

# Adaptive Birds



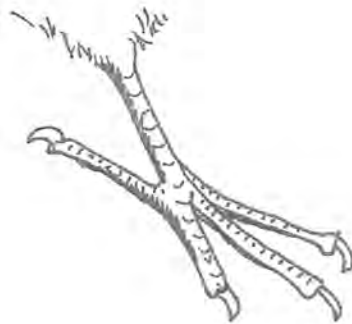
Color the Berries, Leaves and Feet

plants are  
berry pretty!

## Passerine Feet

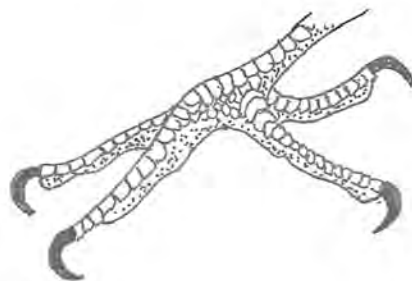
### Perching Feet to Pluck a Berry

- ❖ Passerine birds have perching feet used to help them land on branches.
- ❖ Passerine feet have three toes that point forward and one toe pointed backwards. This makes it easy for a bird to get a firm grasp on the branch.
- ❖ Many native plants have berries that attract Passerines.
- ❖ Omnivores are birds that vary their diet from insects which hatch in spring and summer and then eat berries when they ripen in the fall.



## Zygodactyl Feet for Climbing Trees

- ❖ Zygodactyl feet have two middle toes pointed forward and two outside toes pointed backward.
- ❖ Woodpeckers and sapsuckers have this kind of foot so they can hold on to trunks of oak and pine trees
- ❖ Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers drill holes in a straight row searching for tree sap. They prefer Red Maple, American Holly, Pine and Live Oak Trees. When the sap runs down the trunks, it attracts insects that both birds like to eat.



Red berries grow on Holly, Wild Coffee, Wild Strawberry and Hawthorne plants. They are favorites of mockingbirds and robins. Bluebirds and finches like berries of the Sumac bush whose fragrant leaves turn red & purple in the fall.



White waxy berries appear on Wax Myrtle bushes in late summer through winter for catbirds and swallows. Yellow-rumped Warblers dine on whitish-blue Bayberries. Grosbeaks, waxwings, towhees and thrushes search for Snowberries.



Blue and purple colored berries mature on pokeweed, elderberry, mulberry, blackberry, and Beauty Berry native plants. Crows, jays, wrens, finches and sparrows like these berries.

