

# The Ultimate Winter Bird Sanctuary Checklist

*Step-by-Step Survival Support for Your Backyard Flock*

## Section 1: The High-Fat Shopping List (Nutrition ROI)

- **Black Oil Sunflower Seeds:** (Thin shells, 30%+ oil content).
- **Raw Beef Suet:** (Pure lipids for overnight thermoregulation).
- **Unsalted Peanuts:** (Protein/Fat synergy - check for "No Salt" label).
- **Nyjer/Thistle:** (Specifically for Finches/Siskins).
- **Calcium Supplement:** (Oyster shell or calcium-enriched suet blocks).

## Section 2: Daily Maintenance (The 5-Minute Morning Loop)

- **De-Ice the Water:** Ensure the heated birdbath is functioning or break the ice.
- **Tap the Ports:** Clear frozen moisture from tube feeder openings.
- **Ground Clearance:** Sweep snow off ground-feeding areas for Juncos/Sparrows.
- **Refill Check:** Ensure feeders are "topped off" before the 3 PM dusk rush.

## Section 3: Bi-Weekly Sanitation (Pathogen Defense)

- **Scrape the Waste:** Remove frozen droppings from beneath the station.
- **Deep Clean:** Soak feeders in a 1:9 bleach-to-water solution.
- **Rinse & Dry:** Ensure 100% dryness before refilling to prevent mold.
- **Pathogen Check:** Monitor for "House Finch Eye Disease" or lethargic behavior.

## Section 4: Safety & Shelter Logic

- **The 10-Foot Rule:** Verify feeders are 10ft from cover (anti-predator buffer).
- **Windbreak Check:** Ensure brush piles or evergreen cover are intact.
- **AI-Camera Sync:** Check smart feeder alerts for rare species or health warnings.