



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 18 Issue 2 | May/June 2011

ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

Orioles Return!

Welcoming summer nectar feeders

Early summer birding to-do list

inside >



In this issue...

Feature Article.....	1
Chirps.....	2
Seasonal Checklist.....	2
Feeder Favorite.....	3
Oriole Treat.....	3
Bob's Favorite Feeder.....	4
Hummingbird Feeder.....	4
New Product.....	4

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.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Summer Birding Guide

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

Our summer birds are back, building nests and raising their young. Here are some early summer birding tips for providing what they need to thrive during this important time.

Welcome hummingbirds and orioles

Hummingbirds and orioles both feed on nectar. You can supply liquid nectar in a feeder or strategically plant nectar-rich plants such as fuchsia, salvia, zinnias, nicotiana, honeysuckle and petunias to attract these colorful birds. For best results, opt for red-colored blossoms.

Orioles especially enjoy grape jelly, orange halves and mealworms (the latter especially when feeding their young). Consider mixing dried mealworms with nectar for a treat orioles will absolutely love.

Looking for an oriole feeder? Our **Oriolefest** feeder is a staff favorite and includes feeding dishes for nectar and jelly and a post for an orange half. We also carry an oriole feeder made out of recycled materials by Bird's Choice (see page 4) that has dishes for grape jelly and mealworms,

and spikes for mounting orange halves. Clean feeders every 2-3 days using a bleach solution, (see page 2) and rinse well. Avoid ants by installing an ant trap. Spritz nectar ports with cooking spray or mint extract to deter bees and wasps.

Provide special care for baby birds

It's a common dilemma: should you help a baby bird that falls from a nest or leave it alone? The majority of birds we think are abandoned are healthy fledglings and should be left alone; their parents are nearby watching and tending to them.

If the baby bird is sparsely feathered and not capable of hopping or walking, it's most likely a nestling. Intervene if you have reason to believe it's in danger. Look for a nearby nest and place it inside. Don't worry about leaving a scent; most birds have a poor sense of smell.

Offer a source of clean, moving water

Consider installing a **Water Wiggler** (see photo, page 2) in your birdbath. This product creates water movement, which not only attracts birds, but also prevents mosquitoes from laying their eggs in the birdbath. (Continued page 2...)

Summer Vacation? No Problem!

Our Vacation Feed and Fill service means never having to say goodbye to your favorite birds.

A while back, a customer relayed a story to us about the first summer she spotted Baltimore orioles in her yard. Thrilled to see these dramatic birds, she frequently checked and filled the feeder so they'd return often. When it came time for her family's summer vacation, she feared she'd lose her family's favorite birds, since the orioles quickly drained the little dishes filled with jelly. She finally enlisted her sister-in-law to stop by and fill the feeder—but felt too guilty to ask her to fill her *other* five feeders!

Stories like this inspired us to start the **Vacation Feed and Fill service**. We'll keep your feeders full while you're away, or even if you're too busy to fill them as often as you'd like. Combine the Feed and Fill service with our home delivery service—we deliver anywhere in the metro—and you'll enjoy your birds worry-free year round! Call our Wayzata store for details at 952-473-4283.

~ Al and Dave Netten



Become a Frequent Feeder Member

Members receive a 10% discount on purchases throughout the year and special member-only offers. Register or renew at any All Seasons Wild Bird Store location for just \$15/1 year or \$25/2 years (may not be applied to gift certificates, delivery, services or membership fees).

MAY
&
JUNE

Early Summer

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

- Keep nectar feeders clean and full, changing the contents every 2-3 days.
- Offer mealworms to orioles and many other insect eaters.
- Try suet pellets mixed with your seed to help feed nestlings.
- Use the **Best Nest Builder** so birds have an abundance of safe material for their dream home.
- Try a Water Wiggler to add the irresistible sight and sound of moving water to your yard.**
- Avoid grackles and starlings by offering straight safflower, either white or golden, in at least one feeder.
- Scrub bird baths (9 parts water to 1 part bleach) and then use **Birdbath Protector** to prevent algae growth and mineral build up.
- Hang a Nyjer™ feeder and watch the goldfinches flock.
- Prevent deadly window collisions by applying a **WindowAlert** decal to your most commonly impacted windows.
- Prevent buggy seed. Store it outside or in the freezer.
- Try one of our store-to-door services: **Feed and Fill service** while you're away or **home delivery** for your everyday convenience. Call 952-473-4283.



Photo Credit: Don Curle

Summer Birding Guide (...continued from page 1)

Keep your birdbaths clean using a bleach solution (9 parts water to 1 part bleach), or white vinegar. Be sure to rinse the bath well. Adding a capful of **Birdbath Protector** helps maintain a clean and healthy birdbath.

Discourage unwanted window pecking

At this time of year, birds are very territorial—defending their territory, mate, nest and food sources, so you may find birds repeatedly attacking their reflection in your windows. They think they are attacking a rival bird (but a good-looking one, of course). Break up the bird's reflection by applying newspaper or soap, or by hanging flash/scare tape to the outside of windows. Once the hormones die down, so will the window attacks!

Send blackbirds packing

Two summer visitors that aren't welcome in our backyards are common blackbirds: the common grackle and European starling. Both birds come in large groups and eat vast quantities of our birdseed, not leaving much for our other birds. The easiest solution is to use white safflower or golden safflower. Cardinals, chickadees, house finches, grosbeaks and other favorite birds will enjoy this seed. Be careful not to mix the safflower with other varieties—starlings and grackles will just kick the safflower out to get at the other goodies. ■

In Depth: Baltimore Orioles

By White Bear Lake Manager BOB ELLIS

One of the most striking songbirds to visit backyards is the oriole. The vivid orange and black coloring of a male Baltimore oriole is unmistakable and dramatic. While both sexes display a white wing bar, the female's palette is more subdued, with a dull yellow body and grayish-brown wings. Young orioles appear similar to females in color. Juvenile males molt into their adult orange and black while wintering in Central America. You may hear orioles before you see them: the flute-like call of the Baltimore oriole is clear and loud.

Oriole nesting and habitat

Baltimore orioles make their summer home in broadleaf woodlands and forest edges over all of Minnesota—in fact, over most of the eastern United States. A Baltimore oriole's nest is quite distinctive; the female weaves a pouch from long strands of plant material on a high branch, very often in a cottonwood tree, here in Minnesota. She then lines it with grass, feathers or even animal fur. Orioles will utilize soft nesting material such as yarn and cotton if offered.

Attracting orioles

Orioles eat insects and fruit and can be attracted to feeders that offer nectar,

mealworms, grape jelly, or fruit—especially oranges. They're sometimes spotted feeding from hummingbird feeders if they can manage a grip, but prefer oriole-specific nectar feeders that feature larger ports and roomier perches.

Grape jelly or orange halves are good offerings during spring and fall migration. While orioles will continue to visit a jelly feeder throughout the summer, mealworms are attractive to oriole parents; their growing young need the protein. Once the young can fly, the parents will bring them right to the food, which is much easier than the constant ferrying of food the parents do up to this point. Use a dish feeder for jelly or mealworms—or, better yet, both at once—to make a particularly versatile and successful oriole feeder.

Identifying oriole species

You may encounter Orchard orioles in open wooded areas in southern and western Minnesota. Orchard orioles are smaller, have a deep chestnut-red body and sport a black hood and wings. Another oriole species is the western Bullock's oriole. These birds look similar to Baltimore orioles.



Male Baltimore oriole (above)
Female Baltimore oriole (left)



In fact, older field guides grouped the two species together with the title of "northern oriole."

Classifying orioles

Orioles are in a group of birds known as *icterids*. It may surprise you that this group also includes birds that most backyard birders would rather not see—blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds. Compare the outline of an oriole to a red-winged blackbird. You're likely to notice the family resemblance. ■

ORIOLE TREAT

Mealworms Keep Orioles Coming Back

By White Bear Lake Manager BOB ELLIS

Live or dried mealworms make a great supplement for orioles.

A large portion of an oriole's diet consists of insects, especially when they are raising young from mid-June through July. Mealworms are a wonderful way to keep your orioles coming throughout the summer months. Other birds will appreciate the source of protein as well. Don't be surprised if bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches and

many others make themselves regular guests of your mealworm feeder.

Our locations carry live mealworms in various quantities as well as dried mealworms for those folks not sure if they want to keep live worms in their refrigerator.

We carry a splendid orange glass dish feeder that can be used for both live and dried mealworms or to offer grape jelly. This feeder is also available in deep blue if you prefer. ■



Erva dish feeder
Photo Credit: Don Curle

BOB'S FAVORITE FEEDER

Bird's Choice Feeder

Try a Bird's Choice brand recycled oriole feeder

This great feeder is constructed almost entirely of recycled plastic materials! A clear acrylic roof gives you a great view of your orioles and protects your food offerings from rain. Spikes on the bottom of the feeder are great for offering orange halves, and the plastic dishes are perfect for either grape jelly or mealworms. The bright orange coloring is attractive and helps catch the attention of the orioles.



Bird's Choice recycled oriole feeder

The poly-lumber used to build this feeder is made from recycled plastic containers, making it extremely durable and easy to clean. Ten plastic containers were diverted from landfills by this feeder alone!

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER

Aspects Mini-Hummzinger

Easy to clean and fill

Aspects Mini-Hummzinger is a hummingbird feeder that is easy to clean and easy to fill. It has an 8-oz. capacity, three feeding ports and a built-in ant moat. The top just snaps off for easy filling and cleaning. Just take the feeder apart and throw it in your dishwasher to clean!



Aspects Mini-Hummzinger feeder

NEW PRODUCT

Birdola Seed Stackers



Birdola Seed Stackers prevent wasteful seed "sweeping"

Birdola Seed Stackers are a great new way to offer premium seeds. These disc-shaped cakes are held together by natural gelatin. Their cake form prevents birds from "sweeping" their bills through the seed and spilling it on the ground. The No Waste Stacker is a 100% edible cake with no hulls, no waste and no hassle.

To use, simply slide the center hole of the disc-shaped Seed Stacker over the rod on the Vista Dome or EZ Feeder. You can even use all three varieties of Seed Stackers at once.

HUMMINGBIRD TRIVIA

Did you know a hummingbird doesn't sip nectar like you would sip soda through a straw? It laps it up with its long and fast-moving tongue.

A hummingbird's tongue is an amazing tool. Housed within the hummingbird's bill—which is 15–20 mm in length and opens just 1 cm wide at the tip—the tongue is even longer and features a brushy, textured tip. A hummingbird extends and contracts its tongue 13 times per second, allowing it to quickly lap up nectar. Its tongue has few taste buds which, coupled with a poor sense of smell, causes the hummingbird to rely on its acute vision to locate insects and nectar for food.

Have an idea for a future issue of *Birds-Eye View*?

Photos and articles may be submitted by email to info@wildbirdstore.net.



Join the conversation online! Visit our Facebook page to post photos, ask questions, and be the first to know about upcoming sales and events.