

FEEDER STATION

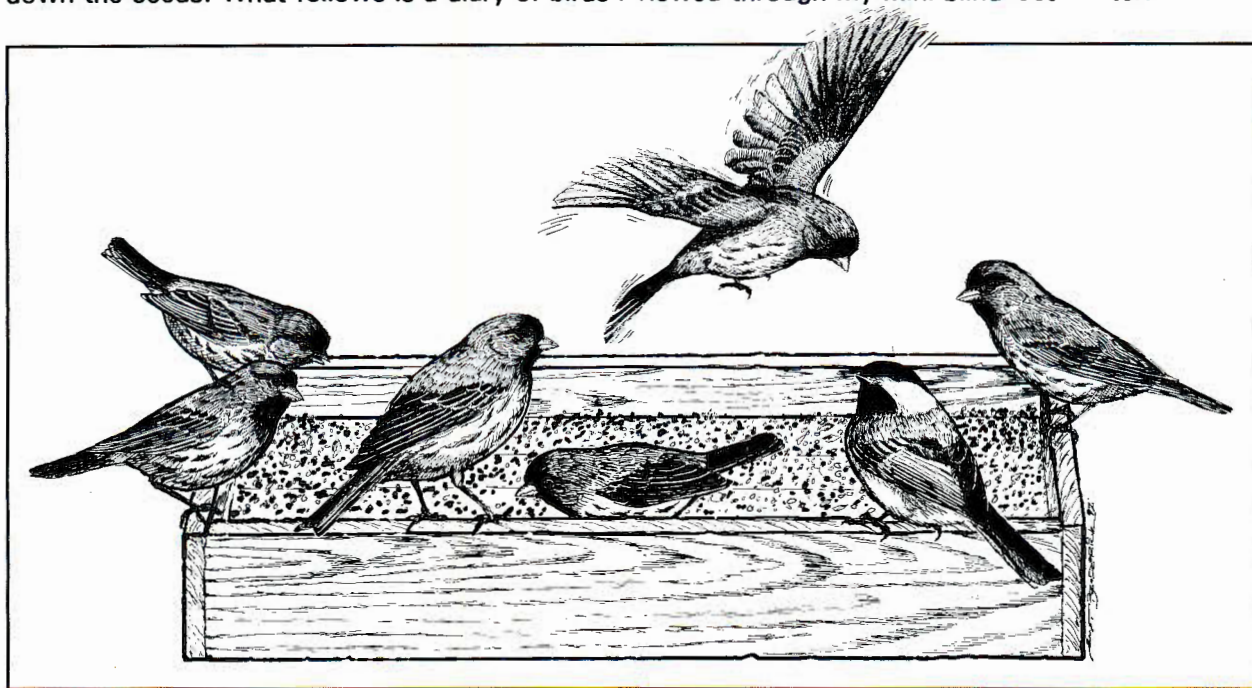
by Sue Friscia

Diary of a Mini-Blind Peeper

I love gadgets, especially when it comes to back yard bird feeding. My latest acquisition is a mini-blind, not something you would expect to find in a bird seed aisle.

I view my yard from a picture window in the basement. The blind helps me keep only a small portion of the window exposed. On a sunny day, I can close the blind completely and tilt the slats at just the right angle for perfect glare-free viewing. The blind also keeps birds from flying into the window.

I placed a piece of pine shelving on the window ledge a few inches off the ground. The birds hop right up to the window to feed. As long as I don't make any sudden moves they continue to scarf down the seeds. What follows is a diary of birds I viewed through my mini-blind last winter.



Drawing by Emmet Broderick.

December 1 - A male Purple Finch hops on the window platform. He sure likes oilers. While he's cracking one open, I notice his feathers look spiked. I look forward to seeking this purple punk rocker again.

December 6 - My cardinal population is exploding.

Tonight, I count seven males and six females dining at dusk. Have you ever noticed that the female has a red eye brow?

December 11 - The Mourning Doves sit on the wires just inches apart and take turns coming into the feeders. It's hard to believe that 122 doves can all fit on the wires, but

somehow they do. Doves eat between 50 to 100 pebbles a day to help them grind up the seed they eat. They also eat a large portion of the 80 to 120 pounds of feed I fill at eight different feeders each week.

January 19 - During the day, I never see more than a few cardinals at the feeders, but in