



# urbannatureNews

Your Local Birding & Nature Experts

Upcoming Events and More to Help Your Family Enjoy Birding!

Spring 2023

## Tips to Attract Orioles & Hummingbirds

by Jane Paradis

Orioles and hummingbirds are welcome visitors to our yards and gardens in the spring, and will be arriving soon! We can expect to see them in late April or early May. The Ruby-throated hummingbird is the only hummingbird we see in Eastern North America. Baltimore Orioles, also known as Northern Orioles, as well as Orchard Orioles are familiar guests in our region.

If you are trying to attract these birds to your garden, it's important to make sure that the feeders are visible, and not hidden in trees and shrubs. Hanging them from a pole system, shepherd's hook, or a bracket on a post is best. We suggest setting the table for their arrival by the third week in April. You can always put the feeders out empty, just make sure you have everything ready to go once they arrive.

You can welcome orioles with a variety of feeders as they like to choose from a diverse menu. Their favourite foods include nectar, grape jelly, oranges, red grapes (cut in half is best), mealworms and fruit flavoured suet. Nectar can be made with ¼ cup plain white table sugar to 1 cup boiling water. Stir to dissolve the sugar and cool. You may also purchase powdered or ready-to-use nectar. There are many styles of oriole feeders to choose from to accommodate their various food preferences! Separate feeders are available for nectar, jelly, oranges, suet, and mealworms, or you can choose the Ultimate Oriole Feeder which provides areas for nectar, grape jelly and fruit.



Classic Oriole Feeder  
(DY-C-30B)



Opus Oriole Feeder 32oz.  
(WS-449-2)



Prism Oriole Feeder  
(STK-38290)



Aspects Oriole Feeder  
(ASP-361)



Ultimate Oriole Feeder  
(SE-905)

There's nothing like watching a hummingbird dart through your garden in search of colourful tubular shaped flowers. They are especially drawn to red, pink and orange flowers. Hummingbirds are also attracted to hummingbird nectar feeders. These little jewels are used to feeding close to the ground, so their feeders can be placed on shorter hooks in gardens or planters. Window feeders are another option if you want to see them up close! Hummingbirds are very territorial, so if you can place a few feeders out of sight of each other, you may have the opportunity to view more than one hummingbird family! The most functional feeders for hummingbirds are saucer shaped models that include an ant moat. It's important to keep their nectar fresh, so filling a hummingbird feeder to the brim isn't necessary. Their tongues are twice as long as their beaks, so you don't need to worry if the nectar isn't filled to the top. Once you notice the nectar has become cloudy in hummingbird and oriole feeders, it's time to refresh.



Easy Mister  
SE-7019



Hummingbird Swing Welcome  
POPWELCOMERED



Square Bottle Glass Feeder  
WS-8116-2



Diamond Wine Top-Fill Glass  
Feeder WS-9102-2



Gold Top-Fill Glass  
Hummingbird Feeder  
WS-9104-2



Aspects Hummingbird Feeder  
ASP-441

If you'd like to see hummingbirds even more, consider adding a hummingbird swing close to their feeder. They will happily perch on these to rest... and defend their feeders. It's also important to provide water for these beauties, so a birdbath or mister would be a welcome addition. I'm looking forward to welcoming them back!



# Choosing the Right Bird Feeder



Bird feeders come in many shapes and sizes. Here are some styles to consider.



Mini Absolute II Squirrel Proof Hopper Bird Feeder

**Hopper Feeder** - a house shaped feeder allowing birds to feed from one or both sides.

**Platform/Ground Feeders** - a square or rectangular shaped feeder with no roof or side walls. Some are designed to hang from a branch or hook, mounted on a pole, while others can be placed on a table or the ground.

Going Green Platform Bird Feeder



Top Flight Copper Triple Tube Feeder

**Cylindrical Tube Feeder** - A cylinder shaped feeder which would hang from a branch, bracket or pole hook. Usually has two or more feeding ports unless it is made for clinging birds only.



Cedar Fly-Thru Feeder

**Fly-through Feeder** - A feeder with a base and roof, but no side walls.



The Gem Window Hummingbird Feeder

**Window Feeders** - Feeders that cling to your window with suction cups.

**Squirrel Proof/Resistant Feeders** - Feeders that are weight based designed to close when the squirrel's weight is applied.



Brome Buster Squirrel Proof Feeders

**Character/Whimsical Feeders** - Feeders designed in the shape of birds or other wildlife.



Cardinal-shaped Bird Feeder

**Hummingbird Feeders** - These feeders are made of glass or plastic and are designed to hold nectar.



Aspects HummBlossom Rose, 4oz.

**Bluebird Feeders** - Designed to hold mealworms.



Bluebird Joint

**Oriole Feeders** - Oriole feeders will hold nectar, fruit such as oranges or grapes, or grape jelly. Some models include more than one feature.



12 oz. Oriolefest Bird Feeder

**Suet Feeders** - Available in different sizes to hold one or more suet cakes. Several models are available including caged or weight based squirrel proof, upside down, or attached to a hopper feeder.



Recycled Composite Plastic Suet Feeder



Upside Down Suet Cake Feeder

## Product Of The Month (May)

### Fruit and Jelly Oriole Feeder

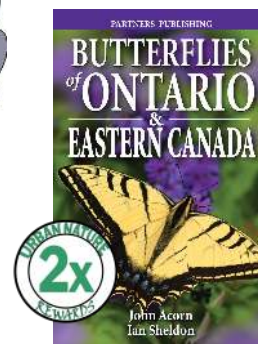
Our Best Fruit and Jelly Oriole Feeder. Bright orange color will attract Orioles to your backyard.

- Feeder is made from recycled material
- Holds more jelly than other oriole feeder
- Holds four orange halves



## Book Of The Month (May)

### Butterflies of Ontario & Eastern Canada



- User-friendly format, including a Quick Reference Guide for easy identification and Illustrations
- Butterfly biology and natural history
- Identifying features, wingspan, habitat and flight season for each butterfly



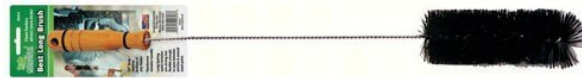
# Let's Get Ready for Spring Feeding and Nesting

The day's are getting longer, the sun is shining, and the birds are singing after a long winter of silence. This means it's time for some spring cleaning to keep the birds healthy and safe.

This is a good time to clean your bird feeders and bird houses. Acrylic feeders can be cleaned with one part bleach to nine parts hot water, or vinegar and hot water if you prefer. The first thing you will need to do is remove any old seed that has solidified inside the feeder with a bird feeder cleaning brush. After brushing the feeder out, soak it in the cleaning solution for at least 10-15 minutes. You can then scrub it again with the cleaning brush and a soft cloth. Rinse the feeder well with hot water and place it in the sun to air dry. If you have a wooden bird feeder you can follow the same procedure using a mild dish detergent instead of bleach or vinegar. If your feeders are mounted or hung on a pole, be sure to wash the pole with your choice of the cleaning solutions and rinse well. Don't forget to clean the baffle too.



Best Two-in-One Feeder Brush  
(SE-605)



Best Long Brush (SE-603)



Feeder Fresh Seed Preservative, 8 oz / 16oz.  
(SAL-FF-16)

Perhaps you moved the feeders closer to your house for ease of filling during the winter months. If so, you can now spread them out in different areas of your yard. Try to place them close to trees or shrubs for the birds to take shelter in case of predators. Rake up any seeds or shells that have accumulated over the winter and discard. You can also do some maintenance on your bird houses. You want to make sure they're clean and ready for nesting in case birds have taken shelter in them over the winter. If the bird house doesn't have an easy opening for cleaning, partially take the house apart with a screwdriver. Remove any debris or old nesting material. Clean the houses with hot water and mild dish detergent, making sure to rinse well and air dry completely. You will also want to check the inside of the bird house for any splinters or protruding screws or nails. Check to ensure the hinges are tightened. When mounting your bird house, position it so the opening is facing away from the direction of prevailing winds.



Coppertop Chickadee/Wren Bird House  
(WL-COPCH)



English Postbox Birdhouse  
(KIN-XBC-LTBX-D)



Convertible Roost Birdhouse  
(UNS-AHC2435)



Heartwood Wrenal House  
Birdhouse (HW-109F)

To help the birds along you may want to offer some nesting material. Natural materials such as dead twigs, pine needles, moss, as well as grass and leaves that haven't been treated with pesticides can be left in small piles, open baskets or added to a suet feeder. All of these materials should be cut into 2 to 4 inch pieces. Alpaca fur and natural cottontail nest building material is also safe to put out. Do not put out dryer lint as it may contain chemicals or fragrance from dryer sheets or detergent. Human hair is also too fine to put out as it could tangle around the birds' feet. Feathers containing dye and coloured yarn are also discouraged.

It's also a good idea to put out dried eggshells to help female birds replace calcium lost from egg laying. To do this, wash the egg shells and put them in a 250 degree oven for 20 minutes. Crumble and place them on a platform feeder or on the garden floor. By following these steps you will be able to watch the birds thrive in your garden.



Birdie Bell with Nesting  
Material (SE-WF91010)



Going Green Platform Feeder,  
Green (WL-32325)



Audubon 3-in-1 Platform Feeder  
(WL-NAPLAT2)



Bird Nesting Fibre With Alpaca  
Fleece (LSFF-1)

# Choices For Bird Feeder Placement



The most important factor to consider when choosing where to set up your feeding station is easy viewing and convenient filling for you. These stations can be set up in your yard, garden, deck or patio. Most feeders come with attached hangers which would work well on a 6 to 7 ft. pole. If the feeder needs to be mounted, a 5 ft. pole would be easier to view and fill. Augers and patio bases are available to accommodate your choice of placement. If you choose to hang your feeder using a wall or deck post bracket, it's best to choose one that is at least 18 inches to prevent squirrels from being able to reach the feeder.



Predator Defeater Raccoon Cylinder Pole Baffle (SE-SQR87)



Squirrel Defeater Super Snap-On Pole Baffle (SE-SQ86)



Sequoia Squirrel Proof Pole System JH-SEQUOIA



80-Inch Heavy Duty Feeder Pole Set w/3 & Twist Base (ETM-FP5TX-1)

Squirrel Stopper Pole Systems are an excellent choice to keep the squirrels and raccoons away from your feeders. These systems come with a solid auger, pole and baffle. To deter the squirrels from jumping to the feeders, place these 10 feet away from fences, trees, or deck railings.

**Sun or shade you may ask?** Birds are attracted to feeders in the sun or shade as long as they don't feel vulnerable to predators. If you live in a warm climate and you have shade trees in your yard, it would be more comfortable for the birds to feed in that area. Otherwise, placement close to the cover of trees, shrubs or bushes is always a good idea. Shepherd hooks are a good choice if you're just beginning, or adding a separate station for orioles or hummingbirds. These are available in double or single adjustable height models with a solid base to go into the ground. Single shepherd hooks in various sizes are also available. Whatever you choose, make sure the hooks are sturdy enough to hold the weight of your feeder/feeders. S hooks and branch hangers can also be used in trees or bushes and come in sizes from 1.5 inches to 54 inches.



12 Inch Branch Hook, Black



Quick Connect Coil Hanger, 8



Droll Yankees Observer Window Feeder (DY-OWF)



The Winner Multi-Purpose Window Feeder (DY-W1)



Transparent Window Cafe Feeder (ASP-155)

Deck railing mounts and clamps are also something to take into consideration, especially if you have a walkout basement and want to view the birds from the main living area of your home.

Window feeders are a good choice to observe birds up close. These are great for people of all ages, and are especially good for children and seniors. This style of feeder easily attaches to your window with suction cups.

## WIN one of 2 PAIRS - Vortex Diamondback Binoculars 8x42

### VORTEX GIVEAWAY - Join or Update your profile contest

\*To qualify a customer needs to either:

Create a New Member profile or for Existing Members, update their profile.

2 Winners will be chosen. Winner will announce on Monday **July 3rd, 2023.**

**Entry Deadline June 30th, 2023, Valid at Any Urban Nature Store Location**



Etobicoke  
100 The East Mall,  
Toronto  
**416-491-1417**

Mississauga  
3055 Dundas Street W  
Mississauga  
**289-999-5477**

Don Mills  
900 Don Mills Rd,  
North York  
**416-646-2439**

Oshawa  
370 Taunton Road E  
Oshawa  
**905-674-6168**

Pickering  
609 Kingston Rd  
Pickering  
**905-231-0459**

Kingston  
645 Gardiners Rd,  
Kingston  
**613-887-2735**

Niagara  
280 Geneva St.  
St.Catharines  
**289-362-2892**