

Backyard Birding

Your backyard is your own private sanctuary. How exciting it is to create a bird, butterfly and bee habitat that is absolutely necessary to the survival of these and other species. Backyard bird feeding serves several purposes: 1. Feeding birds 2. Creating your own backyard sanctuary. 3. Community Science reports inform the

First things first, let's just get this out of the way: Birds do benefit from feeders and it's not harmful to them if done properly. It can increase survival during harsh winter conditions. Our own Anna's Hummingbirds have extended their range northward because of hummingbird feeders that you have placed and cleaned with care. Worries about what time of year to feed and such can be allayed if you think about feeders as a supplement to their own innate foraging skills.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/browse/topic/feeding-birds/>

The link below tells how to do so without harming the birds. For instance:

- The distance a feeder should be from your windows:
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/where-to-put-your-bird-feeder/>
- Cleaning your feeders
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-clean-your-bird-feeder/#:~:text=To%20clean%20your%20feeder%2C%20take,allow%20to%20dry%20before%20refilling>

Making your backyard a bird, butterfly and bee sanctuary is a goal you can obtain. Read more to learn how to provide habitat for wildlife who have lost their wild places: <https://azwildlife.org/garden-for-wildlife>

Finally, Scientists can benefit from your observations/sightings of birds. In fact, while I was writing this, a member texted me that Evening Grosbeak were visiting her yard. "Scientists need hundreds of thousands of people to report what they're seeing in backyards, neighborhoods, and wild places around the world."

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/citizen-science-be-part-of-something-bigger/>

Join the movement of those who are helping birds and pollinators survive. How exciting it is to create your own yard sanctuary, know that you are helping to

supplement the feeding of birds and becoming a citizen scientist whose observations add to our knowledge of birds' ranges.