



U. S. Department of Agriculture  
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BUILD FEEDING STATIONS FOR BIRDS.

They Attract Feathered Policemen to Help Protect City  
Parks from Insects that Destroy Foliage.

Washington, D. C.

The summer is a good time to plan for feeding stations for the winter birds, just as the winter is the period for getting ready the spring nesting boxes. This is particularly true for parks and reservations, says the Department of Agriculture, which advocates the attracting of birds to such places.

Besides the enjoyment of having birds present in parks, there is the economic value of having them as enemies of plant pests. They help to police the parks by reducing the insects that feed on foliage and are peculiarly important, because the beauty and utility of parks largely depends on preserving the vegetation.

Birds' Place in City Parks.

Such changes as may be made to attract birds to parks may also enhance the beauty or interest of the park itself, as in fountains and martin houses and other artistic nest boxes. Feeding stations may have sightly designs and be worked in as part of other park structures, and their presence adds not alone to the benefit of the birds, but to the pleasure and interest of thousands of lovers of nature. They are particularly pleasing to children and instill the lessons of bird protection as opposed to the practices of bird destruction sometimes indulged in.

The Experience of Minneapolis.

The value of such stations is attested by Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks, in the city of Minneapolis. He says:

For the past five or six years we have maintained a number of feeding stations in various parts of our park system, with very satisfactory results. I give a list of the birds which stay with us over winter. The permanent winter birds found in the vicinity of our parks are the chickadee, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, downy and hairy woodpeckers, and screech owl; winter visitors, the redpoll, tree sparrow, and junco; irregular winter visitors, the evening grosbeak, Bohemian waxwing, and snow bunting. It is safe to say that a large number of these species are staying in the parks on account of the food supplied them. The feeding of the wild birds in the parks is a great success and will be continued.

Summer food should also be supplied in the form of berry-bearing shrubs, and the fall planting of these should be arranged for during the summer season. Those interested should send to Washington for Department of Agriculture Bulletin 715, "Attracting Birds to Public and Semipublic Reservations."

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