

Guide to Feeding WILD BIRDS



healthy environment healthy community healthy economy

YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!

If you're new to birding, or have never used a bird feeder before, you'll be amazed at the incredibly variety of bird species that inhabit our region. Adding a well-placed and correctly stocked bird feeder to your property will attract many of your local birds. Blue Jays, Chickadees, Cardinals, Sparrows, Blackbirds, Woodpeckers, and Finches - these are just some of the birds you can attract to your feeder!

PLACEMENT OF FEEDERS

If you're serious about becoming a backyard birder, you'll need to plan the area around your home so that the arrangement of bird habitat and feeders provides an excellent bird viewing opportunity. The most common mistake new birders make is to place bird feeders where they cannot be seen easily. Birds are also more

attracted to a feeder near good cover than to a feeder surrounded by an expanse of lawn. It is a good strategy to have a large dense bush behind or close to feeders, giving birds a nearby place for a quick getaway in case of predators. A quality bird feeding experience depends on a good arrangement of attractive feeders, containing the right foods, close to good bird habitat and readily seen from the house.

WHEN TO FEED

If you think winter is the best time to fill your feeder, think again! Research indicates that seed-eating birds seek artificial seed sources much more intensely during the summer than they do in winter. And don't worry about the birds becoming dependant on you - The common belief that "once you start feeding birds, they will die if you stop supplying them with food" is just a myth.

What to Feed

Knowing which birds are native to your area and which foods they prefer will go a long way to attracting these birds to your feeder. Contrary to popular belief, wild bird seed mixes may not consistently attract birds to your feeder. Generally, these store-bought mixes fail to accommodate for the ecological differences among bird species. If you use these mixes in your feeder, some birds may remove the few seeds they prefer and can reach - but after that, you may find no further bird feeding activity. To assist you in selecting the right food for the birds in your area, here is a helpful guide

NECTAR FEEDER

This type of feeder and food will attract:

hummingbirds
cardinals
woodpeckers
orioles
tanagers
finches

FRUIT

This type of food will attract:

orioles
mockingbirds
thrashers
woodpeckers
starlings
cedar waxwings
tanagers
bluebirds
cardinals
jays
thrushes

HANGING SUET FEEDER

This type of feeder and food will attract:

woodpeckers
chickadees
kinglets
creepers
wrens
nuthatches
thrashers
cardinals

PEANUT BUTTER SUET

This type of food will attract:

woodpeckers
juncos
thrushes
kinglets
wrens
goldfinches
cardinals
jays
bluebirds

TUBE FEEDER WITH BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER

This type of feeder and food will attract:

goldfinches
woodpeckers
titmice
chickadees
nuthatches
redpolls
pine siskins

TRAY FEEDER WITH BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER

This type of feeder and food will attract:

cardinals
crossbills
white-throated sparrows
white-crowned sparrows
jays
purple finches
house finches

TRAY OR PLATFORM FEEDER WITH MILLET

This type of feeder and food will attract:

doves
blackbirds
cowbirds
white-throated sparrows
house sparrows
juncos
tree sparrows
white crowned sparrows

TRAY OR PLATFORM FEEDER WITH CORN

This type of feeder and food will attract:

starlings
grackles
juncos
white-throated sparrows

PLATFORM OR TUBE FEEDER AND TRAY WITH PEANUTS

This type of feeder and food will attract:

cardinals
grackles
titmice
sparrows
mourning doves
jays
chickadees
house finches
house sparrows
starlings
white-throated sparrows
juncos

NIGER THISTLE FEEDER WITH TRAY

This type of feeder and food will attract:

goldfinches
purple finches
pine siskins
chickadees
dark-eyed juncos
house finches
redpolls
doves
song sparrows
white-throated sparrows

