

25th

**ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 24 Issue 6 | November/December 2017

Gift Guide

+ Alarm Calls
Dark-eyed Junco

In this issue...

10 Gifts for Bird Lovers.....	1
Chirps.....	2
Bird Behavior.....	2
Feeder Favorite	3

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.

10 GIFTS FOR BIRD LOVERS

Holiday Gift Guide

Compiled by MELISSA BLOCK and CAROL CHENAULT

OUR STAFF HERE AT ALL SEASONS WILD BIRD STORE HAS COMPILED OUR TOP 10 HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS for the birds and bird lovers on your list, from feeder and seed suggestions to attract species you admire, to informative guides and lovely accessories to delight your loved ones.

1

Joe's Mix

Our exclusive mix appeals to a wide variety of backyard birds, ensuring a colorful gathering of feathered visitors throughout the winter months. It's a gift for both you and your birds!



2

Home Delivery

Give the gift of home delivery! The service allows Twin Cities Metro Area residents to order bird food right over the phone, and then have it delivered right to your door.

We'll even fill your feeders for you!

Give our Wayzata store a call to place your Local Home Delivery order: 952.473.4283.



3

Audubon Singing Bird Clock

A perennial favorite, this clock features authentic recordings of 12 favorite North American songbirds that announce each hour. The clocks have a light sensor that deactivates the songs when the room is dark.



2017 Best Birding Retailer Award!

We are honored to have been nominated and to have won the 2017 Wild Bird Expo *Retailer of the Year* award. It's always great to be recognized for something that you spend much of your time and energy doing on a daily basis. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our amazing staff and to our loyal customers. Please see this brief press release regarding the award:

All Seasons Wild Bird Stores of Minnesota was named a *Best Birding Retailer Award* winner at the 2017 Wild Bird Expo™. A panel of industry experts and peers picked the All Seasons Wild Bird Store locations as the *Best Large Store over 1800 square feet with a Birding Emphasis*.

Nominees for the awards were submitted by a Candidate Search Committee, who were tasked with determining who, in their opinion, demonstrated a conscientious effort in advancing the birding hobby and industry. The required criteria to qualify as a nominee included several factors such as: sales volume (total and per sq. ft.), growth history and advancement of new trends, best practice systems, product selection offered, merchandising, advertising, customer communication and education (websites, social media, etc.), and overall impact within their community and beyond. All winning retailers were selected by birding industry leaders.

With five metro locations, the family-owned All Seasons Wild Bird Stores have seen steady growth for over 25 years. Their *Vacation Feed-and-Fill Service*, where they maintain and fill local birders' feeders while they're away, their *Frequent Feeder Member Program*, *Project Lights Out Campaign*, *Feeder Swap Campaign*, in-store literature takeaways, newsletters, and seasonal tips are just a few ways that they give back to the community. Store owner, Dave Netten, also serves as President of the Wild Bird Feeding Industry (WBF) Board of Directors.

Al and Dave Netten

Calls for Alarm

By Guest Contributor MELISSA BLOCK

Built-in Alarm System

The woods and your backyard have a built-in alarm system for the birds. Tiny eyes are watching everywhere! Black-capped Chickadees are usually the first to sound the alarm when there's something to be concerned about. More than a simple "danger!" warning, studies have shown that birds can even communicate the presence, type, and threat level of predators to one another. For instance, their fiercest alarm calls would be for small bird predators, like a Screech Owl or a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Chickadees call *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* that lets all the other birds know that there may be danger nearby. More than 50 different species, including some small mammals like squirrels and chipmunks, respond to this alarm call. It tells them all to "look out!" A study done in 2005 found that the number of -dees in a call correlates with the level of threat perceived. More -dees mean a higher threat.

Flash Mob

Sometimes the alarm calls bring in other, larger songbirds to mob and confuse the intruder—typically a hawk—with a flurry of sound from birds that hide in nearby trees and shrubs. It's hard for raptors to tell where the sound is coming from. Some birds, like nuthatches, freeze in place. Jays and crows usually fly towards the sound in order to mob the intruder and get it to leave. These birds will try to surround the perched hawk, using loud, noisy calls and usually the hawk gives up and leaves. ■



Crows and jays may fly toward alarm calls and coerce the predator to leave.

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.

Get Social with Us

Visit our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/WildBirdStore](https://www.facebook.com/WildBirdStore)) to post photos, ask questions and be the first to know about upcoming sales and events.

Follow us on Instagram ([allseasonswildbirdstore](https://www.instagram.com/allseasonswildbirdstore)) for stunning bird photos and more.



FEEDER FAVORITE

By Guest Columnist MELISSA BLOCK

Dark-eyed Juncos

Seasonal Visitors

Dark-eyed Juncos are one of the most common birds in North America, but I always get excited to see those cute little gray and white birds in the fall. Juncos breed in Canada and Alaska. They visit us in the winter, earning the “snowbirds”

moniker. Juncos start to appear in our area in October and often stay until April. In the winter, they are often found in flocks of up to 30, oftentimes with Chipping Sparrows, Pine Siskins, and House Finches.

Observing Juncos

If you're looking for Juncos, check the ground first; that's where you're most likely to spot them. They hop around the bases of trees and shrubs, or out on the lawn, looking for fallen seeds.

Juncos are small birds, about 5–6 inches long. They have gray or dark gray on their heads, necks, and tail with a white chest and some white in their tail feathers. The bill is usually pale pinkish. In flight, they flap their wings continuously and pump their tails so that the white outer feathers flash. The females look very similar to the males but their feathers are usually more of a brownish gray. Female Juncos often migrate further south than the males to avoid competition. You can often hear their high trilling and twittering notes when they are feeding on the ground and sometimes during flight.

Family Tree

Juncos are a species of sparrow, closely related to the White-crowned Sparrow. There are about 15 recognized subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco, divided into 5 groups: “Slate-colored” Junco, “White-winged” Junco, “Oregon” Junco, “Pink-sided” Junco; and “Gray-headed” Junco. In Minnesota we will usually see the “Slate-colored” Junco.

Diet and Habitat

Juncos are mostly seed-eaters during the winter, when they visit us, but add insects to their diet when breeding. They eat while hopping—rather than walking—and running on the ground. Sometimes you can see them scratching in leaf litter or snow, looking for food. They will occasionally come to feeders and they prefer millet. ■

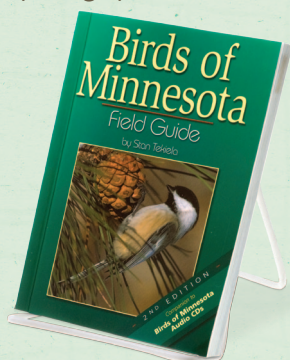


10 GIFTS FOR BIRD LOVERS (continued from page 1)

4

Birds of Minnesota Field Guide

By Minnesota author Stan Tekiela, this favorite field guide features full-color photographs of common Minnesota birds and is organized by color to help readers quickly and easily identify birds.



5

Squngee Deluxe Squirrel Feeder

Feeding squirrels is fun when you hang a Squngee, a bungee-style corn cob feeder. Squirrels jump on, hold on and eat corn right from the feeder! Check out a hilarious video showing the Squngee in action: youtu.be/CyHUGjYjNk8.



6

Aspects Buffet Window Feeder

Give the gift of the best view in the house with this window-mounted feeder. Chickadees, goldfinches, House Finches, cardinals and nuthatches will dine right before your eyes, especially when filled with our Joe's Mix seed blend!



7

Squirrel Buster Legacy

Our customers praise this feeder for its patented squirrel-resistant design that employs a weight-adjustable closing mechanism to block feeding ports for squirrels, while allowing access for birds. The feeder has a patented seed tube ventilation system that keeps food fresh. All parts exposed to squirrels are made of chew proof, rust proof, and UV stabilized metal.



9

Black Heated Birdbath with Stand

New color! This thermostatically controlled birdbath is made of 50% recycled ABS plastic and comes with a beautiful, collapsible ivy stand. The birdbath includes a 4 year warranty on material



and workmanship.

10

Aspects Quick Clean™ Tube Feeders

8

Vista Dome Feeder with Large Mr. Bird Seed Cylinder

The Vista Dome has an 8.5-inch tray, has a capacity of 1,25 quarts, and is protected from the elements by an impressive 12-inch dome. Stainless steel and solid metal hardware allow the dome to be adjusted up and down to limit access by larger, undesirable birds. Fill the tray with seed, fruit, mealworms, peanuts and suet pellets. Or, use it with our large Mr. Bird Seed Cylinder for easy, no-mess filling that lasts and lasts!



All of our Aspects® Quick Clean tube feeders feature an easy-access base that allows for thorough cleaning. They're made to last from heavy-duty zinc die cast components and UV-stabilized polycarbonate. Pictured are our Big Tube, large Nyjer™ and peanut Quick Clean feeders.

Gift Card

Perfect for Bird Lovers!

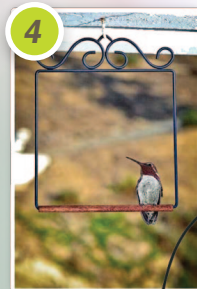


Wouldn't it be easier to give the gift of Joe's Mix in an envelope than a difficult-to-wrap seed bag? We have the perfect solution: buy an All Seasons gift card! Our beautifully designed gift cards are available in any amount—whether it's \$5, \$20 or \$100, we will fit your budget. Great for everyone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

Summer Dreaming!

We couldn't resist throwing in a few gift ideas for those of you who like to think ahead to warmer days and beautiful summer birds.

- 1) Recycled double cup oriole feeder
- 2) Layered Rock Waterfall
- 3) Aurora Water Wiggler
- 4) Black Hummingbird Swing
- 5) Oriole Flower Feeder
- 6) Twist Hummingbird Feeder



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.