

Should I Feed Wildlife?

People often feed wildlife because they:

- a) think that they are helping them, or
- b) want to see wildlife up close

Feeding wildlife can be harmful:

- o Incorrect foods can cause dietary deficiencies
- Only some species benefit (eg. nectar eating birds don't eat seed)
- Bold/aggressive species generally benefit the most (what about shier species?)
- o Juveniles may never learn the skills to hunt/forage natural foods
- o Diseases such as beak and feather can be spread through sharing dishes
- o Uneaten food can attract vermin

How to feed wildlife - plant a habitat garden!

- ✓ Gardens provide for many species in the food chain such as insects, lizards, mammals and birds
- ✓ One plant provides many different foods including flowers, nectar, bark, fruit and leaves
- ✓ Natural food is available all year round
- ✓ Healthy and allows for natural wildlife behaviour
- ✓ Plants aren't just food, they also provide protection from weather and predators, somewhere to roost, raise young and are transport (their highways!)



Eastern Spinebill. Photo by Amy Motherwell

Wish to see wildlife up close?

Provide a variety of safe, clean water dishes at different levels in the garden including one you can see from your window.