Indian Plum

*Oemleria cerasiformis*

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**  
*(Zonotrichia atricapilla)*

This large sparrow nests in Alaska and Western Canada in open scrubby areas near the tree line. It winters from Vancouver to San Diego, where the bird forages on the ground in dense thickets, often in mixed groups with White-crowned sparrows. Golden-crowned sparrows are common in Puget Sound area during winters.

Their diet is mostly insects and seeds with some flowers, buds, berries, and sprouted shoots. Insects are more often a part of their summer diet and the young are fed mostly insects.

This bird uses the Indian plum for shelter, as do many other species of birds.
Indian Plum

Indian plum, also called osoberry, is a harbinger of spring. In February, its lime-green leaves and greenish-white flower clusters begin to appear on the long, slender stems of this multi-stemmed shrub.

In the drab, late winter woods, the flowers look like little butterflies flitting through the forest. The nectar is appealing to hummingbirds. Leaves turn yellow in late summer.

Indian plum grows to about 20 feet tall. It prefers partial shade, but will survive in the sun. It is dioecious, meaning the male and female flowers grow on separate plants. The female produces small, purple olive-sized plums, that appeal to wildlife.