

Offering Peanuts, Fruit and Mealworms

The more variety of foods you offer the more your birds will enjoy visiting your yard. You can add spice to your backyard bird feeding setup by offering peanuts, fruit and mealworms.

Peanuts

Peanuts are high in fat and protein and can be offered in mesh feeders, on platform feeders and in other specialty feeders to attract birds such as titmice, jays, chickadees, woodpeckers and nuthatches.

It is fun to watch the behavior and antics of birds that come to peanut feeders. Some birds will yank the shells out of the feeder and may even stop to weigh their choices to make sure they get the heaviest peanut. Some birds will cache nuts to retrieve later, making repeated trips to feeders to gather food and hide it in a safe spot.

As with all bird feeders, it is important to keep your peanut feeder clean, especially during hot and humid weather. When peanuts get wet, they can become moldy. Mold or fungi can cause problems for birds and animals that eat the food.

Fruit

Adding fruit to your bird feeding setup may attract many of the fruit-eating birds that might not otherwise visit your seed feeders.

Fruit can be offered in hanging feeders, nectar feeders, on platform feeders or in wire feeders that hold pieces of fruit or fruit suet.

Raisins, grapes, orange halves,



apples, currants and cranberries can be used to attract a variety of fruit-eating birds.

However, attracting fruit-eating birds can take time and patience. Here are a few tips:

- Keep your fruit fresh and your feeders clean.
- Mockingbirds can be territorial, so fruit feeders may need to be placed away from other feeders.
- Having native fruit-bearing plants makes it easier to attract fruit-eating birds to feeders.

Mealworms

You can attract birds such as wrens, chickadees, bluebirds, mockingbirds, robins, thrushes, thrashers, catbirds, woodpeckers and occasionally, certain warblers to your yard by offering them mealworms.

Mealworms are the larvae of the Darkling Beetle. This larvae stage typically lasts for 10 weeks.

Mealworms can be kept alive in their dormant state for weeks if they're refrigerated and kept between 40 - 50° F (lower temperatures can kill the larvae). For longer storage they should be placed in bran flakes, wheat bran or corn meal in a container having air holes. A potato or apple slice should be kept in the container for the worms to use as a moisture source.

Because mealworms can crawl, it is best to place them in a feeder where they cannot crawl out. Any feeder that has smooth sides (but not wood) and can be easily accessed by the birds can be used as a mealworm feeder.

For more information, talk to one of our
Certified Birdfeeding Specialists



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