Amelanchier arborea Downy Serviceberry

**Natural Native Bird Feeder**
The *Amelanchier* genus supports a wide variety of wildlife with fruit, flowers and foliage. Birds, such as wood thrush, bluebird, oriole, *eastern kingbird, downy* woodpecker and scarlet tanager munch the high-energy fruits during breeding season. *Amelanchier* also supports 124 species of caterpillars including the tiger, pallid tiger, two-tailed tiger, viceroy, white admiral and western hairstreak. Don't forget about the pollen and nectar it produces for our pollinator friends.

**So how did Downy Serviceberry get its name?**
The name, Serviceberry, appears to refer to its early spring bloom time, heralding the opportunity to gather for community religious services such as weddings or funerals after the cold weather. Also known as Shadbrush in the piedmont, the bloom time coincided with the running of the shad, a tasty fish favored by colonists.

**Landscape Uses**
*Amelanchier arborea* is an easy tree to grow. Naturally found in moist forests and rocky slopes *Amelanchier arborea* tolerates moist to dryish soil in sun or part shade. Serviceberries range from small shrubs to understory trees. No matter the size of your yard, there is a Serviceberry that will fit your needs as a useful and attractive addition to your landscape. When using *Amelanchier arborea* in your garden, consider companion plants -- Dogwood, Sourwood, Fringe Tree, Gingers, native Azaleas, Wild Columbine and Redbud. With vibrant fall color of red, orange or yellow, it would be an unusual alternative to spring flowering Crabapples or Cherries and an excellent alternative to the non-native Crape Myrtle.

Find out More!
Visit these sites for more info:
- ncwildflower.org
- ncaudubonblog.org/tag/native-plant-profile
- wildflower.org/plants

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month is a joint effort of the NC Native Plant Society and Audubon North Carolina.