



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 25 Issue 5 | September/October 2018

Squirrels

+ A SQUIRREL FAMILY ALBUM
Immature Birds Matching Game
Seed Suppliers with Local Ties
... and more!

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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

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(Westwind Plaza)
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.935.5892

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White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651.653.8705

WAYZATA & WILD BIRD DELIVERS

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

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

FEEDER TREAT

Who Eats Peanuts?

By Guest Contributor MELISSA BLOCK

Often our customers, seeing our open barrels of peanuts (In-Shell Peanuts and Peanut Pickouts), ask us which birds eat peanuts? Actually, there's a long list of birds that love peanuts:

Jays

Woodpeckers

Cardinals

Chickadees

Nuthatches

Crows

Ravens

Towhees

Peanuts Are Not Actually Nuts

Peanuts are legumes (like peas, soybeans and lentils). They're high in fat and protein, which means they are an excellent source of energy and calories. They are easy for birds to hide and store for another day.

Irresistible to Blue Jays

Offering In-shell Peanuts will always attract Blue Jays. It's fun to watch jays pick out a peanut when served in an open tray. They may pick up a couple of different peanuts, seemingly weighing

each one and flying off with the best. Blue Jays can also store one peanut in their expandable throat pouch and take another peanut to eat or store. Jays seem to announce to other jays that peanuts are being served and soon there are multiple jays taking turns grabbing a peanut.



▲ *It's fun to watch Blue Jays grab peanuts.*

Precision Pecking: Red-bellied Woodpeckers

Red-bellied Woodpeckers also like In-shell Peanuts, but most often they will stay at the feeder to peck open the shell and then fly away with the peanut. *FEEDER TREAT continued on page 4*

The End of an Era

Renowned DNR Supervisor Carrol Henderson Announces His Retirement

Carrol Henderson, DNR non-game wildlife supervisor, has announced his retirement and will be working his last days at the DNR in early October of this year. Carrol has been an amazing asset to wild birds in our state during his tenure at the DNR that began in 1977. He's written numerous books, many of which we've recommended and sold throughout the years, like *Woodworking for Wildlife* and *Landscaping for Wildlife*. Carrol has helped plan and implement conservation and restoration efforts for many bird species including: Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, Eastern Bluebirds and Trumpeter Swans. He's also spearheaded programs advocating the use of non-toxic fishing tackle and ammunition to eliminate lead poisoning. He's a nationally and internationally recognized leader in non-game wildlife conservation and we are sad to see him leave his post after so many years. I've gotten to know Carrol quite well during some recent projects and I can tell you that there isn't anyone with as much genuine enthusiasm and appreciation for this states' non-game wildlife resources than Carrol. On behalf of our business and staff, and with much respect, I wish he and his wife the very best on this new adventure.



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.

Immature Bird Matching Game!

It can be difficult to identify birds this time of year due to the prevalence of immature birds in various stages of development. Can you match the immature birds with their adult counterpart?



1.
Northern
Cardinal



2.
Red-bellied
Woodpecker



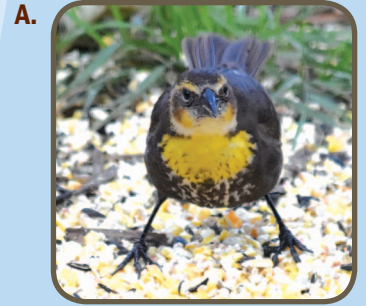
3.
Yellow-headed
Blackbird



4.
Cedar Waxing



5.
Baltimore Oriole



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.

Answers: 1-E, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C, 5-B

A Squirrel Family Album



Get to Know the Furry Tree Huggers that Frequent Minnesotans' Backyards

Once you solve the problem of squirrels in the bird feeder, these bright-eyed and bushy-tailed critters can be fun to watch and to feed in the backyard. We have several types of tree squirrels in Minnesota including the Fox, Gray, Red and Flying squirrels.

Fox Squirrels

Fox squirrels are orange-gray and are the largest weighing three pounds. They can be mistaken for an orange cat in the tree.

Gray Squirrels

Gray squirrels are 1.5 pounds and seem to be the biggest culprit in raiding bird feeders. They can hide 25 nuts in 30 minutes and find 80% of them again. You can imitate the sound the gray squirrel makes by clicking two quarters together.

Black and white squirrels occur as genetic subgroups of gray and fox squirrels. Black squirrels are called *melanistic* due to a mutation that causes a predominance of the dark-colored melanin pigment. White squirrels have a deficit of the pigment and are called *leucistic*. Large natural populations of black (eastern gray) squirrels can be found throughout Minnesota and in several parts of the United States and Canada.

Red Squirrels

Red Squirrels, also called Pine Squirrels, are 7-9 ounces. They seem to be the noisiest squirrel, announcing their presence with noisy chattering.

Flying Squirrels

There are two species of flying squirrels in Minnesota, the southern and the northern flying squirrel. Each are about the size of a chipmunk and weigh 2-3 ounces. They actually glide when their loose fold of skin called a *patagium* is pulled taut as they extend all four legs. This skin forms a large planing surface, enabling them to glide typically 20-30 feet, and up to 150 feet. They live in tree hollows or leaf nests and are our only nocturnal squirrels. If you want to feed flying squirrels exclusively, you'll need to put the food out after dusk.

Feeding Backyard Squirrels

Feeding squirrels is entertaining and can distract them from your bird feeders to a degree. There are a variety of ways to feed your furry friends. Feed squirrels on the ground, on a stump, in a fly-through feeder or on a platform mounted to a tree trunk. Fill these with **Critter Crunch**, peanuts or **black oil sunflower seed**. Hang the **Deluxe Squeegie** and watch squirrels bounce on a bungee jumper while they eat corn cobs! Use a **Nut 'n'**

Sweet Corn Squirrellog on a **Squirrel Table & Chair feeder** or a **Squirrel Chair** for Instagram-worthy photo ops! ■



Shelled Peanuts and Peanut Pickouts Attract Smaller Birds

Peanuts served out of the shell are easier for birds to eat, especially smaller birds. Peanut Pickouts allow a greater variety of birds to eat them since they don't have to expend the energy it takes to remove them from the shell. Northern Cardinals, Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches are most often seen eating Peanut Pickouts. ■



▲ A White-breasted Nuthatch enjoys Peanut Pickouts

Recommended Peanut Feeders



Quick Clean Peanut Feeder (left)

This peanut feeder with a stainless steel mesh tube has a quick-release bottom that makes it easy to clean. Attracts a variety of birds such as woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches.

Whole Peanut Wreath (right)

Fill this wire wreath with in-shell Peanuts and feed the jays and woodpeckers. You can also fill with cob corn and entertain the squirrels.

BEHIND THE SEEDS

By Owner DAVE NETTEN

Local Ties: Meet Our Seed Suppliers

As a local-family business, we do our best to support other businesses with local ties as much as possible. The result? Access to the freshest and highest-quality bird seed.

We've had the privilege of working with a great Midwest-based seed and ingredient vendor, **Sunbird Seed**, who in turn has partnered with a local packager, distributor and logistics company, **Upper Midwest Seed**, to provide us with the best quality ingredients with a short supply chain. This "producer to consumer" network is one-of-a-kind and the result of a collaborative effort between our three businesses that ensures our customers have access to the freshest and highest quality Midwest-grown birdseed ingredients.

Our stores receive multiple deliveries per week from Sunbird and Upper Midwest helping us keep stock-outs to a minimum (we should never run out) and our on-hand inventory very fresh. Here's a little more information about these important local partners of ours.



About Sunbird Seed

Sunbird Seed, Inc started in 2006 with a goal of supplying specialty Wild Bird Stores with a high-quality product, just in time. Sunbird, Inc. is located in Huron, SD which is the largest sunflower-producing state.

Sunbird Seed sales headquarters are located in a western suburb.

About Upper Midwest Seed

Upper Midwest Seed is located in a northern suburb warehouse district, with quick access to the freeway system that circles the Twin Cities, allowing for efficient delivery routes to their locally based retail customers. ■

Our Top 5 Seed Best Sellers

Below are our top 5 seed sellers over the past 12 months, with Joe's Mix taking the top spot by a landslide. If you're not using one of these seeds at your feeding station, we'd highly recommend adding some to the menu. The results don't lie... birds love to eat them all.

1. Joe's Mix
2. Kracker Jax Mix
3. Golden Safflower
4. Songbird Delight
5. Medium Sunflower Chips



Our best-seller: Joe's Mix!

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.