Bird-friendly Plants for the Pikes Peak Region

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Type	Birds use	Comments
Boxelder	Acer negundo	Tree	Box-elder bugs on female trees	Needs regular irrigation; weak-wooded, short-lived
Fir	<i>Abies</i> sp.	Tree	Winter shelter	Evergreen with dense needles
Horse chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Tree	Thorny cover	All parts of this tree are poisonous
Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia	Shrub	Slue-black fruit	Colorado native; more xeric than others; fall color
Shadblow Serviceberry	Amelanchier canadensis	Small tree	Fruit; cover	Needs moist soil; showy white flowers, red-orange fall color
Allegheny Serviceberry	Amelanchier laevis	Large shrub — small tree	Fruit; cover	White flowers; yellow to orange fall color; tolerates alkaline soil
Autumn Brillance Serviceberry	Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'	Large shrub — small tree	Fruit; cover	Needs moist soil; white flowers, orange to red fall color. Can grow as multi-stemmed shrub.
Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	Perennial grass	Seed, cover	Needs moist soil; native
Little Bluestem	Andropogon scoparium	Perennial grass	Seed, cover	Needs moist soil; native
Kinnikinnik	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Groundcover	Red fruit	Evergreen; native; needs some shade
Aster	Aster sp.	Perennial	Seed	Ornamental; late blooming
Calendula, Pot Marigold	Calendula officinalis	Annual	Seed	Cool-season annual, edible but not that tasty
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	Tree	Fruit	Attracts many species of bird
Bachelor's Buttons, Cornflower	Centaurea cyanus	Annual	Seed	First to germinate in spring; self-seeds
Spider flower	Cleome spinosa	Annual	Seed	Start indoors, as blooms take a while to form
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis</i> sp.	Perennial	Seed	May not be hardy, but self-seeds
Red- and Yellow-twig Dogwood	Cornus	Shrub	Fruit	Branches give winter interest
Pagoda dogwood	Cornus alternifolia	Small tree	Blue-black fruit	Horizontal branches, white flowers, red to purple fall color
Cornelian cherry dogwood	Cornus mas	Small tree	Bright red summer fruit	Early yellow flowers before foliage
Gray dogwood	Cornus racemosa	Large shrub - small tree	White fruit with red stalks	Creamy white flowers, purple fall color
Cosmos	Cosmos sp.	Annual	Seed	Self-seeds with enthusiasm; somewhat xeric
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster sp.	Groundcover -	Red berries	Often evergreen in Colorado
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		shrub		
Russian Hawthorn	Crataegus ambigua	Small tree	Red fruit	White flowers; subject to fireblight
Cockspur hawthorn	Crataegus crus-galli	Small tree	Red fruit; thorny cover	White flowers; subject to fireblight; possibly best hawthorn for birds
Downy hawthorn	Crataegus mollis	Small tree	Red fruit; thorny cover	White flowers, bronze fall color, needs moist soil
Washington hawthorn	Crataegus phaenopyrum	Small tree	Red-orange fruit; thorny cover	White flowers; red-orange fall color; needs moist soil
Toba hawthorn	Crataegus x mordenensis Toba'	Small tree	Red fruit; thorny cover	Fragrant double white — pink flowers
Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	Perennial	Seeds	Needs regular watering; prairie native
New Mexico Privet	Forestiera neomexicana	Large shrub/ small tree	Female plants produce blue- black berries.	Forms dense hedge or multi-stemmed small tree; xeric; native
Sunflower (annual)	Helianthus annuus	Annual	Seed	New hybrids lack pollen & seeds
Prairie Sunflower	Helianthus petiolaris	Annual	Seeds	Prefers sandy soils
Utah juniper	Juniperus osteosperma	Tree	Berry-like fruit; winter shelter	Xeric; native; small mammals also eat berries
Rocky Mountain Juniper	Juniperus scopulorum	Shrub	Berry-like fruit; winter shelter	Xeric; native; small mammals also eat berries; attracts Cedar Waxwings, Northern Mockingbird, Evening Grosbeak, etc.
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	Ground cover — shrub — tree	Blue berry-like fruit; winter shelter	Avoid need for pruning; xeric; not all cultivars bear fruit
Honeysuckle	Lonicera	Shrub — vine	Fruit	Vigorous grower
Twinberry	Lonicera involucrate	Shall shrub	Black fruit	Native; need adequate moisture
Red Berry Mahonia	Mahonia haematocarpa	Large shrub	Red fruit; spiny leaves offer safety	Fragrant yellow flowers; extremely xeric
Creeping Oregon Grape-Holly	Mahonia repens	Groundcover	Blue fruit	Native; needs sheltered site; leaves turn purple in winter
Crabapple	<i>Malus</i> hyb.	Tree	Fruit	Spring flowers; fall color; look for varieties resistant to fireblight
Four O'Clocks	Mirabilis jalapa	Annual	Seed	Easy to grow
Virginia Creeper	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Vine	Berries	Susceptible to Japanese Beetles (now in Colorado, but not yet in Pikes Peak area)
Spruce	Picea sp.	Tree	Winter shelter	Needs northern exposure, ample water; native
Piñon Pine	Pinus	Tree	Piñon nuts	Avoid regular watering
Quaking aspen	Populus tremuloides	Tree	Catkins, bud, seeds & sap	Moist, well-drained soils; higher elevations; short-lived;

			eaten; cavity nesters prefer soft wood. Hosts insects.	suckers extensively; all parts eaten by wildlife; attracts butterflies, larva
Wild plum	Prunus americana	Small tree	Fruit; cover	Forms thicket; white flowers; xeric; fall color; fruit edible by humans
Western Sand Cherry	Prunus besseyi	Shrub	Fruit	White spring bloom; xeric; red fall foliage; subject to fireblight; variety 'Pawnee Buttes' was Plant Select® selection
Amur Chokecherry	Prunus maackii	Small tree	Black fruit	Shiny orange-red bark; white flowers; avoid clay
Mayday tree	Prunus padus	Tree	Purple-black fruit	Chains of white flowers
Pin Cherry	Prunus pensylvanica	Shrub	Red fruit	Forms thicket; white flowers; red fall color; tolerates shade; fruit edible by humans
Chokecherry	Prunus virginiana	Shrub — tree	Fruit	Excellent bird plant; suckers; white flowers
Doublas-fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Tree	Winter shelter	Native; xeric; get very large
Wafer ash, Hoptree	Ptelea trifoliata	Small, multi- stemmed tree	Fruit, nectar	Attracts butterflies; deer resistant; native; yellow fall color
Firethorn	Pyracantha coccinea	Shrub	Berries; thorny cover	Broad-leafed evergreen, does best in sheltered spot
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Tree	Acorns; insects on tree	Natives and non-natives from which to choose
Gambel oak, scrub oak	Quercus gambelii	Shrub — tree	Acorns; shelter	Forms thicket; late to leaf out; fall color; native; xeric
Smith's Buckthorn	Rhamnus smithii	Shrub	Black fruit in summer	2002 Plant Select® recommendation; grows up to 7,000 ft.; native; xeric
Smooth sumac	Rhus glabra	Shrub	Fuzzy red fruit	Good fall color; yellow flowers; native; xeric
Three-leaf Sumac	Rhus trilobata	Shrub	Red berries	Native; xeric; adaptable
Wax Currant	Ribes cereum	Shrub	Fruit	Native; xeric; tolerates shade
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes</i> sp.	Shrub	Fruit; thorny cover	Native; xeric; tolerates shade
Golden currant	Ribes aureum	Shrub	Yellow to black fruit	Yellow flowers; xeric; native; red fall color
Whitestem currant	Ribes inerme	Shrub	Red fruit	Native
Bristly currant, swamp currant	Ribes lacustre	Shrub	Purple fruit	Thorny; native; wildlife browses on foliage; needs wet soil
Clove-Scented Currant	Ribes odoratum	Shrub	Yellow flowers attract hummingbirds; edible fruit	Fall color; xeric
Rugosa Rose	Rosa rugosa	Shrub	Rose hips, thorny cover	Most bloom once; large, dense, thorny plant overwhelms small spaces; hardier than rose hybrids; xeric
Wood rose, native rose	Rosa woodsii	Shrub	Rose hips; thorny cover	Native; xeric; wildlife eats foliate

Boulder raspberry	Rubus deliciosus	Shrub	Fruit	Tolerates shade; native; xeric; showy white flowers
Western thimbleberry	Rubus parviflorus	Shrub	Fruit	Prefers shady, moist location; white flowers; native
Willows	Salix exigua or S. monticola	Shrub	Shelter	Riparian native needs wet soil; attractive yellow twigs
Red-berried Elder	Sambucus racemosa	Shrub	Red berries	White flowers; yellow fall color; needs moisture; native
Silver Buffaloberry	Shepherdia argentea	Large shrub	Female plants have red berries	Plains native; xeric; gray foliage
Russet Buffaloberry	Shepherdia Canadensis	Shrub	Red to orange bitter fruit on female plants	Native; xeric; tolerates shade; blue-green foliage
Goldenrod	Solidago missiouriensis	Perennial	Seed	Also attracts butterflies
European Mountain Ash	Sorbus aucuparia	Tree	Red berries	Robins & waxwings like fruit
Native mountain ash	Sorbus scopulina	Large shrub — small tree	Orange fruit	Red fall color; native; white flowers
Snowberry	Symphoricarpos albus	Shrub	Large white berries	Somewhat xeric; attracts small mammals
Coralberry	Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	Shrub	Fruit	
Viburnum	Viburnum	Shrub — small tree	Berries	Needs moist, fertile soil; eastern native
Nannyberry	Viburnum lentago	Large shrub	Berries last into winter	Native; white flowers attract butterflies; fall color; likes moist soil
Zinnia	Zinnia elegans	Annual	Seed	Attracts butterflies; extremely frost tender