



Wild Bird Feeding Guide



Enjoy Your Backyard Bird Feeding



Getting Started: Backyard Basics

Are you ready to become a "Birder"? Whether you want to attract colorful songbirds or create a natural environment in your backyard there are several basic things you will need to do in order to get started. Creating a good environment for Birds includes: *Food, Water, Location, and Feeders.*

- 1. FOOD:** Feed a variety of blends and seeds (Sunflower Seed, Nyjer, Peanut, Millet, Cracked Corn, Safflower, and Suet) in order to attract the widest variety of birds.
- 2. WATER:** All birds need water for drinking and bathing. You should provide water in a birdbath or shallow container (2-3 inches deep) near the feeders. By providing water you will attract birds to your backyard that your feeding stations alone cannot. Some birds that feed on insects may only stop by for a visit to grab a drink of water or a quick bath.
- 3. LOCATION:** Decide the best place to install your new bird feeder, whether it is hanging from a tree, on a stand, or attached to a pole. Remember to place your feeder in a location already frequented by birds, so that they can see it and perch before, during, and after feeding.
- 4. FEEDERS:** Choose the correct feeders. Ideally you should have a variety (at least 2 or 3) to accommodate different seeds, feeding habits and varying species:

- Tube Feeders (with large holes) and Hopper Feeders are better for large seeds (Sunflower Seeds, Safflower Seeds, Peanuts, and Fruit) and large beaked birds
- Finch Tube Feeders (with small holes) are better for Nyjer Seed and Finch Food
- Platform Feeders will accommodate almost all birds and wildlife



Hopper Feeder - Platform Feeder - Hopper Feeder - Tube Feeder

Guide to a Better Bird Feeding Experience

What kind of seeds should I feed my Birds?

With such a variety of bird food on the market, it's often hard to choose which is best. **Different birds prefer different seeds.** And certain seeds will actually discourage some birds from coming to your feeder (see Safflower Seed description).

Sunflower Seeds are the all-around favorite for feeder birds. However if you want to attract a specific species of bird, research which specific ingredients are preferred by that bird.

Be aware of bird food blends that include a higher portion of "filler" ingredients such as: Milo, Oats, Wheat and Buckwheat Seeds. These seeds are often wasted and discarded by birds on their search for more nutritional and preferred ingredients. **You will get better value and results with our Deluxe and Premium blends.**

Store your bird food carefully. Keep in a dry, cool place in an airtight, rodent-proof bag or storage container.

What do Birds want to eat?

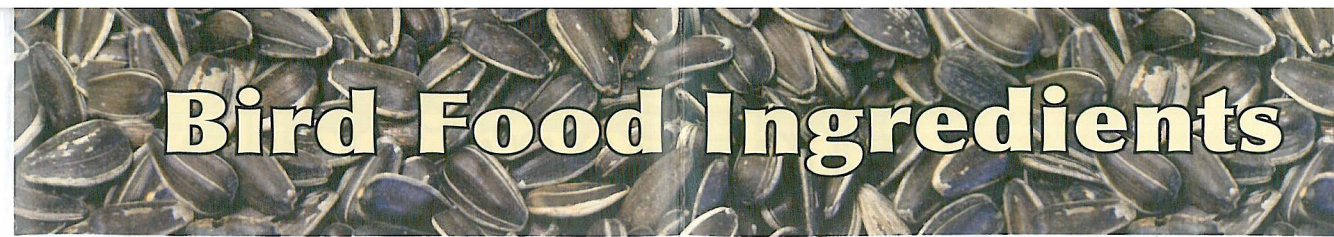
Food Preference Chart

Bird	White Millet	Cracked Corn	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	Striped Sunflower Seed	Peanut Kernels	Nyjer Seed	Safflower Seed	Fruit	Suet
Blue Jay	o	x	x	x	x		o	o	o
Brown Creeper		o			o				o
Cardinal		o	x	x			x		
Catbird					o			x	o
Chickadee			x		o	o	x		o
Common Grackle	o	x	x	x	o				
Common Redpoll	x					x			
Cowbird	o	x	o			x			
Dove, Mourning	o	x					o		
Finch, House	o	o	x		o	x			o
Finch, Purple	o		x			x			o
Goldfinch, American	o		x			x			o
Evening Grosbeak			x		o		o		
Junco, Dark eyed	o	o	o						
Junco, Slate Colored	o	o	o		o				o
Mockingbird					o			x	x
Nuthatch, Red-Breasted			x		o				
Nuthatch, White-Breasted		x	x		o				o
Pine Siskin	o		x		o	x			
Purple Finch	o	o	x		o	o			o
Robin			o		o			o	
Scrub Jay			x	x				o	
Sparrow, House	o	x	x			x			
Sparrow, Song	x	o	x			x			
Sparrow, Tree	x	o	o			x			
Sparrow, White-Throated	x	o	x			x			
Starling, European		x	x		x				
Towhee	o		o					o	
Tufted Titmouse		x	x	x	o	o	o	x	o
Woodpecker, Downy		o	o	x	o				x
Woodpecker, Hairy		o	o	x	o				x
Woodpecker, Red-Bellied			x	x					x
Wren, Carolina			x		x				o

O = Readily Eaten X = Strong Preference

Visit us online at www.wagners.com





Bird Food Ingredients



Millet



Millet: This is available in red or white, but birds generally prefer white. Millet is high in starch and a good source of vitamins and minerals. It is especially enjoyed by many ground-feeding smaller species. It is a bargain for bird feeding because it is small, lightweight, relatively inexpensive, and eaten by most birds.

Cracked Corn



Cracked Corn: Cracked Corn is about as popular with ground-feeding birds as millet. It can be an inexpensive way to attract birds to your yard. Cracked Corn is vulnerable to rot since the interior soaks up moisture. Therefore, it is best to feed small amounts incorporated into blended seed.

Milo



Milo: This grain product is frequently mixed into wild bird food blends. Most birds discard these "fillers" in favor of other seeds; however recent studies have shown that a number of birds, especially western species, readily eat milo. In general, look for blends where Milo is not the predominant ingredient.

Black Oil Sunflower Seed



Black Oil Sunflower Seed: This seed is preferred by the widest variety of birds. These seeds have a high kernel-to-shell ratio. This seed has a high fat content; its small size and thin shell make it easier for small birds to handle and crack open.

Striped Sunflower Seed



Striped Sunflower Seed: This seed is for birds with heavy bills (i.e. Cardinals, Jays, Titmice and Woodpeckers) because it is larger and has a thicker coat than Black Oil Sunflower Seed. It is a nutritionally rich and a popular food for them.

Hulled Sunflower Seed



Hulled Sunflower Seed: These are Sunflower Seeds without the shells and served as hearts, kernels and chips. They are nutritional and high in fat, plus they leave no mess under the feeder. Be sure to use tube feeders that discourage larger birds.

Nyjer Seed



Nyjer Seed: Also known as Thistle Seed. It is a favorite of finches. It is rich in oil and protein. Nyjer is often fed by itself and requires a special feeder that has small ports that prevent spilling and discourage larger birds.

Safflower Seed



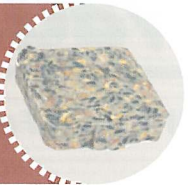
Safflower Seed: A popular seed for Cardinals. It is high in protein and fat. Safflower Seeds offer a special advantage—Gray Squirrels, Blackbirds and Grackles do not prefer it.

Peanuts



Peanuts: These can be offered whole, shelled, in pieces or hearts. They have a high fat and protein content. They are more popular in the south where birds are familiar with them as wild crops. Large seedeater species such as Woodpeckers and Jays consider them a treat.

Suet



Suet: Suet mixtures of animal fat or peanut butter are the most popular. They are high energy foods that can contain nuts, dried fruit and insects, but the most popular are seed mixtures. Birds love the pure fats of suet, since it gives them lots of calories for ounce to fuel their high metabolism. Suet tends to melt when temperatures exceed 100°F.

Fruit



Fruit: Fruit can be included to attract specific species, but there are other less expensive ingredients that can attract those same birds. Dried fruit is difficult for many birds to eat. If you use fruit, it is better to use fresh fruit.

Blended Seed



Blended Seed: The majority of wild bird food is sold in the form of blended products. You should always look for blends with higher levels of premium ingredients such as Sunflower Seeds, Peanuts, Nyjer, Safflower, Millet, etc. and lower percentages of Cracked Corn and Milo.