

Birds & Blooms

Beauty in Your Own Backyard

AMERICA'S
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MAGAZINE

OWL SECRETS *Revealed!*

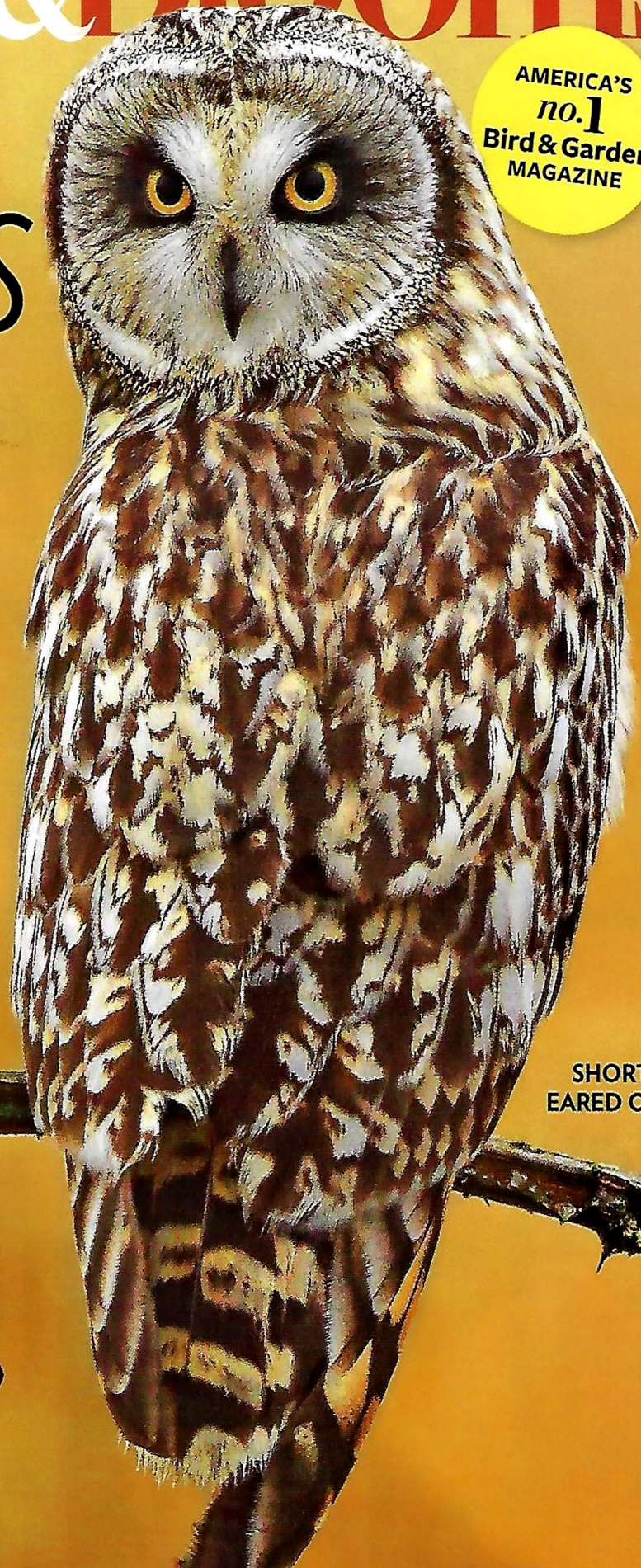
Meet 10 mysterious
species that hide
in plain sight

ATTRACT

FALL FLIERS WITH
BERRY-FILLED PLANTS

GROW

VEGGIES INDOORS
FOR A YEAR-ROUND
HARVEST



SHORT-
EARED OWL

FLYING SOUTH

HOW BIRDS FIND
THEIR WAY

Precious Metals

Brighten beds and containers with plants featuring gold, silver and copper hues. **BY KELSEY ROSETH**

THE WHOLE PACKAGE

Gold Zebra foamy bells have it all! They tolerate shade, lure butterflies and hummingbirds, and perform well in containers or right in the garden.





1 Gold Zebra foamy bells

HEUCHERELLA, ZONES 4 TO 9

Gold Zebra's yellow and green leaves are accented with brilliant gold and blood-red centers. When watered regularly, this stunner tolerates heat and humidity as it grows up to 8 inches tall and wide. It thrives in full shade to part sun and is often used in containers or as an edging plant.

Why we love it: This deer-resistant wonder has showy white flowers that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other helpful pollinators.

2 Campfire coleus

PLECTRANTHUS SCUTELLARIOIDES, ANNUAL

Set your beds ablaze with the bright orange foliage of Campfire. This big, bold plant tolerates both part shade and full sun. Reaching about 28 inches tall and nearly as wide, it's an evergreen perennial that won't survive frost, so most gardeners grow it as an annual.

Why we love it: The National Gardening Association also highly recommends this hardy, beautiful, no-fail coleus for new gardeners.



3 Copper Cascade foamy bells

HEUCHERELLA, ZONES 4 TO 9

The rosy orange-gold foliage of Copper Cascade lasts throughout the year. This trailing plant mounds up to 12 inches tall and 30 inches wide when in full to part shade. Well-draining, moist soil helps retain its exceptional color. In the late spring to early summer, tiny white flowers appear.

Why we love it: It's an alluring addition to containers and looks lovely spilling over landscape rocks.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS *Heuchera* is a cross between two species native to North America, *Heuchera* and *Tiarella*, and features characteristics of both. The resulting hybrid cultivars like *Gold Zebra* and *Copper Cascade* are carefree and heat-loving.



4 Arkansas blue star

AMSONIA HUBRICHTII, ZONES 4 TO 9

Prepare to be enchanted by this low-maintenance, native perennial. In fall, its feathery green foliage becomes blazing gold-yellow. It loves well-draining soil, though it's tough enough for dry conditions. This fast-growing plant reaches 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide.

Why we love it: Deer avoid it, while butterflies and bees love its beautiful, sky blue blooms.



5 Northern Exposure Silver coral bells

HEUCHERA, ZONES 4 TO 9

This rounded mound of burgundy and silver leaves is a blessing for northern gardeners, as it's cold-tolerant and grows quickly. Often used as a ground cover, it reaches 24 inches tall and 16 inches wide when in bloom, thriving in part shade to full sun.

Why we love it: Keep deadheading its delicate pink blooms to ensure continued flowering from late spring into summer.



6 Silver Falls dichondra

DICHONDRA ARGENTEA, ANNUAL

Grow Silver Falls for cascading, fan-shaped silver leaves that tumble beautifully from hanging baskets or window boxes. It does well in full sun. When hanging, it grows up to 4 feet long. Planted as ground cover, it stays a lovely low 4 inches tall as it spreads.

Why we love it: This container all-star requires little to no maintenance once it's planted, and is drought tolerant.



7 Tiny Wine ninebark

PHYSOCARPUS OPULIFOLIUS, ZONES 3 TO 7

The mature stems on this delightful deciduous plant peel back, or exfoliate, to expose red and light brown inner bark. The shrub grows up to 5 feet tall and 4 feet wide, creating exceptional, copper-colored fall foliage and continued winter interest. This tolerant plant does best in full sun and adapts to most soil types.

Why we love it: Bees and other pollinators benefit from the long-lasting white or pink flowers. It looks best a little untidy, so no need to prune regularly.

DESIGNING WITH METALS *Grow plants with metallic-hued foliage near or next to companions that are less brilliant or more toned down. Give these gold, copper and silver plants plenty of room to shine and be admired without competition.*



8 Age of Gold hosta

HOSTA, ZONES 3 TO 9

Broad, golden-yellow leaves spread lushly from its center, while white and pale lavender tubular blooms attract hummingbirds. This hosta reaches 25 inches tall and nearly 6 feet wide in filtered sunlight. Morning sun helps intensify its colors.

Why we love it: Conceived and developed by renowned hosta breeder Hans Hansen, it brightens shady spaces.



9 Burgundy Lace Japanese painted fern

ANISOCAMPIUM NIPONICUM, ZONES 5 TO 8

The intricate fronds of the Japanese painted fern emerge burgundy and turn silver-green, making it a welcome gift plant, accent or addition to an Asian garden. This perennial prefers moist soil, reaching up to 2 feet tall and wide.

Why we love it: With alluring color and texture, it's a shade staple.

GROW FOR GOLD

More fiery foliaged plants to add to your metallic collection.

- Everillo sedge
- Designer Genes hosta
- Golden Delicious pineapple sage
- Isla Gold tansy
- Solar Power foamy bells
- Bengal Tiger canna lily
- Sun King Japanese spikenard



10 Jack Frost Siberian bugloss

BRUNNERA MACROPHYLLA, ZONES 3 TO 8

With cute, heart-shaped leaves and contrasting veins, Jack Frost attracts attention to shade and woodland beds. This slow-growing, silvery perennial creates clusters of blue flowers in the spring. It reaches up to 12 to 15 inches tall and wide, preferring climates with summers on the cooler side.

Why we love it: Its silver-blue finish creates a gorgeous effect, making this ground cover absolutely shimmer.

Kelsey is a writer and backyard birder from Duluth, Minnesota. She's always working to curate a bug- and bird-friendly plant collection.