

2017 Native Plants for Birds

These 10 native plants have been selected by HGCNY and Onondaga Audubon to promote this year as being beneficial to birds by providing seeds, berries, insect food, nectar and shelter.



Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
Alternate-Leaf Dogwood

A small deciduous tree or large multi-stemmed shrub that typically grows 15 to 25 feet tall with distinctive layered horizontal branching. White flowers give way to bluish-black fruits on red stalks that mature in late summer and are prized by a great variety of birds. Provides cover and nesting sites for understory birds.



New England Aster
(*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
New England American Aster

A perennial herb that grows up to 4 feet tall. It blooms in September and will flower until a frost. Its showy flowers with vibrant purple petals and contrasting yellow centers are a late source of nectar for bees and butterflies.



Little Bluestem
(*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Little False Bluestem

An ornamental perennial bunchgrass with fine-textured foliage that forms very dense mounds. It has slender, blue-green stems that become mahogany-red with white, shining seed tufts in the fall. The seeds attract cardinals, finches, sparrows, towhees and can provide food all winter long.

Common Boneset
(*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

An herbaceous perennial that grows up to 40 inches tall, with leaves that clasp the stems. Attract thriving insect communities. Produces dense clusters of tiny white flower heads in late summer to early fall. Can form colonies that provide cover.



White Turtlehead
(*Chelone glabra*)

An herbaceous perennial that grows in clumps 2-4 feet tall, bearing spikes of white flowers resembling a turtle's head in late summer and fall. It grows best in moist soils and partial shade. It is a nectar source for hummingbirds, butterflies and other insects.

Where Can I Find These Native Plants?

Visit www.hgcny.org for the Native Plant Shopping Guide. It will tell you which plants are available at several local growers who have agreed to propagate and supply them. Please support these growers!