

## Bird Feeders Script

Birds are like any other animal. They need food water and shelter to survive the rigors of winter. Backyard bird feeders, with a source of fresh water, can make quite a cold weather bird haven.

While the lack of lasting snow in some parts of the state has given birds access to some natural food sources, many birds still rely on back yard feeders. Unfortunately many who feed during the height of the winter season curtail the effort once the snow begins to melt and temperatures rise.

March and April are actually breeding times for many songbirds, so they are selecting mates, and nesting sites...activities that are very energy intensive. So birds benefit most from feeding at this time of year

*(Sound Clip: Dave Menough of wild birds unlimited)*

All the winter seeds have been picked over, all the seeds that were left from last October's harvest are gone, very few insects are available right now, so our food sources in our backyards can provide a very easy place for birds to restore their energy to survive cold winter nights.

*(End Clip)*

Wild birds unlimited and groups like the Audubon Society suggest feeding right up to June. Probably the single best seed to feed wild birds here in Colorado is oil sunflower seeds. They are both high in fat and protein and will supply good energy.

Hummingbirds, bluebirds and tanagers will be migrating here shortly. Right now expect to see sparrows, chickadees and finches with the occasional jay and woodpecker mixed in.

With the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Jeff Butler, News 4.