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Winter Birdfeeding

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unwieldy. There may be restrictions in your state regarding the type of drivers license required to operate a large vehicle of this sort under these circumstances. There is also a need to determine the type and amount of insurance maintained by the vehicle owner.

Before using a vehicle of this type, it would be wise to examine the kinds of vehicles which are available, determining the insurance coverage which specific rental agents provide (particularly with respect to liability coverage and collision damage) and any legal restrictions which your state has regarding the licensure required to operate a motor home in the manner described here.

Winter Birdfeeding

Winter's freezing winds and snow should remind us that many birds maintain permanent residency instead of migrating to warmer climates. Besides finding adequate shelter, their most important task is obtaining a sufficient and steady supply of food. Here they are aided by many devotees of non-game wildlife. In 1975, the U.S. Forest Service estimated that one out of every five American households winter feed birds, expending \$170 million dollars annually.

While a variety of feeders can be obtained commercially, you can easily make one from readily available household materials. The National Wildlife Federation pamphlet, *Recycle for Birds*, shows you how. Single copies are free, with additional copies 15 cents each. Write: National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Feeders should be placed in sheltered locations, protected from the wind, and preferably near trees or heavy shrubbery. To keep thieving squirrels out of your feeder, fix a metal cone shield on the supporting post.

When your feeder is ready, what should you do to fill it? Research has shown that a mixture of 50 percent sunflower seeds, 35 percent proso millet and 15 percent cracked corn is a good general purpose feed. Foods other than seeds that birds like are: suet, bread crumbs, doughnuts, peanut butter, nuts and fruit. Once you decide to feed birds in the winter, honor your commitment. Birds develop feeding habits and become dependent on feeders for food — if the food supply dries up before spring, they may suffer or even die.

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Energy Booklet

The following energy booklet is available free from Edison Electric Institute, 1111 19th Street, Washington, D.C. 20036: *Emerging Energy Technologies: Energy Research, Answers to Your Questions.*