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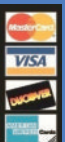


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Attract winged friends with these bird feeders



Birds bring beauty and life to lawns and gardens, adding color, movement, and song to outdoor spaces. Providing bird feeders can supplement the food birds naturally find in the wild and offers homeowners the chance to enjoy close-up interactions with the many species that live in their neighborhoods.

Ground feeders

Ground feeders are simple trays with screen bottoms that sit slightly above the ground or on a deck. The design keeps seeds from mixing with droppings and allows water to drain away. These feeders are favorites among birds like juncos, sparrows, goldfinches, and cardinals.

Bird feeders can be especially important in colder climates or during winter months when natural food sources are limited. Offering seeds and other foods helps birds survive the season and remain healthy enough to nest and reproduce in the spring. Feeding birds can also benefit people. Ashley Dayer, an associate professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, notes that feeding birds can help cultivate compassion and appreciation for wildlife.

Sugar water feeders

Sugar water feeders attract hummingbirds and often feature bright red coloring to draw their attention. These feeders come in several styles, including tubes and shallow dishes designed for the fast-moving birds.

The type of feeder placed in a yard often determines which species will visit. Choosing the right feeder can attract a wide variety of birds.

Nyjer feeders

Nyjer seed feeders are designed specifically for tiny black thistle seeds that finches love. These feeders are often tube-shaped mesh socks or narrow feeders with small feeding ports that reduce seed waste while accommodating the small beaks of birds like goldfinches.

Suet feeders

Suet cakes are high-energy food sources that attract birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches. These foods are especially helpful during colder months when birds need additional fat for energy. Suet feeders are typically cage-like holders that snap around a rectangular suet cake and hang from a pole or tree.

Hopper feeders

Hopper feeders are one of the most recognizable types of bird feeders. They hold a large amount of seed and usually include a roof or house-like structure that helps keep the seed dry. Hopper feeders commonly attract birds such as blue jays, grackles, cardinals, and blackbirds.

Bird feeders provide enjoyment for bird watchers while offering valuable nutrition to local bird populations.