

Avian Frugivory in Louisiana by Plant Species



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Provided by



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Avian Frugivory by Plant Species

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INTRODUCTION

This publication summarizes the work recently published by W.R. Fontenot entitled *Avian Frugivory in Louisiana*. The article expands upon a survey of bird frugivory in Louisiana, published in 1998, in which 26 observers recorded 65 species of birds utilizing the fruits of 49 species of native, naturalized, and exotic plants in Louisiana. In the 18 years subsequent to that publication, 30 additional observers joined the original corps, adding 21 new bird species, eight additional plant species, and dozens of new bird/fruit interaction pairings to the original report. The importance of Louisiana's native fruiting plants to birds was also categorized based on the diversity of bird species (both observed and from the literature) attracted to them. Though anecdotal and strictly qualitative in nature, it is hoped that these records will generate additional bird frugivory studies in Louisiana, as well as assist wildlife managers and habitat restorationists in planning bird conservation projects throughout the U.S. Gulf Coastal region. Orleans Audubon prepared the following summary to encourage birders to report additional observations of birds eating fruits in Louisiana and to assist in native gardening to attract birds.



Summer Tanager eating Mulberries

ANACARDIACEAE

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum

FRUITS

September - December

Native and very common statewide along woodland edges of most forested habitats, roadsides, hedgerows, fallow fields. Two additional species, Smooth Sumac (*R. glabra*) and Aromatic Sumac (*R. aromatica*) are mostly restricted to the northern half of the state.

BIRDS

Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Gray Catbird, European Starling.

Eastern Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans

FRUITS

August - January

Native and very common statewide in nearly all forested habitats. Atlantic Poison Oak (*T. pubescens*), native to the northern half of the state and the easternmost Florida parishes is included as well. It is very similar to poison ivy in foliage appearance and fruiting, though more shrub-like than vine-like in habit.

BIRDS

Red-bellied, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wild Turkey, Carolina Wren, Purple Finch, Fox Sparrow, Wood Duck, Northern Bobwhite

AQUIFOLIACEAE

'Burford' Holly

Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii'

FRUITS

October - March

A common cultivar of Chinese holly, popularly planted in gardens statewide.

BIRDS

American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal

'Savannah' Holly

Ilex cassine x opaca

FRUITS

October - March

A common cultivar which is a hybrid of Dahoon Holly and American Holly – both native Louisiana species. Planted in gardens/landscapes statewide.

BIRDS

Northern Mockingbird

Deciduous Holly

Ilex decidua

FRUITS

October - February

Native statewide mostly in bottomland hardwood forest edge habitat; also hedgerows, roadsides, and fallow fields. Mostly limited to circumneutral.

BIRDS

American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite.

American Holly

Ilex opaca

FRUITS

October - February

Native statewide in Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests; widely planted elsewhere.

BIRDS

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellowbellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, White-throated Sparrow, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Mourning Dove

Yaupon Holly

Ilex vomitoria

FRUITS

October - April

Native statewide in most forested habitats including coastal woodlands; most common along woodland edges, roadsides, hedgerows.

BIRDS

Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

ARECACEAE

Dwarf Palmetto

Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii'

FRUITS

August - January

Native statewide in low forests; most abundant in bottomland hardwood forest habitats. Statewide.

BIRDS

Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler

BERBERIDACEAE

Nandina

Nandina domestica

FRUITS

November - February

Exotic species (China) commonly planted in gardens statewide. Occasionally escapes into the wild, but not reported to be invasive.

BIRDS

Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal

Oregon Grape

Mahonia bealei

FRUITS

August - September

.Exotic evergreen shrub (China) that grows in moist, well-drained soils in part shade (morning sun or sun dappled shade) to full shade. Occasionally escapes into the wild.

BIRDS

Northern Mockingbird, Grey Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

FRUITS

August - January

Invasive exotic, naturalized in most forested habitats statewide including coastal forests.

BIRDS

White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal

Trumpet Honeysuckle

Lonicera sempervirens

FRUITS

August - January

Native to Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests statewide; widely planted in gardens elsewhere.

BIRDS

Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Painted Bunting, Purple Finch

Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

FRUITS

July - December

Native statewide along most woodland edges, roadsides, hedgerows, fallow fields.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, House Sparrow, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Couch's/Tropical Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, White-throated Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove

Little-leaf Viburnum or Small-leaved Arrowwood

Viburnum obovatum

FRUITS

July - December

Dense suckering shrub native to wetland habitats in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. Steadily gaining popularity as a garden plant statewide in Louisiana.

BIRDS

Northern Cardinal

Arrowwood Viburnum

Viburnum dentatum

FRUITS

September - November

Native statewide throughout most all upland forest habitats, including more elevated portions of coastal spoilbank forests.

BIRDS

Hermit Thrush, Northern Flicker, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin

CORNACEAE

Rough-leaf Dogwood

Cornus drummondii

FRUITS

August - October

Native statewide along woodland edges, roadsides, hedgerows, fallow fields. A "pioneer" species, most common during early stages of ecological succession from fallow field to forested habitat.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Tree Swallow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Bobwhite

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

FRUITS

August - December

Native statewide in the interior of sandy-loam Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests and Riparian Forests; frequently planted in garden settings.

BIRDS

American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Northern Bobwhite, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Wild Turkey, Brown Thrasher, Wood Duck, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple Finch, Common Grackle, Summer Tanager, Yellow-rumped Warbler

Tupelo Gum

Nyssa aquatica

FRUITS

September - December

Native to Bald Cypress-Tupelo Swamps statewide.

BIRDS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Duck

Black Gum

Nyssa sylvatica

FRUITS

September - December

Native primarily to Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests statewide.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Blue Jay, American Crow, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Duck, European Starling

CUPRESSACEAE

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

FRUITS

September - January

Native statewide along woodland edges, roadsides, hedgerows, fallow fields. A "pioneer" species most common in the early stages of ecological succession from fallow field to forested habitat.

BIRDS

Townsend's Solitaire, House Finch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Purple Finch, Cedar Waxwing, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Blue Jay

EBENACEAE

American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

FRUITS

September - November

Native statewide within most upland and lowland forest types, including coastal forests.

BIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Northern Mockingbird, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Bobwhite, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing

EBENACEAE

Hairy Huckleberry

Gaylussacia mosieri

FRUITS

June - October

Native shrub in pine forests restricted to the eastern Florida parishes. Often listed as "Huckleberry spp." as numerous huckleberry species exist throughout the U.S., including at least two additional native species in Louisiana.

BIRDS

Summer Tanager, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Scarlet Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhee

Tree/Winter Huckleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

FRUITS

November - January

Small tree native to sandy-loam soils in pine forests statewide. Generically more closely related to the blueberry species than to huckleberry species.

BIRDS

Summer Tanager, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco

Blueberries

Vaccinium spp.

FRUITS

June - September

Over 10 species native to Louisiana mostly restricted to acidic sandy-loam soils of the pinelands. Numerous commercial orchards growing horticultural selections are also dotted throughout the state.

BIRDS

Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Wild Turkey, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Phoebe, Summer Tanager, Prothonotary Warbler

LAURACEAE

Camphor Tree

Cinnamomum camphora

FRUITS

October - December

Oriental native evergreen tree; once widely planted in the southern portion of the state; occasionally escapes cultivation, especially within the coastal zone forests.

BIRDS

American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Tropical Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler

Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

FRUITS

August - October

Native shrub; widely scattered through the interior portions of various forested habitats statewide – including mixed pine-hardwood, upland hardwood, and even in elevated portions of bottomland hardwoods – but nowhere common. Absent from coastal forests.

BIRDS

White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Mourning Dove, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal

Red Bay

Persea borbonia/palustris

FRUITS

September - November

Native evergreen tree; uncommonly distributed within moist sites of pine, mixed pine-hardwood, and hardwood forests, including riparian forest habitats. Most common in spoilbank forests within the coastal parishes.

BIRDS

Eastern Kingbird, Wild Turkey, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Bobwhite

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

FRUITS

July - October

Native; scattered widely throughout many forest types statewide; most common in Mixed Pine Hardwood Forests and Upland Hardwood Forests in northern half of the state; more scantily distributed southward into the upper portions of the coastal zone.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Mockingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Gray Catbird

MAGNOLIACEAE

Southern Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora

FRUITS

August - December

Native to most upland forest types statewide; widely planted in gardens/landscapes.

BIRDS

Mourning Dove, White-winged Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Big-leaf Magnolia

Magnolia macrophylla

FRUITS

August - November

Native deciduous tree sparsely distributed along higher sandy-loam creek banks of Mixed Pine Hardwood Forests in Florida parishes and the northern half of the state.

BIRDS

Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Flicker

Sweetbay Magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

FRUITS

July - October

Native to open boggy woodlands within Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests statewide; widely planted elsewhere.

BIRDS

White-eyed Vireo, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Kingbird

MALVACEAE

Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii

FRUITS

September - October

Understory shrub native to Chenier Forests and other coastal woodlands; widely planted in gardens statewide.

BIRDS

Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal

MELIACEAE

Chinaberry Tree

Melia azedarach

FRUITS

October - January

Oriental native, once widely planted throughout the southeastern U.S. including statewide in Louisiana; escapes into the wild, but generally not invasively so.

BIRDS

Couch's/Tropical Kingbird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Gray Catbird

MENISPERMACEAE

Carolina Moonseed or Snailseed

Cocculus carolinus

FRUITS

October - January

Native evergreen vine, widely distributed through many forest types statewide, including bottomland hardwood forests of the coastal zone.

BIRDS

Eastern Phoebe, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Summer Tanager, White-throated

MORACEAE

Mulberry spp.

Morus rubra/alba/nigra

FRUITS

April - July



Includes native Red Mulberry (dull/rough leaves) along with the exotic White Mulberry (shiny/smooth leaves) and Black Mulberry (shiny/smooth leaves). Both Red and White Mulberries – along with hybrids thereof – are widely distributed through many forest types statewide; widely planted and frequently occurring in urban waste areas as well.

BIRDS

Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Mourning Dove, White-winged Dove, Inca Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, American Crow, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, House Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Grackle, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Northern Flicker, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-bellied Cuckoo, Warbling Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Song Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brown Thrasher, Laughing Gull, and Great Kiskadee

Common Fig

Ficus carica

FRUITS

June - July

Oriental native, deciduous tree or large shrub that grows wild in dry and sunny areas, with deep and fresh soil.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Mocking, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Blue Jay

OLEACEAE

American Fringetree

Chionanthus virginicus

FRUITS

August - October

Native to Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests statewide; widely planted in landscapes statewide.

BIRDS

Northern Cardinal, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird

Wax-leaf Ligustrum

Ligustrum japonicum/lucidum

FRUITS

October - February

Widely planted Oriental exotic tree within the coastal zone; frequently escapes into bottomland hardwood forest habitats within this region.

BIRDS

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Chinese Privet

Ligustrum sinense

FRUITS

October - March

Widely planted Oriental shrub statewide. Invasive exotic throughout most pine and hardwood forests statewide.

BIRDS

Yellowbellied Sapsucker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, Harris's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird

Devilwood

Osmanthus americanus

FRUITS

September - December

Native only to the eastern Florida parishes, but planted in other parts of the state by native plant enthusiasts.

BIRDS

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

PHYTOLACCACEAE

Pokeberry

Phytolacca americana

FRUITS

July - September

Native to the woodland edges of most forest types statewide; also roadsides, hedgerows, fallow fields, and other waste areas.

BIRDS

Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, House Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Mourning Dove, Warbling, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue Jay, American Crow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Orchard Oriole

PODOCARPACEAE

Japanese Yew

Podocarpus macrophyllus

FRUITS

October - January

Exotic Oriental evergreen tree; planted in gardens statewide.

BIRDS

Eastern Kingbird, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Veery, Wood Thrush

RHAMNACEAE

American Fringetree

Berchemia scandens

FRUITS

September - December

Native vine widely distributed throughout most forest types statewide.

BIRDS

Yellowbellied Sapsucker, White-eyed Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Purple Finch, House Finch, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mallard, Wood Duck

Carolina Buckthorn

Frangula caroliniana

FRUITS

August - November

Native small deciduous tree distributed in mixed pine-hardwood forests statewide

BIRDS

American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Catbird

ROSACEAE

Hawthorn spp.

Crataegus spp.

FRUITS

October - January

A large North American genus of small trees which includes 13 species native to Louisiana. Most of Louisiana's species are restricted in distribution to the northern half of the state. Parsley Haw (*C. marshallii*) and Green Haw (*C. viridis*) extend well south, with the latter reaching the coastal parishes, mostly associated with bottomland hardwood forests. Found in open woodlands, woodland edges, roadsides, fallow fields, and other sunny locales.

BIRDS

Least Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Mockingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Fox Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Wild Turkey, Wood Duck, Northern Flicker

Loquat or Japanese Plum

Eriobotrya japonica

FRUITS

February - May

Small exotic evergreen tree planted ornamentally throughout the southern half of the state.

BIRDS

Cedar Waxwing, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole

Red-tip Photinia

Photinia glabra

FRUITS

September - December

A native Japanese evergreen shrub once widely planted in hedge configuration. Diseases have caused it to fall out of favor and it is not presently used as often; however old/healthy specimens persist in various places.

BIRDS

Cedar Waxwing

Common Pear

Pyrus communis

FRUITS

July - September

Also known as “cooking pear” in the South. Traditionally planted around many rural home sites, urban/suburban plantings of this Eurasian species are presently increasing as a result of “edible landscaping” and “permaculture” enthusiasts. Trees are long-lived in Louisiana, often persisting at abandoned rural home sites.

BIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Pine Warbler, Northern Cardinal

Black Cherry

Prunus serotina

FRUITS

March - July

Medium to large deciduous tree widely distributed in various (mostly upland) forested habitats throughout the state, including the coastal parishes.

BIRDS

Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, American Crow, Swainson’s Thrush, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Northern Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole, Willow Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Common Grackle, Eastern Phoebe, Brown-headed Cowbird, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mocking bird

Cherry Laurel

Prunus Caroliniana

FRUITS

August - September

Dense shrub or small tree distributed in the Coastal Plains. Prefers low woods; maritime forests; fields; thickets and the moist, well-drained soils of its natural range

BIRDS

American Robin, Cedar Waxwing

Dewberry

Rubus spp.

FRUITS

April - May

A sprawling shrub with woody, tangled stem that grows in swamps, flood plains, and bottomlands.

BIRDS

Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

RUBIACEAE

Firebush

Hamelia patens

FRUITS

November - January

A Caribbean native shrub planted in gardens as a hummingbird nectar plant throughout the lower Gulf Coastal Plain. In mid to late-winter it produces clusters of dark, flattened, oval-shaped fruits.

BIRDS

Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal

RUTACEAE

Prickly Ash

Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

FRUITS

July - September

Also known as “Toothache Tree” this small native deciduous tree is locally common statewide in sunny locales of many forested habitats, roadsides, and hedgerows. A major component of coastal forests, especially along Louisiana’s southwestern coast.

BIRDS

Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson’s Thrush, Northern Cardinal, White-winged Dove

SMILACACEAE

Catbrier

Smilax spp.

FRUITS

August - February

Also known as “Greenbrier” this genus of evergreen vines includes 10 species native to Louisiana, most of which are widely distributed throughout the state throughout many forested habitats.

BIRDS

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Green-tailed Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Wild Turkey, Fox Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson’s Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Cardinal, Gray Catbird, Purple Finch

SOLANACEAE

Bird Pepper

Capsicum annuum glabriusculum

FRUITS

August - January

Small native perennial shrub limited in natural Louisiana distribution to coastal forests. Gaining popularity among “bird gardeners” and native plant enthusiasts statewide.

BIRDS

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal

Night-blooming Jessamine

Cestrum nocturnum

FRUITS

August - December

A semi-tropical shrub native to the West Indies, widely planted in garden settings within the coastal zone; has exhibited invasiveness in New Orleans (horticultural zone 9), but no such reports from other urban areas in which it is used.

BIRDS

Northern Mockingbird

Salt-matrimony Vine

Lycium carolinianum

FRUITS

August - December

Also known as “Carolina Wolfberry” and “Carolina Desert Thorn” this native perennial decumbent shrub is restricted to dune and coastal forest edge habitats along the beaches of the coastal parishes.

BIRDS

Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Hermit Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Whooping Crane

ULMACEAE

Hackberry

Celtis laevigata

FRUITS

July - February

Also known as “Sugarberry” this native tree is distributed across many forested habitats statewide, especially moist hardwood-dominated floodplain habitats including bottomland hardwood forests and coastal forests.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Couch’s/Tropical Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Swainson’s Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Sage Thrasher, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Spotted Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Swainson’s Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Wild Turkey.

VERBENACEAE

American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

FRUITS

July - November

Also known as “French Mulberry” or “Inkberry” this native deciduous shrub is widely distributed throughout most forested habitats statewide, including natural levees, ridges, spoilbanks, and other elevated areas of bottomland hardwood forests. Mostly absent from coastal forests.

BIRDS

Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson’s Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Northern Bobwhite, Purple Finch

Mexican Beautyberry

Callicarpa mexicana

FRUITS

August - October

Exotic. From one specimen growing in Lafayette parish.

BIRDS

Gray Catbird

Lantana

Lantana camara/urticoides

FRUITS

August - November

Two species of exotic/tropical shrubs which have naturalized throughout the Louisiana coastal zone; planted as “hummingbird/butterfly” specimens in the southern half of the state as well.

BIRDS

Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird

VERBENACEAE

Mistletoe

Phoradendron leucarpum/tomentosum

FRUITS

September - January

Native throughout numerous wooded habitats statewide; more abundant in northern half of the state.

BIRDS

Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing

VITACEAE

Sorrelvine *or* Ivy Treebine

Cissus trifoliata

FRUITS

July-October

Widely distributed but only locally common within dry/sandy habitats statewide. Most commonly encountered within coastal Chenier habitats and other sandy coastal woodlands.

BIRDS

Northern Mockingbird

Peppervine

Cissus trifoliata

FRUITS

July - October

Abundantly distributed native vine. Most common along woodland edges, hedgerows, roadsides.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal

Virginia Creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

FRUITS

August - November

Abundantly distributed native vine throughout most forested habitats statewide.

BIRDS

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Fish Crow, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, Redheaded Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Fox Sparrow, Great-crested Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Carolina Chickadee

Wild Grape spp.

Vitis spp.

FRUITS

July - December

Eight native species distributed throughout most forested habitats statewide. *V. mustangensis* is an important component of coastal forests.

BIRDS

Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellowbellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Couch's/Tropical Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wild Turkey, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Warbling Vireo, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, Sage Thrasher, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, Wood Duck, Northern Bobwhite