

Buyer's guide / Bird feeders



Feeding your feathered friends

Geoff Hodge looks at bird feeders to help attract a wide range of wild birds into your garden

Geoff Hodge
Gardening journalist

MOST people like to feed wild birds in their gardens. According to the RSPB more than half the adults in the UK do so and many birds now rely on gardeners for food to help them survive. Hanging bird feeders are more versatile than a bird table - they can be hung in any suitable, safe place - and are

more suitable than putting food on the ground, where the birds are easy prey for cats.

Vermin can also be a problem, so a tight-fitting lid is an important consideration.

Different feeds will attract a range of birds and many require a specific type of feeder. So, I looked at seed feeders, peanut feeders and either suet or fat ball feeders.

Wild birds can suffer from diseases, so good hygiene

practice - especially the regular cleaning of feeders - is essential. A feeder that is easy to dismantle will make cleaning easier.

Best Buy

Because bird diseases are becoming a problem with wild birds, I gave our Best Buy to the BTO range, because of its FeedSafe coating.

The Chapelwood range was a close second; like the BTO range, it has a robust, durable construction.

Ernest Charles BTO range

Produced in association with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Sales help to fund BTO research.

All BTO feeders are treated with the unique FeedSafe antibacterial coating, which protects against microbes and germs and inhibits growth of bacteria. All three feeders have durable, metal alloy fittings, including tight-fitting lids. The Seed and Peanut feeders have screw thread bases.

7 BTO Seed Feeder

Strong polycarbonate feed tube. D-shaped perches for improved feeding. The perches can be removed by twisting off to dismantle the feeder.

● Capacity 600g ● Price guide £17.99

8 BTO Peanut Feeder

Sturdy steel mesh feeder tube. The perches can be unscrewed to dismantle the feeder for cleaning using a supplied Allen key.

● Capacity 490g ● Price guide £17.99

9 BTO Suet Ball Feeder

Sturdy steel wire feeder tube.

● Capacity 4 suet balls ● Price guide £7.99

Peckish

This is a good, value for money range.

4 Three Port Seed & Nyger Feeder

This feeder has a set of easily interchangeable ports that you can easily adjust depending on the seed used. It is made from plastic and features secure screw-on lid and base. The bottom tray is very useful for catching stray food and preventing mess. The feeder easily dismantles by unscrewing for cleaning.

● Capacity 500g ● Price guide £9.99

5 Peanut Feeder

This feeder is made from steel mesh and features a tight-fitting plastic lid and base. It has a screw thread base, so can be attached to a feeder pole as well as being hung. It can be dismantled using a screwdriver.

● Capacity 350g ● Price guide £3.99

6 Energy Ball Feeder

This feeder is made from powder-coated steel mesh with a plastic lid.

● Capacity 4 fat balls ● Price guide £3.99

RSPB

All three feeders have durable, powder-coated aluminium alloy fittings, including tight-fitting lids. The Seed and Nut & Nibble feeders have screw thread bases, so can also be attached to a feeder pole. All the profit from sales goes towards RSPB conservation work.

10 RSPB Premium Easy-Clean Seed Feeder

Features a tough UV-stabilised polycarbonate tube. It is quick and simple to clean by unscrewing the perches.

● Capacity Small: 250g ● Price guide £14.49 ● Others available Medium, Large

11 RSPB Cheater Nut & Nibble Feeder

The feeder tube is made from stainless steel. The food stays dry in the top part of the feeder until it drops down when it's needed. The perches unscrew and the feeder pulls apart for cleaning.

● Capacity Medium: 630g ● Price guide £19.99 ● Others available Small

12 RSPB Premium Suet Feeder

This is suitable for suet balls and RSPB hanging bird cakes. It features a powder-coated steel spiral design.

● Capacity 9 suet balls or 1 large fat cake ● Price guide £12.75

WIN OUR 'BEST BUY'

We have four collections of the three Best Buy Earnest Charles BTO bird feeders to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Bird Feeder Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at www.greatcompetitions.co.uk Closing date is January 17.

Please write 'do not contact' if you don't want to be contacted by us or by carefully selected partner organisations.



Chapelwood bird feeders

This is an excellent range of quality feeders. All three have durable, powder-coated aluminium alloy fittings, including tight-fitting lids. They all have screw thread bases, so can also be attached to a feeder pole as well as hung up.

Chapelwood Ultimate Feeders

The hangers can easily be removed if needed when used on a feeder pole. They are easy to dismantle, thanks to the spring-loaded button release in the base.

1 Ultimate Seed Feeder 4 port

UV-stabilised polycarbonate feeding tube.

● Capacity 400g ● Price guide £13.99 ● Others available two-port, six-port

2 Ultimate Peanut Feeder 30cm (12in)

Punched stainless steel feeding tube.

● Capacity 475g ● Price guide £13.99 ● Others available 20cm (8in), 40cm (16in)

3 Premium Heavy Duty Suet Ball Feeder

Punched stainless steel feeding tube. There is a spring-loaded, quick-release mechanism for easy dismantling.

● Capacity 5 suet balls ● Price guide £14.99

CJ Wildlife

The ornithologists at CJ Wildlife carry out research to help ensure high-quality products. The Metal range of bird feeders is certainly that.

CJ Wildlife Metal Feeders

Metal Feeders have durable, powder-coated metal alloy fittings, including tight-fitting lids. They have screw thread bases, so can also be attached to a feeder pole. They can be dismantled using a screwdriver.

13 Metal Seed Feeder

The feeder tube is made from UV-stabilised polycarbonate. The large perching rings ensure birds can perch safely while feeding.

● Capacity Medium: 425g ● Price guide £16.95 ● Others available Small two-port; Large six-port

14 Metal Peanut Feeder

The feeder tube is made from stainless steel.

● Capacity Medium: 650g ● Price guide £14.95 ● Others available Small

15 Suet Pellet Feeder

The upper plastic section stores the pellets, helping to protect them from the weather. The bottom tray catches stray pellets and prevents mess. However, the lid isn't tight fitting and the feeder cannot be dismantled.

● Capacity 450g ● Price guide £11.95

The Nuttery

If squirrels and large birds are a problem, then this is the range for you. The Nuttery feeders give garden birds access to the food, while the surrounding cage prevents an average adult grey squirrel from passing through the bars.

All metal parts are made from powder-coated rust-proof metal mesh and once registered, the feeders have a lifetime guarantee.

16 Extra Large Seed Feeder

The feeder tube is made from UV-stabilised plastic. Hanging bracket included.

● Capacity 660g ● Price guide £31 ● Others available Original

17 Extra Large Nut Feeder

Hanging bracket included.

● Capacity 800g ● Price guide £31 ● Others available Original

18 Oval Fatball Feeder

● Capacity 6 fatballs ● Price guide £19.50



SPECIAL OFFER for GN readers - save more than £6.50!

The Nuttery are offering GN readers their Oval Fatball Feeder for just £17.82 including p&P (normally £4.50) - that's a saving of more than £6.50! This offer is valid for this feeder only. To order, call 01923 777111, send a cheque payable to The Nuttery to The Nuttery, 135A High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1AR, or order online at www.thenuttery.com quoting code GNOVAL. Offer expires end of January.

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Japanese maple

For every reader - *just pay postage

DWARF Japanese maple, acer 'Little Princess', has compact, upright growth and small, red-edged bright green leaves that turn varying shades of red in the autumn.

This beautiful species will enhance any garden

and also looks wonderful in a pot or tub on the patio or balcony. Supplied in a 9cm (3½in) pot.

Every Garden News reader can claim their free acer 'Little Princess', *just pay £4.90 to cover postage.



PLUS... more offers from Thompson & Morgan



Agapanthus Headbourne hybrids
In summer, these perennials lend stature to borders, where their architectural seed-heads continue the display well into autumn.

Height: 90cm (3ft). Spread: 45cm (1ft 6in).
3 bare-roots £9.99
6 bare-roots £14.98
- SAVE £5



Magnolia 'Black Tulip'
This sensational magnolia is one of the darkest varieties available. Its rich burgundy, tulip-shaped blooms emerge from naked stems in spring, weeks before the foliage.

Magnolia 'Black Tulip' makes a breathtaking specimen for borders. Height: 6m (19ft). Spread: 5m (16ft).
1 bare-root £12.99



Patio buddleia Buzz®
Buddleia Buzz® is easy to grow with a very long flowering period. Perfectly proportioned for patio pots and smaller gardens. Height and spread: 120cm (47in). Sold as jumbo plugs.

1 'Buzz® Ivory' £9.99
1 'Buzz® Lavender' £9.99
1 'Buzz® Magenta' £9.99
All 3 colours £14.98

ORDER FORM

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By post Complete the order form, fill in your details and send it with payment to Garden News Free Acer, Dept GN146, PO Box 99, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2SN. If paying by cheque, please make payable to TMYP and write your name and address on the back. Or you may complete your credit/debit card details.
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February 15 2012. Free acer will be dispatched from February 2012. Please note that your contract for supply of goods is with Thompson & Morgan (Young Plants) Ltd. Terms and conditions available upon request. All offers are subject to availability. If in the event of unprecedented demand this offer is oversubscribed, we reserve the right to send suitable substitute varieties.

CODE	ITEM	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
90755	Magnolia 'Black Tulip' (1 bare-root)	£12.99		
7014	Agapanthus Headbourne hybrids (3 bare-roots)	£9.99		
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90091	Buddleia 'Buzz® Ivory' (1 jumbo plug)	£9.99		
88299	Buddleia 'Buzz® Lavender' (1 jumbo plug)	£9.99		
88269	Buddleia 'Buzz® Magenta' (1 jumbo plug)	£9.99		
90090	Buddleia 'Buzz' collection (3 jumbo plugs - one of each colour)	£14.98 ½ PRICE		
95281	Acer 'Little Princess' (one 9cm/3½in potted plant)	FREE	1	£4.90 postage
GN146 TOTAL				

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