

FEEDING THE BIRDS AT EXTON STATION

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Objective: To provide an environmentally friendly location for the birds to feed and for the residents to enjoy the watching of the birds, while mitigating the risk of attracting unwanted ground animals.

Feeder Locations:

- Set up your feeders in a quiet place where they are easy to see and convenient to refill.
- Ensure feeders are securely hung. Unwanted ground animals will attempt to get at the food in feeders even if they find they can't actually get to the food.
- Absolutely no ground feeding of any kind. No scattering food outside of your home and no dishes or containers left outside on the ground to feed birds.
- Suggested to have bird feeder at least 30 inches off the ground.
- Choose feeder locations that are removed from outdoor areas shared with your immediate neighbors (such as doorways, walkways, shared decks). Feeding birds should not negatively impact other Exton Station residents.
- The landscaping crew keeps our property looking nice. The location of your feeders must not impede landscaping or snow removal efforts.
- For more information please refer to the Cornell Lab Dos and Don'ts of Feeder Placement http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citsci/take-action/2014/11/dos-and-donts-of-feeder-placement/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=fdd1ecaf95-Cornell+Lab+eNews+2014+12+04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-fdd1ecaf95-304699321

Cleaning of Feeders:

- Keep area around feeders clean and tidy to insure healthy birds, deter unwanted ground animals and maintain attractive neighborhoods. <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=1183>
- Moldy or decomposing seeds and hulls that accumulate on feeder trays can make birds sick. Thoroughly clean your feeders about once every two weeks, and more often during times of heavy use or wet weather.
- Wash each feeder thoroughly.
- Dry the feeders thoroughly before refilling.
- Clean the ground below your bird feeders. It is the home owners responsibility to keep the ground clean. Bird food scattered on the ground can attract unwanted ground animals. Moldy or spoiled food is unhealthy both for birds and for outside pets. Feeders with a tray to collect the bird food droppings is an option to attach to the bottom of the feeder.

Storage of Bird Food:

- Keep you bird food supply indoors. Storage on patios and decks may attract unwanted visitors.
- Unwanted ground animals often feed after dark so it is best to supply small amount of food each morning.

SUGGESTED TYPES OF BIRD FEEDERS

Acceptable Feeders

(all from Amazon for under \$50, local retailers also carry in the Spring)

This style bird feeder discourages squirrels and offers multiple feeding points. Please note the photos are examples of a type of bird feeder and other feeder may be acceptable. Key benchmarks of a feeder used should be small perches that fit birds such as finches, sparrows and chickadees. These smaller birds with smaller beaks will cause less seed to drop. The additional pieces of exterior caging is preferred but not required.



Additionally smaller suction cup style feeders like this one contain only a small amount of feed, which is consumed quickly leaving less refuse for unwanted ground animals. This option is very inexpensive and perfect for young birders and those just starting out. Some versions also have a small cup for water.



For residents on the second floor of a building a clamp on deck hook, swing arm, or a rail mounted pole can be used for the bird feeder. There are extension poles that are also available.



SUGGESTED BIRD FOOD

<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Not Recommended</i>
<p>Hulled seeds, including sunflower chips/hearts, shelled peanuts/peanut chips, cracked corn, and hulled millet (“no waste” foods).</p> <p>“Single type” feeding is preferred – in other words, all sunflower hearts or all peanuts. If there is a mix, birds will kick and sift through for their favorites. The sifting causes ground mess, which is then easily accessible to unwanted ground animals. The key is to keep the ground mess to an absolute minimum.</p> <p>(Note: Unwanted ground animals will eat hulled seeds, so this is where feeder selection becomes important.)</p>	<p>Seeds in the shell. Seeds, per se, don’t “attract” unwanted ground animals; however, the odor of the shells/rotting shells on the ground attracts unwanted ground animals.</p> <p>Cheaper seed “mixes”. These contain lots of filler, which leads to sifting, ground mess and rot. (See also “milo” reference below.)</p>
<p>Niger (nyger), also called thistle. Many birds like it, but unwanted ground animals do not.</p>	<p>Fruit of any kind (unwanted ground animals love fruit and are drawn to the odor); any seed/suet that has a fruit flavor or component</p>

Safflower seeds (simply not palatable to rodents) and thus a great single-source feeding option	Avoid milo (red pellets often found in mixed seed bags). It's used as cheap filler and is not appealing to most birds. They'll just kick it aside.
Hummingbird feeders/nectar are okay.	Seems obvious, but no kitchen scraps.
To keep away unwanted ground animals, you can buy peppered bird seed or you can pepper any bird seed by mixing cayenne pepper with the seed before putting it in the feeder. Birds don't mind the taste of pepper. In addition, Fire Mix can be purchased which is natural ingredients.	No suet, since this attracts bugs and unwanted ground animals.
<i>Resources for Rodent-Free Feeding Solutions</i>	
<p>Pickering Valley Feed - on 113 and Gordon Dr. Great selection of feeders and trays that match; good selection of bagged food.</p> <p>Agway on Matlack St. right off 202 A few feeders; great food - bagged and bulk; good selection of pepper food; no trays</p> <p>Marchwood Hardware off Rt. 100 in Marchwood Center Good selection of feeders; no trays; medium selection of food, no bulk</p>	
<p>Wild Bird in Devon Shopping Center Only trays that attach to 1" round pole; good bagged and bulk food</p> <p>Home Depot - on Rt. 30 and Target on Rt 100 A few feeders; no trays; not much food</p> <p>Concord Pet – West Chester, Rt. 3 No waste bagged food; decent selection of feeders and accessories</p> <p>Amazon.com Numerous no waste food options – delivered to your door; numerous pepper suet options at competitive prices, including bulk cases</p>	
<i>Useful Links for Additional Info.</i>	

<http://www.wbu.com/education/rodentremedies.html>

<http://marin.wbu.com/content/show/45387>

<http://www.todayshomeowner.com/how-to-keep-mice-rats-and-squirrels-away-from-bird-feeders/>

<http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/4802.htm>

<http://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/lifestyle/22190424.html>

<http://animals.pawnation.com/bird-feeders-rats-3516.html>

<http://birding.about.com/od/birdfeeders/tp/Top-10-Bird-Feeding-Mistakes.htm>

<http://birding.about.com/od/birdprofiles/a/North-American-Winter-Backyard-Birds.htm>

<http://birding.about.com/od/birdfeeders/a/squirrelprooffeeder.htm>

http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/Specialized/Vector_Management/attractRatsMice.pdf

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/rats.html>

<http://www.city-data.com/forum/nature/1725831-rats-my-bird-feeder-help-please.html>

