

Landscaping for Birds

As enjoyable as bird feeding is, the one area of this activity that is often overlooked is landscaping your yard to benefit the birds and other wildlife. Birds have other needs besides just feeding. While feeding, they still need to avoid predators or need a place for privacy. Having brushy areas or bushes near the feeders gives the birds a location to seek this sanctuary. Birds need to clean themselves. Adding a water feature, such as a bird bath, offers them this opportunity. Birds need building material for nests. Use an old suet feeder or mesh bag to offer them pet hair, biodegradable yarn, string, etc. Plus, you can always put up a birdhouse.

However, the greatest advantage for drawing birds to your yard can be influenced by your plantings. Hummingbirds are drawn to red plants like Bee Balm. Thistle, Black-eyed Susans, and Sunflowers will draw finches. But since most feeding occurs in winter, think about plants that offer resources throughout this period, such as Winterberry or Chokeberry. The berries of these plants are not high in sugar, and so they are not initially picked, nor do they rot quickly. Also, consider evergreen trees with their cone crops. Most nurseries can help you with your selection of plant material. Please consider purchasing only native plants, which are the most beneficial to our wildlife.



Bee Balm (Monarda)

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:32-7.12, which reads as follows:

“The Board of County Commissioners may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, conducted, sponsored, arranged, or provided for in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and may prescribe and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation.”

These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Permits: A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by Hunterdon County for any activity shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

Prohibited Acts: The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal law. Advertising, solicitation, ice skating, ice fishing, and any other on-ice activities, downhill skiing, bathing, fuel-powered model aircraft, the release of any animal, explosives of any kind, poisons of any kind, after-hours use, alcohol without a permit in a non-designated area, controlled dangerous substances, weapons, posting of signage, inappropriate attire, and climbing on, or rappelling from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

Regulated Activity: The sale of merchandise, aviation, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and sledding. Battery-powered model aircraft, and horses must be in designated areas, dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet, pet waste must be removed, camping/fires are by permit only. All groups of 15 or more must obtain a permit for use of any Park area.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Property: No person shall make, excavate on, destroy, paint, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources: No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People: No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

Vehicles: All the provisions of the N.J. State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only.

ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.

Enforcement: The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2. thru 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Penalties: Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

NOTE: County Park Rangers of Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summons, and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemental to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.

(Revised 12/2022)

Guide to Bird Feeding



Tufted Titmouse on Feeder



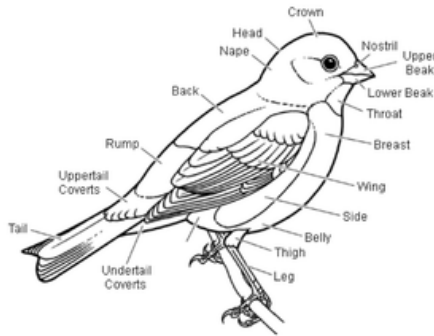
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Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Field Marks

Field marks are important visual characteristics on birds that aid in identification. When using field marks, it is also important to understand the topography and terminology of the bird. Below is a diagram showing the key points of interest in bird identification.



Animal Proofing

In most areas it is essential that seed feeders be squirrel proof. Squirrels will not only eat the bird seed but will also chew on the feeders. They can also cut the string suspending the feeder. Nothing is guaranteed to work in all cases, but these suggestions might be helpful. Suspend feeders at least eight feet from the ground and at least 10 feet from the nearest tree trunk or limb. Baffles are helpful and in most cases essential. Squirrels can sometimes be drawn away by providing a dangling dried ear of corn, away from the feeders.

When attracting birds into your yard, you should also take steps to protect the birds from cats. Placing feeders at least eight feet high in areas away from thick shrubbery and underbrush will help give birds time to escape. Bears can sometimes be a nuisance at feeders; especially in fall and spring. Hang feeders at least 10 feet high, and take feeders down at night if bears are very active in your area. You may need to consider not feeding birds if bears continue to be a problem.

Types of Feeders

Platform Feeders: The basic platform feeders are favorites because they generally hold lots of seeds and provide a perching area for several birds at a time. Covered feeders are recommended because they protect the food from rain or snow.

Hanging Feeders: These types of feeders include tube and bowl feeders. Most attract the smaller songbirds due to the small perches.

Suet Feeders: Many birds, especially woodpeckers and nuthatches, will be drawn to suet feeders. Suet, a hard type of beef fat, provides birds with a high-energy winter food.

Hummingbird Feeders: Hummingbirds will readily feed at hummingbird feeders. A home-made mix can be made from one part sugar to four parts warm water. Never use artificial sweeteners or honey. Hummingbirds are very territorial; never place feeders within sight of each other.

Notes: Feeders should be cleaned regularly with hot water and detergent. All wet or moldy food should be removed, as it can poison birds. Sugar solutions should be replaced every three to five days.



Northern Cardinal and Chipping Sparrows on Feeder

It is the policy of the County of Hunterdon to provide reasonable modifications to persons with disabilities. Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service.

SPECIES	PREFERRED FOODS
Blackbirds	cracked corn, milo, wheat, table scraps, suet
Cardinals, Grosbeaks	sunflower, cracked corn, millet, fruit, safflower
Crows, Jays	meat scraps, suet, cracked corn, peanuts, dog food
Finches, Siskins	thistle, sunflower hearts, millet, canary seed, fruit, suet mixes, peanut kernels
Hummingbirds	plant nectar, sugar solution
Kinglets	suet, suet mixes
Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Catbirds	chopped fruits, suet, millet, nutmeats, soaked raisins
Nuthatches	suet, suet mixes, sunflower hearts & seeds, peanut butter
Orioles	fruit, berries, sugar solution, grape jelly, suet
Doves	millet, cracked corn, milo, wheat, sunflower
Robins, Bluebirds, other Thrushes	suet, mealworms, berries, cut fruit, soaked raisins
Sparrows, Buntings	millet, sunflower hearts, cracked corn
Tanagers	suet, fruits, sugar solution, mealworms
Titmice, Chickadees	peanut kernels, sunflower, suet, peanut butter
Towhees, Juncos	millet, sunflower, peanuts, cracked corn, nutmeats
Warblers	suet, fruit, sugar solutions
Waxwings	berries, cut fruit, canned peas, currants, raisins
Wrens, Creepers	suet, peanut butter, bread, millet, fruit, peanut kernels
Woodpeckers	suet, meat scraps, cracked corn, sunflower, peanuts