



Bird Feeders and Pest Management

Birding (Bird Watching) and feeding has become very popular in the last decade.

Spilled Seed and suet will attract other animals and non-native (pest) birds.

Rodents, such as Norway Rats, House and Field mice, Meadow Voles and Red, Gray and Southern Flying Squirrels as well as Chipmunks may become numerous and infest structures if this high protein food source is available. Native Shrews will feed on spilled seed and may also enter your home. Most people confuse Shrews with moles.

Pest birds and other feeding birds initially attracted to a food source will roost and nest on and in your structure. Non-native birds such as Pigeons (Rock Dove), European Starlings and House Sparrows are considered pest birds. Pigeons prefer flat ledges and Sparrows and Starlings are cavity nesters. Open soffits, gaps in fascia, moisture and exhaust vents will be readily exploited by these birds.

Native wildlife can become nuisance wildlife when a man made food source is provided. Coyote, Red and Gray Fox, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Opossum can cause problems when confronted by humans and pets.

If you must feed birds, here are a few tips to reduce unwanted visitors.

Utilize high quality seed. Most store bought seed contain fillers such as white and red millet and cracked corn. Most of this cheap grain will remain uneaten by birds and our native species. Birds will opt for the more nourishing feed such as Black Oil Sunflower seed. Safflower seed is usually rejected by squirrels and other rodents.

Hulled sunflower seed, sunflower chips and hearts will be consumed readily and will not leave the unsightly shells that can kill grass.

Niger or Thistle seed will attract beautiful American Goldfinches and is rejected by most animals.

Please call if you have any additional questions or comments.

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