

Offering Water

Water is vital to birds in the winter. About 70% of a bird's non-fat body tissue is water, which needs to be maintained to avoid dehydration.

Birds also use water in the winter to keep warm. By cleaning their feathers and grooming them with natural oils, they are able to fluff their feathers and insulate their bodies from the frigid weather.

While they are able to find some water in natural food sources like insects, berries, and even snow, when those supplies dwindle, the water you supply is even more vital. For Finches, who only eat seed, having a water supply is critical year-round.

Choose a birdbath with a hard plastic bowl, which can hold up to the expanding and contracting that is typical in cold weather. Additionally, choose one with a rough surfaced bottom so birds have something to grip. Consider a bath that contains a built-in heater system to keep water thawed. If yours does not have this, you may purchase one separately that is safe when submersed in water - as long as you use a quality extension cord to plug it in.

Our birdbath heaters and heated baths with cost only pennies a day in electrical cost. They are thermostatically controlled so they only come on when temperatures are approaching the freezing mark.



The More You Know

As the fall season begins and the temperature starts to drop, many migrating birds head south to warmer destinations. However, most of the wild birds in many backyards like Finches, Chickadees, Woodpeckers, and the well known Cardinal, stick around and endure the harsh winter months. Dark-eyed Juncos, on the other hand, actually start arriving in many states during these months.



Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com for information on birds in Winter and more!



Songbird Essentials'
Tips to Help Birds Survive

Winter

About Surviving Winter

Birds have a number of tricks they use to deal with the cold. The most obvious is simple, they are feathered. Feathers have the ability to trap air pockets, which serve as insulation. Also, like humans, many birds shiver when they are cold - a simple technique used to generate short term warmth. They will also roost together, huddled tightly, to create extra body heat.

Even with these tricks, wild birds struggle to survive the cold weather, and they need your help. Offering shelter, water, and food are among the most important ways you can help birds survive the harsh winter months.



SEAWFFF734
All Weather Feeder



SE534

Offering Shelter

The only reprieve birds have from the cold is when they can find a crevice or hole where they can hunker down. Though, these natural shelters can be few and far between and many birds will struggle to find one. For this reason, providing shelter for birds in the harsh weather is extremely important.

Consider hanging a Roosting Pocket from a tree. These pockets are made from all natural materials and blend in well with their surroundings, keeping your birds safe and warm.

Another option is a roosting box, a wooden box with an entrance hole placed low to allow the heat to be trapped near the top, where the birds roost. To save money, choose a bird box that converts into a bird house for spring nesting.

SERUBHF55



SE600



Offering Food

Natural food is scarce in the winter. This means that energy is scarce, and your birds need all the help they can get. Let them know they will have a reliable food source during harsh weather by having your feeders up and full in early fall. Keep your feeders clean and full of fresh, high-energy seeds like black oil sunflowers, sunflower kernels, and peanuts. This will keep their bellies full and also help them preserve energy they would otherwise spend on foraging.



SESEED135GC/ SESEED138GC/ SESEED139GC
Black Oil Sunflower

Offer the food in a feeder that has a top that overhangs a distance to keep the food and birds dry. If yours does not, you may purchase a separate baffle that hooks onto the hanger of your current feeder and offers protection.

Keep in mind, though, that if you are offering only hanging feeders, you are missing many birds whose preference is to eat at ground level - even when snow is covering the ground. These birds feel too exposed when up high and clinging to feeders. To cater to these birds as well, offer a feeder that sits on the ground and fill it with the same types of foods you would your hanging feeders.



SERUBSPF100