*The Weekly Wing*

**By Brandon Jackson (The Birding Expert)**

          Hello Subscribers! We are sorry for the extremely long break in the articles, we have been very busy with 7th grade and homework. This week we will be talking about the different forms of suet and which is the best, and should you pick up that bird feather?

          The three most common forms of suet are, suet cakes, suet pellets, and suet plugs. But which one is the best? If you have a suet cage you are a person that uses suet cakes, these are good because they last for a while and they are convenient and easy to use. They come in many different flavors so the birds will be satisfied. With suet cakes, you need to be careful with what kind to buy, any suet cakes under $1.50 are usually not great quality and anything with millet is not the best. Lets talk suet pellets, these are usually tube shaped, and cost about $6.00 a pound. It is a little expensive, but you're paying for convenience and you can feed smaller birds and fledglings. Lastly are the suet plugs, a package that contains 3 plugs costs around $4.00. You may get your hands dirty when packing these into log feeders, but we have found that these are the most successful in attracting birds.

          Now, a topic that has been debated for years, Should You Pick Up That Bird Feather? The answer is, well it depends on the kind of feather, songbird (blue jay, finch, chickadee) and game bird (turkey, pheasant, grouse) feathers are okay. But it is illegal to pick up the feathers from eagles, seagulls, crows, and ravens. It is also illegal to sell the feathers that you collect. Some bird feathers can carry diseases, but most don't.

Special thanks to Wild Delight!

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Brandon the Brains and Alex the Typist

Sources: [http://www.featherfolio.com/guide-to-legal-and-illegal-feathers-in-the-usa/](http://www.featherfolio.com/guide-to-legal-and-illegal-feathers-in-the-usa/" \t "_blank)