

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 of 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	Nylon 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			✓		✓									

Recommended Food/Feeder: Safflower Seed in the Green Solutions Platform Feeder												
Finches	✓	✓				✓						
Recommended Food/Feeder: Nyjer Thistle Seed in the No/No Finch Tube Feeder												
Flickers				✓			✓		✓			
Recommended Food/Feeder: Peanuts in the Green Solutions 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: Hummingbird Nectar in the Colibri Hummingbird Feeder												
Jays							✓		✓			
Recommended Food/Feeder: Whole Peanuts/Shelled Peanuts in the Green Solutions Platform Feeder												
Juncos				✓		✓						
Recommended Food/Feeder: Economy Waste-Free Seed Mix in the Compact Ground Feeder Tray												
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 Compact Ground Feeder Tray												
Titmouse	✓											

Recommended Food/Feeder: [Black Oil Sunflower Seed](#) in the [Green Steel Magnum Feeder](#)

Towhees					✓														
----------------	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Recommended Food/Feeder: [Premium Specialty Blends™ Berry & Seed Blend](#) in the [Compact Ground Feeder Tray](#)

Woodpeckers	✓										✓	✓			✓				
--------------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

Recommended Food/Feeder: [Suet](#) in the [Double Cake Pileated Suet Feeder](#)

Wrens												✓	✓	✓					
--------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

Recommended Food/Feeder: [Insect Log Jammer Suet](#) in the [Cedar Suet Log](#)

Most Preferred Food Type	Black Oil Sunflower	Striped Sunflower	Safflower	Sunflower Chips	White Millet	Nyjer Thistle	Cracked Corn	Whole Peanuts	Shelled Peanuts	Suet	Mealworms	Insects	Fruit	Nectar
---------------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------	------------------	------------------------	---------------------	----------------------	---------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------	------------------	----------------	--------------	---------------

Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of Foster & Smith, Inc. is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.