

was not appreciated at the time was the value of snags to many forms of wildlife, especially cavity-nesting birds. With the growth of environmental awareness in recent decades, the retention of snags on trees has come to be seen as a positive step people can take to promote wildlife on their own properties.

This is particularly true in landscaping for bluebirds. Bluebirds use snags as places from which to look for food and defend territory, and as places where they can groom, mate, seek safety, and rest. Snags also become an important source of natural cavities for bluebirds, since many woodpeckers and other so-called primary cavity nesters excavate holes in them.

Here are some tips for saving snags and dead trees: First, preserve snags and dead trees within 15 yards of clearings, for these are most likely to be used by bluebirds as perches, or if they have natural cavities, as nest or roost sites. Second, keep dead trees and snags spaced out over an area. Third, if a tree looks as if some of its limbs are diseased or dying, leave them alone, for these limbs may become good snags.

We have a beautiful old ash tree at the edge of our field, and although we are sorry to see it slowly dying back, we know that in its old age it will provide numerous valuable cavity sites and perches for bluebirds as well as other bird species.

## Berry-Producing Plants That Attract Bluebirds

### For Summer or Autumn Fruits

#### Trees

American Holly, *Ilex opaca*  
 Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*  
 Cascara Buckthorn, *Rhamnus purshiana*  
 Crabapples, *Malus* spp.  
 European Mountain Ash, *Sorbus aucuparia*  
 Kousa Dogwood, *Cornus kousa*  
 Pin Cherry, *Prunus pennsylvanica*  
 Red Mulberry, *Morus rubra*  
 White Mulberry, *Morus alba*

#### Shrubs

Autumn Olive, *Elaeagnus umbellata*  
 Blackberry, Raspberry, *Rubus* spp.  
 Blueberry, *Vaccinium* spp.  
 Chokeberry, *Aronia* spp.  
 Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*  
 Dogwood shrubs, *Cornus* spp.  
 Elderberry, *Sambucus* spp.  
 Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* spp.  
 Russian Olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*  
 Shadbush, *Amelanchier* spp.  
 Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*  
 Viburnams, *Viburnum* spp.

#### Vines

Grape, *Vitis* spp.  
 Greenbriar, *Smilax* spp.  
 Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* spp.

#### Herbaceous Plants

Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*

### For Winter Fruits

#### Trees

Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*  
 Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*  
 Hawthorns, *Crataegus* spp.  
 Madrone, *Arbutus menziesii*  
 Mountain Ash, *Sorbus americana*  
 Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginianum*  
 Sour Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*  
 Western Red Cedar, *Juniperus scopulorum*

#### Shrubs

Bayberry, *Myrica carolinensis*  
 Blackhaw, *Viburnum prunifolium*  
 Cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster* spp.  
 Highbush Cranberry, *Viburnum trilobum*  
 Holly, *Ilex* spp.  
 Mistletoe, *Phoradendron* spp.  
 Multiflora Rose, *Rosa multiflora*  
 Sumac, *Rhus* spp.

#### Vines

Bittersweet, *Celastrus* spp.  
 Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*  
 Moonseed, *Menispermum canadense*  
 Pyracantha, *Pyracantha* spp.  
 Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*