

**Remember:**

*The more we observe nature the more it will fool us. Tomorrow you will probably see the “wrong” bird eating from the “wrong” feeder. All we can say is “I guess he did not read the Chart”!*

A Purple Finch (left) enjoys Sunflower Hearts and a Chickadee ( right) lingers at a feeder filled with Tree Nuts. Both of these food stuffs are High in fat and great winter-time offerings for birds!



# Birds - I - View

## Winter Bird Feeding

### Tips for Bird Seed Storage:

Bear in mid that most Bird Seed products are actually harvested just once per year. There’s a saying in our industry that bird seed is only as “fresh” as the last harvest. Therefore, **the KEY to having Fresh Bird Seed is to protect it from heat, moisture, and age.**

- ◆ Store seed in the proverbial “cool, dry location”. A container with a loose-fitting lid is a good idea.
  - Store seed away from sunlight or heat from artificial lights. A BAD location for storing your seed would be in a sun room or near a radiator or heat source.
  - Keep your bird seed container OFF of a concrete floor. Moisture can be transferred in this situation if the bag is stored directly on the concrete (such as in a basement or garage) or sometimes even if the bag or seed is placed in another container and that is stored directly on the concrete. Frequently mold will develop on the bottom and sides of the interior of the seed container when it is stored in this fashion. If your garage or basement is temperature controlled, a better idea is to store your seed container elevated on wood or some other material.
  - Be aware of how warm your home, garage, or basement gets when you are not there. Remember, your bird seed is stored in this location continually. Particularly if temperatures reach 90 degrees or more, your seed is at risk of mold and insect/larvae infestation.



Committed to providing Products & Information that Benefit Wildlife

**Birds-I-View**  
**573-638-BIRD(2473)**  
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	Cardinal/ Grosbeak	Goldfinch/ Pine Siskin	House Finch	Purple Finch	Woodpecker	Chickadee	Titmouse	Towhee	Jay	Native Sparrow	Dove	Nuthatch	Grackle	Starling
Suggested Style Feeder	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	■	▲	■	▲	▲	▲	▲
Black Oil Sunflower	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Striped Sunflower	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Sunflower Hearts	X		X	X		X		X			X			X
Millet								X		X				
Shelled Peanuts	X				X	X	X		X			X		X
Safflower	X		X	X		X	X	X			X			X
Nyjer/Ths										X				
Cr. Corn							X			X			X	X
Suet														X

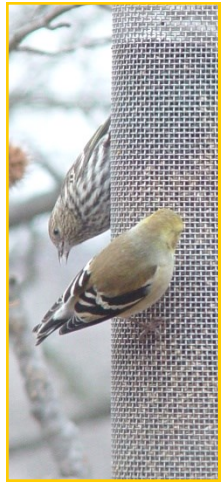
Feeder/ food Preference Chart designed by Steve Garr

**Winter visitors** to your Wild Bird Habitat will be “**Resident birds**” or “**Seasonal birds**” (either migrating through or staying only for the winter season) Learning the difference will help you better enjoy and provide for the birds in your yard! A variety of Field Guides can help.

**Provide Food**



**The right food in the right feeder: Match a Bird’s favorite food to the style of feeder in which that same bird is comfortable using.** (see our “Preferred Bird Feed/Feeder” Chart)



Do the birds you want to attract normally feed from the ground or do they usually find their food in trees and shrubs? If we know their preferred habitat we can place our feeders there to attract the birds we want quicker and then move the feeders to where we can observe them easier.



Winter Food stuffs for wildlife include a variety of Seeds, seeds that have been shelled, Peanuts and Tree Nuts, Suet Products, Fruit, Berries, and Live Food (ie mealworms). The greater variety of foods offered, the greater variety of birds you’ll see & enjoy!

Supply birds with **Plant Food Sources**, too. Avoid invasive, non-native species.



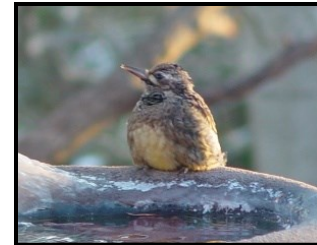
*Steve & Regina Garr are the owners of **Birds-I-View** and have spent many years committed to helping others enjoy and learn more about native wild birds. They have been presenting programs on attracting Backyard Wildlife for decades, with a special emphasis on attracting desirable wildlife to almost any setting. Steve was a monthly columnist for the **Nature Society News** for nine years, and has been a frequent guests on many radio and television programs promoting birding and wildlife gardening. Steve & Regina are co-founders of two separate State Bluebird Societies, and Steve is a past President and Life Member of the North American Bluebird Society. They are grateful recipients of the John & Nora Lane Award for Bluebird Conservation from the North American Bluebird Society, an Environmental Stewardship Award from the state of Tennessee, and other recognition from state and local Conservation organizations for which they are extremely honored.*



**Provide Water**

There is probably no better way to expand the variety of desirable song birds to your space than the addition of fresh, clean water -particularly moving water. As long as you are plugging in a bird bath de-icer or heated bird bath in the winter, consider adding a Waterfall to the bath to attract even more birds.

Right: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker finds a drink at a heated bird bath on our suburban deck in winter. Note the immature plumage on this bird in early winter.



Provide a dependable water source **all year long**– water in the **winter time** can be particularly difficult for birds to find. Did you know birds need clean feathers to keep warm? Don’t forget to provide winter water!

**Cleaning Bird Feeders & Baths**  
We are very pleased with some of the **Natural Enzyme** Products that are currently on the market for cleaning bird feeders and bird baths. Most come in ready to use spray bottles or concentrates and do an excellent job. They contain natural enzymes specifically chosen to target bacteria and organic problems that could be an issue in feeders and baths. **Safe for the feeders and safe for the birds!** *Please Note that most Enzyme cleaners work best at temperatures above 50 degrees*

**Provide Winter Shelter**  
**(Cover for Birds AND Food)**

Providing shelter is one way to truly give a helping hand to the native birds around us. Most of our fine feathered friends really are quite adaptable to coexisting with us and several even seem to prefer to seek out habitat close to human activity! Due to the introduction of non-native House Sparrows and European Starlings, many of our native cavity nesting songbirds particularly need our assistance. **Please do not allow House Sparrows and Starlings**

A nest box with sufficient roof overhang makes good winter shelter for birds.



**to roost in your nest boxes during the winter.** House sparrows in particular “bond” to the nest box even more than to their mate! This makes it that much more difficult for our native cavity – nesting birds to find a place to raise their young in the spring. **Shelter:** Wildlife need shelter from weather and predators. This can mean trees and shrubs, and nest boxes in winter, but do not discount the protection provided by deciduous trees, plants, and even “hardscapes” and in your landscape...these can be shelter in the form of windbreaks and even protection form predators.! We can’t stress enough he importance of “perch area” for birds.

Cover feeders to keep food dry and snow-free and to allow birds a dry place to eat!

**Need to deter unwanted visitors from your feeding stations?** We have some ideas that can help! Typically, Starlings and Grackles will not eat white **Safflower Seed**, and many other desirable birds love it. Hot Pepper Suet cakes can be much more effective against squirrels, raccoons and opossums than hot pepper seed. **Weight-sensitive** feeders can help keep out unwanted guests if properly installed. **Because feeding stations are outdoors in an environment constantly subject to change, deterring unwanted guests will mean being prepared to adapt to changes.**

*Steve & Regina Garr*  
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