



G O L D E N A C R E
H O M E & G A R D E N

SINCE 1967

Birding.

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GOLDEN ACRE
HOME & GARDEN

Why birds?

Seed eating birds keep weeds down.

Bug eating birds help with problem insects.

Bird song is relaxing.

Will attract other beneficial birds.

Help keep away problem birds.

Indicate ecosystem issues.

Bird watching is a fun activity.





Common backyard birds YYC.

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Blue Jay
- Grey Jay
- Robin
- Downy Woodpecker
- Sparrow
- Northern Flicker
- Bohemian Waxwing
- Nuthatch
- Hummingbird
- Owls

Attracting birds.

Nearly all wildlife can be encouraged by providing the following 3 things –

- Food.
- Water.
- Shelter.

Make sure they are obvious, clean, readily available and consistent.





Food!

- Be specific. Having nuts wont work if you want hummingbirds.
- Seed is the most versatile and biggest food group.
- Nuts are great for bigger birds.
- Nectar is for hummingbirds.
- Suet is suitable for a wide variety of birds and is essential in the autumn/winter months.

Water.

- Not just for drinking. It is essential for their preening and their oils.
- Birdbaths are the most popular ones. Ensure it is the right depth for the birds you want.
- Fountains are great for attracting birds. Low flow and shallow can double as birdbaths.
- Tupperware containers, puddles, sprinklers and more will work in a pinch.



Shelter.

- Shelter is essential for birds against weather and predators and for nesting.
- Trees are the perfect shelter for birds of every size and type. Ubiquitous and custom made for our feathered friends.
- Shrubs and hedgerows are great for our smaller and more social friends.
- Houses are a great alternative as we can custom them to what we hope to attract.





Inherent birding problems and solutions.

Squirrels.



Problems.

- Tenacious.
- Actively scare/chase birds.
- Destructive.
- Wasteful.
- Buddy system.

Solutions.

- Provide alternate food sources.
- Hang feeders in “safe” zones.
- Utilize metal feeders.
- Only use smaller seed (Nyjer).
- Prevent one, prevent all.

Wasps.



Problems.

- True pest.
- Actively swarm.
- Attack and kill birds.
- Deter birds.

Solutions.

- Use sprays as needed, do not spray on feeders
- Keep areas clean, if not being used remove.
- Hang waspinators and traps.
- Attract wasp eaters. (Corvidae)!!!

Corvidae.



Problems.

- Intelligent.
- Opportunistic.
- Destructive and wasteful.
- Aggressive.
- Loud.

Solutions.

- Provide unsuitable food sources.
- Hang specific feeders for them.
- Utilize metal feeders.
- Encourage more smaller birds.
- Understand they are beneficial.

Ants.



Problems.

- Deter birds.
- Attract other pests.
- Can bring mold spores.
- Just kinda gross.

Solutions.

- Use ant moats.
- Don't hang nectar until problem is under control.
- Treat the source.

Mold.



Problems.

- Dangerous to birds.
- Attracts insects and rodents.
- Can ruin feeders.
- Cross contamination.

Solutions.

- Only use fresh and clean feed.
- Rotate seed stock.
- Keep feeders clean.
- Keep bird feed dry and cool (refrigerated).



Birding is not an exact science.

- Dealing with wild animals is never an exact science. These steps are to help you to be as successful as possible. Be flexible, patient, recognize problems early, react quickly and ask for help.
- If you build it, they will come.

