

Migratory Birds and Native Ornamental Trees

Migratory birds are entertaining to watch and function as important seed dispersers. Every year these birds travel from North America to the tropics for the winter and find refuge in whatever local trees they can find. However, these little creatures are becoming threatened due to habitat loss. Conservation is difficult because setting aside just one forest is not enough for migrants – adequate preservation involves protecting the whole flight path. Including native ornamental trees in gardens can support the migrating populations, serving as temporary homes and meals. Here are some native trees from the Monteverde area that you can plant to draw in birds and give an added dimension to your garden.

Ficus pertusa

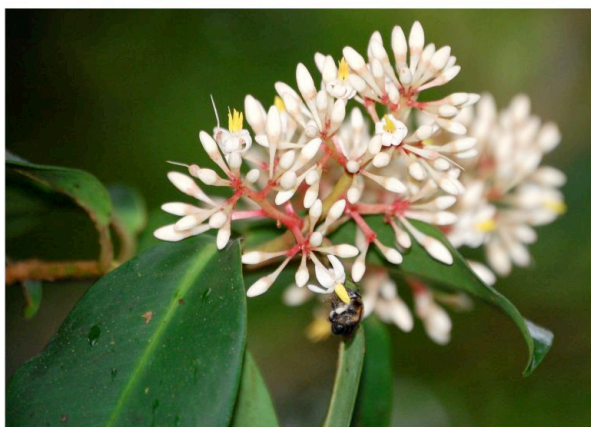
Higuito
Elevation: Usually 900-1,600 m
Height: 5-12 m
Grows on other trees or stumps.
Small fruits are very attractive for birds.

Citharexylum species

Dama
Various dama species occur at different elevations in Monteverde. The species pictured here, *C. costaricensis*, attracts more than 20 species of birds. The flowers are extremely fragrant.

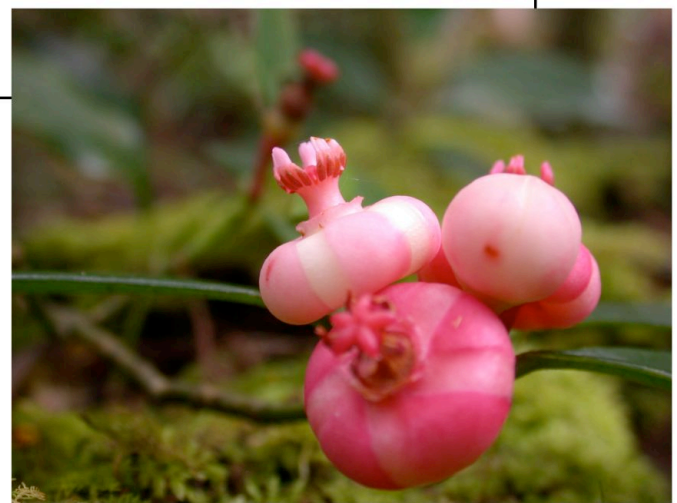
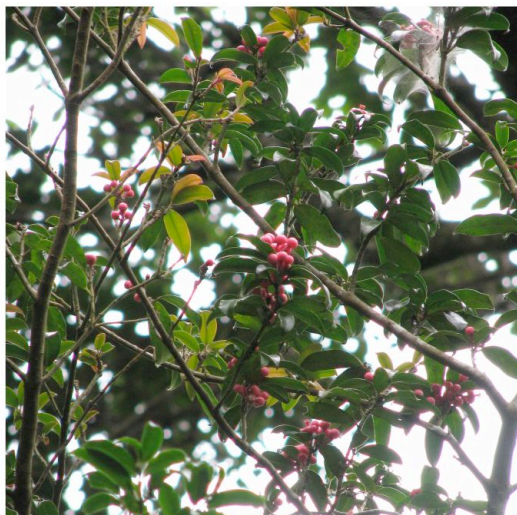
Symphonia globulifera

Cerillo
Elevation: 0-1,800 m
Flower: May to Oct
Fruit: Apr to Dec
Height: 4-12 m
Commonly visited by hummingbirds.



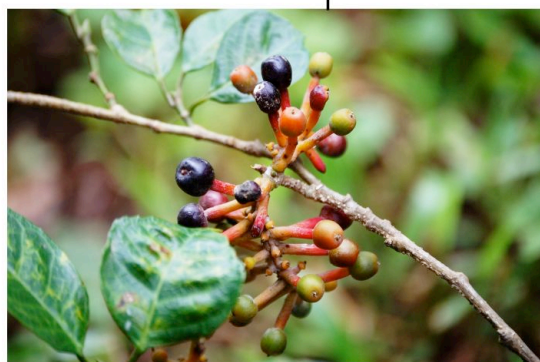
Ardisia species

Tucuico
These small trees flower sporadically with attractive pink & white flowers. *A. compressa* (in photos) and *A. costaricensis* are native to the Monteverde zone. The small purple fruits are eaten by many bird species as well as people.



Inga sierrae

Guabo peludo
Elevation: 1,200-1,700 m
Flower: Sept- Feb
Fruit: May-Oct
Height: 10-25 m
Visited by hummingbirds.
Fragrant flowers smell sweet at night and attract hawkmoths.



Sorocea trophoides

Elevation: 750-1,800 m
Flower: May- Jul
Fruit: Jul- Oct
Height: Up to 15 m
The fruits are sought out by migrants.

Erythrina lanceolata

Poro, Machete flower
Elevation: 900-1,500 m
Flower: Sept- Mar
Fruit: Mar- Jun
Height: 8 m
Attracts hummingbirds, warblers, and orioles.



Erythrina gibbosa

