Attracting Wild Birds: Expert Tips

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Bird watching is an entertaining hobby for people of all ages. Many wild birds depend on their human counterparts to supply them with food, water, housing, and other necessities, especially in the fall and wintertime when they are in short supply. Here are a few helpful tips you can use to attract wild birds and get the most out of your backyard birding experience.

Woodpeckers use their stiff tail feathers for support when they feed. Their tails act as a prop to brace and balance themselves against a feeder or tree. Therefore, when choosing a feeder for woodpeckers, it's beneficial to select one that has a large enough extension on the bottom to accommodate their tails.

To attract finches, fill a thistle tube feeder with Nyjer thistle seed and place the feeder near shrubs or bushes so the finches have a place to retreat if they become frightened.

Invite backyard birds with the lure of water for drinking and bathing. Clean, fresh water is essential to attracting and providing for a healthy wild bird population. Try a Birdbath such as the Three-Tier Fountain Birdbath. A good water source is one that is shallow (less than 3 inches) and is easily refreshed.

Many species of birds enjoy a variety of fruits in their diet. Offer backyard visitors treats such as raisins, cranberries, blueberries, cherries, and orange slices. Try our Premium Berry & Seed Blend, which attracts a larger variety of Songbirds, while providing a nutritional source of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, essential amino acids, and electrolytes.

Hangers can help attract beautiful birds even in yards with very few trees. You can bring birds as close as your deck or directly to your home. Stylish and elegant, hangers or poles complement any backyard and optimize your bird viewing pleasure.

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Bird species forage at different heights. Use hooks or poles to place feeders at various heights to attract the greatest variety of birds.

In the barren landscape of winter, draw out shy birds by offering seed in dish-style or platform feeders placed near underbrush and other sheltered areas. They prefer feeding near thickets, bushes, and shrubs where they may not be as vulnerable.

If an unfamiliar bird appears in your yard, don't go running to your field guide just yet. The bird could fly away as you flip through the pages. Instead, record as many details as you can about the bird including colors, markings, shape, and size. When the bird leaves your sight, then grab your field book. Use your detailed notes to discover the bird's identity.

Recommended Products

Woodpecker Food

No/No Finch Tube Feeder

Universal Pole Kit

Bird Waterer & Birdbath

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