



BIRD SEED FACTS

Black Oil Sunflower seed is the most popular seed in the feeder! It is preferred by over 50 species of wild birds. You have probably noticed your backyard birds picking the sunflower seed out of the feeder and scratching the rest of the seed on to the ground. Black oil has a very thin shell making it easy for even the smallest birds to crack open and it has great nutritional value due to its high oil content.

Backyard Bird Mix is blended *exclusively for Wild About Birds*. It contains black oil and striped sunflower seed, sunflower chips, peanut hearts, and white millet – absolutely no filler! If you have ever purchased a mixed bird seed at a grocery store or super store, you probably noticed that your backyard birds picked the few sunflower seeds out of the mix, but did not eat the rest. Most inexpensive seed mixes contain filler seed (milo, cracked wheat, canary seed, flax, etc.), which reduces the price of the seed, but is not liked by wild birds and rarely eaten. Fill your feeder with Backyard Bird Mix and you'll notice the feeder birds (cardinals, chickadees, titmice, etc.) picking out the sunflower, safflower and peanut hearts. They will scratch the millet on to the ground, but Millet is not a filler seed and will be eaten by ground feeders like doves, sparrows, and towhees.

Nyjer (Thistle) Seed is another black, oil seed but much smaller than sunflower. It is imported from several different African countries and India. It is sterilized upon entry to our country and although it may sprout under your feeder, it will not grow. It is not related to our roadside thistle. It is the seed preferred by gold finches. House finches, pine siskin, and purple finches will also eat nyjer seed from a special finch feeder with tiny holes.

Safflower Seed is a white, oil seed similar in size to black oil sunflower. Cardinals and titmice are easily attracted to safflower seed. Most people buy safflower to discourage black birds who will not eat it. Because it has a bitter taste, most squirrels do not like safflower, either. We mix safflower and black oil sunflower together and add a bit of striped sunflower seed to create our Cardinal Mix.

Sunflower Chips are hulled striped sunflower seeds. Chips are great to use in a window feeder because there are no shells to make a mess on your sill. You can mix them (fine chips) with nyjer seed and feed them out of a finch feeder. They also make a good Shell-Free Mix when blended with peanuts, and hulled white millet.

Peanuts whole in the shell, or split out of the shell, are favorites of woodpeckers, blue jays, and titmice.

Corn can be fed to the wild birds and other critters either on the cob, whole (off the cob) or cracked. Corn should be offered on or near the ground.