



Wild Bird Trading Co.

Your backyard feeding specialist.

Spring Bird Feeding



As winter howls to a close and spring becomes more than a feeling in the air, Canadian wild birds will begin to drift home from the south to their own northern backyards. Here are a few tips on spring bird feeding to help welcome our “snowbirds” home.

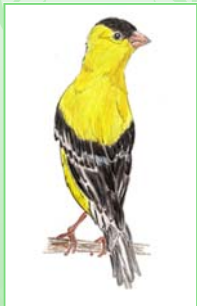


Many birds, in their instinctual eagerness to return will arrive home before Mother Nature has set her buffet. The early days of spring, while rejuvenating for the backyard birder, can be hungry ones for our feathered friends. It is therefore important to feed the birds throughout the spring season. Remember that seed eating birds will have very few natural sources of food until the plants in their natural environment come to seed. Thus, any wild bird seed that you provide in your feeder will certainly be beneficial



Spring heralds, not only the return of our Canadian wild birds, but also the birth of a new generation. In these months of renewal the bird population will nest and bear their young and to help bring to fruition these delicate creatures, food, and water become more essential than ever. Parenting birds will dispense enormous amounts of energy nest building and nourishing their babies. They will therefore require extra energy to sustain their endeavours. Any bird seed you provide at this time will have far reaching effects. Be sure to make water available as well, for water is not only essential but also for nest construction.

Birds also require calcium for egg production. A good manufacture of wild bird seed will have a seasonally adjusted mix that includes calcium in the spring. Or, the backyard birder may simply wish to add calcium, in the form of crushed egg or oyster shell, to his or her favourite seed.



The warmer weather will also make the return of our migratory fruit eating birds. To attract these varieties, you may wish to put out slices of fruit to help tempt them back to your backyard after their long winter absence. Don't forget to provide nectar for the hummingbirds and orioles.

To prepare properly for the return of our wild birds, a little “spring cleaning” is always in order. Remember to wash out the hummingbird and oriole feeders, making certain that all feeding ports are clear of residue. A crystal clear feeder will help to attract these dainty birds and will keep them healthy, as well spring also marks the return of the Purple Martins and only thorough cleaning of your martin house will help to entice those fussy birds, for they refuse to nest in a dirty house!



Spring bird feeding would not be complete without mention of our wild finches. While many finches are with us throughout the winter, they do become more apparent in the warmer weather, particularly the male American Goldfinch, who celebrates the first days of spring with a change in colour, transforming from dull olive green to brilliant yellow! Spring then, is a good time to stock up a wild finch mix or Nyjer seed, to help draw these delightful birds to your yard. Of course, during dandelion season, nature will lend a hand in that regard!

Spring bird feeding can be the most fun for all, for at this time of year, we have the pleasure of attracting a greater variety of birds, in the peak of their glorious plumage. They transform our backyards into carnivals of colour, filling out gardens with their songs, and awaken within us a spirit that soars only with the spring.

