

Feeding Birds



Many people like to watch birds and listen to them chirp; but have you ever wondered how birds live, or survive, during the cold winter?

We have all seen the pretty colors of feathers. A bird's feathers are more than pretty, though. They keep birds warm in cold weather. A bird can fluff its feathers to stay warm, too. And, it can cover its legs and feet with its wings, like a blanket, to stay warm.

Those cute little round bodies are helpful, too. A bird has fat on its body that gives it energy in the winter when it can't find much food.

Some people feed wild birds in the winter when it is hard for the bird to find seeds and bugs to eat. Plants, trees, and insects are often asleep during winter, so birds have a hard time finding food. These people keep bird feeders with seeds in their yards for the birds. They think that this gives birds a chance to find food no matter what the weather is like.

Other people don't think this is a good idea. They say feeding birds in winter is not good for the birds because then they forget how to take care of themselves. People who feed birds think that birds know how to look all around for food. They think the birds look other places for food if the birdfeeder is empty.

People who disagree have another reason. They think if birds are eating from feeders that they will spread sickness. Others say that birds who eat at feeders would be sharing food and space anyway. They think clean feeders do not make birds sick.