What Can You Provide To Encourage Birds To Visit Your Backyard?

All birds need three basic things from their habitat: food, water, and shelter.

**Food**
- Birds eat the fruit, seeds, and nectar from a variety of plants. They also eat insects and other small animals that thrive in a healthy ecosystem.

**Water**
- Birds drink fresh water wherever it collects—from rain or sprinklers, even leaking water fountains. They can also get moisture from food.

**Shelter**
- Plants provide birds with safe places to sleep, hide from predators, and raise their young. Plants also give shade from the heat, shelter from winter snows, and a dry place when it rains.

What Do the Plants Get Out of It?

Plants don’t get around much. They need help from the natural elements and birds and other animals to reproduce. Some bird species help plants by carrying pollen from one flower to another.

Seeds that sprout farther away from the parent plant may have a better chance of surviving. Plants rely on wind, gravity, water, and animals to spread their seeds. Many birds eat the fruit and seeds of shrubs and trees then poop them out after they fly away. Watch out!

Can you find any small, brightly colored fruits? These are a favorite food of many bird species.