



May 17, 2005

If you have a bird feeder in your yard, please read:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) announced that there is a salmonella outbreak among bird populations in the west. They asked if we would help spread the word. They were hoping to get an article in the newspaper to help let people know.

In the meantime, you can help reduce the spread of the disease.

ODFW asks that people who have bird feeders take them down for a month.

Before putting them back up, disinfect the feeders by washing with a detergent/bleach solution. They are asking people with wooden feeders that cannot be disinfected to please discard the feeders. People who scatter seeds on the ground are also requested to refrain from doing this for a month.



This will help prevent the cycle of spreading the disease from close association at feeding stations. People are finding dead and sick birds in their yards. Sick birds are those that appear lethargic and don't fly away when approached. Bird feeders spread diseases because sick birds often congregate at feeders, unable to find food on their own. Healthy birds then come in contact with the disease. Common feeder diseases include salmonella, House Finch disease, conjunctivitis, and avian pox. Even when an outbreak is not occurring, it is important to watch your feeder for sick and dying birds, clean it with bleach solution and take it down until the sick bird disperses.

The Klamath Bird Observatory recommends not feeding birds during the nesting season (mid April-July) as birds are busy raising their young and shift to a primarily insect diet during this time.

Thanks for your help.

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Pitkin at KBO at 201-0866 or by email mp@klamathbird.org.