**Attracting Birds to Your Backyard**

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Just like us, birds need FOOD, WATER, and SHELTER!

Providing all of these will increase the chances of attracting birds to your backyard

**Food and Feeders for Birds**

Common feeder types: platform, trough, tube, suet, hummingbird

Types of bird food:

- Black oil sunflower seed (attracts largest variety of birds, thin shell, and high fat content)

- Other sunflower seed (less energy, thicker shell, often contains “filler” seeds)

- Suet (high energy; woodpeckers, nuthatches, others; recommend suet cakes with seeds)

- Thistle (nyjer seed; finch food) - tiny seeds, use in tube feeders with small openings, for small finches)

- Pieces of oranges - orioles

- Millet (doves, sparrows)

- Peanuts (shelled, not salted; attracts jays, nuthatches, wrens, titmice)

- Raisins or currents - catbirds

- Mixtures of food, such as a sweet mix of shelled peanuts, small dried fruits, and sunflower seeds (large variety of birds).

Location of feeders – close to trees, branches, or shrubs, to provide a staging area for birds and safe escape from predators such as hawks

Hummingbird feeders – use sugar water (1 part sugar, 4 parts water, boil to dissolve fully; do not color the liquid; clean them and replace food every few days. Put out feeders by late April so they include your yard on their feeding circuit! Planting trumpet vines, other flowers including annuals such as impatiens also attract hummingbirds (see also “shelter,” below)

Oriole feeders – can stick orange slices onto nails in a tree or set them out on a deck or platform feeder

Keep feeders and ground below them clean. Spread out the feeders to reduce disease. If you notice sick birds suspend feeding for a week or two, clean feeders with a 10 % bleach solution, rinse well, let dry.

Squirrels – very smart…hard to keep off feeders. Try squirrel baffles on feeder poles, self-closing feeders

Cats – prey on birds. Please keep cats indoors!

**Water for Birds**

Attracts many birds that do not use feeders (American Robin, for example). Bird bath, keep clean, and change the water frequently to avoid breeding mosquitoes. Could also put up a dripper, sprayer, or lawn sprinkler.

Consider using a bird bath heater to provide water during the winter

Shelter and Plantings for Birds

Natural tree cavities and human-made birdhouses provide shelter, as do trees, shrubs, winter brush piles, and ferns and other ground cover.

Shrubs, flowering trees, and vines may also provide berries and other foods that the birds would eat.

Trumpet vines provide food for hummingbirds, as do red (and other color) flowers of various types.