



## Creating Bird-Friendly Gardens

1. Avoid putting food on the ground; use a bird table where cats cannot reach it.
2. Place feeders high off the ground but away from surfaces from which a cat could jump.
3. Place spiny plants (such as holly) or an uncomfortable surface around the base of the feeding station to prevent a cat from sitting underneath it.
4. Place an upturned tin or cone underneath the table to prevent cats from climbing the post (squirrel 'baffles' are commercially available).
5. Make the table-slippery using a metal post, or plastic bottles around non-metal posts. Try to avoid wood posts, for they are easier for cats and squirrels to climb.
6. Plant wildlife-friendly vegetation, such as prickly bushes and thick climbers in the garden to provide secure cover for birds. These should be close enough to where birds feed to provide cover, but not so close that cats can use it to stalk birds. This kind of planting may also provide food and nesting sites. For more information, refer to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) leaflets on Feeding garden birds, Gardening with wildlife, and Planting gardens for birds.
7. Position nesting boxes where cats cannot reach them or sit close to them (preventing the parent birds from getting to the box).



(picture on left) Wooden feeder table with baffle and other feeders hung from metal posts, also with baffles. (picture on right) Plastic or glass (and round shaped) feeders make it difficult for cats and squirrels to get at.