Spotted Towhee  
(*Pipilo maculates*)

Spotted towhees hop over the ground beneath dense tangles of shrubs, scratching in leaf litter for food. They are known for this scratching behavior, which they do to turn up seeds and small invertebrates as food. They also will climb into lower branches of shrubs to search for insects and fruits.

Often seen in habitat with thick undergrowth, they are at home in backyards, forest edges, and overgrown fields.

Male towhees will spend most their mornings during the spring singing until they find a mate. The nest will be laid on the ground, or close to it, in exposed areas within thickets.
Cascade Oregon Grape

Cascade Oregon grape is a low-growing creeping shrub with dark green holly-like leaves and slender spikes of yellow flowers that produce blue-purple fruits. The grapes provide food for thrushes, jays, waxwings, sparrows, and towhees. The pointed leaves afford ground protection for nesting and foraging birds.

Cascade Oregon grape usually grows to about 2 feet, but may grow taller in deeper shade. It forms clumps, spreading to about 3 feet wide. This shrub is tolerant of many soil and sun conditions, and makes a good choice for dry, shaded areas especially in woodland gardens.

This plant is also known as Low Oregon grape and Dull Oregon grape.

Photos by Donna Franklin, Washington Native Plant Society

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