

Western Washington Plants for Birds

Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

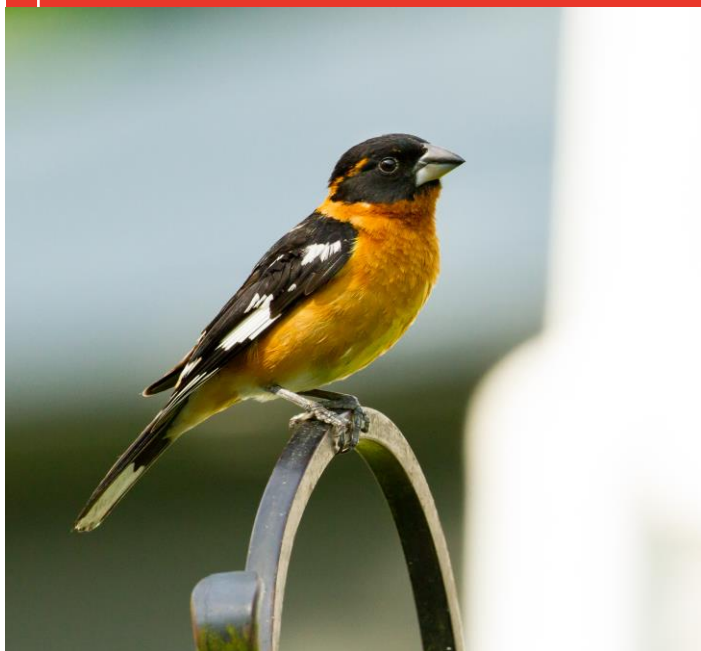


Photo by Mick Thompson, Eastside Audubon

Black-headed Grosbeak

(Pheucticus melanocephalus)

The Black-headed grosbeak prefers mixed woodlands and edge habitat. It is often found in backyards with plenty of cover and water.

These birds eat a variety of foods, including seeds, insects, and berries.

Black-headed grosbeaks are medium-distance migrants, spending the winters in Central Mexico.



Photos by Fayla Schwartz, Washington Native Plant Society

Vine Maple

This is a multi-stemmed understory shrub or small tree, with sprawling branches that re-root, sometimes forming a clump or thicket. Usually reaching about 20 feet in height, Vine maple bears small, wine-red flowers in spring, and the leaves turn red, orange, and yellow in fall.

The seeds, buds, and flowers supply food for a variety of wildlife. Vine maple is used by nuthatches, chickadees, grosbeaks, warblers, waxwings, vireos, and woodpeckers for food and shelter. It also provides habitat for butterflies and caterpillars.

This plant likes moisture and is very shade tolerant; the amount of sun it receives affects whether the plant grows straight or vine-like. It also has more fall color when grown in full sun.



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