

Chapter 1 : Feeding Wild Birds | Beauty of Birds

Feeding birds in winter can be rewarding and enjoyable in the midst of chilly weather. By understanding which birds are around in winter and what they need to eat, both novice and experienced backyard birders make the most of their feeders during the coldest months of the year.

Feeding Wild Birds in Winter I always enjoy watching the variety of birds that gather and feast outside my window. One of the easiest and most beautiful ways to observe and appreciate wildlife is by feeding the wild birds. Setting up a feeder on your property allows you to see avian visitors up close, and to understand the types of birds that frequent your neighborhood. I have a number of feeders at my Bedford, New York farm, and all the birds love to come by and dine on the seed I provide. Feeding the birds is important - it helps to sustain local wild bird populations, especially during the cold, harsh winters and challenging migration periods. I hope these photos inspire you to take a closer look at the birds in your own yard - they are stunning animals. Enjoy!

In winter, my bird feeders are refilled every morning. Feeders should be set up where they are easy to see and convenient to fill. They should be placed where seed-hungry squirrels and bird-hungry cats cannot reach them, and if near a window, no more than three feet from the glass to prevent possible collisions. This group of feeders is located on the back side of my carport. While some birds enjoy eating from the ground, others prefer tube feeders - hollow cylinders with multiple feeding ports and perches. Tube feeders attract small perching birds such as finches, goldfinches, titmice, and chickadees. Using a pole with a hook on the end, each feeder is carefully removed from its hanging location. The shop was recommended to me by my neighbor and bird fancier, Frank Bua. This is a mixed seed mix. This seed mix includes white millet, black oil sunflower seeds, striped sunflower seeds and cracked corn. And then fills each feeder behind the carport - each tube holds about three quart-sized containers of seed. Once each feeder is filled to the top, it is carefully returned to its spot - all ready for hungry birds to feast. Some birds patiently wait for the seed to be replenished. Even if your bird visitors are not entirely dependent on your food supply, try not to leave them without food. If you plan to be away, fill extra feeders, or ask a willing neighbor to continue feeding your birds until you return. These tube feeders allow the seed to flow only when birds peck at it, which helps keep any spillage to a minimum. Sparrows are primarily seed eaters, but also enjoy eating small insects. Though they are not flashy in color, and may often be overlooked or considered common, the sparrow is a very melodious bird. Phurba fills all the bird feeders around the same time every day - he finds some of them completely empty, while others are still quite full. On the other side of the carriage road, under my clematis pergola, are several more feeders that need refilling. Phurba begins at one end and brings down each bird feeder. Before refilling the feeder with new seed, Phurba gives the feeder a shake to dislodge any that were compacted. Phurba fills this feeder with mixed seed. And then carefully returns it to its spot for the hungry birds. Look closely and you can see this bird is holding a seed - there is always something amazing to see when watching and feeding our wild avian friends. Phurba fills this feeder with Nyjer seed. Nyjer seeds are favored by goldfinches, chickadees, doves, and other small birds. When looking for bird feeders, consider the type of feeder and the size of its holes to know what kind of food would work best. The house finch is commonly found in North America, and is an adaptable, colorful and cheery voiced bird. When starting to feed birds, it may take time for new feeders to be discovered. As long as feeders are clean and filled with fresh seed, the birds will find them. Phurba enjoys learning about all the different birds that come to the farm. This is a black-capped chickadee. These birds are highly curious about everything, including humans. Its black cap and bib, white cheeks and gray back, wings and tail make it an easy bird to distinguish and identify. I have many bird feeders hanging at the farm, and it is quite a commitment to keep them filled all year long, but it is comforting to know I am helping our wild bird populations survive the cold season. Phurba will store the rest of the seed in closed containers, away from other critters - until tomorrow, when he feeds the wild birds again. What birds do you see out your window? Share your observations in the comments section below.

Chapter 2 : Feeding Wild Birds In The Winter - Corvid Blog

Winter: 'Tis the season for feeding birds all across North America, especially in those regions where it gets mighty cold and snowy. If you are a veteran bird feeder, you've probably gained lots of insight into the foods your backyard birds prefer.

Winter As winter approaches, many birds change some of their eating habits. Birds that usually eat insects may start to eat berries to supplement their diets. Birds will start to look for reliable sources of food for wintertime survival. And, in the fall, many birds began forming flocks. Flocks of birds are better able to find food and protect themselves from predators. The life of a bird in the winter may not be as stress-free as many people think. In much of North America, winter can be a difficult time for birds. The days are short, and nights are often cold and long. The natural food supply has been consumed or is hidden by snow. Most insects are dead or dormant. Water can be hard to find, and food needed to provide the energy to keep birds warm might be scarce. Finding shelter may not be easy. If there are limited natural evergreens or shelter, birds may seek man-made houses or habitats that can provide refuge from the winds, rains, ice or snow of winter. In general, this means that they maintain their body temperature within a certain range even when the temperature around them changes. The maintenance of body temperature within a normal range depends on the amount of heat the bird produces. On cold, wintry days, most birds fluff up their feathers, creating air pockets, which help keep the birds warm. The more air spaces, the better the insulation. Some birds perch on one leg, drawing the other leg to the breast for warmth. To keep up their high metabolic rate, most backyard birds eat rich, energy foods such as seeds, insects and suet. There are some times, however, when birds are not prepared to deal with sudden drops in temperature or sudden winter storms. At times like these, it is especially helpful to have feeders full so that birds can find food easily. Providing Food for Birds in the Winter As winter approaches, you may need to change some of the foods you offer to birds. Providing high calorie and high fat foods can be important to the birds. The birds visiting winter feeders may be arriving in flocks or may come to the feeders as individuals, so you will need to provide different options for the birds. Feeders should be located out of the wind. The east or southeast side of a house or near a row of trees is ideal. It is best to have a perching spot such as a bush or tree for the birds to use to survey the feeding area and provide sufficient cover for safe refuge from predators and shelter from the wind and weather. The feeders should be positioned near cover but in the open to allow birds to watch for danger. For ground feeding, an area near cover with a clear view of the surroundings is desirable. Placing seed in a ground feeder entices birds such as sparrows, juncos, Mourning Doves, quail, pheasants, towhees and Brown Thrashers. Even the Red-bellied Woodpecker, which is thought of as a tree dweller, does some foraging on the ground. Platform and hopper feeders are especially good for attracting cardinals, wrens, chickadees, titmice, jays, and grosbeaks. Hanging feeders, because they blow in the wind, are generally used by those species that are able to hang on while feeding such as chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and finches. Oil sunflower is a great overall seed to offer in the winter. Oil sunflower has twice the calories per pound than striped sunflower and its smaller shells make less mess when discarded by the birds. Suet is a great food to offer many of the birds that will visit backyards in the winter. Suet is a high energy, pure fat substance which is invaluable in winter when insects are harder to find and birds need many more calories to keep their bodies warm. Suet can be fed in a variety of feeders ranging from a suet cage to a wood and cage feeder offering protection from the weather elements and designed to require the birds to hang upside down. Peanuts are another great food to offer birds in the wintertime. Peanuts have high protein and fat levels and are often an ingredient in suet products. Offering peanuts in a peanut feeder can provide a good source of protein for birds. Providing Water for Birds Birds do need a source for water in the winter. You can help birds find water by providing an open source of water for the birds. Bird baths can provide a water source and should be heated to help prevent the whole bath from freezing. In areas where the weather can turn cold and possibly freeze the water in bird baths, a heater or heated birdbath can keep an area open in your bird bath. It is always a good idea to cover ceramic bird baths to keep the water out in the winter. You can put out a plastic dish with an added heater or a bird bath with a built-in heater. Some products can be kept out all

winter, if the proper bird bath de-icers are used. Check with your Wild Birds Unlimited sales associate or the manufacturer about the best kind of heaters to use in bird baths and ponds. Providing Cover for Birds Roosting boxes or natural plant covers can also aid birds seeking protection from cold weather. Shelter is also needed for protection against natural predators, such as birds of prey. Cats are unnatural predators and birds also need shelter to escape from them. Be sure to clean out old nests from houses to help reduce the possibility of parasitic bugs surviving the winter. It also allows birds the opportunity to roost in a clean house.

Chapter 3 : Feeding Birds - FeederWatch

Feeding the birds in winter can be a rewarding way to enjoy birding in your backyard when the weather outside is less than ideal. If you offer the best winter bird foods, you will find a greater variety of birds visiting your feeders even on the coldest days. While you want to be sure to offer the.

Gardening to Attract Birds Helping Wild Bird Chicks Feeders: Bird feeders or fruit-bearing trees or shrub, bird baths, nest boxes or other nesting opportunities will result in an enjoyable atmosphere in your garden that is filled with foraging and singing birds. As an added benefit, many birds will also eat insects particularly when breeding - so they will help keep bugs down as well. In winter, shortages of seeds, berries and insects - particularly during severe weather conditions - make foraging particularly difficult. Of course, a wide range of bird feeders are available in shops, but for those who are willing to put in the effort - suitable bird feeders or bird feeding areas can easily be put together without costing you anything or only very little. In fact, anybody can easily make bird feeder themselves. Please scroll down or make your own bird feeder. To minimize aggression and territorial behavior, it is best to provide widely spaced feeders. Bird Feeding Tips Dog Food: Large birds eat dog food, a cheaper alternative to seed. Birds use grits to help them digest seed. Mix crumbled eggshells in your seed as a grit-alternative and an added calcium source. Reduce Waste and Mess: Use a feeder with a tray under it to catch leftover seeds or seed shells. Some birds follow strict feeding regimes and some birds will feed on almost anything. Knowing their preferences will help if you want to attract specific birds. Scroll down for information on the feeding preferences of common wild birds, so that you can attract your favorites. Too many birds together is unnatural, unsanitary, wasteful and dangerous to birds. Viewing only a few birds is more appealing than a bunch of noisy fighting birds. It is best to cut them off occasionally. They will find feed elsewhere and come back when you feed again. This will promote independence and make them more resourceful, smarter, and healthier. Keep the bird feeder clean. Attracting flocks of birds to unsanitary feeders causes immeasurable harm to our feathered friends by promoting the spread of contagious diseases, bacterial infections, intestinal illnesses, and death. Black Oil Sunflower Seeds are a premium feed. Most birds prefer them to the striped sunflower variety. Sunflower seeds a high energy and nutritious food source packed with protein and fat and leave less waste than some other seeds. This seed is liked by the following birds: Another highly nutritious seed rich in protein and fat. High in protein and fat. Squirrels dislike safflower seeds. So this is a good option for those wanting to discourage unwanted "visitors". Often used as filler in mixed blends. This is not a preferred seed and attracts unpopular birds. Another popular mixed blend filler. The white variety is preferred This seed is liked by the following birds: Corn is liked by the following birds: Upland game birds like Pheasants , Turkeys , Partridge and Grouse love corn. Pigeons , Starlings , cowbirds and squirrels like corn. Good mixed seed will contain some of most of the above quality seeds. Quality of mixed seed can vary. If birds select only some seeds in a blend and waste the rest, try another mix. Most birds can shell whole unshelled peanuts, with varying degrees of effort. Raw peanuts and other legumes contain a trypsin inhibitor or substance that inhibits or prevents the pancreas from producing trypsin, an enzyme essential for the absorption of protein by the intestine. Squirrels fed a steady diet of raw peanuts, soybeans. According to the Washington State Cooperative Extension Service, roasting hulled raw peanuts for 20 to 30 minutes at degrees Fahrenheit, stirring them frequently, will destroy the trypsin inhibitor and render them suitable for feed. Salted nuts of any kind should never be fed to wild animals. Peanuts are liked by the following birds: Migrating birds and early arrivals regularly encounter shortages of their usual feeding sources and readily substitute fruit made available for them. Try halving oranges and apples and fixing on a nail or spike. Feed grapes, berries, bananas, melons, and raisins. Raisins have the potential of toxicity if fed in too high a quantity. Take it easy with the grapes as well. Fruits are liked by the following birds: Many birds love fruits, including -- but definitely not limited to -- the following: Suet animal fat and peanutbutter, rich in proteins and fat, provide needed energy for wintering birds. It is best to feed it in winter, as the fat tends to become rancid in warm weather, or skip the fat and oil and just use peanut butter in warm weather. Suet is sold in cakes and bars. Alternatively, you can ask for some animal fat to feed the birds at your meat market. Most

likely they are already familiar with that request; or you can make your own by mixing animal fat or vegetable oil with bird feed, peanut butter and fruit. Suet is liked by the following birds: Set aside to cool and thicken slightly. To make bird trees, use a Wilton mini tree pan. With hands, form cooled melted suet into tree shapes the approximate size of cavities in tree pan. Press suet into birdseed, then into mini tree pan. Place in mesh bags or wrap in nylon net and hang on tree branches for the birds. To make a bird pie: Double the above recipe. When hardened slightly, reheat. Add 1 cup of seed and pour into a pie pan. Sprinkle remaining seed on top. Be sure to place the suet pie off the ground where birds are safe eating. Protein, Fat and Oil. Peanut Butter is liked by the following birds: If you can face the idea of raise mealworms *Tenebrio molitor* , you can do so as follows: In a plastic bucket or pan with a screen mesh cover for plenty of air, place oat bran a few inches deep. Place mealworms in the pan. Partially bury a halved apple, cut side down in the oat bran for moisture and replace weekly. Rip paper grocery bags into pieces and place several layers over the oat bran. Keep at about degrees. The mealworms will grow into adult beetles, lay eggs, and the eggs will turn into yummy little mealworms which grow to the size you purchased. Mealworms are liked by the following birds: Offer in a dry cup in the shade. Share a treat with the birds in your back yard There are so many ways you can help our feathered friends at no cost at all: Make a bird feeder. First cut an orange or grapefruit in half. The hollow rind of the fruit becomes a cup to hold bird food. Attached to a hanger made from string, the feeder can be suspended from a tree branch outdoors, so birds can easily find the food. You can also make a hanging feeder from a coconut shell or purchase one made of transparent plastic. You can sink a pole into the ground topped with a wooden platform, at a height you can comfortably reach. It helps to nail an edge on the platform to help save the seeds from rolling off. Alternatively, you can place the platform on a second story porch, or attach it to a window sill. Fill the bird feeder with bird treats, such as: This is junk food that is not healthy for us nor the birds; but an occasional treat is acceptable. However, make sure that the majority of the food that you provide is healthy food, such as fruits, nuts and seeds.

Chapter 4 : Feeding Wild Birds in Winter - The Martha Stewart Blog

If your community gets consistently cold (below freezing) in the winter or has extended periods of snow and ice on the ground, you may be surprised to learn what a huge difference you can make by feeding wild birds right outside your own door or window. A large-scale winter storm, with deep snow.

Tweet on Twitter Late fall and winter provide a new set of challenges for our feathered friends. Most of the lush vegetation, full of berries and seeds, has withered away. In addition, most insects are either dead or dormant and the heavy snows will soon bury most natural sources of wild bird food. Foods higher in fat and oils will help supply them with more energy for winter survival. Though most wild birds survive just fine on natural food sources, many species will come to feeders to supplement their wild diet. Bird Feeders For winter use, feeders should have some sort of cover to protect the seed from being buried during snowy weather. Keep in mind that most feeders fall into two categories: Selective feeders are designed to discourage such birds as starlings, house sparrows and crows. Non-selective feeders are larger and provide a perching area large enough for most birds. Another thing to consider is water. A supply of fresh, unfrozen water in the middle of winter will do wonders to increase your bird traffic. It is just as essential to their diet as good quality feed, yet simple to overlook. The feeder should be sheltered from the harsh winds. When a bird takes off from a feeder located over 6 feet from a window, it will be going at its top speed if it were to collide. Having the feeder closer reduces the severity of the collision, should it occur. Because birds like cover, it is a good idea to place the feeder near trees, bushes or shrubs. This will offer them some additional protection from the wind and predators. Winter Feed Good bird seed is the key to good bird watching. Because of the increased nutritional needs during the cold weather, mixes with excess fillers should be avoided. Most fillers and seed shells will just end up on the ground and accumulate until spring. As mentioned above, the colder weather requires a diet higher in fat and oils. Black oil sunflower seed is preferred for most species. It is high in protein and oil, and has a thinner and softer shell than their more familiar, grey shelled cousins. Peanut hearts, nyjer seed, and white safflower seed are also excellent choices that will please a large variety of wild birds. We also carry a large range of Suet Cakes to help them through the coldest winter days. Regardless of what type of feed you choose to use, there are some things to keep in mind during the winter months: Keep feeders clean after each storm, so that the seed is easily accessible. Shovel or stamp the snow around the feeder area so that the ground feeding birds can more easily find the spilled seed. Wait until spring, once insects and vegetation are once again available. Consider putting out food daily. This will insure that it is fresh and will reduce the risk of waste. Figure on what they will need before sundown, to discourage nighttime visitors such as deer, raccoons, and bears. Over time, you will be able to get a feel for what proportions are right for each day. Store your feed in a cool, dry place. Keep it properly sealed to protect it from bugs and rodents. A plastic storage bin is a great choice. One that can be easily opened while wearing gloves is even better! Business Hours Mon - Fri 7:

Chapter 5 : FEEDING WILD BIRDS IN THE WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL - Tranquil Outdoors

11th January, Share. Wild Birds Food: What To Feed In Winter. How wild bird feeding has changed over the years! When I was a boy the birds were given breadcrumbs, a few stale crusts, bacon rind, and if they were lucky a few peanuts (groundnuts) in their shells threaded on cotton.

This small sunflower seed is high in energy and has thin shells, making it the preferred food item for a wide variety of birds. Black-oil sunflower is among the favorite feeder foods of cardinals, chickadees, finches, and sparrows. Woodpeckers even consume these seeds on occasion. Cracked Corn Corn is an inexpensive grain that many FeederWatchers provide for birds. Whole corn is a favorite of Wild Turkeys and ducks, while cracked corn will attract doves, quail, and sparrows. To attract these birds, try mixing cracked corn with millet and feeding a scoopful on the ground or a platform feeder. Fruit Various fruits can prove quite attractive to many species of birds. Oranges cut in half will often attract orioles which will sip the juice and eat the flesh of the orange. Grapes and raisins no preservatives, please are a favorite of many fruit-eating birds. Mockingbirds, catbirds, bluebirds, robins, and waxwings are all species that are likely to feed upon fruit. Many species will also be attracted to the dried seeds of fruits like pumpkins or apples. Be sure to dispose of any fruit that becomes moldy because some molds create toxins that are harmful to birds. Hulled Sunflower Seeds Hulled sunflower seeds are simply sunflower seeds with the shell removed. Often referred to as "no mess" sunflower, the lack of hulls does indeed reduce the chaff underneath feeders. Any bird that eats sunflower seed will also be attracted to hulled sunflower seeds and many species will actually prefer to feed on this easy, work-free meal. Be sure to keep the seed dry because it tends to spoil more quickly than sunflower in the shell. Mealworms Mealworms are the larvae of the mealworm beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, and they provide a high protein treat for many birds. Some people feed live mealworms while others prefer offering dried larvae both forms are commercially available. Birds like chickadees, titmice, wrens, and nuthatches relish this food and mealworms are one of the only food items that reliably attract bluebirds. Offer mealworms on a flat tray or in a specialized mealworm feeder available at many specialty bird feeding stores. Millet A small, round grain, millet is commonly found in seed mixes. Millet is a favored food of many smaller, ground foraging birds. A handful of millet sprinkled on the ground will keep your juncos and sparrows happy. Milo A reddish-colored, round grain, milo is often a major component of inexpensive seed mixes. Unfortunately, it is not a favorite of most birds, and the seed often goes to waste. Western birds tend to consume milo more than eastern birds. In the east, it is best to avoid mixes with large amounts of milo. Nyjer Often called "thistle" seed, nyjer is not related to North American thistle plants but comes from the *Guizotia abyssinica* plant native to Africa. This imported seed has become increasingly popular in recent years, largely due to its ability to attract finches including American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, and Common Redpoll. Because nyjer seed is so small it requires a special feeder with very small feeding ports. The small openings on the feeding ports will prevent the seed from falling on the ground. To prevent waste, it is best to feed nyjer seed by itself rather than in a mix. Seeds are heat-treated prior to importation to prevent sprouting. Oats Oats grown for cereal or livestock feed are also eaten by many species of birds. This grain is rarely found in modern bird seed mixes, but you can try offering oats on a platform feeder or in a hopper. Species most likely to be attracted to oats include doves and quail. Peanut Hearts Peanut hearts for bird feeding are small pieces of peanuts without the shells that are best offered in a small hopper or on a platform feeder. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and jays are most likely to take advantage of this food. Peanuts are high in energy and protein for your birds but keep an eye out for any signs of mold. Dispose of moldy peanut hearts immediately. Peanuts Peanuts are the seed of the *Arachis hypogaea* plant and actually grow underground. They are not true nuts but are actually legumes--and many birds love them! You can offer peanuts shelled or in the shell. Larger birds like jays may grab several peanuts at a time and fly off to hide them for later consumption. Smaller birds like chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice will have more success feeding on shelled peanuts. You can offer raw or roasted peanuts, but avoid salted peanuts or peanuts that have been roasted with any coatings or flavorings. Safflower Safflower resembles a white sunflower seed. Grown for its oil and for bird seed, safflower attracts cardinals and other big-billed birds.

However, in our experience, most birds prefer sunflower seeds over safflower. Suet is a good choice for attracting insect-eating birds. Most suet is beef kidney fat, which is inexpensive and available at many meat counters. Suet also can be purchased as processed cake that includes seeds, berries, and other ingredients. Be careful if you offer suet in hot weather; it may become rancid if it has not been specially processed.

Sugar Water To make nectar for hummingbirds, add one part sugar to four parts boiling water and stir. A slightly more diluted mixture can be used for orioles one part sugar to six parts water. Allow the mixture to cool before filling the feeder. Store extra sugar water in the refrigerator for up to one week after that it may become moldy, which is dangerous for birds. Adding red food coloring is unnecessary and possibly harmful to birds. Red portals on the feeder, or even a red ribbon tied on top, will attract the birds just as well. Feeders should be cleaned everytime they are refilled. See the Safe Feeding section on this page for more information. NEVER use honey or artificial sweeteners. Honey readily grows mold that can be harmful to hummingbirds. Do not put any kind of oil around feeding portals to deter bees; you might contaminate the nectar. If bees or wasps become a problem, try moving the feeder. To aid in the grinding, birds swallow small, hard materials such as sand, small pebbles, ground eggshells, and ground oyster shells. Grit, therefore, attracts many birds as a food supplement or even by itself. Oyster and egg shells have the added benefit of being a good source of calcium, something birds need during egg laying. If you decide to provide eggshells, be sure to sterilize them first. You can boil them for 10 minutes or heat them in an oven 20 minutes at degrees. Let the eggshells cool; then crush them into pieces about the size of sunflower seeds. Offer the eggshell in a dish or low platform feeder.

Water Because birds need water for drinking and bathing, they are attracted to water just as they are to feeders. You can purchase a bird bath or simply use dishes or shallow pans. Birds seem to prefer baths that are at ground level, but raised baths will attract birds as well. Change the water every day to keep it fresh and clean.

House Finch bathing by Errol Taskin, Shreveport, LA If the bath is on the ground, arrange a few branches or stones in the water so that birds can stand on them and drink without getting wet this is particularly important in winter. One of the best ways to make your birdbath more attractive is to provide dripping water. You can buy a dripper or sprayer, or you can recycle an old bucket or plastic container by punching a tiny hole in the bottom, filling it with water, and hanging it above the birdbath so the water drips out. In freezing climates, a birdbath heater will keep ice from forming. Never add anti-freeze; it is poisonous to all animals including birds.

Chapter 6 : Feeding Wild Birds Suet in Winter

Feeding the birds is important - it helps to sustain local wild bird populations, especially during the cold, harsh winters and challenging migration periods. I hope these photos inspire you to take a closer look at the birds in your own yard - they are stunning animals.

How to Prepare for Winter Bird Feeding in 8 Steps How to prepare for winter bird feeding in 8 steps will help to bring success to your backyard birding efforts during the coldest time of year. At least not all of it: If you have plants, trees or bushes in your yard that need pruning wait until late spring instead of doing it in the fall. That alone will help your winter birds. More on this further down. Rake your leaves onto your gardens. It is better for your grass not to be covered in leaves for the winter as leaves can cause your grass to develop disease if left on it all winter. But your gardens are a different story. Your garden plants will benefit from the added protection against the cold that your leaves will provide. And so will bugs. Which are a very beneficial food source to birdlife. Most birds including seed eaters and even nectar lovers like Hummingbirds need to eat protein rich bugs. And yes, I did say leave your pruning to late spring if you can. This will give wild birds returning from their spring migration journey an opportunity to eat up seeds which were left from the autumn crop. The birds will also gratefully munch on the bugs coming to life from their winter shelter among your dead plant matter. I am not a gardening expert but I did get these gardening tips from one. Black-oil sunflower seed is close though. This nutritious oily seed is enjoyed and loved by many wild birds. Including Blackbirds, Starlings and Jays. Now the Jays are beautiful birds and you will likely want to see them from time to time. Plus, if you were to only use one type of seed or even mixed seed in the type of feeders mentioned above you would miss out on attracting and enjoying some unique and interesting birds. Bonus 7 Part Series When You sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter! Email Address First Name Last Name Many researchers including the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have discovered that using a mixed seed blend will likely result in a good deal of waste. Many birds may eat different types of seed but often black-oil sunflower seed is a favourite. This results in a lot of "shovelling" of the least liked seed onto the ground until a black-oil sunflower seed is found. I have also experienced Woodpeckers hanging onto my hopper style feeder pushing all the seed over the edge with their large beak until a peanut is discovered. Then gobbling this delightful morsel and returning again to discard all the other seeds until another peanut is found. If times were tough with natural food sources being scarce and the offering was only a mixed seed without peanuts they may be grateful to accept the other seed. As a result of watching this behaviour in my early days of bird feeding, I now only offer mixed seed in a cake when it is held together usually by gelatin. All other feeders in my yard offer one type of food. This results in far less waste and happy grazing by my birdlife. So what are the five best but not only winter foods for winter bird feeding from. How to prepare for winter bird feeding in 8 steps Best 5 Winter Bird Foods 1. Suet is a very important food for helping birds produce heat to keep warm during the very long nights of winter time. This meal comprised largely of fat is hard to beat. Lots of energy for foraging and keeping warm. Many food items can be added to increase the attraction and nutrition 2. Black-oil sunflower seed is also a nutrient rich, fatty food that will also be gratefully received by many birds. Nyjer seed is also a great food for winter feeding because it too is an oily seed. It will keep Gold Finches and other birds with small bills like Titmouse, Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls and of course Chickadees if the black oil sunflower seed runs out coming back for a good meal. Peanuts in a shell and shelled. A peanut in the shell feeder is one of my favourite feeders. All types of Woodpeckers and Nuthatches spend many happy hours each day hanging on while they perform their amazing surgery on the peanuts in the shell. It never ceases to amaze me how they can poke what seems a very small hole in each lobe of the shell and remove the meat. Dried whole-kernel corn is another seed that you can offer for Jays, Pigeons, Doves, Quail and Pheasants if you live in a rural area for the last two. Cracked corn will be well received because of its smaller size by Finches, Sparrows and Blackbirds. It also offers a high fat content for producing body warmth and is cheap to purchase. What is the Solution? Use a Variety of Feeders: In addition, they are basically just a flat surface, sometimes with a roof, which makes viewing the birds easy. A fly-thru feeder is the only type of feeder that I will fill with mixed

seed, as this gives all the different types of food in a mixed seed a chance to be eaten. But if you fill it with a mixed seed birds will sit, on the perch or trough and shovel seed over the edge until they find the ones they want. If you only fill your hopper style feeders with black-oil sunflower and use the table style feeders for mixed seed, corn and scraps, then more peace will reign in your backyard. Use tube feeders for sunflower seeds. A tube feeder with very short perches will work best making it very difficult for larger birds to sit while eating. Add a suet feeder and you will undoubtedly attract many members of the Woodpecker family and likely more than one type. You are likely to see more than one type of Nuthatch too. What variety of Woodpeckers and Nuthatches you see is dependent on where you live. Many other birds will also enjoy suet and therefore benefit from this energy rich source. Thistle is their most favourite food. Other types of Finches and of course Chickadees will eat from this feeder too. Ground bird feeder for the Sparrows, Juncos and Mourning Doves. One with a roof will assist by keeping the seed free of snow and ice. List of Winter Shelters for Wild Birds? What do birds do to stay warm during the long nights of winter? The days are short and usually a little warmer especially if the sun is shining. Wild birds will be busy during these shortened hours of daylight filling up with as much food as they can. The amount and type of food they eat all day will be an important factor in how well they survive during the longer winter night hours. The second necessary element they need to survive the freezing nights after eating high energy food is a sheltered place to spend the dark hours until sunlight returns. Other Winter Bird Shelters.

Chapter 7 : Winter WildBird Feeding | Albright's Mill - Kempton, PA

With the winter approaching, birds need a higher fat diet in order to endure the colder temperatures. Here in Michigan at Wild Birds Unlimited of GPW, we are ready with a stockpile of suet to help.

Chapter 8 : Winter - Wild Birds Unlimited | Wild Birds Unlimited

people provide food for wild birds. of year when winter bird-feeding enthusiasts should roll birds to i-nd in winter as food. Birds need water not only to.

Chapter 9 : How to Feed Wild Birds | Idaho Fish and Game

During the summer months birds require high protein foods, especially during their moult. During cold winter weather birds will benefit from high-energy or high-fat foods, which will help them to maintain their fat reserves and to survive frosty nights.