



# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 22 Issue 6 | November/December 2015

**ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE**

## Blue Jays!

+ **Late Autumn/Early Winter Seasonal Checklist**  
+ *Gifts for the Nature Lovers on Your List*

### *In this issue...*

Special Event.....	1
Chirps.....	2
Seasonal Checklist.....	2
Feeder Favorite.....	3
Backyard Décor.....	4
Featured Products.....	4
Website Special Offer.....	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**

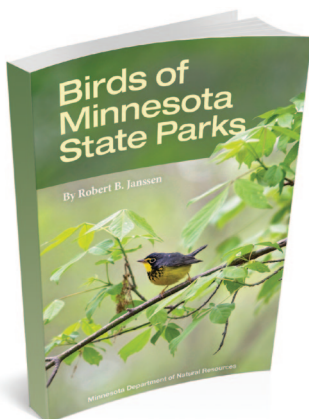
**WILDBIRDSTORE.COM**

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

### SPECIAL EVENT

## *Robert Janssen Book Signing*

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT



### *Book Surveys Minnesota State Parks' Birds*

Noted local birder Robert (Bob) Janssen shares a lifetime of birdwatching knowledge about Minnesota state parks in his easy-to-use book, *Birds of Minnesota State Parks*. Bob's meticulous

birding notes taken in state parks over many years were used to highlight the very best places and times to see birds at each park. He includes a description of the park, a map with directions to recommended birdwatching areas, a scenic photo of the park and a photo of the bird that can be encountered in that park.

According to an April 29, 2015 article in the Star Tribune, "one would be hard-pressed to find anyone in Minnesota with more birding knowledge in his head—and on paper," than Janssen.

**Bob Janssen will be at All Seasons for book signings on the following dates and times:**

#### **Tuesday, December 12, 2015**

**10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Bloomington All Seasons Wild Bird Store  
816 West 98th St. (Clover Center)  
Bloomington, MN 55420

**1-3 p.m.**

Eagan All Seasons Wild Bird Store  
2143 Cliff Rd. (Cedar Cliff Shopping Center)  
Eagan, MN 55122

#### **Saturday, December 19, 2015**

**10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Minnetonka All Seasons Wild Bird Store  
4759 County Rd. 101 (Westwind Plaza)  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**1-3 p.m.**

Wayzata All Seasons Wild Bird Store  
15710 Wayzata Blvd. (394 Frontage Rd.)  
Wayzata, MN 55391

## Placing Family First

As we venture into another hectic holiday shopping season, I'm curious to see what mainstream retailers will try this year to compete for all our shopping dollars. Last year, Black Friday specials could be had on any day of the week, sometimes even weeks prior to the real thing. I thought Black Friday was only one day! You were also able to start your shopping earlier, and earlier yet on Thanksgiving Day. First it was midnight the day after, then 8 p.m., then 5 p.m., then . . . well, you can see the trend. This is traditionally time we set aside to spend with our families and to count our blessings. Yet it feels like now we're just shopping for the deal of day.

As a retailer, I know how important these last weeks of the year are to our annual bottom line, and what you hear is true: end-of-year sales can make or break the year. But these new promotional practices are at odds to the core values of our family business. We value our employees and want to honor the Thanksgiving tradition of allowing them to spend it with their families. For this reason, **we will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.** We offer high-quality products with a 100 percent "Worry-Free Guarantee" at fair prices every day of the year.

So, enjoy a great meal with the people you love on Thanksgiving Day. I know that's where we'll be. In the spirit of the season, I'd like to say a heartfelt "thank you" for choosing our family business and being our customer. You're the only reason we're here.


*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.**

 **Visit our Facebook page** to post photos, ask questions and be the first to know about upcoming sales and events.

NOV.  
&  
DEC.

# Late Autumn/ Early Winter

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

- Offer **Finches' Choice** to attract flocks of ground-feeding Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree Sparrows and Mourning Doves.



- Install large-capacity feeders, like the **Aspects Big Tube**, for fewer refill trips out in the cold and snow.

- Attract birds and offer a clean water source all fall and winter with **heated birdbaths.**

- Provide more fat and protein to meet high-energy needs of overwintering birds with **suet, suet pellets** and **mealworms.**

- Attract nuthatches, woodpeckers and chickadees with **peanut feeders.**



- Brighten the winter landscape** by attracting big, beautiful Blue Jays with a feeder like this **Recycled In-shell Peanut Feeder.**

- Prevent bill-sweeping behavior that scatters loose seed with **seed cylinders** in a covered feeder, like the **Vista Dome or Classic Seed Log Feeder (shown).**



- Discourage squirrels and feed resident American Goldfinches and House Finches as well as winter-visiting Red Polls and Pine Siskins** with Nyjer™ feeders, like the **Aspects Nyjer Tube (Large).** Nyjer is the most squirrel-resistant bird feeding option, but Nyjer and chip blends offer high fat and less shell mess.



- Limit shell mess and spring clean-up with **Kracker Jax** or **medium sunflower chips.**

- Keep feed dry and discourage squirrels** using the **Squirrel Buster Plus Weather Guard.**



## BLUE JAYS:

# Rhapsodies in Blue

By Wayzata Manager MELISSA BLOCK

Photo by Jim Weisman

*The Blue Jay is one of our loudest and most colorful backyard songbirds. The mighty jay is fearless, great at mimicking and an outstanding survivalist known for intelligence, complex social systems and tight family bonds. Here are some insights into the life and habits of this gregarious species.*

## That Amazing Color and a Fantastic “Mohawk”

This large-crested bird has various shades of blue, black and white feathers. The black across the face, nape and throat varies among Blue Jays and may help them recognize one



▲ A Blue Jay can raise or lower its crest based on its mood

another. Like other crested birds, Blue Jays can raise or lower their crest depending on their mood (the “crest” is that Mohawk-like spike at the top of their heads). Blue Jays will lower their crest when they are feeding with family or tending to nestlings. When a Blue Jay squawks, the crest is always held up, reflecting heightened aggression.

## Courtship



▲ An example of Blue Jay courtship

It's hard to tell the difference between the male and female Blue Jay. Females tend to be a bit smaller in size, but it's hard to distinguish the relative size on individual birds. Observation of behavior is the only

positive way to identify the different sexes. During courtship, females drive male behavior: when the female flies away, the males follow; when the females land, the males land. The males will then bob their heads and fluff their feathers in order to impress the female. Often the male Blue Jay feeds the female. In nesting, both sexes start building the nest, but the female usually finishes it and will do most of the incubating. The male will bring food to the nesting female.

## Habitat

Blue Jays are birds of the forest edges, often seen near oak trees in forests, woodlots, towns, cities and parks. A Blue Jay nest is a bulky open cup made of twigs, grass, bark strips and moss; it is often held together with mud. The nest is lined with other fine materials and frequently decorated with paper. Nests are usually found in the V-shaped branch connections of trees, usually 8–30 feet above the ground.



▲ Blue Jays live at forest edges

## Vocalizations

Blue Jays become very quiet when around their nest, but when a predator threatens the nest they use their loud, raucous calls that can be heard across long distances.

Other species also benefit from the Blue Jay's alarm call, alerting them to a nearby predator. Blue Jays frequently mimic the calls



▲ Hear a Blue Jay vocalize as it chases away a hawk: <http://wildbirdstore.com/2014/10/bluejay/>

of other birds, usually hawks. This seems to be to warn other Blue Jays of the presence of a hawk or, as I've witnessed, scare the other birds away from my feeders so the Blue Jay can feast alone!

## Attracting

Blue Jays are omnivorous, eating mostly seeds, nuts and berries. Blue Jays often stuff food in a throat pouch, called a “gular pouch,” to then hide somewhere else. They'll eat spiders, snails, small rodents and carrion.

Blue Jays will come to feeders serving Joe's Mix, Cabin Mix, Kracker Jax, Oilers, peanuts (in-shell or pickouts), and medium sunflower chips. They prefer to feed from the ground, but will also come to almost any seed or suet feeder. ■

## BLUE JAY TRIVIA

Interestingly, the pigment in Blue Jay feathers is melanin, which is brown. The light reflecting off feather barb cells causes the blue color. Crushing a feather can prove this; once the feather is destroyed the blue disappears.

# 5 Holiday Outdoor Décor Ideas Birds Love!

**1**



**BIRDSEED WREATHS**  
Easy, beautiful and practical. Birds love them!

**2**



**SEED BALLS, BELLS & HOLIDAY SHAPES**  
Deck your backyard boughs with edible treats.

**3**



**PEANUTS-IN-THE-SHELL WREATH FEEDERS**  
Woodpeckers and Blue Jays will thank you!

Photo by Leah Coughlin Cunningham

**5**



**HEATED BIRDBATHS**  
This ivy stand brings beauty to your winter backyard landscape.

**4**



**SUET OR SEED BALL WREATH FEEDERS**  
Long-lasting and attracts a wide variety of birds.

## FEATURED PRODUCTS

### Gifts for Nature Lovers

Shop our Holiday Gift Selections

In addition to a wide selection of bird feeders and seed, our stores carry a variety of gifts for the nature lover on your gift list. We have holiday ornaments and decorations to suit every style. Also, our stores have nature- and bird-themed mugs, puzzles, garden flags, garden art, wall art, tabletop fountains, clocks, thermometers, dish towels and more. Specially curated for the season are decorative mugs, soap dishes, wall art and bud vases from artist, Dean Crouser.



Holiday gift selections

### Gift Card

Perfect for Bird Lovers!



Wouldn't it be easier to give the gift of Joe's Mix in an envelope than a difficult-to-wrap seed bag? We have the perfect solution: buy an All Seasons gift card! Our beautifully designed gift cards are available in any amount—whether it's \$5, \$20 or \$100, we will fit your budget. Great for everyone on your list! ■

#### HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE? HERE'S AN OFFER!

Here at All Seasons Wild Bird Stores, we've been working to create a new website that's up-to-date, full of great resources, and gives you access to many of the products you enjoy purchasing in our stores. Use promotion code HOLIDAY15 to save \$15 off a \$75 purchase (after discounts), now through December 24th, 2015!

**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.