

Bird Seed Blend for Cardinals, Blue Jays, Nuthatches, and Goldfinches

2 cups safflower seeds
2 cups sunflower seeds
2 cups thistle
2 cups nuts
1 cup raisins
1 cup dried cranberries

Basic Recipe For Homemade Bird Seed

1 Cup Of Black Oil Sunflower Seeds
1 Cup of Chopped Plain Peanuts
1/2 Cup of Striped Sunflowers
1/2 Cup of Cracked Corn
1/8 Cup of Dried Fruit

Suet Feeders for Winter

According to *Birds & Blooms*, "In the winter, birds benefit from a high-energy suet treat. Stacy Tornio, editor of *Birds & Blooms*, developed this recipe with her kids using cupcake liners to stay mess-free. They're happy to report that the birds love it."



This recipe is, indeed, easy to make and the birds love it at our feeders as well. To make the suet cupcakes, you will need:

1 cup shortening	5 cups cornmeal
2 cups chunky peanut butter	Assorted nuts, birdseed or dried berries

To make a bird cupcake, melt 1 cup shortening and 2 cups chunky peanut butter over low heat.

Then mix in 5 cups cornmeal. Fill cupcake tins and top with your choice of nuts, birdseed or dried berries. Cool in the refrigerator.

Create Your Own Bird Seed Blend

STEP ONE: Who do you want to attract?

Different species are attracted to different foods. Here are a few examples:

FRUIT

Orioles, Tanagers, Mockingbirds, Bluebirds, Thrashers, Cardinals, Woodpeckers, Jays, Starlings, Thrushes, Cedar, Waxwings, Yellow-breasted Chats

PEANUTS

Cardinals, Chickadees, Grackles, House Finches, Titmice, House Sparrows, Starlings, Mourning Doves, White-Throated Sparrows, Jays, Juncos

CORN

Starlings, House Sparrows, Grackles, Jays, Juncos, Bobwhite, Quail, Doves, Ring-Necked Pheasants, White-Throated Sparrows

MILLET

Doves, House Sparrows, Blackbirds, Juncos, Cowbirds, Towhees, White-Throated Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, White-Crowned Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

Goldfinches, Chickadees, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Titmice, Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Cardinals, Jays, Crossbills, Purple Finches, White-Throated Sparrow, House Finches, White-Crowned Sparrows

STEP TWO: Pick a few ingredients from the following list.

Go with whatever is on sale in bulk at the store or online. All of these are safe and healthy for wild birds:

- Dried fruit
- Peanuts
- Almonds
- Pecans
- Walnuts
- Cracked Corn
- Sunflower seeds
- Oats

Don't forget to choose raw, organic whole foods for your blend. Backyard birds do not want your leftover BBQ flavored peanuts! You can opt to roughly chop some of the seeds and nuts but you don't have to.

STEP THREE: Blend and serve

Mix your ingredients in a large bowl and spoon into your feeder. Make a big batch every month or so and store the surplus in a jar for refills.