



# "The Bird House"

Specialty Bird Feed Shop at Art Knapp Plantland & Florist

Offering suet at your backyard feeding station is a great way to attract a wide variety of insect-eating birds, especially woodpeckers. Suet is a high energy, pure fat substance which is invaluable in winter when insects are harder to find and the birds need many calories to keep their little bodies warm. Birds that eat suet will still find natural food sources such as insects, insect's eggs and grubs to get a well rounded diet. Chickadees and nuthatches, which eat both insects and seeds, will also visit suet feeders often. Strictly seed or fruit eaters will rarely eat suet.

We have created this guide to help you understand the suet products that are available and to most effectively attract the birds you wish to see.

## SUET PRODUCTS

#### What is Suet?

Suet is any type of animal fat. Our suet cakes are produced from the highest quality beef kidney fat, which is an extremely high calorie energy source for wild birds. Rendering and refining removes the impurities that can cause spoilage.

#### Suet and Peanut...or...Suet and Seed?

These are the two most popular cakes to use and we suggest you try using both cakes at first and then staying with the cake your birds most enjoy. Peanut cakes have a higher protein level, but seed cakes may attract a larger variety of birds.

Party Mix cakes are peanut cakes with whole raisins and are an option in the winter to help feed fruit-eating birds. The melting point for suet cakes and Party Mix is 95° to 100°F.

### Suet Dough

High energy Suet Dough is second to the above products in attractiveness to the birds, but it does have several advantages. Because it has more corn meal and ground-up grain than suet, its melting point is 150°F and this means it will not melt in the summer. It is also more pliable in cold weather so it is easier to mold into suet logs, pine cones and bark crevices. Calcium suet dough is also available to provide calcium during nesting periods. Insect Suet is suet with ground-up insect for a yearround food with appeal to insect-eating birds. The suet doughs are excellent for attracting woodpeckers, chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, and are excellent bluebird feeders.

#### **Pure Suet**

This pure white rendered suet is excellent for using "as is" or as a base for your own recipe. It is intended mainly to be used in the winter. Suet is packaged in either cakes (14 oz. to 16 oz.) or tubs (28 oz. to 34 oz.) and is sold singly or in 12 packs. The cakes are easily popped out of the tray, while suet in tubs is most easily removed if run under hot water for a few seconds.

### What kinds of suet feeders are available?

Suet feeders are cages made with vinyl-coated wire that protects the birds from rough edges. They will hold from 1 to 4 cakes, or 1 tub and can be hung from branches, tree trunks or wooden feeders. If you have raccoons in your area, you should use one of our hanging chains designed to prevent these rascals from stealing the cage and all! Starling resistant suet feeders are designed to make the birds hang upside down to reach the suet, which is something starlings do not like to do for more than a few seconds.

## Rendered Suet Cakes – A Year-Round Bird Feed

Before rendered suet cakes were readily available, feeding suet was limited to cold weather because raw kidney suet spoils easily in warm weather. With "The Bird House" suet products, you are able to feed suet year-round easily and safely. Our suet products need no refrigeration and will keep indefinitely at room temperature.

Outside in the feeders, our peanut and seed cakes will not melt until the temperature is about 95°F in the sun. For this reason, we recommend keeping your feeders in the shade in the summer or use a wood top feeder that shades the suet. Your other option in the summer is to use a high melting point suet dough. Providing suet in the summer is a great way to attract woodpeckers and their newly fledged young. Sometimes as many as 6 young woodpeckers will be jockeying for position in a suet feeder.

#### Other Birds that Eat Suet, But Less Commonly:

Steller's Jays House Finches Western Bluebirds Kinglets Pine Siskins Thrushes Brown Creepers House Wrens Juncos Phoebes Red Winged Blackbirds

# Common Thompson/Okanagan Birds That Eat Suet

