

Backyard Habitat

Cultivating a bird-friendly yard can be an enriching experience, bringing color and wonder year-round.

- Landscaping using native plants and leaving portions of your yard natural will provide foraging and nesting opportunities.
- Offering birdseed in feeders and fresh water for drinking and bathing will draw birds in.

Avoiding Harmful Risks to Birds

We all want to see the birds return. Here are a few things we can do to help:

- When considering placement of feeders and plants to attract birds, it is important to minimize their exposure to cats.
- Prevent window collisions by putting up an awning or window shade to reduce glare. Or, try clear, ultra-violet decals, available at many wild bird stores. Birds can see them and there is minimal distraction to us.
- Keep bird feeders clean and free of mold and flush birdbath daily to reduce spread of avian diseases.



Rufous Hummingbird, female

Hummingbird Feeder Solution

- One part table sugar to four parts water (honey and agave form bacteria faster).
- Change nectar and clean feeder regularly, every 3-4 days in warmer weather, to prevent illness in birds.

Cleaning Bird Feeders

1. Wear latex or plastic gloves.
2. Clean feeder of old seeds.
3. Soak in bucket or basin of water with ten percent bleach solution for ten minutes, then let feeder air dry.

Hairy Woodpecker, female



Spotted Towhee, female



Steller's Jay



Red-breasted Nuthatch, female with sunflower seed



Dark-eyed Junco, male



Purple Finch, male



American Goldfinch, male

