

# Bird Friendly Garden Features

## Bird Feeders

Tube-type seed feeders are best because birds don't have to jostle each other to eat (they can spread diseases if they touch) **AND** because they can be more easily cleaned than feeders made with wood.

- Feeders should be cleaned every month with a 10% bleach to water solution. Rinse and dry before refilling. The areas under feeders should be swept/raked up often also (and the debris thrown in the garbage).

Black oil sunflower seed is best (in the shell or hulled). It is the food most "desirable" birds like best and it is high in protein and fat.

Suet is a good protein source but **only offer in fall and winter**. Melted suet in spring and summer can damage feathers and lead to birds' untimely deaths.

Sugar water for hummingbirds: 1 part granulated sugar boiled in 4 parts water. Do **not use** honey, brown sugar, artificial sweeteners or red food coloring.

If you only want to provide food for winter, put feeders out October – March.

Do **NOT** feed bakery items as they are empty calories and not nutritious.

## Bird Houses

Snags (dead trees) are ideal!

If providing a house, wood is best and do **not** include a perch (predators can use to reach inside).

For nesting, put bird houses out in February or March (or leave out all year for birds to roost in when it's cold).

Clean nests out every year (in the fall) to get rid of bugs and discourage mice.



## Water in the Garden

Water should be offered in a low, open area but close to a shrub or tree so birds can fly there if they feel threatened.

For *bathing*, a bird bath should have a gradual slope and rough surface with a maximum depth of 3” to allow them to wade in to a comfortable depth.

Change water out and scrub with a brush every few days (also helps minimize mosquito larvae).

## Cats and Pesticides

Keep cats indoors! Cats are the # 2 killer of birds, killing millions of birds each year (habitat destruction is #1). Cats are stealthy hunters and can catch prey without jingling the bell on their collar. If cats regularly visit your yard, **don't** provide feeders.

Avoid pesticides in yard care; they kill good insects as well as bad ones (98% of the insects in our yards are beneficial). Poisoned bugs kill birds and the animals that eat the dead birds. Live bugs attract birds to our yards!

## Other things you can do...

- Plant Native Plants. They provide flowers & berries, cover for hiding & nesting, are pest resistant and are well adapted to our climate!
- Provide piles of brush and branches for birds to hide in, and as a nesting source!
- Leave messy areas in your yard with leaves on the ground, logs, etc.!
- Let flowers go to seed!



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