



8 Michigan Native Plants for Birds



Oak species

Oaks support the greatest number of butterfly and moth species: 534! Butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars) are an important food source for breeding birds.



Spicebush

This species is a hit with fall migrants. The bright red berries are packed with fat, providing a high-energy food source for many birds including Wood Thrush, Great-crested flycatcher, and Eastern Kingbird.



Serviceberry

These large shrubs flower and fruit in early summer – much earlier than most berry-producing shrubs. The berries are a great food source for tanagers, thrushes, waxwings, catbirds and more.



Viburnum species

Michigan has a variety of Viburnum species for any site conditions. These bushes to small trees produce energy-rich fall berries. Many shrub-nesting birds will build their nests among the branches.



Willow species

Willows typically leaf out early in spring and attract swarms of small insects. These insects are a critical food source for hungry migratory birds on their journey north in spring.



Goldenrod species

Falsely accused of causing hay fever, goldenrods are magnets for pollinators. Goldenrods are larval hosts for a variety of butterflies and moths. The seeds are eaten by sparrows and finches.



Virginia creeper

This fall berry-producing vine grows in a wide range of conditions. Tangles of mature vines support shrub-nesting birds. Brilliant red fall color is a bonus!



Aster species

Michigan supports a variety of aster species for all growing conditions. Asters are an important group for pollinators, caterpillars, and insects (aka baby bird food). Many birds eat the seeds.