

## Neighborhood Wildlife Stewards

*Teaching our Highlands neighbors how to live safely with wildlife and keep the wildlife wild.*

### ***Feeding Birds in Winter***



**Dark-eyed Junco**

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Almost one-half of the wild bird species that breed in Washington State migrate south to tropical Central and South America during the autumn. Winter can be a difficult time for the 50% that choose to stay.

Now that our local black bears have retired to their dens for the winter months (typically from mid-October into April), it's safe to feed the winter birds without worrying about attracting bears.

Several types of bird feeders are available:

- Hopper feeders release food as it is eaten.
- Hummingbird feeders contain liquid solutions.
- Platform feeders provide a stable perch that lets several birds feed simultaneously.
- Squirrel-proof feeders deter squirrels.
- Suet baskets hold suet squares.
- Thistle feeders are designed to hold tiny thistle (niger) seeds.
- Tube feeders with small perches discourage larger, more aggressive birds (such as pigeons and starlings).

You can purchase wild bird supplies at many of the larger grocery stores, hardware stores, pet stores, and garden centers in Issaquah. The Grange Supply (145 NE Gilman Blvd.) carries an extensive variety of wild bird feed and feeders. According to Caty (their wild bird expert), the Grange's most popular wild bird feed includes:

- Black oil-type sunflower seed
- Hummingbird nectar
- Suet (High Energy and Sunflower Treat)
- Sunflower Chips and Patio Mix (shelled seed that won't make a mess or sprout on your lawn)
- Thistle seed (niger)

For additional information about the wild birds in our area and winter bird feeding tips, see:

- Seattle Audubon Society's Guide to the Birds of Washington (BirdWeb)  
<http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/index.aspx>
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Winter Bird Feeding  
[http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/winter\\_feed.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/winter_feed.htm)

If you care about the welfare of the wildlife in our area, want to learn more about living safely with the wildlife, and would enjoy meeting your neighbors, join us for our monthly meetings.