



Attracting birds *to your* garden

Just because winter is rolling in doesn't mean you have to say goodbye to the welcome sights and sounds provided by birds in your backyard.

By understanding which foods attract your native fowls and why feeder location matters, you can be treated to their presence throughout the cold.

While some birds spend their winters migrating to warmer climates, many use cold-weather tactics to survive. According to the National Audubon Society, they rely on feathers and gain fat to supply insulation. You can help the wildlife in your area thrive by providing nutritious meals that boost their ability to endure the winter.

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Filling feeders

The American Horticultural Society suggests that birds lose about seven to 15% of their body fat just trying to keep warm. Like humans, when their body temperature lowers, they use shivering to stay warm. This takes a toll on their small stature.

Ensure your feeders are filled with healthy berries and favorable

seeds to attract numerous species to your backyard. If possible, allow spent flowers to remain until season end so seeds can mature and provide nutrients for local wildlife.

In addition to using a delectable menu, you should also remember to place your feeders one to three feet above the ground. This tactic will invite a wide variety of fowl, including tray and ground feeders. You can also use tube or hopper feeders to welcome more species like finches and cardinals.

Watering

Supplying water for backyard birds for winter is just as crucial as during the hot summer months. Follow these tips from the National Wildlife Federation to ensure the fowls in your area have a fresh source for drinking.

- Place baths in a sunny area to make them more visible.
- Clean the basin regularly to ensure quality.
- Consider installing an immersion-style heater.
- Avoid using glycerin for antifreeze as it can be dangerous.

In addition to providing food and water, birds also require protection from winter elements and predators. A long-term plan is to plant evergreens in your landscape to create safe havens.