



ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE

# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 20 Issue 6 | November/December 2013

HEATED BIRDBATHS:

## Ice Breakers

+ Stress-Free Winter Feeding  
Holiday Bird Lore



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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.

#### FINDING TIME

## Stress-Free Winter Feeding

By Bloomington Asst. Manager TRISH WAGLE

**As the busy holiday season approaches, everyone's to-do list grows.** With so many extra chores and errands, filling the bird feeder may become a hassle, or even—*heaven forbid!*—fall by the wayside. But winter is the season when birds appreciate our feeding stations the most. So, we've assembled some tips to make feeding your birds easy and stress-free.

### Size Up Your Feeders

First of all, evaluate the size of your feeders. Consider replacing one or more smaller capacity tube feeders with a large capacity hopper or tube feeder for the winter. Larger feeders require fewer refills, requiring you to make fewer snowy treks through your backyard.

Two great large capacity options are the **Arudale Sky Café feeder**, which hold 5-½ quarts of seeds, and the **Aspects® Quick Clean® Big Tube feeders**,

### Select a Prime Location

While you're evaluating the size of your feeders, consider their location. Move feeders closer to your house or onto your deck to make it easy



▲ *Do you have to trudge through snow to fill your feeders?* to fill them—without shoveling a path or stomping through the snow. Plus, you'll get to see the birds up close!

When placing your feeders, keep in mind that while cold winter temperatures provide a short reprieve from raccoons and chipmunks, you'll still need a plan to deter squirrels. Squirrels can jump five feet vertically and ten feet horizontally, so make sure you get your feeders both up and away. Consider deer as well. Aided by tall snowdrifts, deer can reach feeders that may have been out of reach during the summer. Pole extensions will help get feeders up and out of reach from non-feathered critters. *(Continued on page 4...)*



## A Matter of Timing

This past June, the National Wildlife Federation released a research report called *Shifting Skies: Migratory Birds in a Warming World*. Among the study's findings: bird ranges and populations are shifting.

Changes in timing and missed connections are major factors affecting migratory birds. Species of birds that begin migration based on temperature cues, for example, may arrive at their destinations earlier, only to find their habitat or food sources are not yet available. Others, relying more on day length cues for migration, arrive at their same time, only to discover that they've missed important insects, foods or flowers whose seasonal timing, or phenology, were also altered by changing climate conditions.

Among our species already showing changes in their migration and breeding patterns include the American Robin, Eastern Bluebirds, six species of thrushes and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. We've also heard anecdotal changes of other species' migration patterns from our customers.

As we delve into our coldest months, be on the lookout for species that have expanded their winter ranges and make sure you include their needs on your feeding station menu. We've sold a lot of mealworms over the last few winters to help satisfy the large flocks of American Robins that have been sticking around.

*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.

## HOLIDAY GIFTS

### The perfect gifts for bird lovers

**Don't forget how easy and hassle-free holiday shopping can be at All Seasons.** We have a great selection of gifts for any bird or nature lover on your list.

Whether it be gifts for family members or you just need a last minute hostess gift for that party you were just invited to, we've got you covered!



## SEASONAL CHECKLIST

NOV.  
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### Early Winter

- ☐ Swap several smaller feeders with one or two large-capacity feeders, like the **Mandarin Sky Café** or **Aspects® Quick Clean® Big Tube feeder**.
- ☐ Add an extension to your pole system to prepare for winter snow depth while also preventing deer and squirrels from raiding the feeder.
- ☐ Move some feeders to the deck rail bracket hangers for easy filling and close-up viewing.
- ☐ Add dried or live mealworms for a high-protein boost.
- ☐ Avoid shell debris under the feeders by using no-shell food, like **Kracker Jax**, **Medium Chips**, **#1 Select Chips** or whole sunflower hearts.
- ☐ Put out an extra-large suet feeder to save on refilling trips.
- ☐ Install a heated birdbath to provide water to thirsty birds all season. Use **Carol's Dry, Dry Birdie insert** to prevent the birds from bathing. Keep the heated birdbath full and fresh.
- ☐ Feed goldfinches (now in their mustard brown winter plumage) **Nyjer™**, **Finches' Choice**, **Nyjer & Chips**, **golden safflower**, or **Songbird Delight**.
- ☐ Provide **Peanut Pickouts** and **in-shell peanuts** as energy food for chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and Blue Jays.
- ☐ Sprinkle **Finches' Choice** on the ground for juncos, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows and American Tree Sparrows.







## HEATED BIRDBATHS: *Ice Breakers*

by Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

▲ A group of Cedar Waxwings visits a heated birdbath.

One of the best ways to attract birds any time of the year—especially in the winter—is by providing water. All birds need water every day, and open water sources are difficult for birds to find in winter. Providing water will not only attract a larger quantity of birds to your yard, but will also attract birds that wouldn't otherwise visit feeding stations (Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, etc).

### Why Water?

You might wonder, "Why provide water, when there's an abundance of snow everywhere?" The answer is simply that it takes a lot of energy for birds to convert snow to water. And with shorter days, cold nights and a lack of natural food sources, energy is a resource in short supply for birds.

### Keep Water from Freezing

Once you make the decision to provide water for your birds, you'll quickly realize that chilly temperatures turn your birdbath into more of a skating rink than a pool. And unless you want to trek outside several times a day to douse your birdbath with steaming hot water, you'll need a birdbath heater.

Birdbath heaters don't really "heat" the water; they simply keep it from freezing. The heating elements in most heated baths and inserts are thermostatically controlled, so it turns on only when the temperature of the water is below a certain temperature. When it's really cold—like *Minnesota* cold—ice may build up around the edges of a heated birdbath, but the center will remain open. Heated birdbath options fall into a couple

of categories: you can purchase a birdbath with the heating element built in, or you can add a heating element to an existing birdbath.

### Built-In Birdbath Heaters

The advantages of birdbaths with a built-in heating element are that the heater cannot fall out of the bath and that they can be used year-round by simply unplugging the cord.

Some built-in heated birdbaths clamp or screw onto a deck railing. Our **Erva deck-mounted heated birdbath** is popular with



▲ *Erva deck-mounted birdbath* has short legs if you'd like to use it as a ground bath.

We also carry styles of built-in heated birdbaths that include their own poles, stands and pedestals.

### Add-In Heating Elements

If you already have a birdbath that you like, you can add a heating element or de-icer. Heating elements come in different wattages, from 50 Watts to 150 Watts. The wattage needed depends on the size of the birdbath and the temperature. A word of caution: not all birdbaths can be used during the cold winter.

For example, some concrete birdbaths crack when exposed to freezing/thawing moisture.



▲ A birdbath de-icer

It's also not recommended to use a heating element in metal birdbaths, since the heating element can accelerate the corrosion of some metals.

### Useful Accessories

Most heated birdbaths and heating elements have a short cord to ensure it stays above the snow line. Because of this, you'll need an outdoor GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlet and a good, heavy-duty extension cord.



▲ *Cord Connect™*

We suggest that you cover the cord connection between the heater plug and the extension cord to protect it from moisture. Try our **Cord Connect™** product, which easily snaps around the cord connection.

It costs just pennies a day to provide water for the birds and enjoyment for you all winter long. ■

### BIRDS IN HOLIDAY LORE

- ✱ Some believe that hanging a cardinal on your Christmas tree brings good luck for the coming year. Cardinals are also a symbol of hope.
- ✱ The 17th century song, *The Twelve days of Christmas*, is full of birds and symbols representing them. The five gold rings refer to Ring-necked Pheasants. Four "calling birds" is a misnomer for "colly", or blackbirds.

## Stress-Free Winter Feeding

(... Continued from page 1)

### Concentrate Your Efforts

Suet is a wonderful, concentrated source of energy for winter feeding. Whether in cake, plug or pellet form, suet attracts beautiful chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers. Cardinals love it, too, as long as they have a place to perch while eating it.



▲ 3-lb suet cake

**suet cake** with a large **Birdola feeder**.

These larger sources of suet will last longer,

Consider swapping your single cake suet feeder in the winter for a double cake feeder or a 3-lb suet cage. Try the

**Pine Tree Farms 3-lb.**

giving you time to finish wrapping presents and bake cookies for the neighbors.

### Make Feeding a Piece of Cake!

If you've never tried pressed seed, this is the season. These jumbo sized cylinders, or cakes, are made with black oil sunflower seeds and pecans held together with a natural binder. Birds peck at the seed to loosen bits that they like, while the remainder of the seed cake remains intact. Seed cakes are a long-lasting option and are easy to hang from a tree or pole close to the house.

What about the squirrels? We stock a seed and whole corn cylinder just for them, packaged in a ready to hang mesh bag. Sit back and chuckle at their antics, because laughter is a great stress reliever!

### Double Up

Another idea I've heard from many customers is to purchase duplicate feeders and keep one in the garage, clean and ready to fill while hanging the other. The plan is to simply replace an empty feeder with a clean, full one instead of taking down and filling your feeder on the spot or removing and cleaning it. This replacement method frees your time so you can tackle feeder filling and cleaning on your schedule and in a warm place. Sure beats hauling seed scoops or bins through the drifts!

Use these tips to reap all the benefits of watching happy birds and enjoy the season. Now that's a gift you can give to yourself! ■

## FEATURED PRODUCTS

### Seed Cakes and Cylinders

Reduce Mess and Refill Less



▲ Birdola Seed Cake and Feeder

**Birdola® Seed Cakes** are premium seeds held together as a cake using a natural protein binder. Birds peck out their favorite seeds and the rest of the cake stays intact, reducing waste. The 2-lb. seed cakes include calcium, vitamins and grit. Hang in a wire cage or **Birdola® Seed Cake Feeder**, or place in a hanging tray.

**Mr. Bird's Wild Bird Feast** cylinders contain pecans, black oil sunflower, sunflower hearts and a dash of white millet, held in shape with collagen and gelatin. Use the 72-oz. size with the **EZ Feeder**, other cylinder feeders, or place in a hanging tray or platform feeder. The 28-oz. size cylinder comes in a mesh bag and can be hung as-is. Seed blocks are long-lasting and prevent messy bill-sweeping behavior. Pecans are a special treat for cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers.



▲ Mr. Bird's EZ Feeder and Wild Bird Feast

### Large Capacity Feeders

Make Fewer Trips to Fill the Feeder

The **Arundale Sky Cafe** Bird Feeder is a squirrel-resistant bird feeder that works well hung in a tree. This eco-friendly feeder is made from 100% recycled Plexiglas®, holds 5–6 pounds of seed and is easy to clean. Squirrels attempting to raid the feeder just slide off the dome baffle—it's entertaining to watch them try again and again! The 17" diameter squirrel baffling dome protects seed from rain and snow, too. The clear-view, easy-flow seed dispenser means that when birds peck at a seed, it falls out in front of them onto the tray for easy dining. Cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and many other songbirds gather on the circular tray.



▲ Arundale Sky Cafe

**Aspects® Quick Clean® Big Tube Feeders** hold 3½ to 4 pounds of seed and have six feeding ports. The Quick Clean removable base allows for easy cleaning. Wide, U-shaped perches and wide feeding port openings accommodate cardinals as well as other songbirds. Available in spruce green or an antique brass finish. Accessorize this feeder as desired with a Big Foot 12" diameter tray and an 18" Super Tube Top Weather Guard for the ultimate winter tube feeder! ■



▲ Big Tube feeder

**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.