Bird Feeder Buyer's Guide by Species

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Have you ever noticed lovely birds in a neighbor's yard that you would love to see in yours? You'll have the best luck at attracting your favorite native birds when you feed them their preferred foods in a feeder that accommodates their feeding style.

Take the guesswork out this process by using the guide we've provided below. It gives you the most preferred foods by species, as well as recommended feeders. Keep in mind, these are only favorites and not the only foods a species may eat.

For your part, take some time to observe the feeding height of your favorite birds and whether they eat near cover or out in the open. This will help you determine where to place your food and feeders in your yard. Also, you'll get more visitors if you keep your feeders meticulously clean to help prevent the spread of bacteria and disease.

	MOST PREFERRED FOOD TYPE													
SPECIES	Black Oil Sunflower	Striped Sunflower	Safflower	Sunflower Chips	White Millet	Nyjer Thistle	Cracked Corn	Whole Peanuts	Shelled Peanuts	Suet	Mealworms	Insects	Fruit	Nectar
Bluebirds											✔			
Recommended Food/Feeder: Live Mealworms in the Mealworm Feeder with Guard														
Bushtits								✔		✔		✔		
Recommended Food/Feeder: Suet Plus Blend Cakes in the Copper Roof Double Suet Feeder														
Cardinals	✔		✔									✔		
Recommended Food/Feeder: Black Oil Sunflower Seed in the Cardinal No/No Feeder														
Chickadees	✔									✔				
Recommended Food/Feeder: Never Melt Suet in the Squirrelproof Double Suet Feeder														
Doves			✔		✔									

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Recommended Food/Feeder: Safflower Seed in the Covered Ground Feeder														
Finches	✔	✔				✔								
Recommended Food/Feeder: Nyjer Thistle Seed in the No/No Finch Tube Feeder														
Flickers				✔				✔		✔				
Recommended Food/Feeder: Whole Peanuts in the Hanging Platform Feeder														
Goldfinches				✔		✔								
Recommended Food/Feeder: Nyjer Thistle Seed in the Finch Flocker Tube Feeder														
Grosbeaks	✔	✔												
Recommended Food/Feeder: Black Oil Sunflower Seed in the Giant Combo Feeder														
Hummingbirds														✔
Recommended Food/Feeder: Ultimate Blend Nectar in the Colibri Hummingbird Feeder														
Jays								✔	✔					
Recommended Food/Feeder: Shelled Peanuts in the 5-Tier No/No Feeder														
Juncos					✔		✔							
Recommended Food/Feeder: Economy Waste-Free Seed Mix in the Covered Ground Feeder														
Kinglets										✔		✔		
Recommended Food/Feeder: Premium Specialty Blends™ Berry & Seed Blend in the Green Steel Magnum Feeder														
Nuthatches	✔								✔	✔				
Recommended Food/Feeder: Premium Specialty Blends™ Nut, Seed & Berry Blend in the Squirrel Buster Classic Feeder														
Siskin, Pine				✔		✔								
Recommended Food/Feeder: Sunflower Chips in the Chalet Deluxe Hopper														
Sparrows					✔									
Recommended Food/Feeder: Basic Blend Bird Seed Mix in the Covered Ground Feeder														
Titmouse	✔													
Recommended Food/Feeder: Black Oil Sunflower Seed in the Green Steel Magnum Feeder														

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Towhees					✔									
Recommended Food/Feeder: Premium Specialty Blends™ Berry & Seed Blend in the Covered Ground Feeder														
Woodpeckers	✔								✔	✔		✔		
Recommended Food/Feeder: Suet in the Double Cake Pileated Suet Feeder														
Wrens										✔	✔	✔		
Recommended Food/Feeder: Insect Log Jammer Suet in the Plastic Suet Log Feeder														
Most Preferred Food Type														

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