



They say, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” This year may be a little different. It was unseasonably warm in late February and early March. Lake ice honeycombed and reports of cars falling through came in early this year. The maple sap and the mudminnows ran early this year, too. These are plant and fish actions to promote the propagation of their species.

Then yesterday, March 23, it hit. A cold front moved in from the Arctic and collided with moist air from the south. The temperature dropped 30 degrees and what started as rain around 6 pm turned to sleet then slush then snow...8 inches of it! We considered pulling in the bird feeders last week so as to not attract any freeloading bears that soon will be coming out of their dens. In a moment of weakness, I bought two more suet cakes to replace those that had been converted to avian energy this winter by countless downy and hairy woodpeckers, red- and white-breasted nuthatches, chickadees, finches, and the occasional flicker.

We put the two cakes out in their little cages and feel better for doing it as on the morning after the start of the storm, birds were flocking to the feeders. Snow was still flying and wind whipping as the tail of the storm lingered, but the birds seemed secure with their continued supply of compressed seeds and rendered animal fat. Doesn't sound too appetizing to us, but the birds didn't complain.

Now the storm has passed and the plows are prowling around for the last bit of white stuff remaining on the ground. If they would wait a few days, it probably would all just melt away.