
WHAT'S ON THE MENU

undown of some of the foods you at your feeding station.

Seeds are food for many birds and ly available in prepackaged mixes in stores, garden supply shops, hardware agricultural supply stores, and some nters. You can fill your feeders with es or buy the different types of seeds ly and create your own mixes. (Keep hat some prepackaged mixes contain nds of seeds that are "unpopular" y birds.) Here are a few examples of erent types of seeds and the birds ct:

is eaten by doves, finches, sparrows, / other birds. There are many dif- es of millet. Common, or proso, ide appeal—especially the white

oeur seeds are a favorite of i, cardinals, chickadees, and many ls.

ver seeds are not quite as "pop- unflower seeds, but cardinals and er birds will eat them.

Niger ("thistle") seeds attract gold- finches, redpolls, pine siskins, and some other types of finches. (These seeds are best served in a hanging feeder. They don't "work well" on platform feeders because they're very light and can blow away easily.)

- **Grains**—You can spread corn, oats, wheat, and other grains on the ground, put them on a platform feeder, or mix them with other seeds and put them in a hanging feeder. (Grains usually make up a large portion of any commercial birdseed mix, and some are available separately in agricultural supply stores and other stores that sell birdseed.)

Note: Make sure you do not use grains that have been treated for planting. Some are coated with chemicals that are harmful to birds.

- **Suet**—Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice are all suet eaters. Many grocery stores and butcher shops will sell suet for next to nothing (and some even give it away). To serve suet, put it in a mesh onion bag and hang the bag from a tree. You can also spread suet on tree branches, put it in a suet log (see

the last suggestion under "Other Feeders"), or buy basket. You can also grir down, mix it with seeds i mixture in a foil pan.

- **Nuts**—You can include shelled nuts at your feed the nuts into small pieces ground or a platform fee peanut butter—either by suet or seeds.
- **Fruits**—Orioles, tanager others like to eat fruits. T halves to a tree branch o platform feeder. You can bananas, dates, or other and spread them out on Raisins are another favor they've been softened. (by steaming them or lett for a while.) A lot of birds but remember: PROVIDE ONLY. Dried, packaged bird's stomach and kill it.

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR FEEDING

/ the amount of food in a feeder ie eaten within a few days.

ling areas clean by raking up spilled grains periodically and wiping off ders.

fresh, clean, dry seeds and grains in ers.

- Put the feeders in places that are protected from the wind and that have lots of cover nearby.
- Plant trees and shrubs that provide food for the birds. Contact your state Soil Conservation Service office for information about the best plants for your area. (Look in the phone book under Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture.)
- Provide water at your fe- ting up a simple saucer t saucer that is at least 24 diameter. Set the saucer or right on the ground at inches (4 cm) of water. (birdbath every few days.



SEASONAL TREATS



No-Scare Scarecrow for the

- **Trim a Tree for the Birds**
Decorate an evergreen tree for the birds

have them scatter see bits of fruit and other