



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release DECEMBER 20, 1948

PUT OLD XMAS TREES IN BACKYARDS FOR BIRDS, F.W.S. TELLS HOME-OWNERS

Don't throw your old Christmas tree away when the holiday season is over, the Fish and Wildlife Service advised home-owners today. Instead, set the tree up in the backyard as a shelter and feeding station for birds, the Service suggested.

According to Leo K. Couch, assistant chief of the Service's Branch of Wildlife Research, most of the evergreen trees used for Christmas will hold their needles for several weeks when set up outdoors, and will remain in good condition throughout the winter.

He said the tree should be left on its base, with the snow cleared away from around it. To attract the birds, chunks of stale bread, apples, grains, and seeds should be scattered around the base of the tree. String popcorn on the tree, Mr. Couch also suggested, and hang chunks of suet where the birds can perch.

Feed should be put out frequently in small quantities. When heavy snow falls, it is preferable to use feeding trays anchored on posts near the tree, Mr. Couch advised.

In addition to providing the birds with feed, the Christmas tree will serve them as shelter from raw winter winds.

X X X