

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD

There are 3 requirements to help attract the most birds to your backyard: **food, shelter, and water**. We will be focussing on **food**.

Water can be as easy as a shallow dish you fill up every day or two, and shelter is taken care of if there are any trees or shrubs around you.

Food can be done with a simple feeder and a handful of bird seed. Just make sure the seed is right for the birds in your area and works with your chosen feeder. When placing your feeders remember that birds find them by **sight** so it should be out in the open where they can find it, but nearby (6-10 feet from) a shrub or tree they can shelter in if necessary.

It may take some time for birds to find your feeder. If they aren't finding it after a week or two, try placing some seed on or around the feeder to draw their attention. Using a tinfoil plate for this can be useful as the brightness of the tinfoil can attract them. Also be sure to put the feeder where you can see it so you can enjoy the birds.

Cleaning: Clean your feeder with a mixture of **1 parts bleach to 9 parts water** or a **1 to 1 ratio of cleaning vinegar and water**. Wash the solution out and let it dry before refilling the feeder. Make sure to clean your feeder at least **once a month**. If you see mold, wet seed, or sprouting seed, clean and disinfect it more often. Clean bird baths and hummingbird feeders with the same solution.

Our seed preference list on the inside of this handout can help you choose the right bird seed and feeder for you and your birds.

If you have any questions, give us a call at **(250) 390-3669**, toll-free at **1-888-808-BIRD [2473]**, or email us at thebackyard@shaw.ca

HOPPER AND TRAY FEEDERS

Hopper and tray feeders attract the widest variety of birds due to their open design.

Hopper feeders hold a large amount of seed to last a few days. When filling your hopper feeder, be careful not to overfill it. Seed that is left for too long in a feeder can absorb moisture and begin to grow mold.

Tray feeders only hold enough seed for a day or two but can be easier to clean in comparison to the hopper style. Tray style feeders also offer a better view of visiting birds.

Seeds to Use: The Backyard's Gourmet and Royal seed blends, black oil sunflower, white millet, and peanuts.



GROUND FEEDERS

Ground feeders are made for birds like sparrows, juncos, and quail who prefer ground feeding, though a variety of birds will use a ground feeder, including larger birds.

It's better to feed your birds with a ground feeder than to leave the seeds on the ground to get wet. Using a ground tray can also cut down on sprouting seeds.

Seeds to Use: White millet, cracked corn, sunflower seeds, and peanuts.

SILO OR TUBE FEEDERS

Silo feeders, also known as tube style feeders, are usually long tubes with perches on them either at the bottom or spaced along the tube. Those with very small holes are designed for the Nyjer seed enjoyed by American Goldfinch and Pine Siskins while the larger holes are accessible for more birds, as their beaks don't fit into the smaller holes.

Not all birds will use silo feeders. Some ground feeding birds are not accustomed to the stick-like perches and aren't likely to be found using them and larger birds may have difficulty.

Seeds to Use: Black oil sunflower, chipped sunflower, and nyjer seed.



SUET FEEDERS

Suet feeders are used for suet blocks. Suet blocks contain beef kidney suet and preferably have little to no bird seed in them. When choosing suet, look at the **protein** content. Birds like at least **6% protein** in their suet. We have found our most popular suet is Pine Tree Farms Peanut Butter, with **12% protein**.

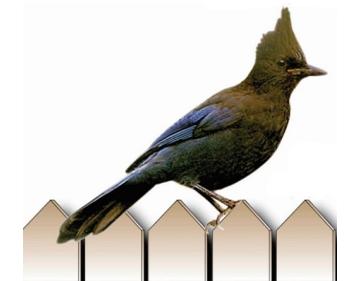
Suet feeders come in many varieties, from a simple square cage to the tail prop style that allows woodpeckers to brace their tails when they feed and encourages them to stick around longer. Suet can be used all year but is particularly enjoyable at the end of August when the young woodpeckers are out.

BIRDS OF VANCOUVER ISLAND SEED PREFERENCE LIST AND COMMON FEEDERS



THE BACKYARD
WILDBIRD & NATURE STORE
ENJOYING NATURE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

6314 METRAL DRIVE
(250) 390-3669
TOLL-FREE: 1-888-808-BIRD(2473)
THEBACKYARD@SHAW.CA
THEBIRDSTORE.BLOGSPOT.COM
WWW.THEBACKYARD.CA



SEED PREFERENCE LIST FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND BIRDS

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER

HIGH FAT, HIGH PROTEIN BIRD SEED

Steller's Jay
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Purple Finch
House Finch
Red Crossbill
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Black-headed Grosbeak
Evening Grosbeak
Dark-eyed Junco
Spotted Towhee
Song Sparrow
Varied Thrush
California Quail
Band-tailed Pigeon
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker



NYJER

THISTLE SEED FINCHES LOVE

American Goldfinch
Pine Siskin
House Finch
Purple Finch
Chestnut-backed Chickadee

BLACK OIL VS STRIPED

SUNFLOWER

WHY DO THEY PREFER BLACK OIL

Finches are unable to open their beaks far enough to get into striped sunflower, and other birds find it more difficult. Black oil sunflower contains more fat and calories so birds get more rewards with less effort.

HULLED SUNFLOWER

ALL BIRDS EAT IT, INCLUDING

Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Dark-eyed Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Varied Thrush
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Northern Flicker

PEANUT HALVES

HIGH ENERGY TREAT

Steller's Jay
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Flicker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
European Starling
Band-tailed Pigeon
Spotted Towhee

CORN

PERFECT FOR FEEDING DUCKS

California Quail
Band-tailed Pigeon
Red-winged Blackbird
Dark-eyed Junco
All Ducks



WHITE MILLET

RODENTS DON'T PREFER

Dark-eyed Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Spotted Towhee
House Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewers Blackbird
European Starling
Varied Thrush
Brown-headed Cowbird
California Quail
Band-tailed Pigeon



NECTAR

1 PART WHITE SUGAR TO 3 OR 4 PARTS
WATER

Anna's hummingbird
Rufous hummingbird
House Finch
Chestnut-backed Chickadee

SUET

HIGH PROTEIN AND FAT

Northern Flicker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
European Starling
Steller's Jay
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Bushtit
Bewick's Wren

THE BACKYARD'S BIRD

SEED BLENDS

Our seed blends are formulated to attract the greatest variety of birds to your backyard. They contain no filler seeds (wheat, oats and milo) as those aren't appealing to local birds. Our blends are a proven favourite for the birds of Vancouver Island.

GOURMET BLEND

Gourmet blend is a great general mix to attract a wide variety of birds. The main seed is black oil sunflower and it's mixed with smaller amounts of hulled sunflower seeds, peanut halves, and a little white millet.

Gourmet blend is best used in a **hopper** or **tray** feeder.

ROYAL BLEND

This mix is similar to the gourmet blend with the main seed being black oil sunflower mixed with hulled sunflower and peanut halves, though it has no white millet.

Royal blend works best in **hopper**, **tray**, or **tube** feeders.

GROUND BLEND

This blend was created for ground feeding birds like juncos, sparrows, ducks, and quail. It contains mostly white millet, with cracked corn and a small amount of black oil sunflower seeds and peanut halves.

Ground blend is suited for use in **ground**, **hopper**, and **tray** feeders.