



Get  on CD-ROM
Teaching Tools [click here](#)

National Bird-Feeding Society
 PO BOX 23 • NORTHBROOK • IL • 60065 • WWW.BIRDFEEDING.ORG
 Helping people create bird-friendly backyards

Top Ten Tips for Bird Feeding

1.  **Add water**
 Add a dripper to your birdbath. The sound of moving water is irresistible to birds.
2.  **Scoop on nyjer**
 Nyjer seed from a tubular feeder with tiny feeding holes attracts goldfinches and pine siskins.
3.  **Fruit & nectar**
 Attract orioles with orange halves, grape jelly and sugar water (one part sugar/four parts water.)
4.  **Flies on fruit**
 Banana skins hung near nectar feeders attract fruit flies, a treat for hummingbirds.
5.  **Block ants**
 Separate nectar feeders from their hangers with an ant moat.
6.  **Baffle bushytails**
 Baffles come between a feeder and four-footed visitors so they can't reach the bird food.
7.  **Waste not**
 Kitty litter in bottom of tube feeders absorbs moisture and helps prevent soggy seed.
8.  **Secure seed**
 Use trays under feeders to catch spilled seed. Helps keep unwanted visitors away.
9.  **Hold the sprouts**
 Use outdoor carpet under feeders. Easy to vacuum up seeds ground feeding birds don't eat.
10.  **Slow down**
 Spend time every day enjoying the birds. Helps keep your blood pressure down.

To receive more free tips, send a stamped, self-addressed, envelope to: NBS/Tips, PO Box 23, Northbrook, IL 60065.

Feeding birds during late spring and early summer breeding seasons can produce some of the most exciting wildlife experiences of the year. On a warm afternoon, from a favorite deck chair, we can take pleasure watching the birds' amazing behavior. Their communication system is apparent in their calls and visual displays as they defend territories, court a mate, build nests and raise their young. After the young have fledged, adults bring them along to demonstrate how to find seeds at backyard feeding stations.

One of the most entrenched myths about bird feeding is that in the summer it's harmful and should be stopped. The standard argument: the birds will become dependent on feeders and forget how to find food themselves if you feed in the summer. And if you stop, the birds will starve. And there is enough natural food in the summer, anyway.

Well, the myth is wrong on all counts.

Birds do not become dependent on our feeders. They continue to forage for natural foods regardless of the treats people provide. Because they're mobile and able to find other food sources, they aren't at risk for starvation. And late spring and summer is when the natural food supply is depleted and the new crops not yet ready. It also is when the birds are the busiest preparing for and raising families.

Find out what you're missing about bird feeding



The Bird's-Eye reView.
Colorful. Informative.
And full of birds.