



# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 20 Issue 1 | January/February 2013

ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE

## A Year in the Yard



Easy Winter Feeding

Late Winter Checklist

inside >

### *In this issue...*

Feeder Basics .....	1
Chirps.....	2
Seasonal Checklist .....	2
Seasonal Adaptations.....	3
Owl Facts & Figures.....	4
Featured Products .....	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.

#### FEEDER BASICS

## Easy Winter Feeding

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

Whether it's knee-deep snow, below zero wind-chill or both, filling your bird feeders in the winter can be an icy chore. Here are some tips for making winter feeding a little bit easier!

### Switch to a Large Capacity Feeder

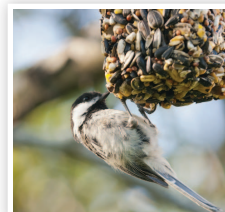
Store a few of your smaller tube feeders this winter in exchange for a large, hopper-style feeder. Larger capacity means fewer fillings! Our **Mandarin SkyCafe feeder** holds 5-½ quarts of seed, for example. Or, try the **Birds' Choice® recycled green hopper feeder**, which has a 4 quart capacity *and* is fitted with two suet cages.



▲ A hopper-style feeder by Birds' Choice

### Try Seed Cakes and Seed Cylinders

**Birdola® seed cakes** and **Mr. Bird seed cylinders** are made of birdseed and a natural protein binder that holds the seed together in all kinds of weather. Seed cakes and cylinders allow birds to peck at their favorite seed, while the remainder of the cake



▲ A chickadee dines on a seed cylinder

stays intact, lasting much longer. There's less mess, because birds can't kick the seed out. And they're convenient to use: simply unwrap and insert one into the appropriate feeder—

there's no need to heft containers of seed through the cold and snow! We have a number of affordable seed cake and cylinder feeder options at any of our neighborhood stores.

### Opt for an X-Large Suet Feeder

Keeping your suet feeders full is also important for birds in the winter. A **Pine Tree Farms 3-lb. suet cake** with a large **Birdola feeder** will last much longer than a smaller cake and feeder. Or, try a suet feeder that holds two suet cakes, such as the **Birds' Choice Recycled Double Cake Pileated Suet Feeder** (pictured).

Woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees will appreciate the the abundant food supply and you'll appreciate making fewer trips to the feeder. ■





## Happy New Year!

### Embrace Winter's Beauty



The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is behind us and it's time to embrace the natural quiet of winter. The sights and sounds of this season uniquely contrast every other season for us in the Upper Midwest.

On colder days, the snow crunches underfoot and our breath fogs as we venture outside to shovel our walks or fill our bird feeders.

On sunny days, the reflected light beaming from the snow-covered landscape can be exhilarating and blinding all at once. I don't think a purer white exists anywhere in the world.

Underneath that stark blanket of snow, nature is rejuvenating and enjoying a needed rest. Soon, we will relish the vibrant renewal as the cycle continues.

Thanks for sharing your love of nature with us. We enjoy serving you!

*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.

JAN.  
&  
FEB.

## Late Winter

by Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

- ☐ **IDENTIFY** birds at home and on your winter vacations anywhere in North America with **The Sibley Guide to Birds**.



- ☐ **FEED** high fat and protein foods such as **Pacific Bird™ & Supply Co. suet with mealworms, golden safflower, black oil sunflower** and mixes such as **Joe's Mix, Berry Nutty, Cabin Mix** and **Songbird Delight**.

- ☐ **FILL** finch feeders with **Nyjer™, Nyjer and chips, fine chips** or **Finches' Choice** for goldfinches and visiting finches.

- ☐ **CALL** for **Feed-and-Fill service** by our Home Delivery team at 952-473-4283. We'll fill your feeders with seed you order or from your own stock.

- ☐ **WATER.** Provide drinking water with a heated birdbath.

- ☐ **PROTECT.** Prevent birds from bathing in freezing temperatures with the **Dry, Dry Birdie birdbath insert.** ▶

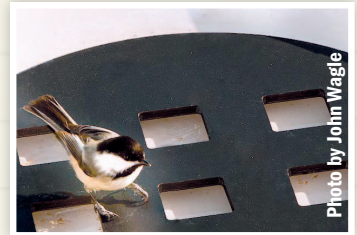


Photo by John Wagler

- ☐ **ATTRACT** ground-feeding birds by scattering **Finches' Choice, Spectrum Mix** or **Critter Crunch** on the ground or place in a ground feeder.

- ☐ **CELEBRATE** January 25th, statistically our coldest day of the year.

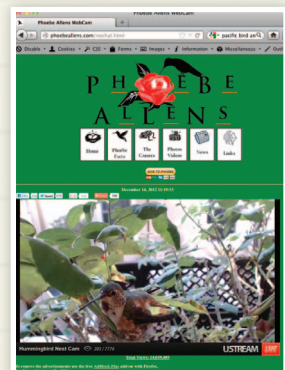
- ☐ **VISIT** the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN to see eagles on the open water of the Mississippi.

- ☐ **LISTEN** to spring calls and songs of cardinals, chickadees, House Finches and owls. Notice the drumming of woodpeckers.

- ☐ **LOOK.** American Goldfinches begin to transform into yellow plumage.

- ☐ **PARTICIPATE** in the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15–18. [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

- ☐ **VIEW** web cams of the Decorah Eagles at [www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles.com](http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles.com), and on Facebook at *Decorah Eagles*. Watch Phoebe the Allen's Hummingbird at [www.phoebeallens.com](http://www.phoebeallens.com). ▶



# A Year in the Yard

## Our Minnetonka Store Manager Shares How She Adapts Her Backyard Feeding Stations To Accommodate Seasonal Changes

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

The early days of a new year are a time of reflection and evaluation. Looking back over the last year, I've come to appreciate a pattern of seasonal changes in the way I feed the birds in my backyard. Rather than approaching the set-up of my feeding stations with a "one and done" frame of mind, I consider my backyard habitat as fluid; changing as needed with the seasons and the movements of bird populations. Here are some examples.



▲ A Blue Jay prepares to take off with a peanut

### Deep Winter

In deep winter, I stock my feeding stations plentifully with suet, including cake suet and suet plugs, as well as with an abundance of peanut pick-outs and in-shell peanuts. Without spring's and summer's greedy grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds that gobble up my suet and peanuts, I can freely offer these fat, protein and energy-rich foods to birds that tend to enjoy them in more moderation! It's a joy to watch the Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches relish the peanuts and suet.

Blue Jays appreciate these special winter offerings, too. I welcome their blue splash of color, brilliant against the white landscape, as they swoop in to snatch in-shell peanuts—their favorite!

Another adjustment I make to my feeding stations in the deep winter is offering suet pellets for the cardinals. I provide the pellets in a tray feeder or a dome-covered dish feeder because they have wider perching areas for cardinals than those of suet cake or plug feeders. I'm motivated to keep my cardinals healthy because—really—is there anything more beautiful than a Northern Cardinal in the snow?

### Early Spring

In the early spring, I shift the offerings at my feeding stations again to accommodate spring migrants. By late April, I set out my oriole feeders and fill them with grape jelly, mealworms and nectar. These additions replace some of the suet or peanut feeders from winter. Later, I hang my hummingbird feeders.

### Late Spring and Summer

I continue to adjust my feeding stations throughout the spring and summer as different migrating flocks arrive. If crows, grackles or Red-winged Blackbirds begin devouring suet, I replace my traditional suet feeder with an upside-down variety. This clever solution makes it difficult for larger "nuisance" birds to land, while easily accommodating the more nimble



▲ A nuthatch visits an upside-down suet feeder.



▲ Minnetonka Manager Carol Chenault

chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers—including the Pileated Woodpecker.

Another spring and summer adjustment: keeping my main feeders filled with only golden safflower. This seed variety is unappealing to feeder robbers like starlings and grackles, yet is inviting to cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches and other favorites. Golden safflower has more oil, protein and fat than regular safflower and its thinner hull means less mess around my feeder.

### Seasonal Changes to Water Features

I change my water features seasonally too. During the winter, I provide a heated birdbath with a Dry, Dry Birdie insert so winter birds have fresh water to drink, yet won't be tempted to bathe. In the spring and summer, I add a mister (a hummingbird favorite!), a dripper and birdbaths in more than one location to accommodate the increased number of visitors to my yard.

✧

Each season brings blessings and challenges. Whatever the season, our staff can help you to explore creative approaches to seasonal changes in your birding habitat to bring in the birds you most want to see! ■



## Mandarin Sky Café

### Large Capacity Feeder For Fewer Fillings

The Mandarin Sky Café is a popular squirrel-deterrent feeder that features a steep 17" dome on top of a generously sized clear hopper. The dome has a wide angled skirt that directs squirrels away from the hopper as they slide down in pursuit of seed. The hopper is large enough to hold more than five pounds of seed. A tray attaches to the hopper and provides plenty of room for small perching birds and cardinals. An optional divider insert allows you to fill the feeder with multiple seed types. The Sky Café is easy to clean and fill and can be mounted on a pole or hung with the hardware included with the feeder.



Photo by Carol Chenault

## Birdola® Wire Feeder

### For Seed Cakes or Suet



The Birdola Cake Feeder is a wire feeder that keeps seed cakes and suet safely inside. Simply slide a seed or suet cake inside and hang. The hanging chain is hooked to the access door so when it's hung the weight pulls on the chain and keeps it closed. The wire is very sturdy and allows birds to feed from any area of the cake. The feeder also has fold-down perches that allow non-clinging birds, such as cardinals, to access the seed cake. This feeder can hold the large Birdola seed cakes and the Pine Tree Farms 3# suet cakes.

## 3-in-1 Heated Birdbath

### Three Mounting Options: Deck, Wall-Mount or Ground

This unique heated birdbath comes with all the accessories to allow for three different mounting options. You can choose to clamp it on a deck railing, screw it on a post, or use it on the ground. The 3-in-1 Heated Bird Bath is 75 Watts and is thermostatically controlled to operate only when necessary. The bath itself is 14" in diameter and has a shallow design that birds love.



## Mr. Bird Wild Bird Feast

### Seed Cylinders Simplify Winter Feeding



Mr. Bird product photo

Mr. Bird's Wild Bird Feast in 72 oz. or 28 oz. cylinders attract a wide variety of birds. The seed cylinders are loaded with pecans, black oil sunflower and sunflower hearts and held in shape by collagen and gelatin. By holding the seed in shape, these cylinders prevent waste from "bill sweeping" behavior, common to House Sparrows, starlings and Blue Jays, in which the birds scatter loose seed by sweeping their bills back in forth in the tray of a feeder. Place in a Mr. Bird EZ Feeder or any hanging tray or platform feeder. The smaller Wild Bird Feast as well as the safflower cylinders come in a mesh bag. Just remove the plastic film and hang in a squirrel resistant location.

## OWL FACTS & FIGURES

### Test Your Knowledge!

By Bloomington Assistant Manager TRISH WAGLE

- ✦ Of the more than 150 species of owl in the world, only 19 are found in North America.
- ✦ The flattened facial disk of an owl funnels sound to the bird's ears and magnifies it as much as ten times to help the bird hear noises humans can't detect.
- ✦ Not all owls hoot. Owls can make a wide range of other sounds, such as screeches, whistles, barks and hisses. During the nesting season, owl calls can often be heard up to a mile away.
- ✦ Owls have *zygodactyl* feet: two toes pointing forward and two toes pointing backward, just like woodpeckers. This gives the birds a stronger, more powerful grip so they can be more effective predators.
- ✦ A group of owls is called a *parliament*, *wisdom* or *study*.
- ✦ A single Barn Owl can eat over 1000 mice in a year. Source: [birding.about.com/od/birdprofiles/a/20-Fun-Facts-About-Owls.htm](http://birding.about.com/od/birdprofiles/a/20-Fun-Facts-About-Owls.htm)
- ✦ It is said that an owl in one form or another mysteriously appears in every Disney picture. Check out all the hidden owls in the dwarves' cottage in Snow White.



**Have an idea for a future issue of *Birds-Eye View*?** Photos and articles may be submitted by email to [info@wildbirdstore.net](mailto:info@wildbirdstore.net).

**Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter** at [WildBirdStore.com](http://WildBirdStore.com) to receive information about backyard birding, store events and exclusive discounts.