



Wild Bird Trading Co.

Your backyard feeding specialist.

Why are few or no birds coming to my feeder?

- Spread some loose seed around the bottom of the feeders. This could be more visible to passing birds and they will discover the feeders above.
- Always use “new crop” seed. Old crop is usually ignored by birds once the new crop is available. (Mill Creek is always New Crop)
- Make sure the seed is dry and free from mould.
- Nyjer seed can “bridge” at the port so the birds cannot reach the seed inside the tube. If this happens it may appear that the feeder is full while no birds are using the feeder. Simply tap the bottom of the feeder to release the seed to fill the cavity around the port hole.
- Check for a new predator in the area. A neighbour's cat or a predatory bird like a hawk. Ask your neighbour to tie a bell around the cat to warn your birds of its approach or simply block the cat from entering your backyard.
- Provide adequate perching and hiding places with trees and shrubs near your feeder so birds can flee and hide when danger approaches such as a predatory hawk.
- Check the time of day. Many birds prefer to eat at dawn and dusk. If you are checking your feeders at mid day you could be missing these birds.
- Check the time of year. Often in the spring and summer there will be an abundance of natural weed seeds that attract birds over the seed in your feeder. Dandelions and thistle seed will often attract finches over Nyjer seed. Wait a couple of weeks and you will get your birds back
- Birds tend to eat less in warm weather. Also, you will see fewer birds when it is raining.
- Check the cleanliness of your bird feeder and freshness of your bird seed. Take all of your bird feeders down and wash them thoroughly in a 10 percent vinegar solution. Allow them to dry thoroughly before refilling. Refill with fresh seed.
- If you don't have a water source already, add water! This is a magnet to most birds. Offer a tube type bird feeder and a platform feeder to accommodate both your perching birds and platform feeding birds.
- Avoid using chemical insecticides or fertilizers in your garden. Grubs and insects are good eating and attractive to robins, wrens, phoebes and woodpeckers! Use of pesticides can poison or deter these birds from visiting your backyard.
- Try moving the feeder to a new part of the yard. Sometimes the bird would like a better escape route.
- Sometimes there is simply enough natural food available in the area, that the birds won't visit your feeder. Be patient, as the seasons change and food sources diminish, they should return!

It can take as much as one month to get birds to a new feeder.