A year-round resident of the Puget Sound, the Varied thrush eats insects during spring and summer, and switches to berries and seeds in winter. These birds generally hop on the ground or in low shrubs and bushes looking for food.

They breed in the understories of forests, but in winter, move to parks, gardens, and backyards.

They are often aggressive toward each other and other bird species. Usually the only other species they are seen with are American robins. Males sometimes defend the area around a feeder during winter, driving off almost all other birds.
Nootka Rose

Nootka rose is a spindly shrub that can grow to 10 feet in height. It has light green paired leaflets with a pair of prickles at the base of each leaf. Its large, rose-pink flowers (blooming May-June) have a cinnamon-like scent. It produces hips that are eaten by several species of birds, including Steller’s jays, towhees, grouse, bluebirds, juncos, grosbeaks, quail, pheasants, and thrushes. The seeds are used by birds as a source of grit.

Rose thickets are an important shelter and habitat for nesting. And, the flower is used by butterflies and hummingbirds.

Tolerant of many growing conditions, these roses do best in partial to full sun, with rich, moist soil. The Nootka rose makes a great edge and hedgerow plant; however, it spreads by rhizomes and suckers so plant it where it will not be a problem.