

Tips For Attracting Wild Birds

As the cold of the winter months sets in, our feathered friends in the wild start to concentrate on looking for food sources. Much of the seeds that are found naturally in the woods and surrounding areas have now been depleted or have fallen to the ground and become hard to find. Now is the perfect time to attract these birds to your yard. If you are using conventional bird feeders, you may want to choose a wild bird mix of feed which would contain some millet and sunflower seed as well. This will attract large birds as well as a nice mix of smaller birds. Black oil sunflower seed is probably one of the most popular seed for overall feeding. Seed size allows it to be utilized by a wide range of birds while creating very little waste. Cardinals on the other hand are attracted to large striped sunflower seeds the most. They will also become very regular feeders once they start if the food supply is maintained. Cardinals are very social birds among each other and will often be seen in large numbers. Suet cakes are another good food source for the birds for this time of year. Try using some suet that contains nuts, as this will generally attract some nice woodpeckers. Orange and berry suet are other additions to your feeding areas that will attract some more different and unusual bird types.

There are some really neat things that you can do with family and kids to attract birds also. Try collecting a few pine cones and smearing some inexpensive peanut butter on them and rolling them in mixed bird seed. Place the cones in a natural area of the yard or around some shrubs where they can be seen and watch the birds enjoy this homemade treat.

Water is of utmost importance for birds during the winter months. Try to provide a good water supply that will remain unfrozen especially during prolonged cold spells. Bird bath de-icers can be found now that are relatively inexpensive and operate on very small amounts of electricity. Give these ideas a try, and enjoy the garden!

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