

Bird Habitat Plants for Travis County

You can encourage birds to visit and stay in gardens and natural areas by giving them the four basic things they need:

Food: Providing natural sources of food is one of the best ways to attract birds to your yard. Native plants evolved with the birds that live here and provide seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, nectar, sap, pollen, foliage and insects.

Water: Birds need a safe, shallow, clean source of water year round for drinking and for bathing.

Shelter: Birds need escape cover from predators and shelter from the elements. The best shelter is a mixed planting of low, medium and tall evergreen and deciduous shrubs and trees.

Places to raise their young: Native trees and shrubs provide good nesting areas for many species. Include a mix of evergreen and deciduous plants, a hedgerow, and vines in your landscape. By layering your garden with different levels and types of plants, you can create many niches for different birds within a small space. Where safety permits, allow dead trees to remain standing.

Some of the plants listed below are not typically encouraged in home landscapes. They are listed to underscore the importance of natural areas which provide critical food and shelter for our wildlife.

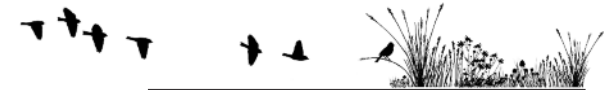
Species	Height & Habit	Flower	Fruit	Soil	Sun/Shade	Ornamental and Wildlife Use
Perennials						
<i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
Chile Pequin <i>Capsicum annuum</i>	2–4 ft Perennial or annual herb Deciduous	Small white flowers May–October	Small red chile peppers used in cooking	Sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone, well-drained	Sun, part shade to shade	Pleasant understory shrub. Birds of several species, especially Northern Mockingbirds, love the hot peppers and disperse seeds. Cut back for denser look.
Engelmann Daisy Cutleaf Daisy <i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>	1½ –2 ft Cut or toothed, hairy leaves Winter rosette	Yellow flowers in May although may bloom again if cut back in late summer	Seeds in center	Sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone, well-drained	Sun to dappled shade	Plant in back of garden as can get tall and broad. A long taproot allows it to bloom without rain. Can be mowed from June on as long as it is mowed above rosette. Nectar and seed source.
Coralbean <i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	6 ft Spiny Deciduous	Very showy red flower spikes 12 inches, spring to frost	Red seeds poisonous—keep away from children	Sand, loam, clay	Part shade to full sun	Beautiful bright red flowers and colorful red bean in brown pods. Hummingbirds use flowers for nectar. A tree in tropics.
Pokeberry <i>Phytolacca americana</i>	3–8 ft Stems reddish, large-leaved Perennial	6–12 inch flower spikes May–October	Greenish-white to pinkish purple berries throughout summer until frost	Mostly on deep, rich gravelly soils, damp areas	Part shade	Not a very good landscape plant but provides bird/wildlife food and cover. Birds disperse seed and will likely plant some in your landscape. Poisonous roots/berries.



<i>Species</i>	<i>Height & Habit</i>	<i>Flower</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>Sun/Shade</i>	<i>Ornamental and Wildlife Use</i>
Perennials (Continued from page 1)						
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Pigeonberry <i>Rivina humilis</i>	1–1½ ft Evergreen to dormant in winter	Pink and white 2 inch spikes almost all the time	Red berries, spring to fall.	Sand, loam, clay, moist or well-drained	Dappled shade to part shade	Charming ground cover. Plant has flowers and berries at the same time almost continuously. Birds love berries.
Autumn Sage or Cherry Sage <i>Salvia greggii</i>	2–3 ft Almost evergreen perennial, brittle stems	Showy red, white or pink flowers, spring to frost	Capsules June–December	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained slopes	Full sun to part shade	Widely used garden plant. Hummingbirds love it as do Sulphur butterflies, bees. Look for praying mantis. Cut back by half in May and August for better blooms.
Lyreleaf Sage <i>Salvia lyrata</i>	18 inches in flower can reach 3 ft Evergreen 4 inch rosette	Pale blue flowers float in cluster at top of sturdy stalk April	Seeds and self-colonizes to form a solid cover	Sand, loam, clay, well-drained or seasonal poor drainage okay	Shade, dappled shade, part-shade, full sun. Excellent plant for shady areas	Easy to grow, spreads readily, is drought tolerant and a good ground cover. Can be mowed. Evergreen rosette. Lesser Goldfinches will perch on the bloom stalks to eat the seeds. Flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.
Texas Aster <i>Symphotrichum drummondii</i>	1–3 ft Winters as ground rosette	White or blue daisy-like flowers September–November	Seeds	Loam, clay, well-drained	Shade, part sun	Spreads readily. Pretty wispy fall flowers. Rarely flowers in spring. Nectar and seed source.
Frostweed <i>Verbesina virginica</i>	3–6 ft Winter dormant	Small white in 3–6 inch panicles Fall	Seeds persist	Loam, acid or calcareous, well-drained	Shade, part sun	Excellent source of fall nectar for butterflies, especially Monarchs. Copious seed production for wintering birds. Best in natural areas as tall ground cover, edges, understory. LH–Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot.
Plateau Goldeneye <i>Viguiera dentata</i>	3–6 ft Open, bushy; ground rosette in winter	Yellow 1.5 inch daisy September–November	Seeds persist through winter	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, caliche, well-drained	Sun to part shade	Excellent seed production for small wintering birds. Flowers for bees, butterflies. Very drought tolerant. LH–Bordered Patch, Cassius Blue.
Zexmenia <i>Wedelia texana</i>	1½ –2½ ft Small shrub or perennial herb; grey green, sticky leaves Evergreen in southern part of range	Yellow/orange daisy-like flowers carried above foliage May to frost	Seed heads	Dry soil, low water use, well-drained soils	Sun to dappled shade	Continuous flowering, long life, non-aggressive. Reseeds itself. Attracts butterflies. LH–Bordered Patch.



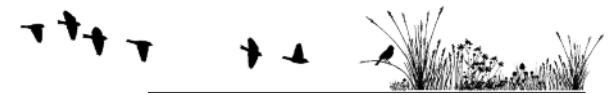
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Shrubs						
<i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
White Mistflower <i>Ageratina havanensis</i>	3–4 ft Deciduous	Very fragrant cream-white flowers August–November	Seeds, bristly white crowns	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Full sun to part shade, drought-tolerant	Hummingbirds visit very fragrant, fuzzy flowers in fall just when they need the nutrients for migration. Butterflies and other insects flock to this shrub. LH–Rawson’s Metalmark.
Flame Acanthus <i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	3–4 ft Deciduous	Small, orange-red, tubular flowers June–October	Seed Brown capsules	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Full sun best, part shade	Drought-and cold- tolerant bush, bright little flowers all summer. Hummingbirds love the flowers. Butterflies do too. LH–Crimson Patch, Texan Crescent.
Agarita <i>Berberis trifoliolata</i> or <i>Mahonia trifoliolata</i>	3–6 ft Holly-like, prickly Evergreen	Showy, fragrant yellow flowers February–March	Red berries May–July	Dry sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Full sun, part shade	Blue green and gray green leaves, drought tolerant. Blooms very early. Birds love the ripe fruit. Spiny leaves make protected nest sites. Good bee plant too.
American Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	4–6 ft Deciduous	Small clusters of pinky white flowers May–July	Magenta berries in clusters on stems August–November	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Beautiful soft-looking shrub for wood edges where it can be seen and enjoyed. Many species of birds as well as mammals eat the berries. Northern Mockingbirds will guard this shrub. Baltimore Orioles have been seen devouring berries during fall migration.
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6–12 ft Evergreen	Long lasting white or pink 1 inch globes, June–September	Button-like balls of fruit, brown seeds	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, moist	Part shade to full shade	Blooms attract butterflies and bees. Wood Ducks eat the seeds.
Elbow Bush Downy Forestiera <i>Forestiera pubescens</i>	Irregular bush to 12 ft, 4–6 ft typical Deciduous	Inconspicuous, small greenish yellow, no petals, in clusters on bare stems in early spring before leaves emerge	¼ inch fleshy fruit bluish-black clustered on stem June–October	Varied. In moist soil near streams or on dry hillsides Drought tolerant	Sun, part shade, shade	Thicket-forming, good wildlife cover, erosion control. Typically branches at right angles. Leaves fuzzy undersides. Foliage turns chartreuse in fall. Early nectar source for insects; berries eaten by birds and wildlife. LH–Hairstreak.
Lindheimer’s Silk Tassel <i>Garrya ovata</i> ssp. <i>lindheimeri</i>	5–11 ft perennial shrub, evergreen, leathery and hairy ovate leaves	Green flowers in catkins March–May	Bluish-purple fruit, ⅜–¼ inch long	Dry, rocky limestone hillsides and canyons	Sun, part shade	Provides cover and food for birds and small animals. Tolerant of drought and cold.
Native Lantana <i>Lantana horrida</i> or <i>Lantana urticoides</i>	3–6 ft Deciduous	Orange and yellow 1–2 inch flower heads, spring to frost	Black berries September–November persist through winter	Sand, loam, clay, limestone	Full sun	Colorful, long-lasting flowers. Good plant for large garden. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Many birds eat the berries. LH–Painted Lady.



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Shrubs (Continued from page 3)						
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Texas Sage <i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	4–8 ft, Evergreen, smaller varieties available	Lavender, pink, or white flowers. Blooms after rain or high humidity	Tiny seeds in capsules	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Full sun	Good cover and nesting shrub when dense. Hummingbirds may use as a perch. LH–Theona Checkerspot.
Barbados Cherry <i>Malpighia glabra</i>	4–6 ft Semi-evergreen, erect with many slender stems from base	Pink, frilly flowers March to December	$\frac{3}{4}$ inch edible, tart, red fleshy fruits	Sand, loam, clay limestone, well-drained	Part shade to sun	Highly ornamental shrub. Dwarf variety available. Several species of birds eat the fruit. Butterflies come for nectar. LH–Cassius Blue, Brown-banded Skipper and others.
Turk's Cap <i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i> <i>var. drummondii</i>	2–6 ft, Can grow taller Deciduous	Bright red flowers do not fully open, May–November or longer	One-half to 1 inch dark red fruits, edible	Sand, loam, clay, limestone Very adaptable	Part shade, sun, full shade	Good garden plant or tall ground cover in natural areas. Tolerates drought, good for shady areas. Bright red flowers plentiful all summer. Hummingbirds, butterflies, insects, mammals all love this plant.
Wax Myrtle <i>Morella cerifera</i>	6–15 ft Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Many small bluish-gray round, waxy berries Winter	Sand, loam, clay Poor drainage okay	Full sun to part shade	Medium green, small shiny leaves. Can be trained to multi- trunked small tree. Dense leaves provide cover and nest sites. Forty species of birds eat the berries, including wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers.
Fragrant Sumac <i>Rhus aromatica</i>	6–9 ft Deciduous	Small yellow in spring	Red berries May–June	Sand, loam, clay, dry, rocky, well-drained	Full sun to shade	Understory bush in natural areas. May form thickets. Red berries are earliest summer fruit, popular with birds. Nectar for butterflies.
Evergreen Sumac <i>Rhus virens</i>	8–12 ft Evergreen, glossy leaves, fall color	Small white or greenish in clusters July–August	$\frac{1}{4}$ inch fuzzy orange-red fruit September	Limestone, clay, loam, well-drained, rocky	Sun to part shade	Striking shrub attracts migrating Monarch butterflies and others in fall. Birds and other wildlife love the berries. Slow growing. Bastrop area–try Smooth Sumac, <i>Rhus glabra</i> . LH–Dusky-blue Groundstreak.
Southern Dewberry <i>Rubus trivialis</i>	Perennial shrub with sprawling, spiny canes	White February–April	Black dewberries May–June	Sand, loam and clay, moist or dry	Full sun to part shade	Not useful as ornamental but birds and mammals relish the berries. Provides good cover as well. Flowers attract insects.
Coralberry <i>Symphoricarpos</i> <i>orbiculatus</i>	2–3 ft Mounded shrub Deciduous	Small white flowers April–July	Magenta berries October–April	Sand, loam, clay Successful as erosion control plant on slopes	Dappled to part shade	Very pretty spreading tall ground cover. Berries last all winter. Fruit eaten by many local birds. Hummingbirds visit flowers.



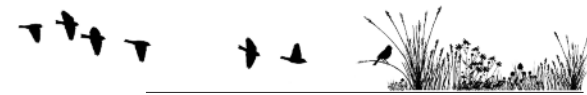
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Grasses						
<i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
Bushy Bluestem <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	3–6 ft Warm season perennial	Silvery, fluffy flower heads	Seeds September–November	Sand, loam, clay calcareous, moist	Full sun to part shade	Handsome bunchgrass with year round color. Food and cover for many species of birds. LH–Skippers and Satyrs.
Inland Sea Oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	2–4 ft Warm season perennial	Green to tan spike	Oat-like seedheads June–October	Sand, loam and clay, poor drainage okay	Part shade to shade	Natural area grass in woodlands near streams. Graceful drooping seedheads turn ivory. Spreads aggressively in moist areas. Attracts butterflies and wintering sparrows. LH–some skippers.
Wild Rye <i>Elymus virginicus</i>	3–5 ft Cool season short lived perennial	Yellow to brown March–June	Green to tan oat-like grain	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Part shade	Nesting, cover and seed for birds.
Big Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	2–5 ft Warm season perennial	Lacy, silver panicles August	Seeds September–November	Loam, clays, prefers limestone	Full sun	Attractive bunch grass. Striking accent in garden. Birds eat ripe seeds. Rufous-crowned Sparrows will nest under this grass.
Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	3–8 ft Warm season perennial	Late summer to fall	Lacy sprays with small seeds	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, poor drainage okay	Sun to part shade	Seeds eaten by ground feeding songbirds and game birds. Provides cover and nesting. LH–Delaware Skipper and Dotted Skipper.
Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	2–5 ft Warm season perennial	Spikelets, bluish gray	Seeds September–December	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Sun	Good bunch grass provides nest material for birds. LH–several skipper butterflies.
Indian Grass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	3–5 ft Warm season perennial	Blooms October, bright gold	Seeds fall and winter	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, poor drainage okay	Sun to part shade	Provides nesting and cover. Attracts butterflies and seed-eating birds.
Eastern Gamagrass <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	2–3 ft Warm season perennial	Separate male and female flowers, April–June	Yellow seeds in fall and winter	Sand, loam, clay, calcareous, moist	Sun to part shade	Provides cover and nesting for birds. Attracts butterflies and seed-eating birds.



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Vines						
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Pepper Vine <i>Ampelopsis arborea</i> and <i>Ampelopsis cordata</i>	Climbs by tendrils to 20 ft Semi-evergreen perennial	Inconspicuous	Purple berries in late summer	Sand, loam, clay, moist	Part shade to shade	Natural area vine with small, dark green, incised leaves. Berries are great source of food for game and non-game birds.
Crossvine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Climbs by tendrils to 50 ft Evergreen perennial	Showy red, orange and yellow tubular flowers March–April	Capsule September–October	Moist sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	An excellent native flowering vine. Good garden plant. Covered with flowers during peak bloom time. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use this early blooming nectar plant during migration.
Trumpet Creeper <i>Campsis radicans</i>	Climbs to 35 ft Semi-evergreen perennial	Orange tubular flowers June–September	Capsule with winged seeds	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	Natural area vine. Can spread aggressively. Climbs by aerial rootlets which can damage wood, stone and brick. Premier hummingbird plant.
Carolina Snailseed Vine <i>Coccolus carolinus</i>	Twining vine, 3–15 ft Semi-evergreen perennial	Small green flowers	Red berries	Sand, loam, clay, limestone	Part shade	Very popular with Northern Cardinals, attracts other fruit eating birds too. Requires some vigilance as it can climb into trees.
Carolina Jessamine <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Twining vine to 40 ft Evergreen perennial	Bright yellow, funnel-shaped flowers Late winter and spring	Fleshy, bright red berries in clusters	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	This beautiful vine needs shaping and trimming in a garden setting to stay in bounds. It has fragrant, yellow flowers early and is a favorite with hummingbirds.
Coral Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Twining vine, 6–12 ft Semi-evergreen perennial	Coral tubular blooms	Red berries in fall	Sand, loam, clay, caliche poor drainage okay	Sun, part shade	May be slow to establish. Hummingbirds love the nectar. Berries attract fruit eating birds. LH–Spring Azure and Snowberry Clearwing Moth.
Snapdragon Vine <i>Maurandella antirrhiniflora</i>	Climbs 3 ft or more Perennial Delicate nonshowy vine that dies back each winter	Small scattered purple flowers Spring to frost	Seeds	well-drained sand, loam, caliche, limestone	Dappled shade, part shade, full sun	Delicate trailing vine, good in hanging baskets or on stone walls. Grows quickly from seed. Nectar source for hummingbirds. LH–Common Buckeye.



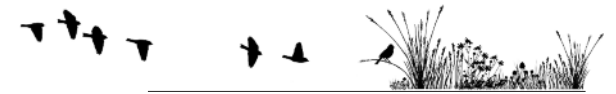
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Vines (Continued from page 6) <i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Climbs by tendrils to 40 ft Deciduous perennial	Inconspicuous green flowers in spring	Blue berries are poisonous to humans August–winter	Sand, loam, clay, limestone	Sun or shade	Attractive foliage. Red leaves in fall advertise the berries to 35 species of birds including woodpeckers and vireos. The berries are poisonous to humans.
Passion Vine <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Climber 6–15 ft Tendrils for climbing, but can spread along ground Deciduous perennial	Intricate, exotic 3 inch lavender and white flowers May–August	Seeds	well-drained sand, loam	Dappled shade, part shade, full sun	Three lobed native less aggressive than five-lobed Asian variety. There are also other native passiflora species. Provides nectar for several species of butterfly. LH–Gulf Fritillary and Variegated Fritillary.
Greenbrier Saw Greenbrier <i>Smilax bona-nox</i>	Prickly vine to 20 ft Can grow into tops of trees Evergreen perennial	Inconspicuous, green, March–June	Blue-black berry	well-drained to moist	Partial sun to shade	Not recommended as a landscape plant, but is a wonderful habitat plant for nautical areas. Painted bunting females nest in large thickets of this plant, their green color blending in with the green leaves. Fruit eaten by many species of birds.
Poison ivy <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Shrub to climbing vine Deciduous perennial	Small white to yellow flowers in spring	White berries in fall and winter	Sand, loam, clay, limestone	Shade	Causes rash, but all plants have their place! Wintering birds such as kinglets and sparrows enjoy the white berries which partially explains why poison ivy spreads.
Mustang Grape <i>Vitis mustangensis</i>	Climber up to 40–60 ft Deciduous perennial	Fragrant, white, red flowers Spring to early summer	Dark purple grapes August–September	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	There are several native grape species. Not good landscape plants. The grapes are eaten by many birds and animals. Grape bark is used as nest building material. Mockingbirds nest in dense vines. Many butterflies are attracted to the fermenting fruit. LH–Sphinx moth.



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Small Trees						
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Catclaw Acacia <i>Acacia greggii</i>	5–15 ft Thorny shrub or small tree Deciduous	Creamy white small flowers April–October	Legume, red-brown, contorted	Sandy or rocky soils, well-drained	Sun	Thorns make this good cover for doves. Food and shelter for birds, small wildlife.
Red Buckeye <i>Aesculus pavia</i> var. <i>pavia</i> <i>Aesculus pavia</i> var. <i>flavescens</i>	10–15 ft Can reach 30 ft Multi-trunked Deciduous	Showy, red, funnel- shaped flower clusters var. <i>flavescens</i> has yellow flowers Early spring	Capsules Late summer and fall	Sand, loam, clay, and limestone moist, well-drained	Part shade	Good understory tree in natural area. Leaves drop early at end of summer, but very attractive in Spring. Concentrated nectar source for migrating hummingbirds and attractive to bees and butterflies. Seeds are poisonous and not eaten by wildlife.
Woolly-bucket Bumelia <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	15–35 ft Multi-trunk tree Semi-evergreen	White flowers in fragrant small clusters June–July	Blue-black berries September–October	Sandy loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	Smallish thorny tree. Good cover and nest tree. Several birds feed on fruit. Early flowers for bees.
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>canadensis</i> Texas Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i> Mexican Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>mexicana</i>	15–30 ft 10–20 ft 5–12 ft Deciduous	Showy magenta pea-like flowers March–April	Legumes, reddish-brown Late summer and fall	Sand, loam, clay and limestone well-drained Eastern Redbud prefers deep, rich soils	Full sun to part shade	Highly ornamental small tree. Early nectar source for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Seeds are eaten by a number of species. Texas and Mexican varieties of Redbud are more drought tolerant than Eastern Redbud.
Desert Willow <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	15–25 ft Deciduous	Showy, orchid-like flowers May–September	Capsule with winged seeds August–November	Sand, loam, caliche and clay, well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Stunning flowering tree. One of the best for this area. Drought tolerant. Hummingbirds love the nectar. Various species feed on winged seed.
Roughleaf Dogwood <i>Cornus drummondii</i>	10–16 ft Deciduous	Showy heads of small, white flowers April–June	Round, white fruits	Sand, loam, limestone and clay, adaptable but does like moisture	Full sun to part shade	Very pretty white flowering tree. Good natural garden plant and woodland understory tree. Suckers. Forty species of birds feed on white fruit. Provides cover for wildlife. Small birds nest in it. Good nectar provider for butterflies.



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Small Trees (Continued from page 8)						
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Texas Persimmon <i>Diospyros texana</i>	12–20 ft Deciduous	Small greenish-white fragrant flowers March–April	Small, black and fleshy fruit on female tree. July–September	Well-drained and gravelly	Full sun to part shade	Very attractive dark gray trunks and branches. Nice accent or specimen plant for garden. Ripe fruit eaten by game and song birds. Flowers attract nectar insects. LH–Gray Hairstreak and Henry’s Elfin.
Carolina Buckthorn <i>Frangula caroliniana</i> or <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	12–20 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous small flowers May–June	Reddish brown fruits Fall	Sand, loam, limestone and clay poor drainage okay	Full sun to part shade	Pretty dark green, shiny leaves and red berries that remain on tree for a long time. Despite name, this tree has no thorns. Fruit eaten by a number of bird species. LH–Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady and Snout Butterflies.
Deciduous Holly or Possumhaw <i>Ilex decidua</i>	12–20 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous Spring	Red fruits along stems and branches on female tree December–February	Sand, loam, caliche and clay seasonal poor drainage okay	Full sun to shade	Very ornamental small tree. Light gray bare branches are lined with red berries all winter. Berries eaten by several bird species including Eastern Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, American Robins and woodpeckers. Flowers attract various nectar insects.
Yaupon Holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	12–20 ft Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Red fruit on female tree only Winter	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to shade	Makes good accent or specimen plant in garden. Berries are very pretty against green leaves. Fruit is a good late winter source of food and eaten by several species of birds. Very good nest tree for birds like Northern Cardinals because of dense growth habit. LH–Henry’s Elfin and Dusky-blue Groundstreak.
Texas Mulberry <i>Morus microphylla</i> and Red Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>	10–25 ft 12–36 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous, March–April	Mulberries Red to black May–June	Sand, loam, clay, caliche-type and limestone	Full sun to part shade	Messy landscape tree because of the fruit, but the best source of spring fruit for spring migrant birds which also eat the buds. Twenty-one species devour berries as soon as they are ripe. Red Mulberry: LH–Mourning Cloak.
Retama or Paloverde <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	10–25 ft Thorny Deciduous	Showy yellow flowers Summer	Bean pods Late summer and fall	Sand, loam, caliche and clay seasonal poor drainage okay	Full sun to part shade	Thorny green-barked shrubby tree. Very drought tolerant. Messy. Flowers are fragrant and bloom almost year round. Seeds are eaten by game and songbirds. Provides good cover and nest sites.



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<i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	15–36 ft Evergreen	Showy, cream-white spike-like flowers March–April	Blue-black berries August–September	Sand, loam and clay loam, moist well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Attractive shiny, dark green leaves. Birds love the black berries, especially Cedar Waxwings and Northern Mockingbirds.
Mexican Plum <i>Prunus mexicana</i>	15–20 ft Single-trunk tree Deciduous	Showy, fragrant, white flowers	Plums September–October	Sand, loam limestone and clay well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Beautiful spring flowering tree. Fragrant blossoms attract butterflies. Rough bark. Somewhat messy. Plums are relished by birds and small mammals. LH–Tiger Swallowtail, Cecropia moth.
Wafer Ash or Hop Tree <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	10–15 ft Tall shrub or understory tree Deciduous	Greenish-white flowers, small clusters April	Wafer-like, broad, ½ inch long, greenish	Sand, loam, limestone and clay well-drained	Sun, part shade, shade	Provides birds with shelter and food. All parts aromatic. Prefers moist conditions. LH–Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail.
Prairie Flameleaf Sumac <i>Rhus lanceolata</i>	10–20 ft Thicket-forming shrub or tree Deciduous	Small greenish white Spring	Small red fruits in large clusters Fall	Sand, loam, caliche, limestone and clay, poorest soils	Full sun to part shade	Natural area or wood edge plant. Thickets prolifically. Beautiful bright red fall color. Fruit is eaten by at least 21 species of birds. LH–Banded Hairstreak.
Common Elderberry Mexican Elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra</i> spp. <i>canadensis</i>	6–12 ft Deciduous	Showy white 10 inch flower clusters May–June	Berries, blue-black Fall	Prefers moist, rich, slightly acid soils, tolerates a variety of wet to dry soils	Full sun to part shade	Invasive in gardens. Thicket forming Use only in natural areas along streams or creeks. Pretty flowers. Fruit eaten by many species of songbirds. Short-lived. Attracts native bees. Deer might browse on the bark. Good for erosion control.
Western Soapberry <i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	15–50 ft Long pinnately compound leaves Deciduous	Large clusters of small white flowers May–June	Round, ½ inch amber berry-like fruit with one seed September–October	Sand, loam, caliche, limestone and clay well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Hardy tree. Tolerates poor sites. Yellow fall color. Fruit prized by many kinds of birds, especially Eastern Bluebirds. Good nest and cover tree. LH–Soapberry Hairstreak.



<i>Species</i>	<i>Height & Habit</i>	<i>Flower</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>Sun/Shade</i>	<i>Ornamental and Wildlife Use</i>
Small Trees (Continued from page 10)						
<i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
Texas Mountain Laurel <i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	10–15 ft can reach over 30 ft Evergreen	Bluish lavender flowers large bunches, very fragrant February–March	Legume, semi-woody pod with red poisonous seeds	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, dry rocky, calcareous, well-drained	Sun, part shade	When grown, a good nest site for cardinals or day roost for screech owls. One of our few evergreens, provides valuable shelter in winter. Flowers attract butterflies, bees.
Mexican Buckeye <i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	8–12 ft Usually multi-trunked Deciduous	Bright pink, aromatic March–May	Reddish brown 3-lobed capsule with ½ inch dark, shiny seeds	Sand, loam, clay, caliche, and limestone-based dry soils, rocky slopes	Sun, part shade	Showy, aromatic accent shrub or understory tree, provides cover and food for birds and small animals. Showy flowers attract bees and butterflies. Leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Seeds poisonous but eaten by birds and small mammals. A magnet for migrating spring warblers. LH–Henry’s Elfin.
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	10–30 ft Deciduous	Showy, cream-white flowers March	Bluish-black berries. September–October	Sand, loam, limestone and clay well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Pretty, single- or multi-trunked small tree. Good understory tree. Very glossy leaves. Beautiful fall foliage. American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Cardinals and other songbirds love fruit. Nectar for bees and butterflies.

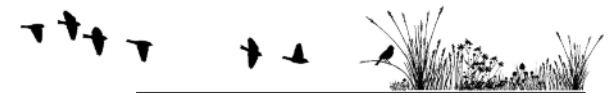


<i>Species</i>	<i>Height & Habit</i>	<i>Flower</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>Sun/Shade</i>	<i>Ornamental and Wildlife Use</i>
Large Trees						<i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>
Pecan <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	50–60 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Nut September–October	Sand, loam, caliche and clay	Full sun to part shade	Beautiful, useful landscape tree. Nuts are valuable for all kinds of wildlife and many kinds of birds, including Wood Ducks. LH–Hairstreak butterflies.
Sugarberry or Sugar Hackberry <i>Celtis laevigata</i>	36–72 ft Can reach 80 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous small, greenish flowers Spring	Red to purple-black fruits ripen in late summer and persist through winter	Sand, loam, caliche and clay, well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Fast growing and aggressive but a good wildlife tree. Many species of birds feed on berries and use the tree for shelter and nest sites LH–Hackberry Butterfly, Tawny Emperor, Question Mark, and Snout butterflies.
Netleaf Hackberry <i>Celtis laevigata var. reticulata</i>	30–40 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous, red, orange March–April	Orange-red fruit August–September	Sand, loam, clay, moist to dry	Full sun to part shade	Fast growing and aggressive but a good wildlife tree. Good in natural areas. It provides good nest sites and cover. Fruit is eaten by many, bird species including Greater Roadrunner and American Robin. Fruits often persist into winter. LH–Snout and Hackberry butterflies.
Ashe Juniper <i>Juniperus ashei</i>	6–30 ft Evergreen	Pollen produced by male trees gives them a yellow cast and causes “cedar fever” allergies Winter	Fall fruit set dark blue, juicy, berry-like cones produced by female trees	Sand, loam, clay, likes limestone well-drained soils	Full sun to part shade	Forms dense thickets that provide cover. Berries are a winter-time favorite of many birds. Bark from older trees is used as nest material by the Golden-cheeked Warbler. LH–Olive & Juniper Hairstreaks.
Bois d'arc or Osage Orange <i>Maclura pomifera</i>	36–72 ft Thorny Evergreen	Inconspicuous, green, male and female flow- ers on separate trees April–June	Yellow-green, softball-sized September–October	Loam and clay, well-drained	Full sun to part shade	Not a good landscape tree, but often planted as a hedgerow and wind break. Messy. Good cover and nest tree for birds. Bobwhites eat seeds of the fruit.
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	75–100 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Round seed head September–October	Sand, loam and clay, well-drained likes acid soil	Full sun, part shade	Round fruit is eaten by a variety of bird species. Goldfinches and other finches are particularly fond of the fruit. Insects are found in the tree for insectivores. Chimney swifts will nest in hollow Sycamores.
Eastern Cottonwood <i>Populus deltoides</i>	40–100 ft Deciduous	Male and female catkins on separate trees March–June	Seeds ripen May–June	Sands, loams, clays, prefers rich bottomland soils along streams	Full sun, part shade	Fast growin short-lived tree. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Northern Cardinals enjoy the seeds. LH–Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy and Tiger Swallowtail butterflies.



<i>Species</i>	<i>Height & Habit</i>	<i>Flower</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>Sun/Shade</i>	<i>Ornamental and Wildlife Use</i>
Large Trees (Continued from page 12) <i>Key: LH – Larval host plant for butterfly</i>						
Escarpment Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>eximia</i>	36–72 ft Deciduous	Showy fragrant flower spikes Early spring	Dark purple cherries June–October	sand, loam, and clay, well-drained,	Full sun, part shade	Wonderful cherries ripen during spring migration and attract Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 47 species nationwide. Host plant to many butterflies.
White Shin Oak <i>Quercus sinuata</i> var. <i>breviloba</i>	12–40 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous March	Acorns September	Loams, clays, likes limestone	Full sun, part shade	Distinctive light gray flaking bark. Can form thickets. Excellent cover & nesting tree. Woodpeckers and jays eat or cache acorns. LH–Duskywing and Hairstreak butterflies.
Post Oak <i>Quercus stellata</i>	40–50 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous, male and female catkins on same tree Spring	Acorns Fall	Sand, sandy loam, clay, prefers acid soils.	Full sun to part shade	Beautiful large, slow-growing oak with fall color, dense leaves and interesting winter look. Wildlife is served by acorns, dense cover and nest cavities. Fine substrate for insectivorous birds. LH–Duskywing butterflies.
Southern Live Oak <i>Quercus virginiana</i> Escarpment Live Oak <i>Quercus fusiformis</i>	40–60 ft 20–40 ft Semi-evergreen	Inconspicuous, male and female catkins on same tree Spring	Acorns Late summer, early fall	Sand, loam, clay, prefers clay loam	Full sun to part shade	Acorns are an important food for jays, titmice, and woodpeckers. Problems with oak wilt in the Hill Country. Oaks attract many insect species that support our insect-loving birds. LH–Skippers, Hairstreaks, and Arizona Sister.
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	60–100 ft Deciduous conifer	Inconspicuous, Spring	Small cones Winter	Sand, loam and clay, prefers moisture but withstands dry sites once established	Full to part sun	Naturally occurs in swamps and along streams. Large conifer with needle-like leaves. Lovely, soft, conical shape. Seeds eaten by many birds. Good cover and nest sites. Good foraging substrate for insect eating birds. Yellow-throated Warblers have been observed nesting in this tree.
Cedar Elm <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	30–60 ft Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Flat, winged seed August–October	Sand, loam, caliche, limestone and clay, seasonal poor drainage okay	Full sun to part shade	Good landscape and street tree. Lovely gold and yellow fall color. Seeds and buds eaten by many species of birds. Good nesting and cover tree with insects for insect-eating birds. LH–Question Mark and Mourning Cloak butterflies.

The following plants, while popular with birds, are invasive non-native pests and should not be planted:
 Pyracantha, Chinaberry, Russian Olive, Waxleaf Ligustrum, Nandina, Chinese Tallow, Photinia.



Bibliography

The Travis Audubon Urban Habitat Committee gratefully acknowledges the work of horticulturist Joan Russell, who created a similar resource for Bastrop County. We have adapted the format and much of the content from her work in putting together this document.

–August, 2010

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