Orange Honeysuckle
*Lonicera ciliosa*

House Finch
*(Carpodacus mexicanus)*

Found year-round across the United States, the House finch is adaptable to a variety of habitats. Originally found only in the western part of North America, this bird is a recent introduction to the East. In 1940, a group of these finches were let loose in Long Island, New Jersey, and have since populated the eastern half of the continent.

Males are red around the face and chest, while females are all brown. The pigment in the feathers comes from the food that the bird eats and can vary greatly between populations.

Often seen at neighborhood bird feeders, House finches eat a mostly vegetarian diet, including feeding their babies mostly plant food, unlike most birds. They also eat fruits, seeds, and buds.
Orange Honeysuckle

Orange honeysuckle is a climbing vine with bright orange tubular flowers (from May to July). The fruit is eaten by many birds, such as finches and sparrows. Hummingbirds get nectar from the flowers.

This vine grows in full shade to part sun, and can reach over 20 feet in height. Growth may start out slow but once established it grows rapidly. This is not an aggressive plant and will not smother whatever supports it. In fact, it may need training to grow up a trellis or arbor. It prefers moist soil, but is drought tolerant.

The flowers of this species are not fragrant and the leaves are deciduous.

Native Americans used this plant for a variety of medical purposes, and for weaving and ropes.