

Western Washington Plants for Birds

Big-leaf Maple

Acer macrophyllum



Photo by Mick Thompson, Eastside Audubon

Pileated Woodpecker

(Dryocopus pileatus)

The Pileated woodpecker is our largest species of woodpecker and is generally found in mature forests, where it can be spotted eating its favorite food of carpenter ants, which it finds by drilling distinctive rectangular holes in the trees.

These birds are cavity nesters and the cavities they create often provide shelter to many other species, such as owls, ducks, bats, swifts, and pine martens.

Although they prefer mature forests, they can often be found in suburban areas with large trees and patches of woodland. And although they love carpenter ants, they will occasionally visit a backyard feeder for suet or seed.



Photos by Fayla Schwartz, Washington Native Plant Society

Big-leaf Maple

Big-leaf maple is a tree with a large, often multi-stemmed trunk and a loose, broad crown of large leaves. It can reach 100 feet in height. These trees provide habitat for birds, as well as butterflies and caterpillars (which serve as a food source for many insectivores.) This tree also produces winged fruits (samaras) that are fed upon by some species of birds. Therefore, this plant can attract species as diverse as warblers, chickadees, woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos, nuthatches, and sparrows. The limbs often break off leaving places for rot, so cavity nesting birds also find this tree attractive.



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