

Beyond the Backyard

- ◆ The *Nevada Birding Map*, produced by NDOW, Lahontan Audubon Society, the US Fish and Wildlife Society, and the US Forest Service details statewide birding destinations and are available at NDOW offices.
- ◆ Pickup your *Birds of Nevada Checklist* at your local NDOW office or visit www.ndow.org/wild/bird/ to download the checklist.
- ◆ You can participate in counting and documenting the variety of birds you observe by visiting www.birdcount.org.
- ◆ Other birding links:
 - Lahontan Audubon Society:
www.nevadaaudubon.org
 - Red Rock Audubon Society:
www.redrockaudubon.org
 - Great Basin Bird Observatory:
www.gbbo.org
 - Partners in Flight:
www.partnersinflight.org
 - HawkWatch International:
www.hawkwatch.org

Experience NEVADA WILDLIFE.

it's worth it!

The Nevada Department of Wildlife offers a *Birds of Nevada Checklist* brochure that will increase your awareness of the variety of Nevada's birds that can be found in your region.

Pickup your brochure at your local NDOW office listed below or visit www.ndow.org/wild/bird/.

CONTACT US



The Nevada Department of Wildlife

Reno: (775) 688-1500

Las Vegas: (702) 486-5127

Elko: (775) 777-2300

Fallon: (775) 423-3171

Winnemucca: (775) 623-6565

Ely: (775) 289-1655

Henderson: (702) 486-6742

www.ndow.org

Backyard Birds

Tips on Attracting and Feeding our Feathered Friends



Nevada Department of Wildlife
www.ndow.org

■ ■ ■ Bird Feeder

Feeding birds in your own yard can be an extremely rewarding pastime. It has the flexibility of being a small-scale project or a major endeavor. However, it is a commitment, which should be taken seriously and fully understood.

You will be amazed at how many birds will arrive if running water is available. A shallow pan, about 2 inches deep and at least 12 inches in diameter, should be filled with water each morning.

Many feeders are available to choose from. A platform feeder is a flat board with sideboards mounted to a post. A tube feeder and other gravity-fed feeders are a good option for limiting use to certain species. Seed-eaters are easy to attract with commercial seed. Black sunflower seed and thistle are popular draws for finches, while quail and chickadees prefer millet on the ground. If you have squirrels, you may need to purchase feeders with squirrel guards.

Harvesting sunflowers grown from your garden can also be part of your feeding station. Simply cut the stalk with a sharp knife and hang the sunflower head. Growing fruit trees will entice fruit eaters to visit your yard.

Attracting Hummingbirds

Attracting hummingbirds to your yard can be done by selecting a natural approach, an artificial one, or a combination of both.

When selecting a feeder, keep these points in mind:

- ◆ Glass feeders are easier to keep clean than plastic ones.
- ◆ Discourage bees from visiting your feeder by purchasing one with bee guards.
- ◆ Purchase a feeder with red parts since red seems to attract hummingbirds.

Commercial feeding solutions are available, but you can make your own sugar water solution in just a few minutes (see Bird Feeding Tips).

Place your feeder in an area that is shaded, protected from the wind, and near perching sites and cover.

Many native and exotic plants attract hummingbirds. They seem to favor red tubular flowers such as scarlet salvia, fuchsia, and cardinal flower.



■ ■ ■ Bird Feeding Tips



- ◆ Offer seed in feeders at different levels and on the ground to increase visitor variety. Suet feeders are especially valuable in winter and will attract woodpeckers, flickers and nuthatches.
- ◆ Place feeders where birds are not vulnerable to window collisions and predators such as domestic cats.
- ◆ Regularly disinfect feeders with a 5% bleach solution to prevent diseases.
- ◆ Hummingbird Sugar Water Solution: one part sugar to four parts water. For example, combine $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar with one cup of water, boil, let cool, and fill the feeder. Store leftover solution in the refrigerator. Adding red food coloring is not necessary.
- ◆ Clean hummingbird feeders every three days by rinsing with hot water without soap.

