Top 10 Things Homeowners Can Do for Birds

You can help birds thrive in your yard and neighborhood all year by making it a safe location for them to rest, feed, and nest!

1. **Offer food & water**: Offer high quality dry seed, grains or fruits and avoid bread and other baked goods that can become mouldy and make birds ill. Place feeders at least 10 feet away from windows to reduce collisions. Clean feeders regularly. **Provide clean water, even in winter**. Bird baths need only be 1-2 inches deep with a shallow slope. Place baths close to shrubs and cover. Bird baths should be cleaned once a week.

2. **Keep pets under control**: Leash dogs in natural areas and in the neighborhood. Keep cats indoors.

3. **Break up windows**: Unbroken reflections cause birds to fly into glass. About 1-10 birds are killed annually for every building in North America. You can help by using bird-friendly glass or placing stickers, decals, shades or other ornaments in your windows.

4. **Bird friendly gardening**: Plant native plants that provide shelter, places to raise young, and food like nectar, seeds & berries in areas where birds are not likely to hit windows or become prey for pets. **Check for nests** before you trim bushes or cut down trees in spring and summer. Leave seed heads and brush piles in winter.

5. **Reduce use of plastics and put waste in its place**: Birds become entangled in plastic bags, fishing line and other garbage, resulting in injury, strangulation or easy predation. Dispose of hazardous household products properly.

6. **Check your house**: Install an approved clothes dryer vent cover. At night, **turn off the lights or close the blinds**. Migratory songbirds are attracted by lights and can be killed by colliding with lighted buildings at night.

7. **Avoid herbicides**: These poisons kill good bugs and get washed into streams and waterways. Choose natural or organic alternatives for pest control and lawn care.

8. **Become a scientist!** You can help by observing and noting the birds you see. Join the Great Backyard Bird Count, or sign up for a local Christmas Bird Count with Bird Studies Canada at www.birdscanada.org.


10. **Drive carefully**: Watch roadsides for wildlife, especially at dawn and dusk.

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