



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proper Bird Feeder Care Important to Bird Health

Carmel, Indiana - Feeding the birds is a very popular hobby in North America, second only to gardening. The recent Salmonellosis outbreak in the South and Southeast proves the importance of providing birds with a safe feeding environment.

“Responsible bird feeding techniques are crucial in helping contain the spread of disease among birds,” said John Schaust, Chief Naturalist at Wild Birds Unlimited. “Normally, people who feed the birds do not receive complete and accurate information on bird diseases or how to safely offer food and water to the birds,” explained Schaust. “We feel it is essential for those who enjoy the bird feeding hobby to understand the importance of proper feeding methods to promote bird health.”

Wild Birds Unlimited Recommends Responsible Bird Feeding

The following strategies will help improve the health and safety of birds when the spread of avian diseases is a concern:

- Clean feeders, bird baths and all hardware several times a week with a 10% bleach (one part bleach to nine parts water) solution. Rinse thoroughly and allow to completely dry before refilling feeders.
- Always keep the ground below and around feeders clean. Discard seed debris and bird droppings on a regular basis.
- Give the birds more space. If using multiple feeders, place the feeders farther apart from one another. This will reduce crowding and the potential for disease transmission between sick and healthy birds.
- Only use feeders that can be easily cleaned. Wooden feeders are difficult to sanitize. Temporarily remove them during outbreaks or replace them with feeders made of plastic or recycled materials.
- Remove open tray and platform feeders that allow fecal material and food to come into contact with each other. Use only feeders that do not allow the birds to stand in or directly above their food.
- Limit the amount of seed you provide. Offer only as much food as the birds will eat in one or two days. Clean the feeders and rake up the waste material in the area before refilling.
- Always discard any seed that has become wet.

“Wild Birds Unlimited is committed to keeping everyone safe and informed about issues that may affect the hobby of bird feeding,” said Schaust. “People’s safety and the health of wildlife are our primary concern.”

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For more information about backyard and responsible bird feeding practices, contact the local [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) to speak with a Certified Bird Feeding Specialist.

Wild Birds Unlimited is the original and largest franchise system of backyard bird feeding and nature specialty stores with more than 275 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in bringing people and nature together with bird feeding and nature products, expert advice and educational events. Visit the Web site, and shop online at www.wbu.com.

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