



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Winter Birding

Wintertime, and the living ain't easy for our fine feathered friends. Birds prepare as best as they can for the cold weather but can still have difficulties finding adequate food, water and shelter. Some birds migrate to get away from cold weather, but not all species of birds do. For those that stick around, the winter weather limits their food sources and leaves them relying on us to help them survive. Here are some things we can do to help birds get through those cold winter days.

WHY FEED THE BIRDS

Benefits of feeding year-round:

- Encourages healthy birds.
- Helps parent birds feed their chicks.
- Supplements their natural food sources.
- Gives birds energy for migration.
- Provides food during cold, barren months.
- Helps baby birds survive and thrive.
- Helps to control insect issues in your yard (caterpillars, white flies, aphids, etc.).
- Encourages birds to stay in our area.
- Allows you to experience nature.

TYPES OF FEEDERS

Your feeder choice will depend mainly on the types of birds you want to attract. Feeders also differ in terms of maintenance requirements. When making your selection, consider how easy a feeder will be to clean and how often refilling will be required.

Hopper Feeders (traditional) – easy to clean, large seed capacity, and gravity fed. Seed is protected from rain. Great for feeding cardinals, titmice, finches, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Tube Feeders – easy to clean, huge assortment to choose from, and ports are spread out to minimize competition. Attracts finches, woodpeckers, etc.

Large Port Feeder – for titmice, chickadees, finches, nuthatches, and woodpeckers (caged tube).

Small Port Feeders – for finches, nuthatches, and chickadees.

Mesh Feeders – good for larger seed, resist squirrel damage since it's made of metal rather than wood or plastic. Attracts clinging birds rather than larger birds that need a perch.

Platform Feeders – attracts all birds. Often used as a decoy to entice squirrels and keep them away from other feeders. All animals can get to seed, so it may attract unwanted predators.

Suet Feeders – designed for suet blocks, which are an important source of fat.

Finch Sock Feeders – hold small seed, nyjer seed, and finch food.

SquirrelBuster® Feeders - squirrel-proof technology feeders that keep squirrels away from feeder food.

Classic Feeder - four ports and wire mesh shroud allows for a wide variety of perching and clinging birds to share the feeder.

Standard Feeder - affordable and are weight adjustable for select feeding.

Mini Feeder - compact feeder, ideal for smaller spaces.

TYPES OF SEED AND FOOD

If you want to attract many different species of birds, you'll need to offer a variety of high-quality foods.

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- Be wary of commercial seed mixes. They are often a mixture of sunflower seeds plus a high proportion of less appealing "fillers" such as millet, oats, wheat, flax, buckwheat seeds, and red milo. Birds tend to pick out the prized sunflower seeds and leave the rest. Cheap seed will get thrown out thrown out by birds and won't last long.
- Store seed in an airtight container or freeze to keep fresh.

TYPES OF SEED AND FOOD CONTINUED:

Wildbird Delight & Cole's Birdseed Blends - available in a variety of formulas that will attract all types of birds as well as formulas for attracting specific birds.

- **Nut & Berry** - attracts all types of birds.
- **Fruit & Berry** - attracts all types of birds.
- **Woodpecker Mix** - thicker blend with a high protein and fat content.
- **Cardinal Mix** - includes sunflower and safflower seed as well as peanuts.
- **Deck Porch & Patio** - no feeder needed simply spread on deck, porch or patio (may also be used in feeders).
- **Suet** - provides fat, which helps birds stay cool in summer and warm in winter.
- **Bugs** - good source of protein and a real treat for the birds.
- **Mill worms** - high protein treat for birds.
- **Bugs and Berries mix** - premium wild bird food blend containing a three-bug blend with berries.

TYPES OF HOUSES

Providing safe and properly placed birdhouses will keep the birds in your yard longer. There are a variety birdhouses for different sized birds and bird types (roosting pockets, bird bottles, decorative houses, etc.).

When purchasing a birdhouse, consider the type of bird you want to attract and do your research.

SQUIRREL DETERRENTS:

Squirrels Resistant Feeders & Seed - squirrels are one of the most popular reasons people stop birding. There are a variety of squirrel-proof feeders and seed that deter squirrels:

- **Squirrel Buster (standard or classic)** - made of all metal, easy to clean, and very durable.
- **Drool Yankee Feeders** - rechargeable, very large seed capacity.
- **Hoper Feeders** - has a mechanism that closes when squirrels jump on and cuts-off access to seed.
- **Baffles** - device that is used to stop squirrels from climbing up a bird feeder pole (available in a variety of sizes).
- **Sizzle N' Heat from Wild Delight** - contains hot pepper, which deters squirrels but birds can still enjoy.

TRICKS AND TIPS

- **Bird Baths for Cleaning and Drinking** - water is very important to birds. It helps them clean their feathers, keep their wings clean, and provides them with water to quench thirst and hydrate. Fountains can also provide a source of water.
- **Housing** - provide housing for birds in addition to feeders.
- **Multiple feeders** - offer a variety of feeders in front and backyard locations.
- **Plants** - provide plants that attract and offer shelter and protection (Japanese maples, shade trees, evergreens, shrubs, etc.)

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- **To Keep Ice from Forming on Birdbaths** - float a few small blocks of wood in your birdbath. The wood moves around in the wind, helping to keep ice from forming.
- **Sun Catcher Decals and Window Feeders** - to help birds detect windows.
- **Move Feeders & Houses** - move feeders and/or houses to different locations when current location is not attracting them.
- **CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN!!!** - birdbaths, feeders, and underneath feeders. Fill baths with fresh water daily and clean feeders once a week to eliminate diseases, etc.
- **BE PATIENT** - it takes some time to attract birds to your yard, so BE patient!

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