasites. Dusting beds can simply be an area of finely pulverized soil.

**Trees**
1. Cherry (Prunus spp.): All cherries provide fruit for wildlife. The native black cherry (Prunus serotina) is especially easy to grow and a favorite of forest birds.
2. Crabapple (Malus spp.): Many varieties of crabapple produce fruits that are great winter and spring food for birds. Most newer varieties of crab hold on to their fruit all winter - or until eaten by birds. Good cultivar choices include Adams, David, Donald Wyman, Golden Raindrops, Sargent, Sugar Tyme and Zumi.
3. Euonymus, Winterberry (Euonymus bungeanus): Attractive bright red fruits in fall.
5. Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis): Great for winter and spring food source.
6. Hawthorn (Crataegus spp.): The orange-red berries are a good source of winter food for many birds. Washington hawthorn and cockspur hawthorn are especially good.
7. Juniper/Cedar (Juniperus spp.): Many birds eat the berries of juniper and redcedar.
9. Pear, Ornamental (Pyrus spp.): Several varieties of ornamental pear produce small fruits that attract birds.
10. Pine (Pinus spp.): Most pines have seeds edible to a variety of birds.
11. Spruce (Picea spp.): Most spruces produce seeds attractive to birds.

**Shrubs**
1. American Plum (Prunus americana): Abundant fruit.
2. Buffaloberry (Shepherdia spp.): Attractive red berries.
3. Chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa): Large, abundant, black fruits.
4. Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana): Very important to birds on the Plains.
5. Coralberry (Symphoricarpos spp.): Snowberry and coralberry provide good winter food.
6. Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster spp.): Easy to grow favorite for many birds.
7. Currant (Ribes spp.): Very tasty fruit.
8. Dogwood (Cornus spp.): Gray and roughleaf dogwood are good native types.
9. Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis): Dark black berries in late summer.
10. Gooseberry (Ribes spp.): Similar to currant. Abundant tasty fruits.
11. Rose (Rugosa, glauca, virginiana, woodsii, etc.): Rose hips are great source of food.
12. Sumac (Rhus spp.): All produce attractive fruit.
13. Viburnum (Viburnum spp.): Cranberrybush, wayfaringtree, blackhaw, arrowwood.

**Vines**
1. American Bittersweet (Celastrus scandens): Attracts many birds; aggressive habit.
2. Grape (Vitis spp.): All grapes are attractive to birds.
3. Raccoon Grape (Ampelopsis cordata): black to speckled fruits.
4. Trumpet Vine (Campsis radicans): Great for attracting hummingbirds; very aggressive.
5. Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia): Abundant fruit; aggressive habit; good fall color.
**Prairie Wildflowers and Forbs**

- Aster (Aster spp.) - Seeds eaten by cardinals, goldfinches, sparrows, chickadees, nuthatches, towhees, Indigo Buntings.
- Beebalm, Wild (Monarda fistulosa)
- Bushclover, Prairie (Lespedeza capitata)
- Coneflower, Yellow (Ratibida pinnata)
- Coreopsis, Stiff (Coreopsis palmata) and Coreopsis, Lanceleaf
- Purple Coneflowers (Echinacea spp.) - The pale purple coneflower and narrowleaf coneflower are native to Nebraska and great for fall migrants.
- Joe-pye Weeds (Eupatorium spp.)
- Wild Strawberry (Fragaria spp.) - Fruits attract 53 species of birds, including Northern Flicker, Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.
- Sunflowers (Helianthus spp.) - the maximillian and sawtooth are aggressive in the garden and need to be contained; Seeds loved by Mourning Doves, blackbirds, chickadees, finches, meadowlarks, sparrows, and White-breasted Nuthatches.
- Blazing Stars (Liatris spp.), range varies for different species, but Blazing Stars are found throughout Nebraska. Plant the Liatris spicata (marsh gayfeather) in wet areas and Liatris punctata (dotted gayfeather) in dry, well-drained soils.
- Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia hirta, R. laciniata.) - Favorite of finches; also liked by chickadees, cardinals, sparrows, nuthatches, and towhees.
- Compass Plant, and other Silphiums like cup plant and rosin weed; Loved by finches.
- Goldenrods (Solidago spp.). Many wonderful natives throughout Nebraska, but avoid Canada Goldenrod (S. canadensis), which is extremely aggressive and will crowd out most other wildflowers -Loved by finches.
- Ironweed (Vernonia species)
- Penstemons (Penstemon spp) smooth and shell-leaf are noted for seed production.

**Prairie Grasses**

- Bluestem, Little
- Grama, Sideoats
- Indiangrass
- Prairie Dropseed
- Wildrye, Canada

**Wildflowers for Hummingbirds**

- Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
- Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)
- Spotted Jewelweed (Impatiens capensis)
- Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)
- Turk's Cap Lily (Lilium superbum) and Wood Lily (L. philadelphicum)
- Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)
- Penstemon (Penstemon grandiflorus, P. digitalis), southern two-thirds of Wisconsin.
- Phlox (Phlox divaricata, P. pilosa)