Hanging out a birdfeeder is a great way to attract birds and the extra food helps them survive the winter, but gardeners can assist still further by considering what they plant and how they manage their plantings.

Also, when planting, we can select the types of trees and shrubs that will provide shelter and even some late-ripening berries. Any tree or shrub will provide perching places for birds while they check for predators before flying up to a feeder and small, shrubs with a dense network of twigs will provide good cover for the smallest birds. Evergreens give the best shelter for the winter weather.