



urban natureNews

Your Local Birding & Nature Experts

Upcoming Events and More to Help Your Family Enjoy Birding!

Winter 2023

PROVIDING WATER FOR BIRDS IN THE WINTER

This is an important time to think about how to provide water for your backyard feathered friends during the cold winter months. Birds find it very challenging to find open water for drinking and bathing in the winter, as many natural sources like ponds and streams freeze.

Adding a heated birdbath to your yard is a great way to help your local birds. If you already have a birdbath that can be left out in the winter, consider adding a birdbath heater. Heated birdbaths and birdbath heaters do not make the water hot, but stop the water from freezing. Once the temperature dips below -23 degrees Celsius you may see ice begin to form around the inside edges of the birdbath, yet there should still be open water in the centre. Water will also evaporate faster in heated birdbaths, so be sure to keep your eye on it and keep it topped up. I keep a 2 litre soda pop bottle by the back door to refill mine. Placing your birdbath in a nice sunny area will make it attractive to the birds. If you feel that your birdbath is too deep, place some stones in the bath so the birds don't have to immerse themselves if they're just there to have a drink. It's also important to keep the birdbath clean to make sure our birds stay healthy.



All Seasons Premium Heated Birdbath with Deck Mount
FI-HBI-150



12-Inch Heated Bird Bath w/
Metal Stand
API-400



Deck Mounted Heated Bird Bath, 20"
API-650



3-in-1 Heated Bird Bath,
Green - FI-GBD-75



20" Heated Bird Bath w/ Pedestal
API-670

Some of you may not have access to an outdoor electrical outlet. If this is the case, you can still provide water by placing large saucers, possibly planter bases, in sunny locations and refill them with water a couple of times a day. No need to use hot water as it freezes faster than cold water. Many people think that birds should be fine with eating snow, but this expends energy which they need to stay warm. Bathing is important in the winter. Birds will bath as a way to preen their feathers. This helps their feathers stay positioned which avoids gaps. Feather gaps can cause a loss of body heat.



Electric Bird Bath De-Icer
API-300



Farm Innovators Cord Connect
FI-BD-75



Economical Bird Bath De-Icer
FI-B-9



Indoor/Outdoor Power
Supply Cord, 25 ft/50ft



Premium Cast Aluminum
De-Icer 150-Watt (FI-C-50)

You will be able to observe different ways that birds stay warm over the coming months. You may see birds sunning themselves by turning their backs to the sun. This warms their feathers and heats their bodies. Birds often look fatter in the winter. Feather fluffing is what causes this. Down feathers are puffed out to make air pockets which will help hold body heat. Birds will also tuck one leg close to their body, or tuck their bills into their shoulders. We offer many different models of heated birdbaths including deck mount, ground mount, and free standing. If cats frequent your yard, a ground mount style is not the one for you. You will need an outdoor extension cord to run to your power outlet. A Cord Connect can be used to lock the cords together and keep the connection dry. If you would like to provide water for your birds this winter, please come and visit one of our store locations, we'd be happy to help you!

Urban Nature Store Fun Feather Facts

Black-Capped Chickadee

These small birds can live a relatively long life. The oldest banded Black-capped Chickadee in the wild lived 12 years and 5 months while the oldest banded Carolina Chickadee in the wild lived 10 years and 11 months. Most chickadees are non-migratory, so you'll often see them at your feeder in winter. They need up to 10 times more food in the winter than in summer.



Black-Capped Chickadee

Suet

Many flavors of Canadian Made Mill Creek suet are available at Urban Nature Store to help birds get the fat and calories they require during the cold months. If you are having issues with unwanted pests like Starlings or Grackles, pick up a Upside Down Suet. It is a great suet feeder that discourages these nuisance birds from hanging and gobbling up all of the suet.



Upside Down Suet Feeder.

Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers, like the hairy woodpecker, listen for the sounds of insects crawling and chewing in the wood of a tree before using their strong, sharp bills to capture their prey. Also woodpeckers have adapted to cling to trees with their stiff tail feathers act as a brace, forming a tripod with the bird's feet to stabilize a woodpecker as it hops up a tree and chisels into the bark.



Urban Nature Store Kids Corner



It's cold outside! Winter snow is here and it's the ideal time to get kids interested in fun, indoor activities. Urban Nature Store offers a great variety of puzzles, games, playing cards, and more to entertain the whole family! Many of our toys are designed to "teach" kids about nature and science, while providing fun. Puzzles are a great way for kids to build memory skills and are so much fun for the whole family to participate in. Urban Nature Store has puzzles for all ages in many styles to accommodate any preference. We even have a nice selection of puzzles for beginners to experts. Come see our kits that include everything you need to make them just the way you like. Drop by to any Urban Nature Store location or shop online www.UrbanNatureStore.ca for fun outdoor and indoor toys for kids of all ages.



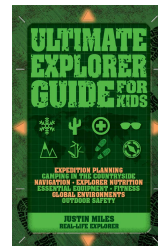
4M Volcano Making Kit
TS-3431



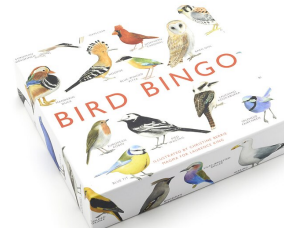
Professor Noggin's Wildlife of
North America OMG-11403



Log Cabin Birdhouse
LCT-909



Ultimate Explorer
Guide Book for Kids



Bird Bingo Game
9781856699174



Audubon II Singing
Plush Birds

Product Of The Month

Farm Innovators 3-in-1 Heated Bird Bath (Green/Orange)

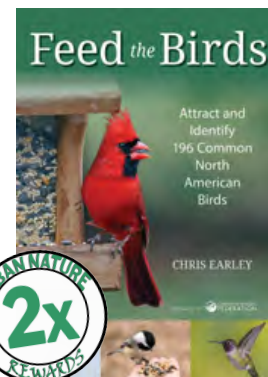


- Mounting for ground, deck mount, and deck clamp.
- Heater is thermostatically controlled.
- Tested to minus 23 degrees Celsius
- Comes with 1 year manufacturer warranty



Book Of The Month

Feed the Birds - Chris Earley



- Identify 196 Common North American Birds
- Includes identification guides, a range maps, information on bird seeds and natural food preferences, and behaviors.
- Excellent reference guide for beginners who just started bird watching & feeding.