Bird Feeding Tips

Don’t let your birdseed get wet—a challenge in our climate! It’s better to put out smaller amounts more frequently than to have a lot of food rot. (If the birds have stopped coming to your feeder, there’s a good chance that the food has gone bad. Disinfect and clean your feeders regularly (at least every few weeks in damp weather). Use a weak bleach solution (1/4 cup to 2 gallons of hot water), rinse and allow to dry thoroughly before refilling.

Wash your hands after filling or cleaning your feeders. Rake away the old seed and husks that gather below your feeders.

Be aware of the health of your birds. Some species are susceptible to illnesses that are easily spread at feeders. If you are finding sick or dead birds at your feeders, stop feeding for a while (3-4 weeks), and clean your feeders thoroughly.

Black oil sunflower seeds are the favourite of many birds, so is a logical choice. Know your birds so that you can learn about their preferred foods.

Anna’s Hummingbirds winter in our area, and will come to feeders. Rufous Hummingbirds are here only in the spring and summer. 1/4 cup to 1/3 cup of sugar mixed with 1 cup of water is the appropriate ratio, even in winter. Make sure that the food isn’t frozen on our colder days. Replace frozen feeders with thawed ones.

Woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees and bushtits love suet. You can use beef fat or commercially prepared suet in a wire basket to attract these species.

Place your feeders within a meter or more than 4 meters away from your windows. Birds are often injured by hitting the glass when they are frightened away from feeders.

Keep your cats indoors. If that doesn’t work for you, keep them indoors for the first few hours after sunrise and before sunset, as this is when the birds are hungry and most active.

This pamphlet provided by rpbo.org
Outerbridge Park’s proximity to Mount Douglas Park, Blenkinsop Lake and the Loachside Trail make it a perfect stopover spot for a wide variety of species. Many more will pass overhead during migration.

This is a partial list of birds you might encounter while visiting Outerbridge Park:

- Rufous Hummingbird
- Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher
- Hutton's Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Steller's Jay
- Northwestern Crow
- Common Raven
- Tree Swallow
- Violet-green Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee

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- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Hooded Merganser
- California Quail
- Great blue Heron
- Turkey Vulture
- Bald Eagle
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Killdeer
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Barred Owl
- Anna's Hummingbird

- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Wilson's Warbler
- Western Tanager
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Spotted Towhee
- Chipping Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Red Crossbill
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- House Sparrow

- Different species require different food and habitats. Maintaining a variety of suitable and safe feeding, resting, and nesting sites is the key to bird diversity.