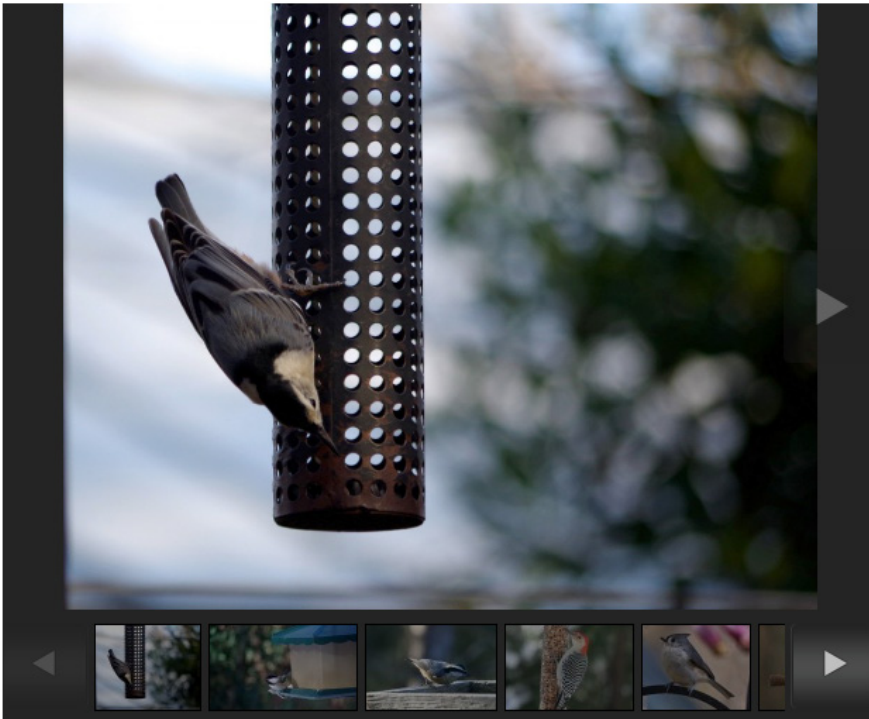


Feed the birds: Safety tips for migrating and nesting time



By Kathryn Carse | carse@siadvance.com
on March 28, 2016 at 2:46 PM

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Spring migration is on, with song birds passing through the region on the way to their summer grounds. And resident birds are marking their territory. Whether it is a brilliant cardinal or a migrating yellow warbler, the backyard feeder can be a great place to catch a glimpse of them while sustenance for the wildlife.

Throwing some bread on the ground is not the way to go, but following a few tips can help you provide the birds with a safe and healthy meal.

Specialty wild bird seed producer [Audubon Park](#) partnered with ornithologist John Marzluff to provide these rules. Marzluff is author of the book "Welcome to Subirdia" to encourage all backyard bird feeding.

1. Choose high-quality seed.
2. Feed your feeder with one week's supply of food.
3. Clean feeders weekly with soap and hot water.
4. Offer water for drinking and bathing, refresh it daily.
5. Make your windows visible.
6. Place feeders away from windows and safe from predators.
7. Keep cats indoors.
8. Mow the lawn less often; skip the fertilizers and pesticides.
9. Plant shrubs and trees, especially native species to increase food resources.
10. Do not light the night sky. Use outdoor light only when necessary from as dim a source as possible.



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March, 2016



Backyard bird feeding: 3 expert tips for helping nature's flying creatures survive winter

Let's flock together: Share your advice and bird photos in the comments section!

WHAT KIND OF BIRD IS THIS?

Identifying the birds at your feeder is not required. There is beauty in just observing. But if your curiosity is getting the best of you, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has an [illustrated guide to the most popular birds on its All About Birds](#) page.

If you can get a good photo, you can ask the folks on [Staten Island Outdoors](#) and [Staten Island Birds](#) to help you identify it. You will need to join both Facebook pages, but you will also see some of your questions already answered, and lots of photos of local natural beauty.