

# Water...

## An essential ingredient for attracting a wide variety of birds to your backyard

*Water is as vital to birds as food. It is particularly important for seed & insect eating birds due to the dry nature of their diet. Birds will come to a birdbath year round, both to drink & to bathe. Bathing helps maintain plumage for top-flight condition, as well as for proper body insulation in extreme hot or cold.*

- Choose a safe location for your birdbath. Ideally a birdbath should be free of shrubs for 25' but will have low overhead branches for escape cover. Suspending birdbaths will help eliminate places for predators to hide.
- The sound of moving water is extremely appealing to birds. Add a dripper or mister to your bath.
- Birds have a fear of deep water. Vary depths of water from very shallow to 3" at the most.
- Choose a birdbath with a rough surface for traction.
- Make sure to keep birdbaths clean. A dirty birdbath is a breeding ground for algae & bacteria. Use a strong jet of water from a garden hose to clean your bath daily. Once a month scrub the bath with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water.
- Birds need water in wintertime more than ever. Make sure to provide clean, thawed water in the coldest of temperatures.

