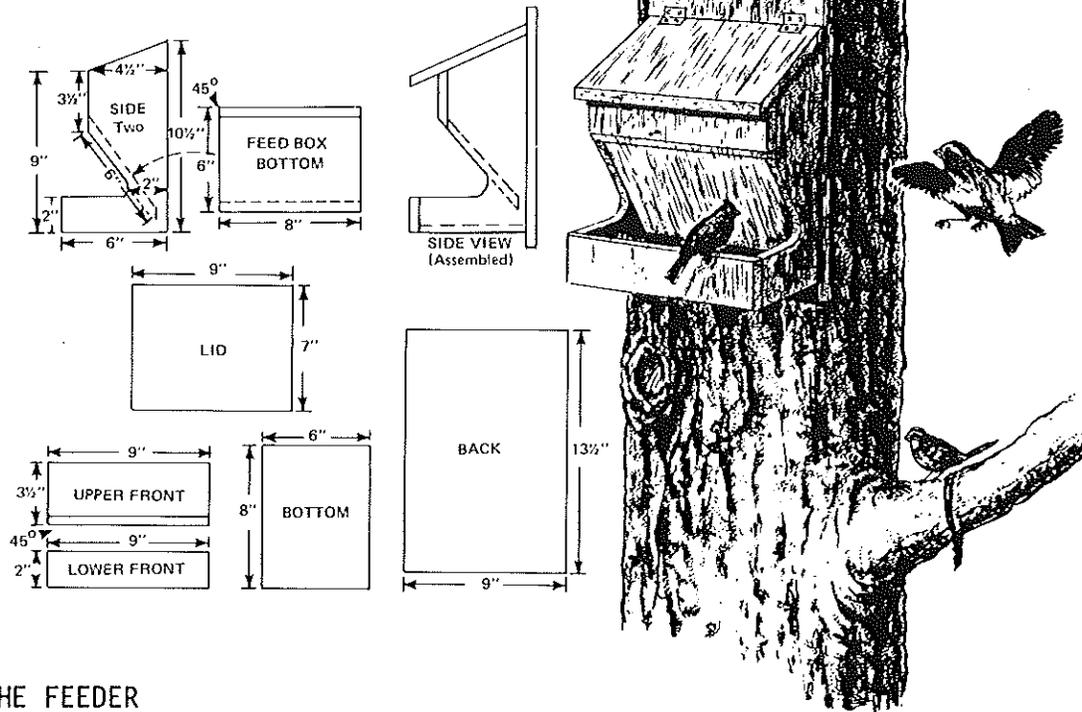




## Bird Feeding

### HOPPER TYPE FEEDER



### ERECTING THE FEEDER

Hopper type feeders lend themselves to placement against flat surfaces, on trees, or poles.

A 16 penny nail will work nicely when placing a hopper feeder on a tree, and causes no substantial damage to most large trees. If nails are not available, wire may be used by simply encircling the tree and the feeder. This method allows for relocation since it is portable. When using a pole, a radiator hose clamp may be fastened to the back of the feeder and tightened around the pole.

When selecting a location consideration should be given to areas sheltered and protected from the north and west winds. When possible select a location where the feeder may be viewed from inside the home.

The hopper type feeder, filled with food, and properly located will keep birds coming to your feeder.

### FEEDING

Winter feeding is valuable in attracting and holding birds. Food brings birds to locations where bird students can study and enjoy them. Feeding also keeps birds alive and healthy during severe weather, putting them in better condition for the breeding season.

Once winter feeding is started, it should be continued until late spring.

Birds eat many of the same foods humans eat. Apple is widely used by fruit eaters and many other species; American cheese is favored by chickadees, mockingbirds and brown thrashers; corn is widely used and an excellent source of energy during

severe cold weather; cornbread is favored by many of the most popular feeder visitors; dried currants and raisins are important to all the fruit eaters, especially bluebirds, robins, catbirds, and mockingbirds; doughnuts are well taken by many regular feeder visitors; peanuts and peanut butter are both widely used and an excellent source of energy.

Mixed bird seed containing many seeds and grains is important to the vast number of seed eaters present over winter; pumpkin seeds are widely eaten by many birds; beef suet is important to a large number of birds, especially to insect eaters; oatmeal is a popular food and sunflower seed is a favorite food, although an expensive one. Suet is taken by nuthatches, woodpeckers, and other birds that feed on insects and insect grubs during winter.

The following is a list of the foods eaten by different bird species. Nutmeats are choice foods for cardinals, catbirds, chickadees, crossbills, goldfinches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, titmice, woodpeckers, jays, and juncos. Dry seeds such as corn, grasses, and weeds are eaten by bobwhites, cardinals, doves, goldfinches, grackles, jays, juncos, pheasants, redpolls, siskins, sparrows of all kinds, thrashers, and towhees. Berries and fruits are important foods to bluebirds, catbirds, flickers, mockingbirds, robins, thrashers, and thrushes.

## HABITAT

Habitat is the total environment in which living things exist. To have more birds, we must see that they have a suitable habitat. This means providing food, water, cover in which to nest, rear young and escape enemies and severe weather. Good habitat is essential for attracting birds. Feeders and bird houses merely enhance good habitat and are no substitute for it.

Evergreens offer a place to feed and protection from severe winter weather.

Dense evergreens also are good escape cover. Some winter birds feed on the seeds hidden in the cones of several evergreens.

Trees are valuable to birds as sources of food. Juneberry fruits in June, and provides fruit throughout the early summer. Those providing summer food include wild black cherry, choke cherry, wild red cherry, mulberry, black gum and hackberry. The hackberry tree is also a good food source well into the winter. Fall food sources include hawthorn, crabapple, sassafras, mountain ash, flowering dogwood and beechnuts -- and the oaks for their acorns. American holly is a winter food source, as are birch trees for their buds, and tulip trees and boxelders for their seeds, which are retained into winter.

Dogwoods are valuable as food sources. Moist locations are good for winter-berry, elderberry and spicebush. All the fruiting viburnums -- maple leaf, arrow-wood, highbush cranberry, blackhaw, and nanny berry -- are highly desirable for their fall fruits. Vines such as wild grapes, bittersweet, greenbrier and woodbine provide food, cover and beauty.

Blueberry and cotoneaster are good hedge plants that also provide food. Honeysuckle is good for summer berries that attract the fruit eaters. Hazelnut provides nuts without taking up much space. Mulberry trees attract birds during their long fruiting season.

Hummingbirds are attracted to bee balm, cardinal flower, columbine, four-o'clock, gladiolus, hibiscus, honeysuckle, butterfly weed, nasturtium, trumpetvine and zinnia.

Mourning doves, cardinals, towhees, brown thrashers and song sparrows are attracted to the seeds of bachelor's button, bell flower, columbine, cosmos, marigolds, phlox, and farm crop grains.

## REFERENCES

Useful field guides include Roger T. Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds" and "Birds of North America, A Guide to Field Identification" by Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Brunn and Herbert S. Zim.