

to a variety of birds: chickadees, nuthatches, goldfinches, Purple and House Finches, jays, cardinals, grosbeaks, crossbills, juncos, doves, redpolls, siskins and more.

NYGER (THISTLE) SEED

A small, black, imported seed. Excellent for attracting finches, siskins and redpolls. Not a true thistle, it does not re-seed in our climate.

PROSO MILLET

Comes in red and white forms. Birds generally prefer the white variety. For ground-feeding species like juncos, cardinals, sparrows, doves, and finches.

PEANUTS

A favorite of nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, cardinals, and even Carolina Wrens and Baltimore Orioles

CRACKED CORN

An inexpensive food, especially good for ground-feeding birds. Preferred by more species than any

other seed type. It is high in calories, carbohydrates, and vitamin A.

WHOLE CORN

Offer to pheasants, squirrels, and jays.

SAFFLOWER

Once they become accustomed to it, this is a favorite of cardinals. Also used by chickadees and House Finches. Often recommended in areas where grackles or cowbirds are a problem.

WATER

Water is important for birds at all times of the year. Providing water attracts a greater diversity of species to your bird viewing area. Heating devices can be purchased which will keep bird baths open through the winter.

SUET

One of the most popular foods that will attract woodpeckers, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, chickadees, Brown Creepers, Tufted Titmice and other species.

GRIT

Birds must have grit in order to help them digest food and extract nutrients they need to keep warm. If gravel or sand are not available, grit can be purchased from farm feed stores.

SUGAR WATER

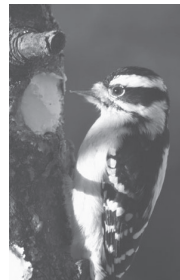
For orioles and hummingbirds. One part sugar to four parts water. Clean and refill feeders regularly, at least once per week, and more often, two to three times a week, in hot weather. Keeping feeders up into October will not cause hummingbirds to stay beyond their migration date.

These items, and more, are available from a number of commercial sources.



Dark-eyed Junco

Black-capped Chickadee



Downy Woodpecker



Blue Jay

ENJOY THE BIRDS!!!

Learn more about wildlife and the natural environment. Join the National Audubon Society and enjoy the many benefits of Audubon membership!

- A bi-monthly magazine, featuring excellent photographers, artists, and conservation writers.
- Affiliation with Madison Audubon Society (MAS), which includes our monthly newsletter, the CAWS, over 60 local field trips and other activities.
- Monthly programs, where expert speakers present a variety of topics on birds and conservation issues. Dates and locations of upcoming programs are posted on the MAS website.

The mission of the Madison Audubon Society is to educate our members and the public about the natural world and the threats that natural systems are facing, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect these systems, and to develop and maintain sanctuaries to save and restore natural habitat.



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This brochure prepared with assistance from Sylvia Marek and Patrick Ready.

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How to Attract Birds to Your Yard






Eastern Bluebird

NEST BOXES

Put a couple nest boxes in your yard for cavity nesters. Chickadees, wrens, Tree Swallows and bluebirds may be attracted to yards large and small.



House Wren

ATTRACTING BIRDS

Birds are delightful and beneficial neighbors. Their cheerful songs, colors and lively activities add much joy to our lives. They also help control many insect pests. Getting to know birds is an enriching experience. The more you observe birds, the more the rest of the natural world they inhabit will arouse your curiosity. Try recording your sightings on a calendar, in a notebook or on www.ebird.org. You will soon begin to appreciate seasonal patterns among the birds in your yard. You will become aware and appreciate how all living things, including people, are interconnected and dependent on the same environment for their well being.

Birds have very simple needs. They need places where they can feed, sing, court, nest, rest and hide. Every time we cut a tree, drain a marsh, build a house, construct a highway or build a shopping center, we are robbing some bird of these simple needs. We are doing these things at a rapid rate throughout our country, and throughout the world.

You can help birds by creating a sanctuary for them in your yard. One important thing you can do, if you wish to help, is landscape your yard with diverse plantings: trees of different heights, conifers, shrubs, and vines. You might consider encouraging the growth of native wildflowers and grasses. Allow a few weeds to remain in a corner of your yard. In winter, siskins, juncos, goldfinches, tree sparrows and redpolls will feed on the tiny seeds these plants produce.

Many birds depend on dead or dying trees for the insects they harbor, or for their cavities which provide roosting and nesting cover. Where it is safe to do so, allowing dead branches or trees to remain in place will attract chickadees, nuthatches and several woodpecker species. Bird houses, feeders and a water bath can supplement the plantings to make your yard more attractive to birds.

PLANTINGS

Plants provide food, nesting sites, song perches and shelter. Providing nearby shelter will give birds a chance to avoid both natural predators like Cooper's Hawks, which have become much more common in recent years, as well as nonnative predators such as free-roaming cats. Here are some suggestions:

VINES

American Bittersweet
Virginia Creeper
Wild Grape

TREES

White Pine
Hemlock
Arborvitae
Spruce
Juniper
Maple
Oak
Birch
Hackberry
Black Cherry
Crabapple
Hawthorn
Sumac
Mountain Ash
Serviceberry

SHRUBS

Elderberry
Arrowwood Viburnum
Winterberry
Nannyberry Viburnum
Dogwoods
Wild Plum
Blackberry
Hazelnut
Cranberrybush Viburnum

WILDFLOWERS

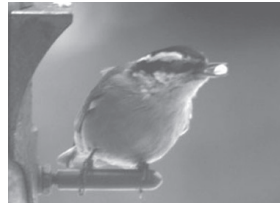
Purple and Yellow
Coneflowers
Asters
Goldenrods
Black-eyed Susan
Evening Primrose
Bergamot

"Weed" seeds are valuable food sources, too!

LANDSCAPING RESOURCES

Some recommended titles:

- **The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small** by Stephen W. Kress
- **Landscaping for Wildlife** by Carrol L. Henderson
- **Beyond the Birdfeeder: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants** by Mariette Nowak, Online at <http://www.wsobirds.org/birdscaping.pdf>



Red-breasted
Nuthatch

- **Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds** by Mariette Nowak
- **Hummingbird Gardening in the Upper Midwest** by Kathi and Michael Rock, online at <http://www.mywebpace.wisc.edu/mjrock/web/>

BIRD FEEDERS

There are many types that you can easily build or purchase. In general, birds prefer feeding on the ground, or from a tray or platform feeder either hanging or set on a pole near a sunny, sheltered area. When placing feeders near your home, consider the fact that collisions with windows are estimated to kill as many as one billion birds per year in the U.S. To help prevent collisions, place feeders either within three feet or at least ten yards away from windows, put screen or net over your windows, apply window film or "clings", or hang colorful strips. More ideas can be found at <http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/homecollisions.aspx>.

The library has many books with plans for building feeders and houses. Some suggestions include.

- **National Wildlife Federation Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Backyard Wildlife** by David Mizejewski
- **Songbirds in Your Garden** by John Terres
- **How to Attract, House and Feed Birds** by Walter E. Schutz
- **The Backyard Bird Watcher** by George H. Harrison
- **Wild about Birds and Woodworking for Wildlife** by Carrol L. Henderson
- **Attracting and Feeding Hummingbirds** by Sheri Williamson
- **Shelves Houses & Feeders for Birds and Mammals:** <http://www.uwex.edu/>
- **Bird Feeding Tips for Beginners and Veterans, online at UW Extension:** <http://www.uwex.edu/>

COMMERCIAL BIRD FOODS

Offer the birds a variety of foods from mid- to late October through April. Natural food is often scarce in March and April, especially if the early spring is cold and snowy. Providing food on a limited basis in the summer



Northern Cardinal

will keep certain species in your yard. It is particularly interesting to see cardinals and other seed eaters bring their young to the feeding area. Birds are unlikely to become so dependent upon your feeders that they ignore more nutritious insects or other natural foods when they are available. In most suburban neighborhoods, closing down your feeders temporarily in winter is also unlikely to harm birds, as they are well aware of other places to feed.

It is important to clean up feeders and feeding areas regularly, especially during winter and spring thaws. Droppings and moldy seeds are breeding places for disease-carrying agents that can harm birds.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

A popular seed, especially for strong-billed birds like jays, cardinals, grosbeaks, chickadees, and woodpeckers. Sunflower seeds are rich in oil that converts quickly to body heat. The smaller, black sunflower seeds have a higher oil content, and are preferred by the birds over the striped variety.

SUNFLOWER HEARTS AND FINES

"No waste" or mess from hulls. Birds whose bills are not strong enough to break sunflower hulls can get plenty of nutrition from these. Attractive



White-breasted
Nuthatch