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Hello everyone. In this issue let's talk about bird feeding. Most likely the majority of you feed birds at some time during the winter as it provides a great opportunity to observe wild birds. If feeders are placed properly, and have regular maintenance to keep the feeder, feed, and area around the feeder clean, they provide a good supplemental food source for your feathered neighbors.

Some things to consider when putting out your feeders are: placing them in an environment to help protect the birds using the feeders from predators such as house cats (keeping cats inside is best), and avian predators. The feeders should be placed in a quiet area of your back yard close to escape cover for the birds, but not so close the cats can lie in wait for the birds. About 10 feet seems to be a good compromise.



Moldy feed and accumulated bird droppings on the feeder can result in birds becoming ill. Cleaning your feeder is recommended at least every couple of weeks, and more regularly if heavily used or mild spells of weather promote the growth of mold. Wash your feeder with warm water and soap, then rinse in a bleach water solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. Dry the feeder thoroughly and you are ready to place them back into service. Don't forget to rake up material accumulated under the feeder; you may need to move your feeder around to reduce the buildup.



Can you tell what predator is in this bird feeder? Looks like the birds aren't the only animals being feed.

Having feeders near your large windows is great for observing but run risks for the birds by their flying into them, so to help prevent the reflections that look like clear pathways for the birds break up those reflections with streamers or other materials. A neat way is using hawk silhouettes.

Here is a good internet web site from Cornell University with many tips and other links to reference materials on bird feeding. http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/abtbirds_index.html

Have a great winter. If you have any wildlife questions I can be reached at 732-4132, or stop by the Wildlife Regional Office located at the Hatchery.

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