



Attracting Wild Birds To Your Backyard

Attracting birds to your backyard provides hours of enjoyment for people of all ages. Successful bird gardens have three basic requirements: food, water and shelter.

FOOD: Feeders should be placed where you can enjoy the feeding activity from the house. There are basically three different types for you to consider:

Tube Feeder — attracts tree feeding birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, finches and titmice. Use sunflower, safflower and nuts. Finch or thistle feeders are tube feeders with small narrow holes that allow finches and siskins to remove the Nyjer (thistle) seeds and prevent larger beaked birds from eating at the feeder. Peanut feeders have very large holes to accommodate the nuts.

Ground/Platform Feeder — flat tray feeder that attract ground feeding birds such as doves, juncos, cardinals and robins. Use mixed seed with millet and sunflower or cracked corn.

Hopper Feeder — a seed storage bin that either mounts on a pole or post, or hangs from a tree or structure. Hopper feeders attract both tree and ground feeding birds. Use mixes high in sunflower.

Wichita's backyard birds include more than 40 species, each with its own seed preferences. To attract desirable songbirds, refer to the chart found on the back of this page for helpful advice when choosing bird food and feeders.

WATER: A steady supply of water, using bird baths, ponds and waterfalls, is often just as important as food when creating a bird habitat. The sound of moving water is especially attractive to birds. If you don't have a waterfall, consider incorporating a fountain into your landscape or install a small pump in your bird bath.

During extended cold periods when lakes and rivers are frozen, birds may have difficulty finding an adequate supply of water. Help your bird population by using a bird bath heater or a pond de-icer. These units are thermostatically controlled to shut off automatically when the water is not frozen or if the bird bath runs dry.

SHELTER: A diversity of plant life in your landscape provides birds with shelter from the elements and from predators. In a sheltered garden, birds also find places to eat, nest, roost, court, preen; and find food such as insects, fruits, seeds and nuts. Keep this in mind when selecting plants for your garden and when deciding where to place bird feeders and bird baths. Plants that will attract birds include:

Evergreens—Cedar, Juniper (varieties), Pine (varieties), Spruce (varieties), White Fir, Yew (varieties)

Shrubs—Barberry, Chokeberry, Cistina Plum, Cotoneaster, Dogwood, Euonymus (varieties), European Elder, Holly, Honeysuckle, Mahonia, Pyracantha, Quince, Serviceberry, Sumac, Viburnum

Vines & Ground Covers—American Bittersweet, Bearberry, Kiwi, Trumpet Vine

Trees—Birch, Black Locust, Cherry (varieties), Chokecherry, Crabapple (except 'Spring Snow', Hackberry, Hawthorn, Linden (varieties), Oak, Serviceberry

With all three elements of a bird garden in place, you should have an excellent variety of feathered visitors. For added enjoyment, keep a pair of binoculars handy, along with an illustrated guidebook for bird identification. And don't limit yourself to just feeding birds. Refer to the chart found on the back of this page for information about attracting squirrels to your backyard diner.

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It's important to choose the correct bird feeder for the birds you want to attract.

FOOD TYPE	American Goldfinches	Black Capped Chickadees	Cardinals	Dark-Eyed Juncos	House Finches	Jays	Mourning Doves	Nuthatches	Pine Siskins	Titmice	Wrens	Woodpeckers	Ducks, Geese & Pheasants	Robins	Squirrels	PREFERRED FEEDER
Johnson's Gardener's Choice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hopper, Tube or Ground/Platform Feeder
Black Oil Sunflower Seeds	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	Hopper, Tube or Ground/Platform Feeder
Safflower <i>(Squirrels & blackbirds don't like)</i>			•	•			•	•		•						Hopper or Tube Feeder
Songbird Gourmet Delight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	Hopper or Ground/Platform Feeder
Premium Medium Sunflower Chips	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	Hopper or Tube Feeder
Shelled Peanuts		•				•		•		•		•		•	•	Tube Peanut Feeder
Nyjer Seed	•			•	•		•		•							Tube Finch Feeder
Super Finch Mix	•	•		•	•		•		•			•				Tube Finch feeder
Cracked Corn				•		•	•					•				Ground/Platform Feeder
Corn on the Cob						•						•			•	Special Squirrel Feeder
Critter Crunch			•		•			•		•		•	•		•	Ground/platform or Special Squirrel Box Feeder
Raw Peanuts in Shell						•									•	Ground/Platform or Special Squirrel Box Feeder
Suet Cakes		•	•			•		•		•	•	•			•	Special Suet Feeder

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