

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BACKYARD MORE ATTRACTIVE TO BIRDS THIS WINTER:

- ✓ Provide a sturdy bird feeder that can withstand winter weather. Ensure that it's air-tight enough to keep the seeds dry.
- ✓ Place your feeder in a quiet area where it is easy to see and convenient to refill. Ideally, put it close to natural shelter, such as evergreen trees. Make sure the seed isn't blowing out of the feeder or getting wet. If it is, move it to a more sheltered spot. Clean your feeder regularly throughout the winter to help prevent disease transmission among birds.
- ✓ Think about bird safety. Make sure your feeder is in a location where predators can be detected and avoided. Keep the feeder some distance from reflective glass to avoid window strikes by the birds.



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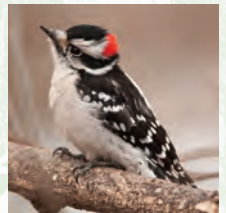
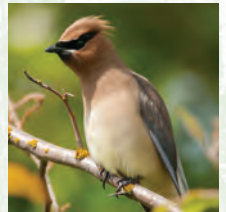
Your Winter Backyard Bird Guide

courtesy of the
Nature Conservancy of Canada

- ✓ Habitat loss is the leading cause of population declines in many bird species, so planting native vegetation is one of the best ways you can help the birds that visit you.
- ✓ In most locations across Canada, the best all-around attractant is black-oil sunflower seed. Take the time to research whether your visitors prefer seeds or suet. No matter what you feed them, once you start feeding birds for the winter season it is critical that you continue to do so, as some birds will become dependent on your feeder for their survival, especially in cold weather. If you plan to be away, ask a neighbour or friend to refill your feeders, as needed.
- ✓ Provide a bird bath and arrange a few branches or stones in the water so that birds can stand on them and drink without getting wet. Research different ways to keep the water from freezing in cold weather.

This winter, enjoy watching your backyard visitors come and go from the bird feeder. Since this brochure provides just a small selection of birds that you might see in your area, seasoned birders might like to pass it along as a way of introducing friends and family to this delightful pastime.

Toll-free 1-800-465-8005
natureconservancy.ca



Photos: house finch by Peter Kremenarov; northern cardinal by Gerald Deboer; common redpoll by Mircea Costina; cedar waxwing by Stuart Clarke; downy woodpecker by Gerald Deboer; white-breasted nuthatch by Gerald Deboer; evening grosbeak photo by NCC; blue jay by Gregg Williams; black-capped chickadee by Jason Cheever; dark-eyed junco by Matt Cuda.

HOUSE FINCH



FOUND IN SOUTHERN AREAS OF CANADA

A regular visitor to bird feeders, house finches favour black-oil sunflower seeds. They also enjoy wild or cultivated fruit and tree sap. House finches are sometimes confused with purple finches, a close relative that also visits bird feeders.

NORTHERN CARDINAL



FOUND IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO, QUEBEC, NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA

The best months for seeing a northern cardinal are November to March when they often visit backyards and feeders, especially at dawn and dusk. Females are one of the few songbirds that sing, often while sitting on the nest.

COMMON REDPOLL



FOUND ACROSS CANADA

Common redpolls have throat pouches to temporarily store seeds for eating later. They may fill their pouches with seeds quickly then fly away to swallow the seeds in a more protected, warmer spot.

CEDAR WAXWING



FOUND ACROSS MUCH OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL CANADA

In winter, cedar waxwings visit gardens for berry bushes and to splash and drink from fountains or bird baths.

DOWNY WOODPECKER



THE MOST COMMON SPECIES OF WOODPECKER IN MUCH OF CANADA

Downy woodpeckers have a long, barbed tongue and sticky, glue-like saliva, which helps them catch insects.

EVENING GROSBEAK



FOUND ACROSS SOUTHERN CANADA

Evening grosbeak's preferred habitat is thick coniferous forest, but it has successfully adapted to mixed deciduous habitats. In winter, they will often visit backyard bird feeders, especially in rural areas.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH



FOUND ACROSS MUCH OF SOUTHERN CANADA

White-breasted nuthatches can descend head downwards on tree trunks and branches. Their preferred habitat is open deciduous or mixed forest, which can include urban and suburban green spaces.

BLUE JAY



FOUND IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHEASTERN CANADA

Blue jays appear to have vivid blue feathers, but the colour is actually a trick of the light. These birds are common in urban and suburban areas, especially where large oaks are present.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



FOUND ACROSS CANADA

This bird can remember where it hid food for at least 28 days. To conserve energy, it drops its body temperature at night by 10 to 12 degrees (Celsius).

DARK-EYED JUNCO



FOUND ACROSS CANADA

A widespread and common small sparrow, dark-eyed juncos are most familiar as winter visitors to bird feeders.