

## Attract Birds with the Right Feeders

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*



Whether the species of birds you desire are native to your area, or migrating through, you can increase your chances of attracting them for a short or extended stay by providing the right feed, in the right feeder, installed in the right place.

Many homeowners put out a single feeder with a standard seed mix, only to be disappointed with the results. What they do not understand is that various species of birds prefer different foods, feed at different heights, and from different types of feeders. So if you want to cater to the needs of several species, you will likely need two or more feeders, possibly of different designs, mounted at different heights. And by providing a [variety of foods](#), you will significantly increase your chance of attracting many different species of birds.

**Here are a few tips to attracting more birds to your feeders:**

- Any time of year is right for setting up and maintaining feeders for local birds, even winter.
- Having the right feeders and food in place in advance of the arrival of migrating birds.
- Place feeders close to cover such as a dense bush. Many birds will avoid feeders that don't offer protection in close proximity.
- Read up on the favorite treats of the birds you desire, and have them on hand.

- [Clean](#) your feeders and the area around them frequently. Spillage on the ground from poorly designed feeders is unattractive, and it can attract rodents. Make sure your seed feeders have effective [seed catcher](#) trays and clean up around them as needed.
- To attract birds to a new feeder, scatter a small amount of seed at the base of the feeder and sprinkle some directly on the feeder.

Here are some feeders that some of the most popular birds prefer:



#### Ground & Platform Feeders

**Attract:** Juncos, cardinals, indigo bunting, sparrows, chickadees, finch, mourning doves, brown thrashers, and towhees

**We recommend:** [Mahogany Ground Feeder by Coveseide Conservation Products](#), [Green Solutions Platform Feeder with Legs](#), [Compact Ground Feeder Tray](#) [Recycled Platform Feeder](#), [Green Solutions Deck Tray Feeder](#)



#### Insect Feeders

**Attract:** Eastern bluebirds, mountain bluebirds, purple martins, wrens, warblers, and towhees

**We recommend:** [Dome Feeder](#), [Coveseide Conservation Bluebird Feeder](#), [Mealworm Feeder](#), [Snacks 'N' Treats™ Feeder with Adjustable Weather Guard](#), [Sky Cafe Bluebird Feeder](#) [Bluebird Flower Feeder by Birds Choice](#)



#### Tube Feeders

**Attract:** Chickadees, finches, cardinals, grosbeaks, common red poll, pine siskin, and titmice

**We recommend:** [Grande Squirrelproof Feeder](#), [Classic 12" Hanging Feeder](#), [Triple Tube Feeder](#), [Finch Flocker Tube Feeder](#), [Sedona High Capacity Tube Feeder](#)



#### Fruit Feeders

**Attract:** Orioles, tanagers, gray catbirds, blue jays, robins,



and grosbeaks

**We recommend:** [Clementine Oriole Feeder](#), [Recycled Plastic Oriole Feeder](#), [Metal Fruit Feeder](#), [Metal House Oriole Feeder](#), [Ultimate Oriole Feeder](#), [Oriole Flower](#)

Feeder



Suet Feeders

**Attract:** Woodpeckers, nuthatches, gray catbirds, blue jays, titmice, chickadees, sapsuckers, flickers, and mockingbirds

**We recommend:** *Traditional basket feeders:* [Deluxe Suet Buffet](#), [Squirrelproof Double Suet Feeder](#), [Copper Roof Double Suet Feeder](#), [Green Solutions Tail Prop Feeder](#), [Wildlife Sciences Fly-Through Suet Cake Feeder](#) *Suet ball & plug feeders:* [Suet Ball Tube Feeder](#), [Suet Ball Red Roof Feeder](#), [Wildlife Sciences Suet Plug Feeder - Decorative Cedar Post](#), [Cedar Suet Log](#)



Mesh Feeders

**Attract:** Cardinals, nuthatches, chickadees, finch, woodpeckers, and pine siskin

**We recommend:** [Cardinal No/No Feeder](#), [5-Tier No/No Feeder](#), [Green Steel Magnum Sunflower Feeder](#) [Giant Combo Feeder](#), [Triple Tube Feeder](#), [Acorn Screen Feeder](#)



Thistle Feeders

**Attract:** Finches, ,song sparrows, red crossbills, pine siskins, and common redpoll

**We recommend:** [1 Qt Nyjer Forever Feeder](#), [Sock Finch Feeders](#), [Droll Yankees Finch Flocker Tube Feeder](#), [Green Steel Magnum Thistle Feeder](#) [No/No Finch Tube Feeder](#)



Hopper Feeders

**Attract:** A wide variety of songbirds; shy birds, such as rose-breasted grosbeaks, cardinals, and brown thrashers



**We recommend:** [SureFill No Spill Metal Hopper Feeder](#),  
[Original Absolute Feeder](#), [Double Decker Recycled Hopper  
Platform Feeder](#), [Chalet Deluxe Hopper Feeder](#), [Reflective  
Red Bird's Choice Feeder](#)