



Backyard bird feeder tips!

- Place your feeder in a quiet area near natural shelter - evergreens work well because birds can use them for protection from harsh winter winds, subzero temperatures, falling snow, and freezing rain. You don't want the feeder so close to low vegetation that cats and other predators can ambush the birds when feeding.
- Your feeder should be 8-10 metres away from reflective glass to avoid window strikes by the birds (feeders attached to windows or very close to the glass are okay because the birds sense that the window is there).
- Keep your seed in a cool, dry place. Black oil sunflower seeds are the most popular, but different types of seed will bring in a variety of birds.
- When re-filling your feeder, watch for mouldy seed and clean off any bird mess. Mouldy seed can make birds sick and bird mess can spread disease among the birds. Many birds tend to aggregate at feeders in winter when natural food is less available, so it's important to keep the feeders clean.
- Birds need water as well as food, so you may want to provide a water source. To prevent water from freezing, you can add a heater to the water or try a tennis ball – the ball will move around in the water and prevent freezing.
- Providing high fat foods, such as suet, can also be important for wintering birds.
- If possible, keep your cat inside – they are known to kill many songbirds.

Benefits of making your backyard bird friendly!

- Watching and learning about birds is fun!
- Observing backyard birds provides opportunities to learn about seasonal plumage changes, migration, courtship behaviour, and nesting. It's a great activity to share with children to increase enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world!
- Providing food for birds in winter gives them an additional source of food when natural sources may be scarce.
- Bird feeders can also help birds during their long migrations and when development has reduced available habitat and food sources.
- In the warmer months, birds help in flower pollination - hummingbirds and other nectar sippers are very efficient pollinators.
- Birds can also help control pests in your backyard - many birds eat a variety of garden pests, including insects, slugs, and snails.

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Common birds at backyard feeders

- Black-Capped Chickadee
- American Goldfinch
- Pine Siskin
- Purple Finch
- Downy woodpecker
- Hairy woodpecker
- Common Redpoll
- Northern Cardinal
- Blue Jay
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Evening Grosbeak



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