



Attracting Wild Birds To Your Backyard

Attracting birds to your backyard provides hours of enjoyment for people of all ages. Successful bird gardens have three basic requirements: **food, water and shelter**.

FOOD: Feeders should be placed where you can enjoy the feeding activity from windows in your house. There are basically three different types for you to consider:

Tube Feeder — attracts tree feeding birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, finches and titmice. Use sunflower, safflower and nuts. Finch or thistle feeders are tube feeders with small narrow holes that allow finches and siskins to remove the Nyjer (thistle) seeds and prevent larger beaked birds from eating at the feeder. Peanut feeders have very large holes to accommodate the nuts.

Ground/Platform Feeder — flat tray feeder that attracts ground feeding birds such as doves, juncos, cardinals and robins. Use mixed seed with millet and sunflower or cracked corn.

Hopper Feeder — a seed storage bin that either mounts on a pole or post, or hangs from a tree or structure. Hopper feeders attract both tree and ground feeding birds. Use mixes high in sunflower seed.

Wichita's backyard birds include more than 40 species, each with its own seed preferences. To attract desirable songbirds, refer to the chart found on the back of this page for helpful advice when choosing bird food and feeders.

WATER: A steady supply of water, using bird baths, ponds and waterfalls, is often just as important as food when creating a bird habitat. The sound of moving water is especially attractive to birds. If you don't have a waterfall, consider incorporating a fountain into your landscape or install a small pump in your bird bath.

During extended cold periods when lakes and rivers are frozen, birds may have difficulty finding an adequate supply of water. Help your bird population by using a bird bath heater or a pond de-icer. These units are thermostatically controlled to shut off automatically when the water is not frozen or if the bird bath runs dry.

SHELTER: A diversity of plant life in your landscape provides birds with shelter from the elements and from predators. In a sheltered garden, birds also find places to eat, nest, roost, court, preen, and find food such as insects, fruits, seeds and nuts. Keep this in mind when selecting plants for your garden and when deciding where to place bird feeders and bird baths. Plants that will attract birds include the following:

Evergreens — Cedar, Juniper (varieties), Pine (varieties), Spruce (varieties), White Fir, Yew (varieties)

Shrubs — Barberry, Chokeberry, Cistena Plum, Cotoneaster, Dogwood, Euonymus (varieties), European Elder, Holly, Honeysuckle, Mahonia, Pyracantha, Quince, Serviceberry, Sumac, Viburnum

Vines & Ground Covers — American Bittersweet, Bearberry, Kiwi, Trumpet Vine

Trees — Birch, Black Locust, Cherry (varieties), Chokecherry, Crabapple (except 'Spring Snow'), Hackberry, Hawthorn, Linden (varieties), Oak, Serviceberry

With all three elements of a bird garden in place, you should have an excellent variety of feathered visitors. For added enjoyment, keep a pair of binoculars handy, along with an illustrated guidebook for bird identification. And don't limit yourself to just feeding birds. Refer to the chart found on the back of this page for information about attracting squirrels to your backyard diner.

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Attracting Orioles and Hummingbirds

Jelly and nectar feeders attract migratory birds like orioles and hummingbirds mid-spring through summer in Kansas. Orioles prefer grape jelly placed in a small dish or cup attached to an orange color shelter or wire frame.

- Orioles will stay in Kansas until mid-September and then make their 2,000 mile journey down to the Caribbean and Central America for the winter.

- Hummingbirds are attracted to red feeders that are filled with a sugary nectar. Nectar is sold as a pre-made liquid or a powder to mix with water. Planting brightly colored-trumpet shaped flowers like zinnia, petunia, beebalm and trumpet vine will ensure your yard is a favorite spot throughout the summer for you new friends.

FOOD TYPE	Blue jays	Cardinals	Chickadees	Doves	Ducks, Geese	Finches	Juncos	Nuthatches	Pine Siskins	Robins	Sparrows	Squirrels	Woodpeckers	Wrens	<i>It's important to choose the correct bird feeder for the birds you want to attract.</i> PREFERRED FEEDER
Shell-less Select	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Tube or Ground
Cardinal Mix Sunflower Seeds	•	•	•			•		•	•		•	•			Tube or Ground
Corn (Cob)												•			Feeder
Corn (Cracked)	•				•						•				Ground / Platform Feeder
Choice Finch Mix			•			•		•	•				•	•	Thistle Tube
Nyjer Seed							•		•						Thistle Tube
Peanuts (Pieces)	•		•					•				•	•	•	
Peanuts (In Shell)	•											•			Platform
Safflower		•		•											Hopper / Platform
Suet													•		Suet Feeder
Sunflower Hearts	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Tube / Platform
Wild Bird Mix		•			•		•	•		•		•			Hopper / Ground / Platform

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