



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 20 Issue 3 | May/June 2013

ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

Hummer Tips

Nature's Menu:
Birdscaping Basics

+ Early Summer Seasonal Checklist



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Eagan, MN 55122
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Minnetonka, MN 55345
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WHITE BEAR LAKE
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(Cty. Rd. E. and Hwy. 120)
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
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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.

FEEDER BASICS

Ensuring Sweet Returns

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

There's more to attracting Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to your yard than just putting out a nectar feeder; you need to maintain your feeders to ensure your hummers will return throughout the summer and into fall.

Provide a Ready Supply of Fresh Nectar

Research shows that hummingbirds will starve rather than consume spoiled nectar. Nectar can turn bad in as little as a day or two depending on the outdoor temperature. It can last a bit longer if the feeder is hung in the shade, but never more than a few days. Get in the habit of preparing a fresh batch of nectar at the same time every other day, like while you wait for your coffee to brew, to ensure your supply is regularly refreshed.

Keep Hummer Feeders Clean

Hummingbirds can develop a fungal infection from improperly maintained feeders. That's why it's critical to clean hummingbird feeders every two to three days during the summer. Sound like a lot of work? It needn't be: simply clean feeders when you refresh the nectar. Here are some tips:

1) Select a feeder style that's easy to clean.

Dish-style feeders come apart simply and don't require any special brushes. Other styles of feeders, such as bottle-fed feeders, require a bottle brush to clean thoroughly.



▲ A dish-style feeder.

2) After taking the feeder apart, wash it with hot water and either vinegar or a drop of bleach.

There are also very small brushes that can be used to clean the ports. Make sure to rinse the feeder well.

3) Never top off partially filled feeders or refill empty feeders before cleaning them.

To avoid waste, fill the feeder with just enough nectar to last 2-5 days.

4) To save preparation time, you can keep a week's supply of nectar in the refrigerator.

This is an especially good idea at the beginning and end of the season as the hummingbirds arrive and leave. Please remember: if it's not clean enough for you to drink, it's not fit for these delicate and beautiful birds! ■

Thank You!

Your Donations & Dollars Support Local Communities

Thank you for making our 2013 Feeder Swap another great success!

FEEDER SWAP

We collected over 350

feeders this year, many of which will be donated to local schools and nature centers to promote the joy of bird feeding to local children and their families. It's truly a gift that keeps on giving.

We strongly believe in giving back to our local communities and would like you to know that **in 2012, over 5% of our profits were donated to local churches, to foundations and to promote local wild bird conservation.**

The majority of the dollars you spend with our local business stay in our local



communities.

That's something we're very proud of and hope you are too, since it wouldn't be possible without our great, loyal customers.

Al and Dave Netten



Worry-free Guarantee!

We want our customers to have a worry-free experience with every purchase. If you're not completely satisfied with *any item* purchased from our store, simply return it to us for an exchange or refund.

No worries . . . ever.



Join the conversation online!

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

Nature's Menu

Birdscaping Basics to Attract Birds Year-Round

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

Although the food we provide in feeders to backyard birds is much appreciated by our feathered visitors, it is only a fraction of the food consumed in wild birds' diets. Wild birds feast on natural sources of seeds and nectar and dine on all manner of insects. The latter are especially preferred by nesting birds because they provide protein-dense nutrients for nestlings. If you'd like to invite birds to visit and stay a little longer, consider birdscaping your yard with a focus on creating a diverse menu.

Flowering Plants

Make sure to include flowering plants in your bird-friendly habitat. Flower blossoms are pollen producers that attract beneficial bees and butterflies. Seeds produced by flowers, such as salvia and purple coneflower, attract chickadees, goldfinches and other birds. The nectar of flowers attracts all kinds of beneficial bugs, including butterflies, hoverflies and beetles.



▲ Monarch butterflies on just-opening flower buds.

Native Plants and Annuals

Give preference to native plants when designing your bird and insect-friendly landscape. These beauties are well adapted to local soils and climate, attract beneficial insect and bird species and require less fertilizer and maintenance than annuals.



▲ A hummingbird moth visits bee balm.

When selecting annuals, avoid double-blossomed hybrids. The overlapping petals on these varieties make it difficult for butterflies and hummingbirds to access the nectar.

Berry-Producing Plants

It's wise to plant a few varieties of berry-producing plants for your birds' backyard buffet. In their flowering stage, these plants attract bees and butterflies. Later in the season,

berries provide a much-needed source of sugar for migratory birds and lure feeder-shy birds such as American Robins and Gray Catbirds to your yard. As it gets colder, trees that hold dried berries provide an extended food source for foraging birds. You may be delighted to receive a flock of Cedar Waxwings in the winter to dine on chokecherries,

BACKYARD HABITAT (CONTINUED)

crab apples or other crops that persist on fruit trees throughout the season.

Trees

Birds benefit from many attributes of trees, including shelter, nesting sites, escape cover and a source of food. Depending on the variety, trees can provide sap, buds, seeds, nuts and fruits that benefit birds and insects.

Tree bark provides a habitat for larvae and spider eggs, appreciated by birds such as Brown Creepers, chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers. When selecting trees for your yard, consider varieties that provide food sources for birds and insects throughout the seasons. ■



▲ Berry-producing plants attract Cedar Waxwings.

PLANTING FOR BIRDS AND INSECTS (to download a more detailed list, visit <http://tinyurl.com/blj29s>)

COMMON NAME	ATTRIBUTES	ATTRACTS
ANNUALS		
impatiens	blooms from summer to first frost; seeds, nectar	bees and other pollinating insects, butterflies, nectar-eating birds (e.g., hummingbirds), birds that eat from seed heads (e.g., chickadees, goldfinches) and birds that eat fallen seeds (e.g., cardinals, native sparrows, House Wrens, robins)
marigolds	pollen, seeds	
nasturtiums	low-growing; nectar, seeds	
sunflowers	pollen, nectar, seeds	
zinnias	pollen, nectar, seeds	
NATIVE PERENNIALS		
asters	blooms in autumn; nectar, seeds	bees and other pollinating insects, butterflies, nectar-eating birds (e.g., hummingbirds), birds that eat from seed heads (e.g., chickadees, goldfinches) and birds that eat fallen seeds (e.g., cardinals, native sparrows, House Wrens, robins)
bee balm	nectar, seeds	
butterfly weed	blooms early spring; nectar	larval insects, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds
cardinal flowers	nectar	hummingbirds, special favorite of cardinals
common milkweed	nectar	caterpillar larvae, butterflies (monarchs)
joe-pye weed	pollen, nectar, seeds	bees and other pollinating insects, butterflies
penstemon	pollen, nectar, seeds	bumblebee and other pollinating insects, hummingbirds
purple coneflowers	pollen, nectar, seeds	butterflies, birds that eat from seed heads (e.g., chickadees, goldfinches)
rudbeckia	pollen, seeds	bees and other pollinating insects, butterflies
SHRUBS/BUSHES		
American highbush cranberry	shade tolerant; berries persist through winter	berry-eating birds (e.g., American Robin, Cedar Waxwing)
northern bayberry	semi-evergreen; waxy berries persist through winter	
redosier dogwood	flowers in spring, fruits August–November	
serviceberry	flowers April–June, fruits in summer	source of winter food for birds
wild rose	flowers, red hips contain vitamin C	
TREES		
black cherry	native; fruit, cover	attracts 429 species of larval insects, attracts birds that eat larval insects (e.g. orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, warblers, woodpeckers), fruit-eating birds like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Baltimore Orioles, year-round birds like cardinals and chickadees; wilted leaves and twigs are poisonous to livestock
bur oak, white oak	native; acorns, nesting sites	attracts 518 species of larval insects, attracts birds that eat larval insects, acorns attract Blue Jays, turkeys, grouse, Wood Ducks
crab apple	nectar, fruit	attracts birds that eat fruit, berries and nectar
hackberry	native; berries	attracts 41 larval insects, attracts birds that eat larval insects
mountain ash	some varieties native; berries, cover	berry-eating birds, a favorite of Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Ruffed Grouse
northern white cedar	dense cover, nesting sites	a favorite nesting site for Northern Cardinals
spruces	year-round cover, nesting sites, cones produce seeds	attracts birds that eat seeds from cones: Blue Jays, chickadees, nuthatches, crossbills; another favorite nesting site for Northern Cardinals
white pine	insect habitat, year-round cover, cones produce seeds	attracts 191 larval insects, attracts birds that eat larval insects, Pine Grosbeaks

MAY
&
JUNE

Early Summer

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

Provide live mealworms for birds to feed their nestlings →



- Provide at least two birdhouses—one for chickadees and another for House Wrens.
- Aid in nest-building by hanging a **Best Nest Builder**, a ball made of cotton fibers.
- Supply calcium-rich suet during egg-laying time, such as **Pacific Bird™ and Supply Co. suet cakes** and **Attractor™ nutritional suet plugs** in various flavors.
- Attract orioles with nectar, oranges, mealworms and grape jelly. Change nectar every 2–5 days, increasing frequency with higher daytime temperatures.
- Provide mealworms to help adult birds feed their young.
- Switch to **Nutrasaff™ Golden Safflower** in feeders to discourage grackles and starlings, while still attracting cardinals, goldfinches, chickadees and House Finches.
- Find a baby bird?** If it's sparsely feathered and incapable of hopping, walking, flitting or gripping tightly to your finger, it's a **nestling**—look for the nearby nest and put the bird back in or place it on a protected branch. If the bird is feathered and capable of hopping and flitting, it's a **fledgling**—leave it alone. **Find an injured bird?** Contact the Wildlife Rehab Center at 651-486-9453 or visit www.wrcmn.org.
- Scrub your birdbath with a solution of 9 parts water and 1 part bleach. Rinse well. Add **Bird Bath Protector** to fresh water.
- Stop in to any of our neighborhood stores for helpful handouts, including **Nest Box Basics**, **Attracting Orioles** and **Attracting Hummingbirds**, or find them online: www.wildbirdstore.com/Bird_Feeding_FAQs.aspx
- Prevent bird strikes by applying **Window Alerts™** decals to your windows; be sure to replace annually.

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Nectar Options

We carry nectar in two easy formulas.

When temperatures are moderate, from 60°F to mid-80°F, hummingbird nectar should be changed every 2–5 days. When it's rocket hot, 90°F and above, it should be changed every 2–3 days. That's why it is so important to find a nectar product that is easy to use!

We offer nectar in two forms: granulated and liquid concentrate. The granulated is more cost-effective and takes up less space. To use, mix with warm water so that it dissolves completely.

The liquid concentrate also mixes easily and quickly in a one-to-one ratio.

Whichever form you choose, try mixing it a quart at a time and keeping the excess in the



▲ Liquid nectar concentrate.

refrigerator for quick nectar changes. Don't mix more than a quart, don't keep it for more than a week, and NEVER use Kool-Aid®, honey or artificial sweeteners in nectar feeders.

When the nectar in your feeder begins to look oily or cloudy, it is beginning to ferment and should be changed. Fresh nectar will go a long way to ensuring those lovely visits from the flying jewels. ■

Hummingbird Swings

Entertainment for you and your hummers!

Pop's Hummingbirds

Swings™ are available in a black metal scroll design or in copper with a glass bead ornament.

To use, place a swing near your nectar feeder and [▲ A swinging hummer.](#) hummingbirds will perch there to survey



and defend their territory. Or, hang one off your feeding station and watch chickadees, goldfinches and others swing. Sure to bring a smile! Visit www.popshbs.com to see a video. ■

Vintage Style

Get beauty and function with these feeders from Classic Brands.



The **Oriole Vintage Feeder** and the **Hummingbird Vintage** [▲ Oriole Vintage.](#)

Feeder are attractive and functional feeders. The wide necks and easy-to-open base make cleaning simple. And the feeders stand flat so they're easy to fill. Also, perches are integrated into the basin for strength. The Hummingbird Vintage Feeder has five ports with red metal flowers. The Oriole Vintage Feeder has 4 orange ports with built-in bee guards. ■

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.