



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 18 Issue 4 | September/October 2011

**ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE**

Cedar Waxwings

Entice these beauties to your yard

An early autumn to-do list

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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.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Early Autumn's Attractions

by Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

Autumn brings an anticipation of change, a restlessness. As we enter September, dwindling daylight hours trigger shifts in bird populations, some in full migration to South America, some just to Iowa and others into Minnesota from points north.

Summer stunners head south

Orioles, like many songbirds, migrate at night. Near the end of the first week of September we'll awake to the realization that the orioles have gone. As we feel their absence, these nectar-loving birds will be on their way to their winter homes in climes from southern Mexico to northern South America.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds travel from areas throughout northern Minnesota and into the metro area, en route to their winter destinations. Provided with fresh nectar, visits by these minute beauties continue into October.

Flocks feast on fruit

Autumn's bounty brings flocks of Cedar Waxwings

and American Robins to feast on fruit from mountain ash trees, crab-apple trees and high-bush cranberry shrubs. Cedar Waxwings gather in flocks of hundreds to dine, stripping a tree of its fruit before moving on to their next buffet.

Finches and doves finish nesting

Even as the first rafts of American Coots appear on our area lakes, Mourning Doves care for their third broods of the season and late-nesting American Goldfinches still busily feed fledglings. After nesting, goldfinches' plumage transforms into the more subtle fall color of dull yellow-brown, a change that helps them avoid predators.

Populations shift

This time of year, our backyards serve as a revolving door to flocks as they stop in for a treat on their way to warmer destinations, or settle in for the winter from homes further north.

Crows gather in noisy communal roosts and huge flocks of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds travel through our backyards.

Loose flocks of Blue Jays, (*continued page 4...*)

Join Us

Our Frequent Feeder Member program pays for itself!

Never before has our **Frequent Feeder Member** program been a better value than it is today. With the inflation that's taken place in grain commodities, your \$15 membership fee yields a much greater return than ever before: at current prices, you'd only need to buy four bags of Joe's Mix for your membership to more than pay for itself. So if you're thinking of becoming a Frequent Feeder Member, now is a great time! Members save 10% on every merchandise purchase with the exclusion of gift cards, labor fees and membership fees. *You even save an additional 10% on any sale items!* And, a few times per year, we have Member-Only promotions, so you can save even more than your usual discount.

To our current members: thank you for your business and understanding that this program has great value to you as a consumer and backyard bird-feeding hobbyist.

~ 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.



SEPT.
&
OCT.

Early Autumn

by Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

- Keep hummingbird feeders up until you don't see any hummers for a week (or until the nectar freezes).
- Fill **Nyjer™** feeders; goldfinches are here all year, though they may be hiding in plain sight once they lose their bright yellow plumage following nesting season.
- Planning to update or add to your pole system? Do it now before the ground freezes. We'll be glad to help you choose what's best for your yard.**
- Keep watch for robins and Cedar Waxwings feeding on berry trees, like mountain ash, viburnums and dogwoods. Draw them in for better viewing with a birdbath.
- Install a heated birdbath for the upcoming winter. Birds that don't ordinarily go to bird feeders, like over-wintering robins, will always enjoy a water source. Already have a heated birdbath? Use white vinegar to remove any lime-scale build up from last winter.
- Provide a seed mix with dried fruit, like **Berry Nutty**, to provide a treat for migrating birds. Add some dried mealworms to any seed mix for an extra energy boost.
- Provide peanut pick-outs and suet for birds such as migrating Red-breasted Nuthatches.**
- Juncos are coming! Scatter seed or fill a ground feeder with **Finches' Choice** or **Spectrum Mix** for these winter visitors. White-throated Sparrows, White-Crowned Sparrows and Mourning Doves will enjoy this treat. *Note: some cities have ordinances restricting ground feeding; make a quick call to city hall to see if this is an option in your area.*
- Clean out or take down birdhouses. If you leave houses up over the winter, open the side or bottom of the birdhouse to prevent mice from winter nesting.**
- Close up Purple Martin houses.
- Keep seed heads on perennials: birds will eat these into the winter. Particularly valuable are purple coneflowers, *(Continued next page . . .)*



Cedar Waxwings

Autumn's Itinerate Birds

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

They swoop unannounced into your yard, flashes of bright yellow and red, with their high-pitched scree whistling calls. Suddenly you're host to a flock of Cedar Waxwings, one of the most socially oriented birds to visit backyards.

It's easy to identify Cedar Waxwings: their tails appear to have been dipped in bright yellow wax and their wing tips look as if they've been dipped in red wax. They are medium-sized gray-to-brown birds with pale yellow bellies; their narrow black masks outlined in white make them look like little bandits.

Always on the move

Except for a brief period during summer nesting, these highly social birds are rarely observed alone. They travel in large flocks, migrating from one area to the next in search of berries, their favorite food.

You can spot Cedar Waxwings in woodland areas, orchards and suburban gardens,



where they're attracted to fruit trees and shrubs. Entice Cedar Waxwings to your yard by planting native trees and shrubs that bear small fruit. Or try installing a birdbath with a fountain or Water Wiggler™ because they're attracted to the sound of running water.

Mating rituals

During courtship a pair of Cedar Waxwings often repeatedly pass a berry, a flower petal or an insect back and forth. Together, they build an open-cup nest with grass and twigs and lined with softer material. Cedar Waxwings lay 5–6 eggs and may raise two broods during a season. The eggs are incubated for about two weeks, and when

Below: (Top) A birdbath with a bubbler attracts a thirsty Cedar Waxwing. (Bottom) Cedar Waxwings are social birds that travel in flocks in search of berries.



hatched both parents feed their young.

This autumn, be on the lookout for sleek-looking Cedar Waxwings—always welcome visitors for backyard birders. ■

(... from previous page) black-eyed Susans, sunflowers and hollyhocks.

- Skip the mess and **bring your feeders to any All Seasons Wild Bird Store for cleaning.** Our bird feeder cleaning service will get feeders winter-ready.
- Prevent an Indian meal moth infestation by storing seed in tins on the deck, in the garage or in the shed. For easy access, store smaller quantities in the freezer. Install a moth trap to remove any existing moths.
- Plan a visit to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth. This destination hosts a major migration of Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged Hawks and others. See www.hawkridge.org for more information.** ■



August's Attractions

(... continued from page 1)

arriving from northern Minnesota and Canada, eagerly feast on peanuts from in-shell peanut feeders.



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Warblers—typically Yellow-rumped Warblers—vireos, grosbeaks, and sparrows wing their way south while

Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows take their place.

Special care for autumn birds

Facing either a long journey or an arduous winter, migrating birds benefit from food, water and habitat we provide in our backyards. Be sure to see our **Seasonal Checklist** (page 2) for a complete list of recommendations for early autumn. To track seasonal migrations, visit www.journenorth.org. ■

DID YOU KNOW...?

Acorns are a vital food source for several species of birds. Acorns fall from white oak and red oak trees in September. Wood Ducks, Wild Turkeys and Red-bellied Woodpeckers feed on the acorns, as do squirrels, white-tailed deer and black bears.

FEATURED SERVICE

Advice and Installation Service

Take the guesswork out of backyard birding!

If you're adding a bird feeder pole, we'll be glad to help you. We can come out to your house, help you decide the best location for the birds and for your viewing, and even install the pole system. The service costs \$30 for a typical 30 minute installation (additional fees may apply). Call our Wayzata store at 952-473-4283 today to set up an appointment.



GREAT IDEAS



Instant Feeder

Pre-filled Nyjer™ sock

What could be easier? Just unwrap the **Havegård® Thistle Pouch** and hang it up! Goldfinches and Chickadees love Nyjer™ (thistle) and will cling all over this filled pouch. And it's refillable!

Heated Bird Bath

Erva® clamp-on bird bath with heated insert

The **Erva® 14"-diameter steel ring, heated bird baths** come in a handsome gray granite finish. Our favorites are the deck-clamp model, which clamps to the deck railing, and the ground-level model, for sitting on the deck floor, table, stump or ground. The baths have a 60-watt thermostatically controlled heating element that shuts off when not needed, and they provide water in temps as low as -20 °F.



Easy Feeder Cleaning

Best Long Brush by Gold Crest

Use the **Best Long Brush** for easy feeder cleaning. With a 24" reach, wooden handle and long-lasting nylon bristles—that are strong but flexible enough to pass between perches and round feeding ports—the Best Long Brush is our favorite! Remember: clean feeders attract more birds.



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.