

# Backyard Birding Success Checklist



*Your essential tracker for a thriving, safe, and diverse bird sanctuary.*

## Phase 1: Habitat Safety & Design

- **Window Safety:** Apply UV decals or Zen curtains to all high-reflection windows.
- **Predator Cover:** Ensure feeders are 10–12 feet from dense shrubs (the "safety gap").
- **Baffle Installation:** Mount a squirrel baffle 4–5 feet high on the feeder pole.
- **Water Access:** Install a birdbath with a dripper or heater (for winter).

## Phase 2: Feed & Equipment

- **Feeder Audit:** Check that ports are clean and perches are stable.
- **Winter Menu:** Stock up on high-fat suet, black oil sunflower, and safflower seeds.
- **Regional Match:** Verify your seed types match your province's specific bird species.
- **Seed Storage:** Store bulk bags in airtight, pest-proof galvanized metal bins.

## Phase 3: The Maintenance Cycle

- **Weekly Scrub:** Sanitize feeders with an enzymatic cleaner or vinegar solution.
- **Ground Clearance:** Rake up hulls and discarded seed to prevent mold and rodents.
- **Water Refresh:** Clean the birdbath every 2-3 days to prevent algae and mosquitoes.
- **Journal Entry:** Record the first arrival of a new species this season!

---

**Expert Tip:** *If you see birds hovering but not landing, re-check your "safety gap." They likely feel too exposed to hawks or too close to hiding cats.*

