

BIRD BATH

MAKE A BIRD BATH

Pennsylvania is home to a wide variety of songbirds and many of them spend most or all of their lives in or around our yards. Juncos, chickadees, and sparrows are just a few of the songbirds that remain in Pennsylvania during all four seasons. Make this easy bird bath with unused terracotta pots and a saucer to provide a clean water source for the birds year-round to bathe in and drink.

Materials

- Several unused terracotta pots decorated or plain - make sure they are stackable
- Terracotta saucer or other shallow bowl for basin

Instructions

Choose a location for the bird bath that has level ground, trees or shrubs nearby for shelter (in case of predators), and where you can watch the birds.

Stack several pots upside down to provide a sturdy base, so that the basin will be 3 to 4 feet off the ground. Set the saucer on top of the stack to function as the water basin. The saucer should fit securely on the bottom of the top pot.

Place a large rock or two in the basin so that birds can determine the depth of the water and for the birds to stand on to drink without getting wet during the winter.





Fill the basin with water and wait for the birds to explore it.

To keep the water fresh, remember to change the water in the bird bath daily and clean the bottom and walls of the basin weekly with a scrub brush and fresh water to remove algae (the green stuff). Check the water when the temperature is below freezing to keep it ice free. Never add any chemicals to the water.

You can also use the same design for a bird feeder, but place it in a different location. Simply add seed rather than water.

Watch and document what birds visit the bird bath and do research to explore more about each of the songbird species that you see.

