



FEEDING WILD BIRDS

Bird feeding in winter and summer can provide many hours of entertainment. Your service to the birds can also mean life or death to them through the winter and even through very cold nights.

If you're just getting started just one feeder will do. More feeders of different types will attract a wider variety of birds.

Shelter & Landscape

Place feeders near shelter where it will block the wind and weather.

Place feeder near bushes so birds can dart in and out to feeders.

Be sure to keep the feeder within sight of the house.

Protect base of feeder stand with snags of branches or used Christmas tree.

Plant a landscape providing food (fruit, seeds & insects) & shelter for birds.

Provide lookout areas for predator birds/so birds can see predators.

Fence in feeding area to protect from cats.

Food & Water

Provide water year-round. In Winter, heat water with electrical device and enhance with black tray or covering. Keep in mind heated water will evaporate quickly so keep checking water level.

Keep feeders regularly filled.

Suet - specialized beef fat or nut oils that provide high energy food. CAUTION: Feed only when temperatures are below 40-degrees or so. The melted fat will mat feathers which kills birds.

Mixes - perfect for a variety of birds. May contain weed seed.

Large seeds - such as peanut and pumpkin are good for larger birds like Blue jays and woodpeckers

Cracked corn - good for a variety of birds and large game birds.

Fruit - provides high energy for birds like cardinals, jays and overwintering robins and cedar waxwings.

Niger Thistle - A favorite of finches. This will not grow in your yard.

Safflower - Cardinals will eat this but many other birds won't. This is a good way to deter grackles and starlings.

Mealworms - excellent and high energy for specific birds.

Feeders

Hang out of reach of ground predators. Protect from squirrel, deer & raccoon raids. Keep clean!

Platform feeders - covered or uncovered these provide good landing sites for larger birds, especially cardinals.

Tube feeders - many are convertible now. That is they can offer ports for small seed or for large seed.

Suet feeders - made of mesh wire or bags.

Thistle bags - perfect for Niger thistle only

Hoppers - usually covered. Great for mixed seed or larger seed. Provides a platform landing.

Ground feeders - Perfect for game birds but can attract deer.

Deterrents

Squirrel baffles.

Vegetable oil on poles.

Spray and granular repellents.

THANKS FOR CARING FOR THE BIRDS!