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Let Your Garden Take Flight

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When you're looking to add pizzazz to your garden, think beyond simply introducing more colorful flora to introducing colorful fauna as well. Birds add movement and color and interest to your yard, and the first step in attracting them is "just add water." Incorporating a birdbath into your garden design is good. Adding moving water with a fountain – or a stream if you're lucky enough to have the space—is even better. It doesn't have to be grand. My two-tier, 3'-diameter lion's head fountain maintains a constant parade of birds from dawn to dusk. It's that easy.

If you want to take your avian floorshow to the next level, you can add food sources. I like my food sources to be natural, growing ones, so I don't have to feel guilty when the feeders run empty (and the birds don't leave me for greener pastures!). The hummingbirds love the year-round Callistemon (bottlebrush) buffet, dwarf citrus, Jasmine polyanthum (pink jasmine) and the salvia. My other winged visitors head for the pyracantha, viburnum, cosmos and, of course, the sunflowers. You can find more bird-feeding plants for your garden on <http://birding.about.com/cs/gardening/a/seedgarden.htm>

Once the water and plants are in, the birds take care of themselves, and all you need to do is pull up a chair and enjoy the show!