

YOUR BACKYARD IN WINTER

FOR THE BIRDS

Your backyard can be a special place to explore—especially in winter. Birds and other animals are on the move in search of food, giving us a unique chance to observe them up close!

Welcome birds into your yard with this easy-to-make feeder.

- 1.) Find a clean, open pinecone.
- 2.) Spread peanut butter over the entire cone.
- 3.) Roll the cone in seed. Add nuts and dried fruit for a high-energy snack!
- 4.) Tie string or twine around the stem end of the pinecone.
- 5.) Hang, and watch the birds enjoy a winter snack!

Unlike humans, birds can't curl up on the couch on a snow day. In order to survive, they must remain alert and on the go. So, how do they do it?

They fluff up. On brisk days, birds fluff their feathers to keep warm. Feathers have special insulating properties, making them the original down jacket in cold weather.

They keep clean. When water is frozen, many birds take "snow baths" to stay clean. Keeping feathers spotless is critical to maintaining their insulating properties.

They seek protective shelter. In winter, many birds take refuge in dense thickets or tree cavities where they can endure chilling winds and ride out snowstorms.

They stick together. Some birds roost together at night to share body heat. Others such as chickadees can actually lower their body temperature to conserve energy.

They stock up on food. In order to rev their metabolism in cold weather, birds require high-energy foods such as seeds, fatty berries, and suet.



White-tailed Deer



American Crow

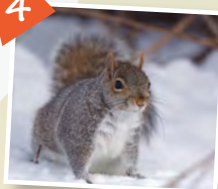


Wild Turkey

TRACKING WILDLIFE

Lots of backyard wildlife activity happens while we're asleep, which makes the morning after a fresh snowfall the best time to look for animal tracks. No snow? Look for tracks in muddy areas!

Match the Animal to Its Tracks



Gray Squirrel

ready, set,
Go Outside!

There's more online!
www.massaudubon.org/go