

Make Bird-feeding Safe for Birds, Wildlife, and your Human Neighbors

Brad Andres. August 1, 2021 :

Americans clearly love wildlife. In 2016, 86 million people indicated that they watched wildlife, which equates to 34% of the American public. Here in Evergreen, many of us share the same passion. We love to see our birds up close and put out feeders so that we have that opportunity. With that opportunity, however, comes responsibility — responsibility to wildlife and our human neighbors. For the birds, it is important to keep things clean:

1. periodically disinfectant feeders
2. rake up spilled seed if it accumulates
3. keep seed clean and dry and use covered feeders
4. position feeders and use deterrents to reduce window strikes (e.g., www.birdsavers.com)
5. if you see a sick bird, stop feeding.

What about sick birds? Colorado Parks & Wildlife is monitoring our state for sick and dying birds. Many have been seen in other regions of the United States but, at least to date, none have been recorded in Colorado.

[Learn more.](#)

And then there are our neighbors — it is critical to keep feeders out of the reach of bears and other wildlife. Be aware that feeding bears and other large game animals is [illegal in Colorado](#). As the saying goes, “A fed bear (or mountain lion, bobcat, fox or coyote) is a dead bear.” These larger animals can easily become habituated to humans as they hang around waiting for handouts or for the trash to be put out. Cute and tame as they may appear, in the end, feeding these wild animals only causes problems for them and for us.

As we start to anticipate the arrival of our Calliope Hummingbirds and other migrants at our feeders, let’s be sure our feeders are safe for birds, other wildlife, and our human neighbors.