

December 6, 2012

The Editor: Vancouver Sun

Randy Shore's article in the December 4th edition (Stop Feeding Birds in the Garden and start enabling them) is badly flawed and contains a number of statements which are not supported by the facts.

Over 100 North American species supplement their natural diets with bird seed, suet and nectar obtained from feeders.

Dr Erica Dunn of the Canadian Wildlife Service emphasizes that bird feeding is not having any negative impact on bird populations. In fact, all species of birds that commonly utilize bird feeders are maintaining population numbers that are either steady or growing in size. (E.R.Dunn and D.L.Tessaglia-Hymes, 1999, Birds at your Feeder)

Project Feeder Watch data also concludes that feeders do not draw birds into an environment that is more dangerous than ones they face in the wild. All current evidence suggests that birdfeeding does not unduly upset natural ecological systems.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Bird Studies Canada, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many others support and defend bird feeding as being safe for birds and as a valuable hobby.

In North America more than 53 million people feed birds and watch wildlife in their own yards. No other wildlife associated activity attracts more attention or participation. It is second only to gardening as the most popular hobby in the U.S. and Canada!

Since we opened the first backyard birdfeeding store in Vancouver 23 years ago, we have been offering high quality products and peer reviewed professional advice to our customers.

For those seeking the best information a few sites of interest are listed below.

http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/Birdscope/Spring2003/In_Defense.html

http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/abtbirds_index.html

<http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/4/2/220.full>

Yours sincerely,

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