

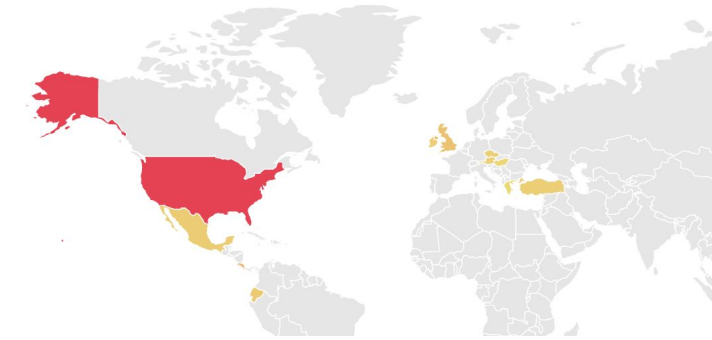
Bird Gardening: Native Plants in your Home Landscape

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Native Plant and Bird Enthusiast

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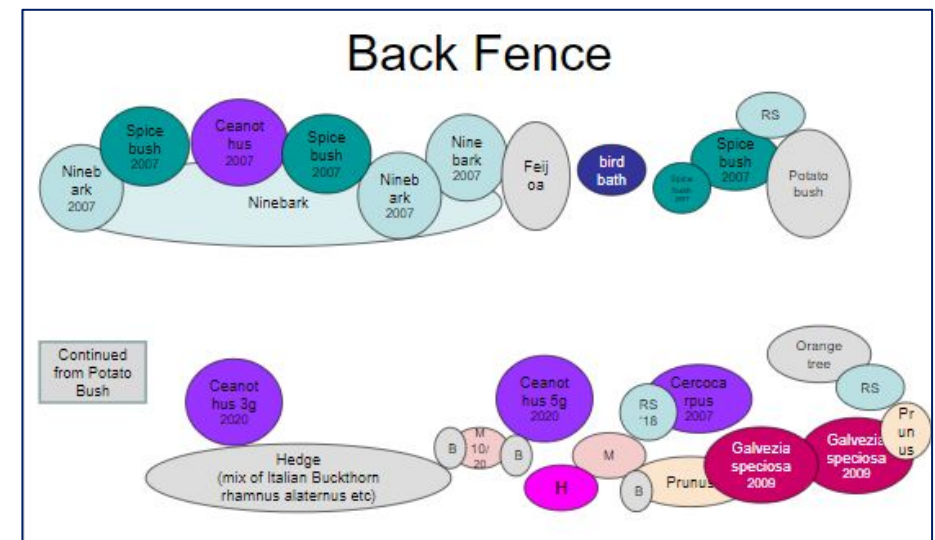
Introduction: Ann Hepenstal

- Local resident – near Oak School
- Birder
- Native plant gardening since 2007

Species by country, territory, or dependency

	NAME ▲	LIFE ▼	YEAR ▼	MONTH ▼
1	United States	457	261	62
2	Türkiye	31	31	14
3	United Kingdom	67	67	0
4	Ireland	24	24	0

Focus: “Bird Gardening”



Prior to 2007...

- Landscaping: exotic plants
 - Boxwood hedge
 - Lavendar
 - Pittosporum
 - Backyard fence lined with privet, Italian buckthorn, feijoa

Then: Very little variety of birds seen
Crows, Robins, Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird...

2007: started Native Plants gardening

Opportunistic gardening:

- Replaced dead/dying plants; removed plants
- Large Coast Live Oak split in a storm
- But: Long-Island-raised husband
 - eye is attuned to exotic plants
 - barbered landscape that requires watering
- We still have a lawn!



Black-headed Grosbeak

Now: Large variety of birds visiting and nesting in the yard
Crows, Robins, Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird... but now also:

Spotted Towhee and California Towhee

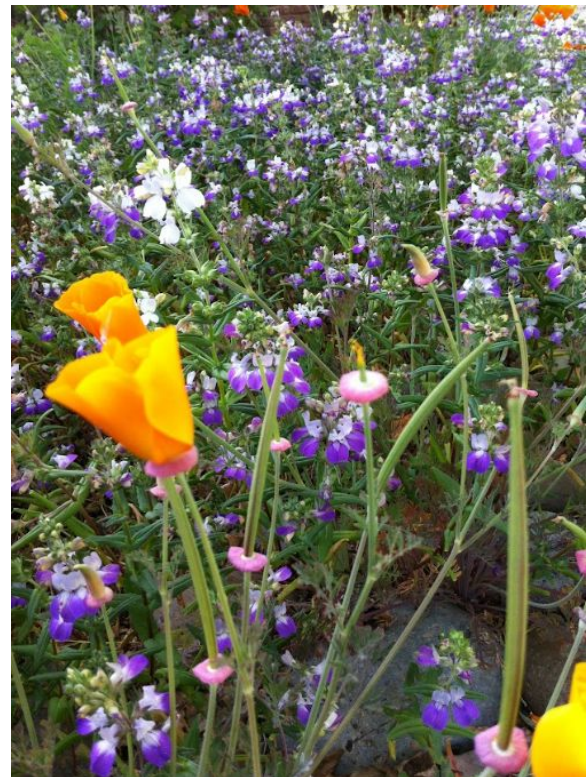
Western Bluebird

White-Breasted Nuthatch

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Hermit Thrush

>45 species in the yard



What do Birds Need?

Food

Water

Shelter

A Place to Raise Young

What do Birds Need?

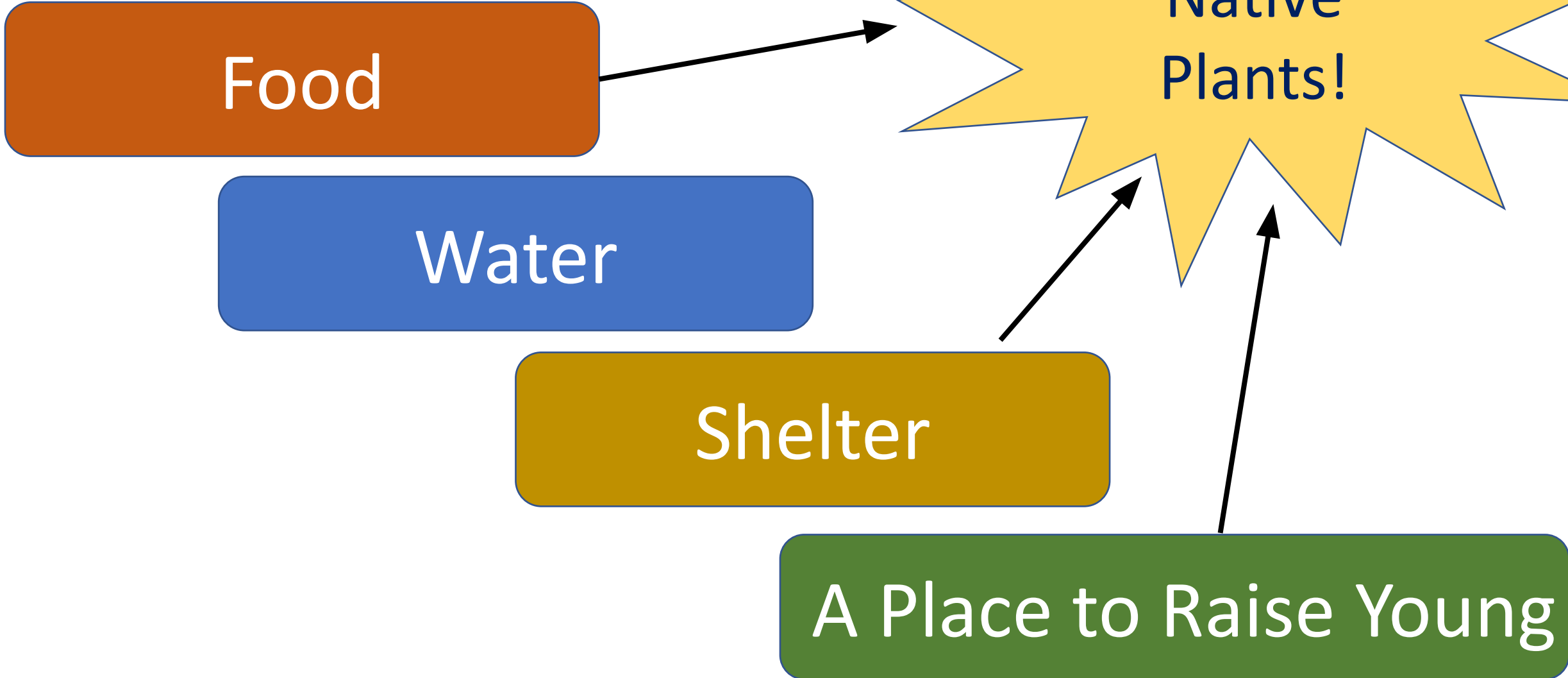
Food

Water

Shelter

A Place to Raise Young

Native
Plants!



What do Birds Need?

Food

Food – depends on the bird

- Berries
- Nectar
- Seed
- Insects

Backyard Birds need insects, caterpillars, etc. to feed their babies

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard:

Berries



**Coffeeberry,
Frangula californica**



**Red Flowering Currant,
Ribes sanguineum**



**Twinberry,
Lonicera involucrata**
Photo: Las Pilitas Nursery



**Toyon,
Heteromeles
arbutifolia**
Photo: Calscape

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard:

Berries

Name	Type	Cultivation	Growth	Flowers	Food for birds
Coffeeberry, <i>Frangula californica</i>	evergreen shrub	low water; sun to part shade	grows to about 8 feet tall and 5 feet wide	subtle small white flowers in the spring	berries that range in color from reddish to black
Red Flowering Currant, <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Deciduous shrub <i>(but it often doesn't remember that)</i>	Appreciates some water and some shade in the Valley	grows approximately 4 feet wide and 4 feet tall or higher, but may be pruned	beautiful pink clusters of flowers from January through March	Blue/purple berries in the summer
Toyon, <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	small evergreen tree	low water; sun to part shade	grows to about 13 feet tall		red berries in the fall and winter
Twinberry, <i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Deciduous shrub	Part shade to full sun. Appreciates some water.	Chaotic growth to 4 feet wide and tall <i>(but it's willing to grow taller!)</i>	Orange flowers	Black berries in May/June

Who eats berries?

Robin, Cedar Waxwing, California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird

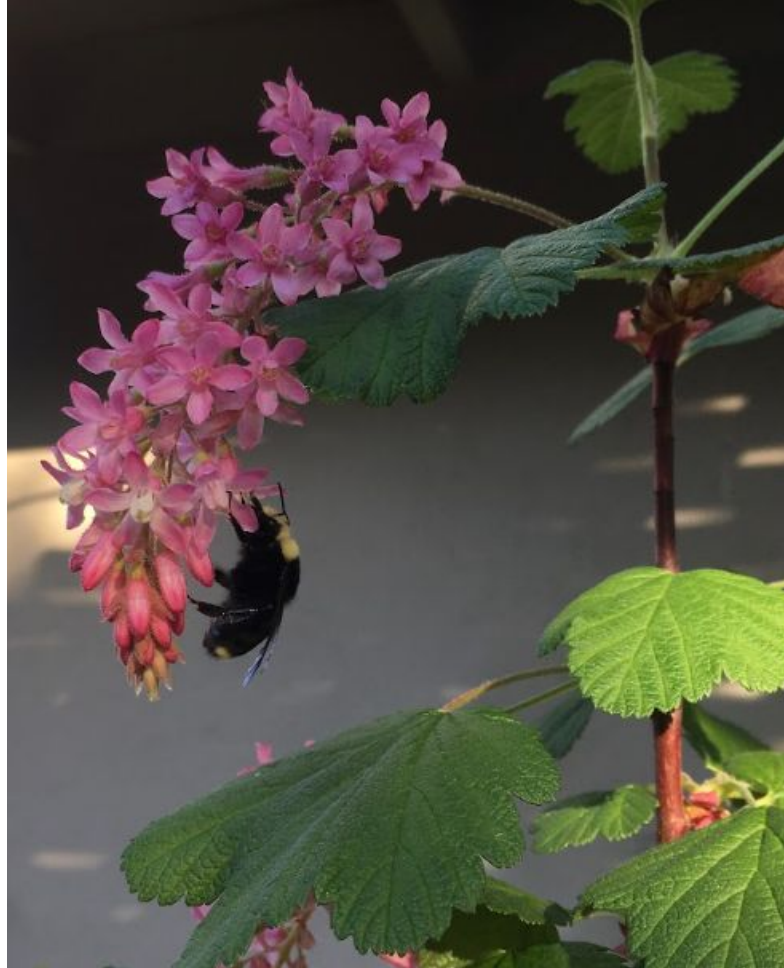
Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard:

Nectar



**California Fuchsia,
*Epilobium canum***



**Red Flowering Currant,
*Ribes sanguineum***



**Island Snapdragon,
*Gambelia speciosa***

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard:

Nectar

Name	Type	Cultivation	Growth	Flowers	Food for birds
California Fuschia, <i>Epilobium canum</i>	Perennial	Cut back to the new growth in December. Low water.	Lush green growth from January through spring; brown and tired-looking October through December	bright red flowers late summer through fall	Nectar
Red Flowering Currant, <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Deciduous shrub <i>(but it often doesn't remember that)</i>	Appreciates some water and some shade in the Valley	grows approximately 4 feet wide and 4 feet tall or higher, but may be pruned	beautiful pink clusters of flowers from January through March	Nectar
Island Snapdragon, <i>Gambelia speciosa</i>	Evergreen shrub	Shade to sun; appreciates part sun and some water	Chaotic growth of pretty green leaves	Red tubular flowers all year	Nectar

Who eats nectar?

Anna's Hummingbirds; you might get other species during spring migration

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard:

Seeds



**Coast Live Oak,
*Quercus agrifolia***



**California Buckwheat,
*Eriogonum fascicalatum***



**Rosemary
*Rosmarinus officinalis***

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard: Seeds

Name	Type	Cultivation	Growth	Flowers	Food for birds
Coast Live Oak, <i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Large, evergreen tree	Low water (don't plant in the lawn!)	Can grow 35 feet wide and 80 feet tall	Male flowers are catkins; female flowers are small	Acorns
California Buckwheat, <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Perennial	Sun to part shade, low water	Grows 3 feet wide and 3 to 6 feet tall	White flowers, summer through fall	Flowers form rust-colored seed heads

Exotics

Name	Type	Cultivation	Growth	Flowers	Food for birds
Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Perennial	Sun; low water	Bush form 4 feet wide and tall	Small purple flowers	Finches love the seeds that form
Sunflower, <i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Annual	Sun; needs water	Depending on the variety, stalk can grow 6 feet tall!	Depending on the variety, large yellow flowers	Seeds <i>(Lesser Goldfinches snack on the leaves)</i>

Who eats seeds?

Western Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, White-Crowned Sparrow

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard: Insects



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia



Mountain Lilac
Ceanothus griseus
Ray Hartman

Food

Native Plant favorites to feed the birds in my yard:

Insects

Name	Type	Cultivation	Growth	Flowers	Food for birds
Coast Live Oak, <i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Large, evergreen tree	Low water (don't plant in the lawn!)	Can grow 35 feet wide and 80 feet tall	Male flowers are catkins; female flowers are small	Hosts caterpillars and insects
Mountain Lilac, <i>Ceanothus griseus</i> Ray Hartman	Evergreen tree	No water, sun	Grows to 25 feet and 8 feet wide	Small purple flowers cover the tree in spring	Hosts insects

Who eats insects?

Bushtit, Black Phoebe

Everyone feeds insects to their babies: Anna's Hummingbird, Bewick's Wren, Western Bluebird, Oak Titmouse

Water

- Birds need a water source to drink and to bathe

Some people have fancy fountains, bird baths, or other water features

Water

I have a CIRAF*
over the birdbath



Fresh water daily
Dripping attracts birds

* Continuous Intermittent
Replenishment of Avian Fluid ©

Shelter



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia



Creeping snowberry
Symphoricarpos mollis

Birds need a place to hide from predators like cats and Cooper's Hawks

A Place to Raise Young



Modesto Ash - Nonnative
Fraxinus velutina

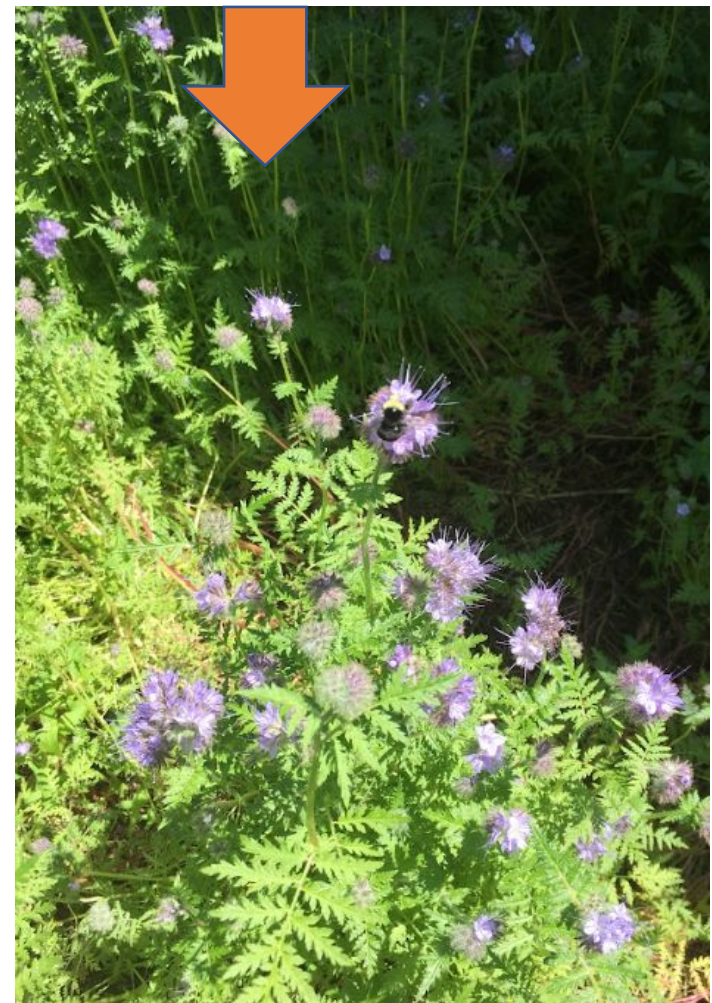


Cavity-nesters need a hole.
Bewick's Wren, Oak Titmouse,
Chestnut-backed Chickadee,
White-breasted Nuthatch, Western

A Place to Raise Young



Salvia - Nonnative



Native wildflowers
Tansy-Leafed Phacelia
Phacelia tanacetifolia

Some build nests in trees and shrubs
(Robin, Mockingbird)
Some build nests on or near the ground
(Junco, Towhee)

How do I get more birds in my yard?

Food

Water

Shelter

A Place to Raise Young

Native
Plants!

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graph LR; Food[Food] --> NP[Native Plants!]; Water[Water] --> NP; Shelter[Shelter] --> NP; Place[A Place to Raise Young] --> NP;
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Resources

- **Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society** www.scvas.org
 - California Native Plants Page: <https://scvas.org/california-native-plants>
 - Backyard birding: <https://scvas.org/backyard-birding>
- **California Native Plant Society** <https://www.cnps-scv.org/>
 - Native Plant lecture series
 - Plant lists and resources: <https://www.cnps-scv.org/gardening/gardening-resources>
- **Calscape** <https://calscape.org/>
 - Search for native plants by name
 - Search your zip code to get plants which are native
- **Bloom! California** <https://bloomcalifornia.org/>
 - Resources to get started with native plants
- **Valley Water** <https://www.valleywater.org/saving-water/rebates-surveys>
 - Landscaping rebates
 - Garden examples

If you feel so inclined...

Join or donate to:



Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society www.scvas.org

(see *Join Us* to Become a member or Donate)

California Native Plants Society www.cnps-scv.org

(see *About Us* to Join or Donate)

Questions?

