



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 19 Issue 4 | July/August 2012

**ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE**

Cabin Birds

Take Your Feeders (and Binoculars!) Up North

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BLOOMINGTON

816 West 98th St.
(Clover Center)
Bloomington, MN 55420
952.884.4103

EAGAN

2143 Cliff Rd.
(Cedar Cliff Shopping Center)
Eagan, MN 55122
651.459.0084

MINNETONKA

4759 County Rd. 101
(Westwind Plaza)
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.935.5892

WHITE BEAR LAKE

2703 East Cty. Hwy. E.
(Cty. Rd. E. and Hwy. 120)
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651.653.8705

WAYZATA & WILD BIRD DELIVERS

15710 Wayzata Blvd.
(394 Frontage Rd.)
Wayzata, MN 55391
952.473.4283

WILDBIRDSTORE.COM

Bird's-Eye View is published to share the joy of backyard birds with All Seasons Wild Bird Store's customers and friends.

MOVING WATER PRODUCTS

Make a Splash!

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

Want to make your yard irresistible to birds? Try adding motion and sound to your birdbath! Motion on the water's surface or the sound of falling water is like a magnet to birds because they instinctively equate moving water with natural water sources that are cleaner and healthier than stagnant water. The sound of moving water also lures birds that otherwise wouldn't frequent your feeders—like warblers, Cedar Waxwings and American Robins—to drop in for a visit. Intrigued? Here are a few ways to get your birdbath water moving.

Water Wiggler™



◀ The Water Wiggler™ does just as its name promises: it agitates two small floaters on the surface of the water, creating ripples in your birdbath. The classic, battery-powered model wiggles continuously for months on two D batteries and is also available in a model that plays sounds of a gently babbling brook. Or, skip the batteries and select a solar-powered model of the

Wiggler. Not only will Water Wigglers™ make your birdbath irresistible, but they'll also help prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs.

Misters and Drippers

Misters and drippers are another way to get your water moving. They require no electricity; just hook 'em up to an outside water source and regulate the flow of water by adjusting a small valve.

Drippers are just that: they drip into a birdbath, providing the sound and water movement that birds love.

Misters spray fine droplets of water ▶ into the air. They're a big attraction for hummingbirds, which love to fly through fine mist!



Attach the mister to a tree branch or vine or hang it over a shepherd's hook and aim it towards a shrub or tree. *(continued, page 2...)*

Giving Back Locally

Thanks for your help supporting our mutual love of birds and nature!

Over the last few months we've been involved in two different campaigns where we've partnered with you, our very generous customers, and some local organizations to support our mutual love of birds and nature. Most recently in May, **we raised \$1,537 from your generous donations for Project BirdSafe**, a Minnesota Audubon program that helps prevent deadly collisions of birds into windows through research and education efforts. We were fortunate enough to be able to match your donations and presented Minnesota Audubon with a check for \$3,074. What a great way to double your money! Thank you for your generosity.

In March, we completed our annual **Feeder Swap** campaign, where many of you donated used feeders for discounts on new feeders. By the end of the campaign, we collected well **over 300 bird feeders!** We've recently finished cleaning and refurbishing them and have already shared many of them with local organizations needing bird education support. Thank you again for your generosity and support. We believe that we're making a real difference in our local communities.

2012 FEEDER SWAP DONATION RECIPIENTS

Plymouth Elementary's Imagination Destination program	Breck School's birding unit
The Retreat	Minnehaha Academy's summer birding class
Our Savior Early Education Center	Belwin Conservancy
Three Rivers Park District's Lowry Nature Center at Carver Park	The Merrick Foundation

~ Al and Dave Netten




Join the Conversation!

Like us on **Facebook.com/WildBirdStore**
Or follow us on **Twitter: #ASWildBirdStore.**

JULY
&
AUGUST

Late Summer

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

- Care for your birds while you're on vacation with our **Feed and Fill Service**. Call our Wayzata store at 952-473-4283 for more details.
- Provide nesting material like the **Best Nest Builder** for late-nesting American Goldfinches. Keep your Nyjer™ feeders clean and full for nesting goldfinches.
- Check your bluebird boxes, removing the old nest and debris between broods. Bluebirds may nest 2–3 times in the same birdhouse.
- Expand your offerings for adult birds to feed their fledglings. Try our **Berry Nutty Mix**, which contains dried fruit and nuts. **Pacific Bird™ and Supply Company's suet** is also a great option. It contains dried mealworms for protein, calcium carbonate for strong eggs and bones and rendered beef fat for energy. 
- Add **Birdbath Protector** to your just cleaned birdbath to provide healthy drinking water. Clean your baths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach; rinse well.
- Offer orioles mealworms, nectar, grape jelly, oranges and dark grapes. Make sure to replace nectar every 3 days.
- Dab mint extract on nectar ports to help repel bees, wasps and bald-faced hornets. Hang nectar feeders from an ant trap to prevent ant infestations
- Increase cardinal visits to your tube feeder by adding a tray to the bottom or “perch rings” that slip on to the perches, making them more cardinal friendly.
- Prevent window strikes as birds begin migration in August. Replace your **WindowAlert™ Decals** annually.
- As birds gather in pre-migration flocks, avoid large numbers of grackles and starlings at feeders by filling feeders with golden safflower or white safflower instead of sunflower or a mix. If you want to serve a mix, try **Bye Bye Starling** to discourage European Starlings.

Make a Splash!

(... continued from page 1)

Tips for Using Drippers and Misters

- * Don't worry about water that spills over onto the ground around baths with drippers and misters—birds often bathe in the small puddles and use the mud to build their nests. Butterflies enjoy these mud puddles too.
- * It's a good idea to place your mister in an area with lots of cover so birds feel safe while bathing.

* You can use a faucet timer from a garden center or hardware store to program when to turn misters and drippers on and off.

* Try placing your mister in a location where the water will collect on nearby leaves and drip down to a birdbath underneath. Then you'll have a mister/dripper combination! ■



Mist collects on nearby leaves, forming drips.

Backyard Birding

Up North



Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are frequent northern visitors

By Bloomington Assistant Manager TRISH WAGLE

You know its summertime in Minnesota when the northbound freeways are jammed with campers, boats and loaded pickups at 3:00 pm on a Friday afternoon. Everyone is going to the cabin! Luckily, we can enjoy a whole new backyard birding experience up north.

Because of the distinctive geographic zones found in our state, as we go farther north we find coniferous forests, prairie grasslands, and lakes with nearby wetlands. These areas are prime bird habitats and many folks are fortunate to have cabins that straddle one or more of these areas.

Feeding Tips for the Cabin

If you choose to feed birds at your cabin,



Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks will

probably be your most frequent northern visitors. You may even see Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Grosbeaks, if you're near a thick forest. Small, familiar feeder birds like finches and sparrows will come as well. All of these seed-eaters will enjoy our **Cabin Mix** because of the high proportion of black oilers and peanuts.

But don't expect to see many cardinals; they're far more common in central and southern Minnesota. However, familiar Blue Jays and American Crows will visit a feeder up north. They may be joined by a Common Raven, which will make our pesky southern crows look very small indeed!

Be sure to place your feeder thoughtfully and use a baffle to deter gray squirrels, chipmunks, red squirrels and even flying squirrels. Remember that most squirrels can jump ten feet horizontally and five feet vertically, so a tall pole is a necessity—one that may also help deter deer.

While you're up north, be sure to put up a hummingbird feeder! Hummers are numerous near coniferous forests. Provide fresh nectar every 4–6 days when temperatures are moderate and every 2–3 days when temps soar into the 90s. If the nectar looks cloudy, it's time to make a fresh batch. If the birds are aggressive and dive bomb each other, a second feeder at least 10 feet away may ease congestion.

Bears may pester feeding stations up north, trampling feeders and bending feeder poles like toothpicks. If you have a resident bear, install hardware that is sturdy and tall and take your feeders in at night. You can also try stringing feeders on a sturdy wire between trees—a method that's proved to be successful for some of our customers. Take feeders down and store them safely when you're not at the cabin. Store seed in a large metal container with a tight-fitting lid—just as you would here—and add a bungee cord for additional security. Never store seed in your cabin, it sends an unwelcome invitation to visitors of all kinds!

Birding Up North

If you're enjoying a day out on a lake, keep your eyes peeled for Common Loons and mergansers on the water. Look above

the waves to see Osprey and Bald Eagles hunting fish and perching in tall trees on the shore. Keep an eye out for Purple Martins that take up residence in birdhouses that bird-loving lake dwellers erect. In the evening, Tree, Cliff and Barn Swallows—as well as Chimney Swifts—will be darting through the sky feasting on the mosquitoes . . . yeah!

Nearby wetlands are goldmines for birding hikes! Look for game birds like Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasants. Least Flycatchers and a variety of warblers inhabit the edges of wetlands, too. Look for Nashville, Yellow and Common Yellowthroat Warblers when you see quick flashes of yellow in the summer.

Forest hikers may see Wild Turkeys; Red-eyed, Yellow-throated or Warbling Vireos; Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls. Forest warblers include the American Redstart, the Black-and-white, and the Chestnut-sided. Listen for owls at night: species up north include Great Gray, Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls. Tiny Saw-whet Owls live in the area of the Gunflint Trail, which is also the only place to see the Black-backed Woodpecker in the state.

Minnesotans are blessed with abundant natural areas for recreation. So the next time you go to the cabin, try taking a feeder and some seed to attract wildlife in for a closer look, or pack your binoculars at the very least! You'll be amazed at the variety you may see. ■

BIRDBATH ACCESSORIES

Birdbath Dripper From Birds' Choice™



Birds find the dripper's sound to be irresistible!

The subtle trickle of a dripper is a visual magnet to any bird. When they see the ripples across the surface of your birdbath, they are drawn to it and stay a while! The Birds' Choice™ Stainless Steel Pedestal Dripper comes with a custom dripper valve that regulates the flow of water from your outdoor faucet. Consider a water timer to turn the dripper on and off automatically. The kit

includes a black mounting stake, stainless steel tubing, 50 feet of ¼" tubing, regulating valve, faucet fitting and a Y-valve.

Bird Mister

Be the Coolest Yard on the Block!

The **Songbird Essentials Spa Easy Mister** attaches to the garden hose and hangs by an "S" hook from a tree limb or shepherd's hook. Mist the leaves of a bush or tree and chickadees will take a leaf bath. Hummingbirds, cardinals and others will enjoy flying through the mist.



A goldfinch enjoys a light misting.

COOL TREAT

Summer Must: No-Melt Suet

Holds Up in High Heat

As warmer summer temperatures arrive, you need not give up on feeding suet to your birds for fear it'll melt. Simply choose a no-melt variety of suet. Our stores carry a variety of flavors of no-melt suet cakes and suet plugs, the most popular of which are peanut and orange. No-melt varieties are formulated to be drier with a more crumbly texture than regular suet cakes and plugs. This texture allows the cake or plug to stand up to summer heat without dripping. Your birds, especially the woodpeckers, will be happy to find your suet feeder is still a convenient source of food, despite the heat.



Try Attractor™ No Melt Peanut Butter Suet Plugs

WHO KNEW?

Fat-free summers? No way. Contrary to what many believe, approximately 30% more suet is purchased in the summer months than in the winter months.

FEATURED PRODUCT

Ring Pull™ Feeders

Clean feeders mean healthy birds. Now it's easier than ever to give songbirds just what they need—fresh food from a clean, hygienic feeder. **Droll Yankees® Ring Pull™ Feeders** are constructed with Microban™ antimicrobial technology to fight the growth of damaging bacteria, mold and mildew. And the feeders



Ring Pull™ feeders are a cinch to clean.

are a cinch to clean: simply lift the cap, then pull the metal rod to remove the ports and base and your feeder is disassembled down to a few easy-to-clean parts in just seconds. It's worth mentioning, too, that this feeder is made in the U.S.A.!

CUSTOMER PHOTO



White Bear Lake customer Tony Hase snapped this photo of a Red-bellied Woodpecker that came to snack on suet from one of our upside-down suet feeders. The feeder design discourages grackles, who find it difficult to perch upside down. *Submit your photo by emailing us at info@wildbirdstore.net!*

Have an idea for a future issue of *Birds-Eye View*? Photos and articles may be submitted by email to info@wildbirdstore.net. **Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter** at WildBirdStore.com to receive information about backyard birding, store events and exclusive discounts.