




Animal Pest Management Services, Inc.

Urban Wildlife Professionals 

Bird Feeders *and Managing Pests*

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Bird feeders are a great way to enjoy a bit of the outdoors from the comfort of your own home. Many, though, do not realize that in inviting birds to your home, you may also be inviting other pests such as ants, mice, rats, raccoons, opossums, and squirrels. Luckily, we have a few helpful tips that can deter those pests from wreaking havoc on your bird feeders and hopefully get you back to enjoying your bird feeders as they were intended.



ISOLATE THE FEEDER

Many know that squirrels and rodents are quite the jumpers but not to what extent. You must always be sure to place the feeder away from any fencing or trees and to keep it as far from your home as possible. Ground squirrels can jump as high as 6ft and easily leap out at least that distance horizontally. By placing your feeder out in the open, you are making it more difficult for them to access as well as making them uncomfortable by having little

coverage from larger predators. You are also not directly attracting pests to your home; when feeders are placed on the eaves of your home or on balconies, you are not only attracting those pests but greatly increasing the chances that they will enter your home. Stand-alone bird feeders are a great alternative to hanging bird feeders as they can easily be moved and placed far enough from your home and other structures that they deter pests while still enabling you to enjoy what the feeders were intended for.



BAFFLE THEM

Baffles come in various shapes and sizes, but all serve the same purpose, keeping pests out of feeders. Baffles attach to stand alone bird feeders, blocking the pole so pests are no longer able to climb them as easily. Your best bet when purchasing a baffle is the larger the better, especially when dealing with larger pests such as raccoons and opossums. Always avoid feeders with wooden poles as rodents and other pests can climb them with ease. If small rodents such as mice and rats are your only problem, another great solution would be to add PVC piping from your local hardware store around the pole of your feeder making it too slippery for them to climb. Regardless of the baffle chosen, they are a great way to help slow down persistent pests. Baffles can be found at most major online retailers as well as specialty bird shops like Wild Birds Unlimited (714) 985-4928.



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STORE SMART

To prevent insects and other annoying pests such as mice and rats from being lured to your home always ensure proper storage of your extra bird seed in an airtight rodent proof container.

THE RIGHT SEED

Birds are often picky eaters and using cheap seed mixes often lead to a pest problem as birds will typically discard the cheaper “filler” seed and grain in the mix and attract rodents in return. Using a quality seed mix can help the birds to not waste and thereby reducing the temptation for rodents. Many specialty bird stores carry hot pepper or other spiced bird seed that is made to deter unwanted pests. Birds cannot taste the spice and are completely unharmed by consuming it. On the other hand, typically one sniff or taste of the spice by

rodents and other pests will be enough to deter them from coming back for more. A simple way to create your own would be to add a small amount of cayenne pepper to your seed and/or on the ground around your feeder.

CATCH FALLEN SEED

Tray feeders are useful for not only feeding various species of birds but also a great addition to your current feeder. Tray feeders can be added to your pole-mounted bird feeder and serve as a second feeder as well as a great way to collect spillage from picky or messy birds. Food on the ground is free pickings for rodents of all sizes, so the less food on the ground means the less you will see them around.



REACH OUT

Tried everything? Give us a call! Depending on the ecosystem you live in, getting rid of unwanted pests may be more difficult than a simple fix. The above solutions just may not be enough, and the help of a pest management company may be in your (and the birds you enjoy so much's) best interest. Animal Pest Management Services, Inc. has served Southern California as a leading authority on precision pest management for over 35 years. We have experience in the most difficult of rodent, insect, and wildlife management situations and can provide you with our expertise with just a call. Feel free to reach out with your questions and schedule an inspection today!



Let us help you get back to enjoying your birds!

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