Purple Finch
(Carpodacus purpureus)

The male Purple Finch is a delicate pink-red color on the head and breast, mixing with brown on the back and cloudy white on the belly. The female Purple Finch has no red.

These birds are often seen in suburban areas at bird feeders, where they love black oil sunflower seed; however, they also forage high in trees. Purple Finches eat mainly seeds of coniferous trees and elms, and like tulip poplars and maples, among other trees. They also eat soft buds, nectar (extracted by biting the bases off flowers), and many berries and fruit.

They breed in coniferous and mixed deciduous forests, coming to more open areas during winter.
Red-flowering Currant

Red-flowering currant blooms early in the spring (as early as February), before the foliage is full. It produces whitish-blue berries eaten by many species of birds, including grouse, pheasants, towhees, waxwings, jays and woodpeckers. The flowers are used by hummingbirds and butterflies. In fact, it provides forage for more than two dozen species of moth and butterfly larvae.

This plant does well in sun or shade, though it will grow fuller and its beautiful red/pink flowers will be more abundant if planted with good exposure to the sun. Red-flowering currant prefers semi-dry soil and will grow from 3 to 9 feet tall. It can be used as a restoration plant.