



BIRD WATCHERS AND BIRD FEEDERS

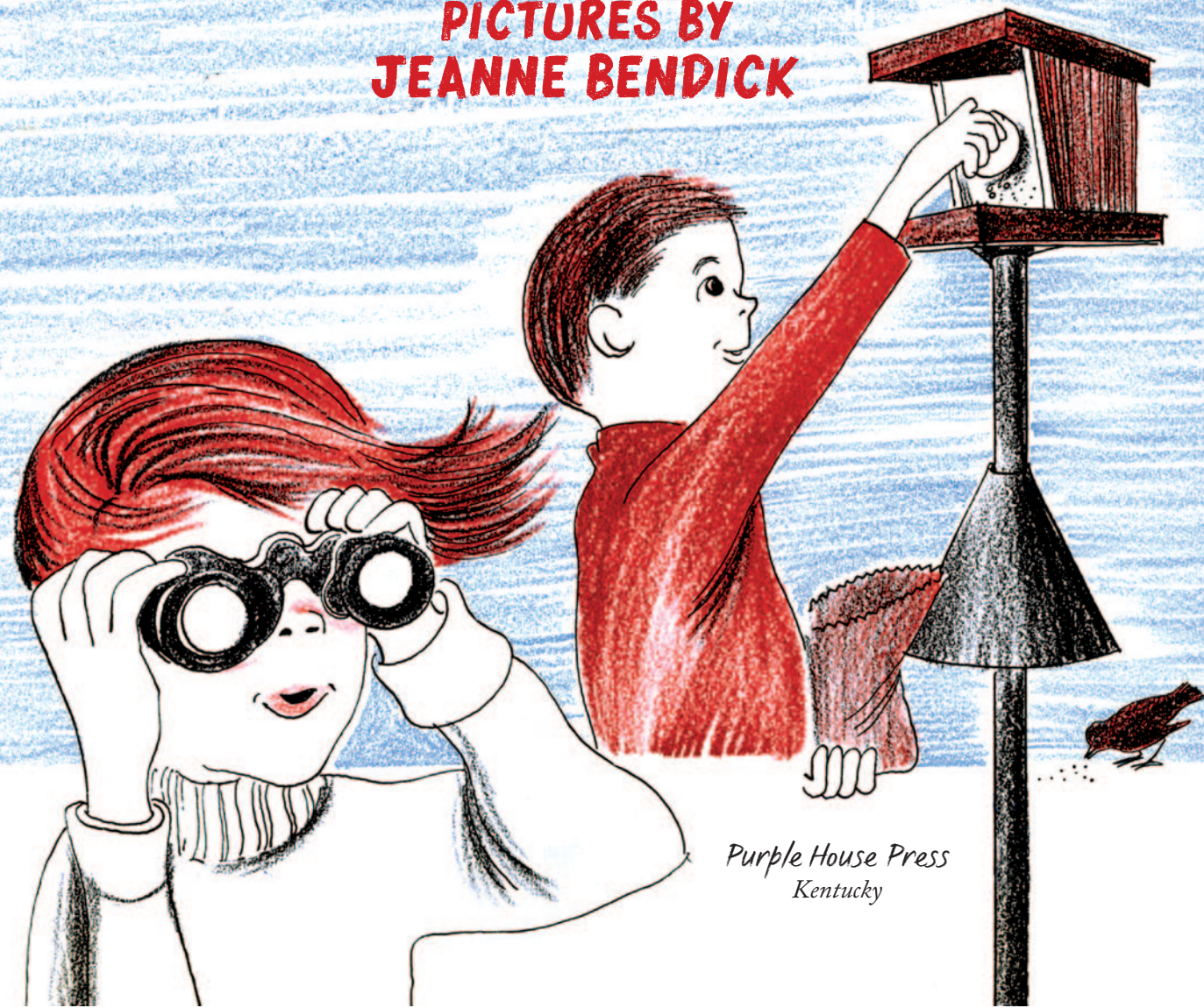
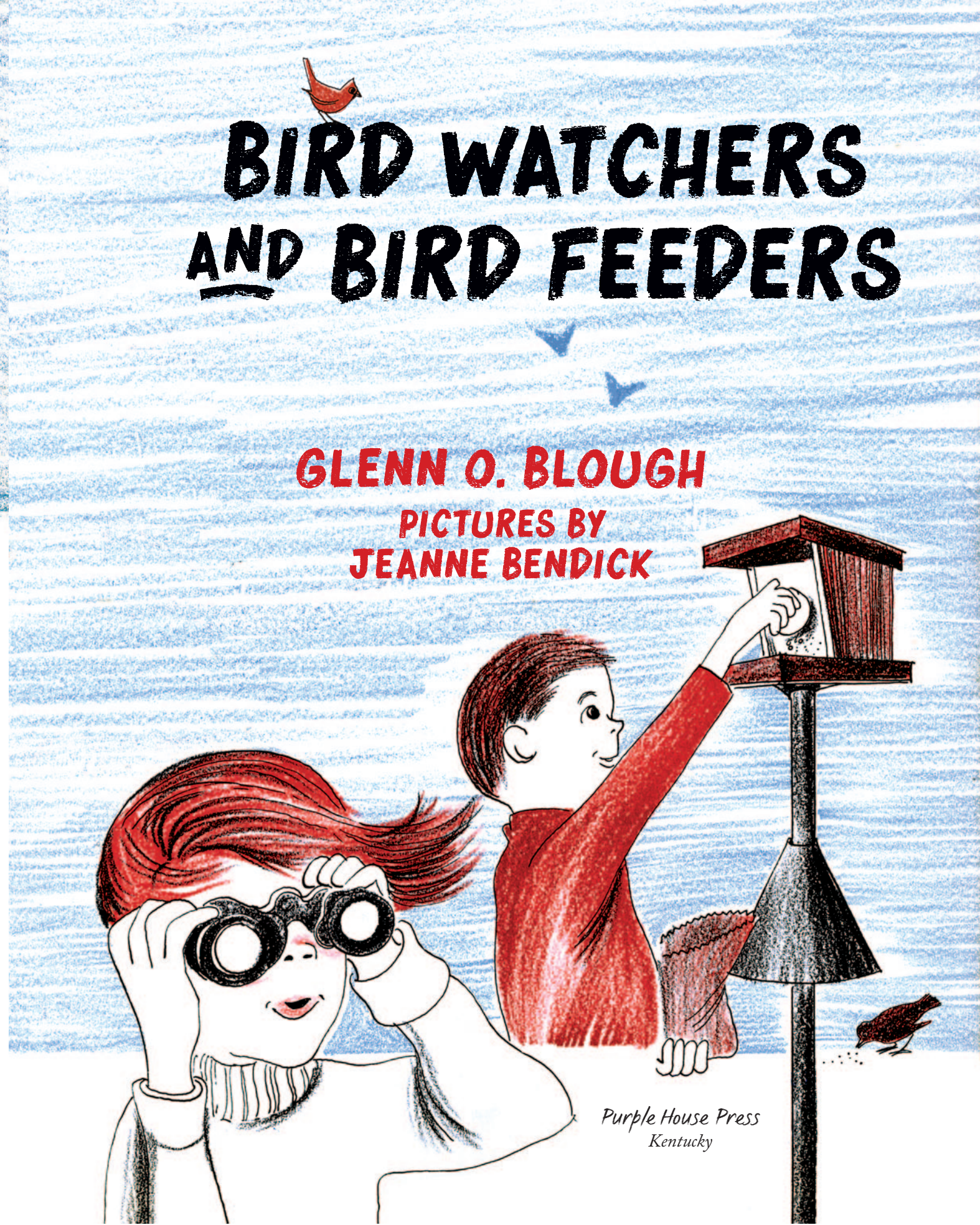
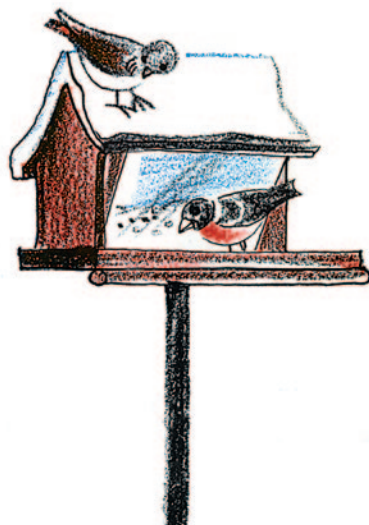
GLENN O. BLOUGH

PICTURES BY
JEANNE BENDICK

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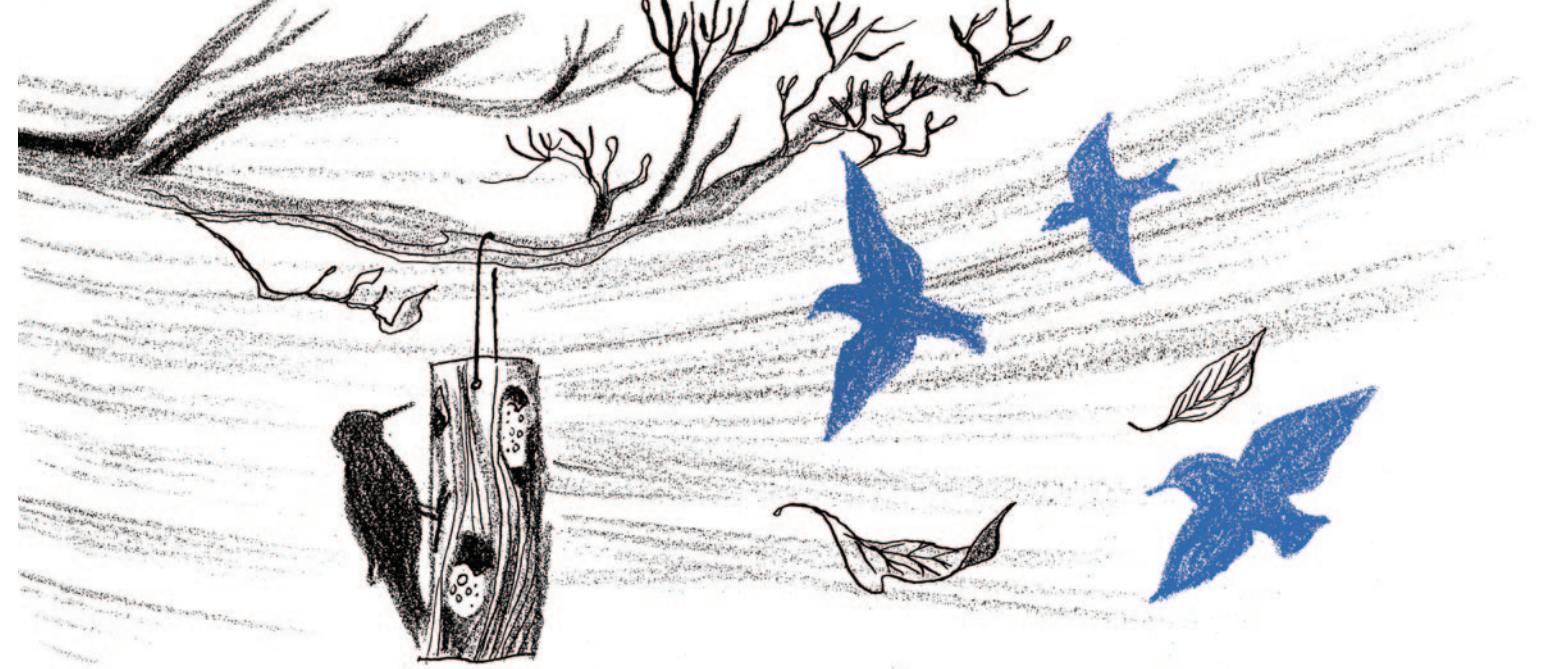
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AUTUMN

When the air grows cold and nips your cheeks and nose; when the leaves turn red, orange, gold and brown, and fall from the trees; when the sun comes up later and goes down earlier—then you know autumn is coming right up to your front door.

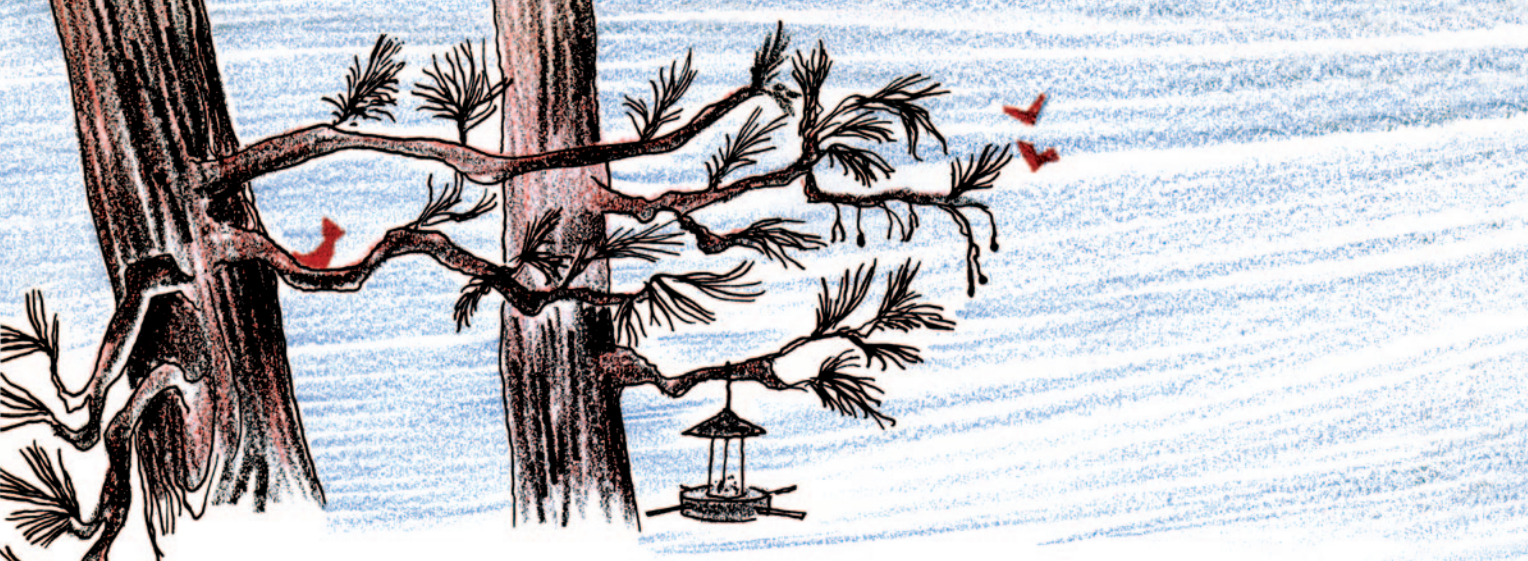
Autumn comes all over the United States. In the far South the air doesn't get nippy and all the leaves don't color up and fall down. In the far North the air gets nippier sooner and the leaves fall earlier.



There's another way to tell that autumn's coming to your door. Bird watchers can tell. They can tell without the nippy air, or the brown leaves, or the sun. And bird watchers can tell this in the north, south, east or west. They know that it is autumn by the birds they see, for in autumn birds are on the move. Bird watchers see birds then that they haven't seen all summer. Bird watchers never know what bird surprises they may find in their back yards when birds are on the move.

Some people think that autumn is the best time for bird watching.

If you set up a good lunch counter for birds, there's no telling what bird may fly down and pay you a visit and eat a lot and sing a little. You might even see a bird with a band on its leg. Bird watchers will tell you this can happen.



Why are birds on the move in autumn? How can you tell that it's autumn by watching them? How can you learn the names of birds? What do birds eat? How in the world would a band get around a bird's leg? Who would put it there? When? What for?

Wherever you live—north, south, east or west—birds will tell you the answers to some of these questions. Of course they can't talk. But they can show you the answers if you are watching at the right time and looking in the right places.

This is not a book about sea gulls and other birds that live near water and find their food there. It's not about hawks and owls and eagles that eat mice and other live things. It's a book about birds that will come and pay a visit to your bird feeder if you invite them with seeds and suet, and other foods that birds like.

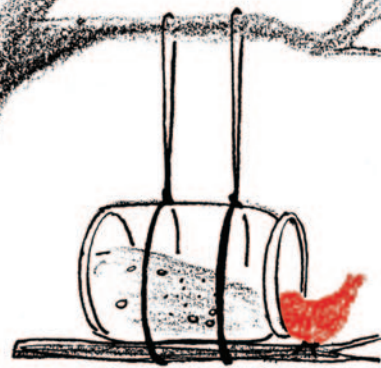
Why don't you make a bird feeder and see for yourself how birds behave when they come and go and peck and scratch and flit and fight?



A FEEDER

One of the best ways to get close to birds is to feed them. Birds are great eaters. They almost always have hearty appetites.

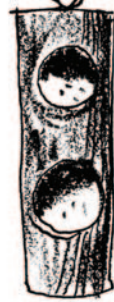
If you make a bird feeder, you can make some discoveries about the birds that are on the move around your house when autumn comes to your door. And you can make some discoveries about the birds that are around all through the year too. There are pictures of some bird feeders on the next pages.



You can make a feeder out of a big glass jar.

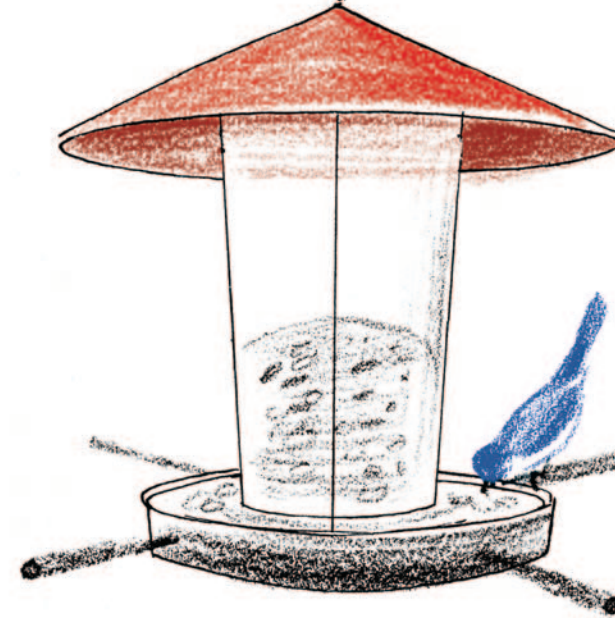


You can put your feeder on a stand.



Fill holes with fat and seeds, mixed.

You can hang your feeder from a branch, or fasten it to the trunk.



suet feeder



Your bird feeder will be a dandy stopping-off place for birds that are on their way south in the autumn or on their way north in the spring. It will be a fine lunch counter for summer bird visitors in your neighborhood and an excellent spot when food is scarce in the winter. Songs will come from it as the birds find their favorite food. Surprises will come from it when you see a strange new bird or when you discover something new about one of your regular boarders.

Some people make bird feeders and never a bird comes near. They may even put a sign on it: LUNCH IS SERVED.

That won't help. Birds can't read. You know what's the big trouble? The feeder may have been put in the wrong place or the wrong food may have been served.

The middle of a back yard is not a good place for a bird feeder. It's not good at all. Put your feeder near trees and bushes so that birds can sit on branches and look things over. Then if they like what they see, they can fly down and help themselves. If they spy a cat or hear a noisy car go by, or a door slam, they can fly back again to the branches of the bushes and the trees nearby and feel safe.