

BIRD	Finches	Chickadees Nuthatches	Groosebeaks	Sparrows Juncos	Blackbirds	Jays	Woodpeckers	Doves Quail
Black-oil Sunflower	★	★	★	★	○	○	○	
Proso Millet (Red & White)	★			○	○		○	○
Cracked Corn (<i>fine pieces</i>)				○	★	★		★
Thistle	★			○				○
Suet		★				○	★	

★ Preferred

○ Readily Eaten

Providing Suet

*Suet, an animal fat, is attractive to many insect-eating birds such as chickadees, woodpeckers, and nuthatches. Suet is the hard, dry fat from the kidney area of large ungulates such as cattle, sheep, elk, and deer. Suet is strictly a wintertime food, because it turns rancid when temperatures rise above 70 degrees Fahrenheit. It is best to offer seeds and suet in separate feeders, rather than providing seed-filled suet cakes. Many seed-eating birds do not like suet and can become covered with the fat when trying to pick seeds out of the mixture. Also, birds appear to prefer plain beef suet over commercial suet cakes.

Choosing Seeds

*Birds eat a variety of foods, including insects, berries, and rodents. Since most of these food items are difficult to provide in a feeder, it is fortunate for Nevada bird watchers that most winter birds around our homes feed primarily on seeds.

***Black oil sunflower** is the seed that will attract the greatest number of bird species. When a mixture of seeds is provided, many species will feed exclusively on the sunflower seeds. Birds that eat **millet** prefer white over red. Also, **thistle** (niger) is the seed of choice for small finches such as the goldfinches and pin siskins. Premixed wild bird feed can also be purchased.

Why Feed Wild Birds?

*If you feed birds you are good company. Approximately 86 million American provide food for wild birds. As a nation, we spend over 1 billion dollars each year on bird seed.

*Why do so many people spend so much time and money to feed birds? Because it is fun, and gives us the opportunity to observe birds. Also, we may be helping wintering birds by providing some of the food needed for winter survival.

Water

*Don't forget to provide water. In Nevada, water is scarce, even during the winter. A shallow pan, about 2 inches deep and at least 12 inches in diameter, should be filled with water each morning. It is important to make sure the water pan is cleaned periodically with soap and water. It also helps to routinely expose the dry pan to direct sunlight for a couple of hours.



Feeder Maintenance

*Bird feeders should be cleaned at least once a year by scrubbing them with soap and water, then dipping them into a solution of 1 part bleach and 9 parts water. Rinse well, and dry the feeders before filling them with seed.



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Winter Bird Feeding



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