# Turn Your Garden Into a Bird Habitat
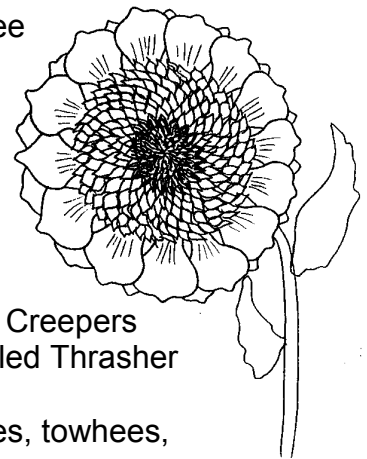
**ABQ BIOPARK EDUCATION**

Attracting feathered visitors to your yard takes more than just a birdfeeder. Your yard can become the perfect habitat for birds if it provides **food, water** and **shelter.** Water can be provided with a birdbath, a backyard pond or even a mud puddle. Shrubs and trees can be used as shelter for hiding, hunting or nesting birds. Plants are also the best source of nectar, fruit, seeds and even bugs for birds to eat. Because they have adapted together over time, native plants provide the most desirable sources of food and shelter for local and migratory birds. As a bonus, these plants are adapted to our local climate and soils and will thrive in a xeric yard.

## A "bird-scape" can be as attractive to a bird as it is to your own eyes. Below are a few suggested native plants:

| Plant | Birds |
|---|---|
| **Four Wing Saltbush** *(Atriplex canescens)* | Quail, Goldfinch, Towhee |
| **Catclaw Acacia** *(Acacia greggii)* | Mourning Dove |
| **Western Serviceberry** *(Amelanchier)* | Evening Grosbeak |
| **Columbine** *(Aquilegia)* | Hummingbirds |
| **Sagebrush** *(Artemisia)* | Quail |
| **Aster** *(Aster)* | Lesser Goldfinch |
| **New Mexico Olive** *(Forestiera neomexicana)* | Quail, Robin |
| **Sunflowers** *(Helianthus)* | Goldfinches |
| **Pines** *(Pinus)* | Scrub Jay, Nuthatches, Creepers |
| **Cholla Cactus** *(Cylindropuntia)* | Cactus Wren, Curve Billed Thrasher |
| **Chokecherry** *(Prunus virginiana)* | Blackheaded grosbeak |
| **Mahonia** *(Mahonia aquifolium)* | Bluebirds, robins, finches, towhees, |
| **Golden Current** *(Ribes aureum)* | Bewick's Wren |
| **Penstemons** *(Penstemon)* | Hummingbirds |
| **Three leaf sumac** *(Rhus trilobata)* | Spotted Towhees |
| **Purple Coneflower** *(Echinacea purpurea)* | Goldfinches |
| **Desert Willow** *(Chilopsis linearis)* | Hummingbirds |
| **Silver Buffaloberry** *(Shepherdia argentea)* | Flickers, Towhees, Woodpeckers |
| **Red Yucca** *(Hesperaloe parviflora)* | Hummingbirds |

## For more information, call BioPark Education at (505) 848-7172 or visit www.cabq.gov/biopark