

Western Washington Plants for Birds

Common Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus



Photo by Mick Thompson, Eastside Audubon Society

Pacific-slope Flycatcher

(Empidonax difficilis)

This flycatcher was previously considered the same species as the now named, Cordilleran flycatcher, and was previously known as the Western flycatcher. The Cordilleran and Pacific-slope species are very difficult to tell apart.

As its name indicates, this flycatcher lives in the Pacific Coast states, where it often is found in shaded forests and along streambeds. A summer resident, it is a cavity nester. It winters along the Pacific coast of Mexico.

This bird eats insects that it gleans from the air or from trees and shrubs.



Photo by Donna Franklin, Washington Native Plant Society

Common Snowberry

Snowberry is very adaptable to different conditions. Given space to grow, it will create a wild thicket. It is also a popular plant in rain gardens.

Hummingbirds will feed on the white to pink flowers in May through August. It forms white fruits in September-October and these will persist through the winter.

Although the berries are toxic to some animals, including fish, they are enjoyed by many birds such as grouse, grosbeaks, and thrushes. Birds will wait to eat the fruits until after the berries have frozen, which may break down some of the toxins. This is a late winter “starvation time” food for them.



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