



ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

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Hidden Homes

+ Covert Nests Revealed
+ A Guide to Baby Birds

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Eagan, MN 55122
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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.

A GUIDE TO BABY BIRDS

In Peril or In Training?

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

Each spring, we receive a number of inquiries from folks wondering what to do if they find a baby bird on the ground. Should you put it back in its nest? To answer this question, it helps to identify the life stage of the bird you find (see Box 1).

Nestlings Belong in the Nest

Nestlings are baby birds that are sparsely feathered and not capable of hopping, walking, flitting or gripping tightly to your finger. If you find a nestling



on the ground, look for the nearby nest and place the bird back inside. Don't be concerned about leaving a scent—songbirds have a very poor sense of smell

and an overriding instinct to raise their young. If you notice a nestling is pushed out of the nest repeatedly, there's a good chance that the parent rejects the nestling because it detects a defect. In this case, you may choose to bring the bird to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. (*continued, page 2 . . .*)

GLOSSARY OF BIRDS' LIFE STAGES

[BOX 1]

HATCHLING. A bird just out of the egg. Generally a bird is called a hatchling while it relies on its remaining yolk supply or until it is capable of regulating its own body temperature.

NESTLING. A bird that remains in the nest until it is able to fly.

CHICK. A young bird that leaves the nest soon after hatching and typically walks or hops near its family group until it is able to fly.

FLEDGLING. A bird that has left the nest and is acquiring its first set of flight feathers, but is still dependent upon parent birds for food and care.

JUVENILE. A young bird, not yet capable of breeding, in its first plumage of non-downy feathers. This plumage is mostly soft feathers that quickly abrade and are replaced by a later molt.

IMMATURE. A young bird capable of breeding; in its first plumage of hard feathers having already gone through its first molt. These birds are not yet identical in pattern or color to adult birds. Another name for this stage is *sub-adult*.

ADULT. A mature bird capable of breeding and in its definitive plumage.

Fly With Us on Facebook!

How to Take Advantage of Our Growing Facebook Community

Last month, we surpassed over 600 “likes” on Facebook and are enjoying interacting with many of you who post questions, observations, or have great advice to share. For the uninitiated, here are some ways you can use our page to enhance your backyard birding experience:

Can't identify a bird you spotted at your feeder? Snap a photo and post it to our wall for a quick answer from us and our Facebook community.

Make an unusual sighting? Let us know so we can get the word out to others!

Take an amazing photo? Share it on Facebook. We love to see what's happening in everyone's backyards and so do the rest of our followers.

What's not to like about joining us on Facebook? Let's stay connected! Visit our page today at [Facebook.com/WildBirdStore](https://www.facebook.com/WildBirdStore).

~ 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!

Like us on **Facebook.com/WildBirdStore**
Or follow us on **Twitter: #ASWildBirdStore**.

MAY
&
JUNE

Early Summer

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

- ☐ Provide suet pellets and dried mealworms in a cardinal-friendly feeder, like a hanging tray or **Vista Dome Feeder**, since cardinals have difficulty eating from a suet cage.
- ☐ **Install an orange rain guard over nectar or jelly feeders as an added oriole attractor. Try a red one for attracting hummingbirds.** ►
- ☐ Change and clean nectar feeders every 3 days.
- ☐ Consider using easy-to-mix **liquid nectar concentrate** or **powder nectar** for simple oriole and hummingbird feeding. **DO NOT** use Kool-Aid, honey, or artificial sweeteners in nectar feeders.
- ☐ **Attract orioles throughout nesting season by offering live mealworms for nestlings.** ►
- ☐ To clean feeders and birdbaths, use a 9:1 solution of water and bleach and rinse well.
- ☐ Prevent ants from invading a nectar feeder by hanging an ant trap filled with water above it.
- ☐ Provide **Golden Safflower** to attract cardinals, goldfinches, chickadees and finches and to discourage grackles and starlings.
- ☐ Prevent bird window strikes by applying **WindowAlert™ Decals**.
- ☐ Store seed in the freezer or outside the house to avoid moths.



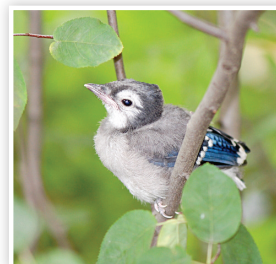
In Peril or In Training?

(. . . continued from page 1)

Fledglings Are Finding Their Way

Fledglings are birds that are ready to fly but are still dependent on parent birds for food and care. It's typical for fledglings to hop around the yard near mom and dad until their flight feathers fully develop—usually about 5–7 days. If you see a fledgling outside its nest, usually there is no reason to intervene; the vast majority of birds we may think are abandoned are actually perfectly healthy fledglings and should be

left alone. A lone fledgling's sounds alert parents, signaling one of them to return and care for it once you leave. If you feel you must intervene, it's best to put the bird on a nearby perch or under a shrub, out of harm's way.



A Blue Jay fledgling

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

www.wrcmn.org | (651) 486-9453

Hidden Homes

The Secret Nesting Sites of Favorite Backyard Birds

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK



Some birds, like House Wrens, Black-capped Chickadees, Bluebirds and House Finches, readily take residence in the nest boxes that we place in our yards. But some species seem to mysteriously appear at feeders one day with full-grown young. Here's an inside peek at what you may be missing.

Northern Cardinals



Cardinal nests are usually very well hidden within dense shrubs or trees, about 3–10 feet above the ground. Cardinals build cup-shaped nests—about 4–5 inches in diameter—from twigs, plants and leaves and then line them with fine grasses and hair. Cardinals usually lay 3–4 eggs, which are a pale, bluish- to greenish-white color with brown spots and blotches. They raise 2–3 broods per season.

Blue Jays

Blue Jays nest in trees, 10–25 feet above ground. Their nests, 7–8 inches in diameter,



are bulky, cup-shaped and made of fresh twigs, bark, dry leaves and grasses. Blue Jays lay 4–6 eggs in shades of olive, blue and tan; they are spotted with brown near the larger end. They raise 1–2 broods a year.

American Robins



Robins nest on any tree branch, in a shrub or on any substantial ledge. They build nests that are 6–8 inches in diameter from grass, twigs and feathers, strips of cloth or paper and moss. They bind the materials together with mud. Robin's eggs are easily recognizable by their “bird’s-egg-blue” color. American Robins lay 4 eggs at a time, and raise 2 broods per year.

American Goldfinch

Goldfinch nests are 4–10 feet above the ground in trees, shrubs and even tall weeds. The nests are cup-shaped and small, about 2½ to 4 inches in diameter. Goldfinches use twigs, spider webs, and plant fibers to build nests, then line them with thistle down. Goldfinches are the latest birds to nest, waiting until thistles bloom to harvest the down. The average Goldfinch nest holds 5 eggs that are pale bluish-white or greenish-blue in color and unmarked.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds nest 10–20 feet above the ground. Their small nests, about 1–2 inches in diameter, typically attach near the tip of a downward-sloping tree limb. Hummingbirds construct their nests from plant down, bud scales and lichens, attaching them to tree limbs using spider webs. Hummingbirds lay 1–3 tiny white eggs—each less than an inch long—per brood and raise 1–3 broods per year.



Baltimore Oriole



Orioles build nests in any deciduous trees, but are especially fond of cottonwood, willow and apple trees. Their nests are commonly found 25–30 feet above ground. Orioles build an intricately woven deep pouch made of plant fibers, hair, yarn, and fine grasses. They lay one brood of 4–5 eggs. The eggs are a pale grayish white or pale bluish white, with streaked, blotched spots of browns and black. ■

NEW IN STORE

Pacific Bird™ Products

Suet and dried mealworms



Pacific Bird & Supply Co., Inc.™ brand of suet and dried mealworms are a recent addition to our shelves. The dried mealworms offer a high protein treat for birds like bluebirds, orioles, woodpeckers, chickadees, cardinals, nuthatches and Blue Jays. Nesting birds use mealworms as a nutritious addition to their nestlings' diet. The suet cakes from this company have mealworms in them as well. Customers at the White Bear store have found great enjoyment from watching chickadees pick the mealworms out of the suet cakes.

Pacific Bird products contain no artificial colors, flavors or preservatives and sport environmentally friendly packaging.

Try some today!

Bird's Choice™ Oriole Feeder

Beautiful, long-lasting feeder



Hang this brightly colored Bird's Choice™ feeder to attract breathtaking orioles! The double cup feeder comes with two sturdy

plastic dishes for offering fresh fruit, jelly, suet pellets, mealworms and more. It also includes two metal pegs secured into the feeder base for spiking orange halves.

The foods are protected from sun and rain by an overhanging clear-plastic roof. The feeder is built from long-lasting recycled plastic and includes a heavy-duty steel hanging cable.

Why do we like it? It's beautiful, the orioles love it, it's long-lasting and easy to clean.



ORIOLE Q&A

By Bloomington Asst. Manager TRISH WAGLE

Q) Which species of orioles are common to Minnesota?

A) Here in Minnesota we have three species of oriole: The Baltimore Oriole, the Orchard Oriole and the Bullock's Oriole. Baltimore Orioles are bright orange with a black head; Orchard Orioles have a darker, more rust-colored breast; and Bullock's Orioles have a black eye stripe and a larger white patch on the wings. Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles will hybridize or crossbreed.

Q) Why are there color differences between the Baltimore Orioles I see in my yard?

A) Oriole colors get richer with age. Female orioles become a deeper orange color with each molt, with older females becoming nearly as bright as a male. Young adult males are paler than mature males: it takes two years for young males to develop their bright adult plumage.

Q) What types of fruit do orioles like?

A) We all know that orioles love oranges, but did you know that they also prefer ripe, dark fruits such as mulberries, red cherries and purple grapes? They'll ignore green grapes or yellow cherries, even if they are ripe.

BOOK REVIEW

By Bloomington Asst. Manager TRISH WAGLE

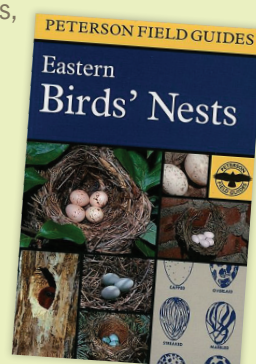
Peterson Field Guide: Eastern Birds' Nests

I love the feeling of wonder I get when I find a bird's nest in a bush or tree in the forest or in my yard. Curiosity takes over as I gaze at the eggs in the nest and I wonder: who made the nest? When will the eggs hatch? Luckily, there's a book called *Eastern Birds' Nests*, part of the Peterson Field Guides series, that fills in all the details. This book includes the nests and eggs of 285 species found in the eastern United States. Each page provides an entry documenting the species, breeding range, habitat, nest and egg characteristics and helpful notes. A color photo of the nest in the typical environment helps cement the ID.

Editor Hal H. Harrison clearly defines egg shapes and markings as well as nest types so that even a beginner can confidently evaluate a new find. Each page has a notes section with informative and oftentimes funny details. For example, the entry for the Northern House Wren reads "nested in the radiator of an unused auto, on top of a pump, in an empty cow skull, in the leg of work pants on a clothesline, in a flowerpot, in the pocket of a scarecrow, in boots, and shoes."

Wrens just have that avant-garde sense of style!

■



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.