



# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 27 Issue 1 | January/February 2020

ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE

Photo by Customer Ann McCarthy

## *In this issue...*

Feature Article .....	1
Chirps.....	2
Staff Picks .....	2
Backyard Birds .....	3
Seasonal Notes .....	4

## Nutty for Peanuts!

Nuthatches and Brown Creepers  
Seasonal Notes

### 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.

### FEATURE ARTICLE

By Guest Contributor MELISSA BLOCK

## Top 5 Resolutions for bird lovers

### 1. PROVIDE A VARIETY OF FRESH, HIGH-QUALITY, NUTRIENT-RICH SEEDS AND SUET.

A variety of seeds will attract a variety of birds. Black oil sunflower, sunflower chips, Golden Safflower, peanuts and Nyjer all provide the needed high-oil content that birds need, especially over these winter months. Suet that includes peanuts, sunflower, and even insects, will help your backyard birds through the cold days and nights.

### 2. KEEP THE BIRD FEEDERS CLEAN.

Wet seed can produce mold and bacteria even in the cold months and can spread disease to birds. Bird droppings are also a health hazard to our backyard birds. Be sure to clean your feeders on a regular basis.

### 3. PROVIDE A WATER SOURCE ALL YEAR.

Even in the winter, birds need to keep their feathers clean in order to provide the best insulation during the cold days and nights. Birds can get a drink by eating the snow, but it takes a lot of energy to convert that snow to water—energy that they cannot afford to use during the winter.

### 4. PLANT FOR BIRDS.

A favorite winter pastime for gardeners is planning for the spring and summer seasons. Include plantings for the birds in your plans. Trees, shrubs, flowers that can provide food (berries, nuts), nectar, and shelter can increase the number and varieties of birds that visit your yard.

### 5. REDUCE WINDOW COLLISIONS.

Nearly a billion birds are killed in North America due to window collisions. Almost half of them happen at residential houses. Birds often don't see window glass as a barrier, instead they see a seamless continuation of the habitat in the window reflections. There are many easy solutions to reduce window strikes, including vinyl decals that emit a UV light that birds can see, but humans cannot. We can also reduce window strikes by careful placement of bird feeders, and even the use of window feeders for the birds.

You can contact our knowledgeable staff at any of our neighborhood stores for help with any of your bird lovers' New Year's resolutions. ■



## New Year, New Hours



As we enter this new year, we're implementing new store hours. Beginning January 2nd, all of our stores will be open weekdays until 7pm. This will impact our Bloomington, Eagan, White Bear Lake and Minnetonka customers, as those stores had previously been open until 8pm.

We've been tracking store traffic patterns over the past years and have determined that the last hour of business, from 7pm to 8pm, has been declining and has decreased to the point where we feel the best decision is to close an hour early.

To help offset any inconvenience, later on this year we will be launching an online ordering option where you can place local delivery orders through our website ([wildbirdstore.com](http://wildbirdstore.com)).

We're really excited about the opportunity for our customers to order anytime of the day using their computer or mobile device. We currently deliver locally, but orders need to be called in to our Wayzata location at 952-973-4283, so if you're interested now, just give us a call.

*~Al and Dave Netten*

### Join the Conversation!

Facebook.com/WildBirdStore

Twitter: ASWildBirdStore

Instagram: AllSeasonsWildBirdStore

## Nutty for Peanuts!

Peanuts are a favorite food for many backyard birds. High in fat, oil and protein, peanuts provide a great energy source for stoking birds' high metabolisms. Our unsalted peanuts are grown in the USA and are sought after by Blue Jays, cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, titmice and woodpeckers.

### In-Shell Peanuts

Blue Jays, chickadees and nuthatches cache peanuts away in their secret food stores. Caching food helps birds survive when natural food sources like weed seeds, tree nuts, berries and crabapples become scarce in deep winter. In-shell peanuts resist the effects of snow and rain.

Blue Jays are adept at pulling whole peanuts through the openings of in-shell peanut feeders. Often Blue Jays will "swallow" one and take another in their bill. They fly up to a tree branch or favorite perch and peck the shells open, eating or storing the nuts. Downy Woodpeckers and chickadees will peck open the shell while the peanut is still in the feeder and extract one nut.

### Peanut Pick-Outs

Peanuts out of the shell, called "peanut pick-outs", provide fast energy with less effort. They also leave less mess! These are usually put in a wire mesh feeder. Pileated Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches,

Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers frequent these feeders.

Cardinals also love peanut pick-outs but don't do well with the mesh style peanut pick-out feeders. Peanut pick-outs in a fly-through feeder, hopper feeder, hanging tray or on a tray attached to a tube feeder are a treasured find for cardinals.

### Peanuts in Suet and Seed Cakes

Peanuts are a main ingredient in many suet, seed cakes and seed cylinders. Suet is a must, especially in the winter, as a fast food source rich in fat and protein. Woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches flock to this tasty treat.

### Seed Mixes with Peanuts

Many of our seed mixes contain peanuts. Cabin Mix is loaded with peanut pick-outs and is a great seed mix to use all year.

However you choose to offer peanuts, they will be welcomed enthusiastically by birds visiting your backyard buffet. ■



### FEEDERS

Bird's Choice Recycled Jay Feeder (for in-shell peanuts), Squirrel Buster Peanut Pick-Outs Feeder (for peanut pick-outs), Bird's Choice Magnet Mesh Wire Feeder (for in-shell peanuts).

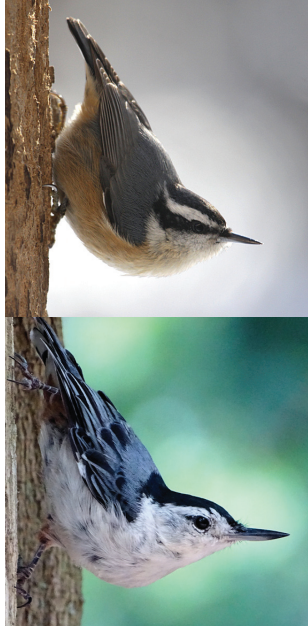
### SUET & SEED CAKES

Mr. Bird Flamin' Hot Feast seed cake (capsaicin discourages squirrels), Pine Tree Farms Peanut Butter Suet (contains peanuts and peanut butter), Pacific Bird & Supply Co. Mealworm + Peanut Suet (contains peanut hearts and dried mealworms).



# TREE TRUNK *Travelers*

Several of our backyard birds spend time traveling tree trunks in search of wintering insects, larvae, spiders and eggs. Among those are Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and White-breasted Nuthatches.



*Red-breasted Nuthatch (Above)  
and White-breasted Nuthatch  
(Below)*

## Nuthatches Travel Trunks Tail Up

Acrobatic nuthatches, sometimes called “the upside-down birds”, are often seen traveling head first down tree trunks searching for morsels. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is smaller than the White-breasted Nuthatch. Both have blue-gray backs but the Red-breasted is distinguished by its rufous/rusty breast and underparts as well as the black “racing stripe” through its eye. The White-breasted has a slight upward curve to its bill.

Pioneers referred to nuthatches as “the topsy turvy birds”. By working their way down the tree trunks, nuthatches are able to find insects that the upward moving Brown Creepers miss.

## Brown Creepers Spiral Trunks Up and Around

The Brown Creeper, with its camouflage of browns and whites, can be easily overlooked on the trunk of a tree. Brown Creepers land on the base of a tree and spiral up and around the trunk and limbs. They flit to the base of the next tree and start the process all over again. Their slender bill has a downward curve with which it investigates the furrows and crevices of the bark.

## Common Diets

Nuthatches and Brown Creepers benefit from the quick energy and easy access of peanuts, suet, mealworms and seeds from backyard bird feeders. Dried mealworms and medium sunflower chips can be added to feeders for extra protein and fat. Both species of bird need to eat enough during the daylight hours to increase their fat stores by as much as 15% daily. Those stores are used up during the night by their rapid metabolisms or by shivering in an effort to stay warm. That explains why there is so much activity at the feeders first thing in the morning. Birds have to quickly begin the process of replenishing those fat stores lost during the night in order to combat the cold. ■



*Brown Creepers are often  
mistaken for nuthatches  
at first glance.*






# Seasonal Notes

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

## January: WEEK BY WEEK

Week 1	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ January is generally our coldest month but we've gained 4 minutes of daylight since the winter solstice.</li> <li>✓ The silence of winter is broken by the calls of nuthatches, cardinals and chickadees.</li> <li>✓ Vagrants like the Varied Thrush may visit feeders and heated birdbaths.</li> <li>✓ Great Horned Owls hoot to declare territory.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Stock feeders for finches, Pine Siskins and juncos with <b>Nyjer and Chips</b> or <b>Finches' Choice</b>. Nomadic mixed foraging flocks will be abundant one day and scarce the next.</li> <li>❑ Put <b>dried mealworms, Berry Nutty</b>, and <b>suet pellets</b> in a ground feeder or under pine trees to help robins through the winter.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Blue Jays liven the air with their pump handle call.</li> <li>✓ Look for animal tracks in the snow!</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Use a large capacity feeder, like the <b>Quick Clean Big Tube feeder</b>, to reduce the number of trips out in the snow and cold to fill the feeders. Or place a <b>72oz Wild Bird Feast compressed seed cylinder</b> in a <b>hanging seed cylinder feeder</b>.</li> <li>❑ Deter ravenous squirrels with <b>Flaming Hot Feast seed cakes</b>, <b>hot pepper suet</b>, or by adding <b>Flaming Squirrel Seed Sauce</b> or <b>Fire Hot powder mix</b> to your seed.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Some winters we see Snowy Owls near the Mpls/St. Paul airport.</li> <li>✓ Flying squirrels feed at night and are attracted to tray feeders filled with Berry Nutty or Critter Crunch.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Provide a clean water source with a heated birdbath. Use <b>Birdbath Protector</b> in it to keep the bath clean and fresh. Refill your heated birdbath with cold water to reduce evaporation.</li> <li>❑ Scatter <b>Critter Crunch</b> on the ground or on a tree stump or in a <b>screened-bottom ground feeder</b> for over-wintering Mourning Doves and others.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Red Oaks begin to lose their leaves—a first sign of the coming spring.</li> <li>✓ Red foxes, normally solitary creatures, roam as pairs now that it's mating season.</li> <li>✓ Woodpeckers drum to announce territory and attract a mate.</li> <li>✓ The bills of European Starlings begin to turn yellow, another sign of spring.</li> <li>✓ Horned Larks begin to return—they're one of our earliest returning migrants. Watch for them along roadsides in the country.</li> </ul> 

## February: WEEK BY WEEK

Week 1	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
<p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Arrange <b>Vacation Feed-and-Fill Service</b> to keep your feeders stocked while you are out of town. Call the Wayzata store at 952-473-4283.</li> <li>❑ European Starlings can visit backyards year round. To keep them out of your suet use an <b>upside down suet log feeder</b> or recycled <b>upside down suet cake feeder</b>. Fill seed feeders with <b>Golden Safflower</b> to deter them.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ American Goldfinches begin to molt into their bright yellow feathers. It's a sure sign of returning spring—eventually!</li> <li>✓ Great Horned Owls have eggs in the nest.</li> <li>✓ Mourning Doves cooing and Red-bellied Woodpeckers performing their "wicker" call are more signs of the coming spring.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tip:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Join the conversation on our Facebook page! <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wildbirdstore">Facebook.com/wildbirdstore</a></li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All Minnesota species of tree squirrels begin their mating season including flying, fox, gray and red squirrels.</li> <li>✓ Horned Larks, the first spring migrants, continue to arrive.</li> <li>✓ Raccoons are more active and Eastern chipmunks may be venturing out of their burrows.</li> <li>✓ Migrating Red-tailed Hawks arrive to claim nesting territory.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Use a squirrel-resistant feeder like the <b>Squirrel Buster Legacy</b> to feed birds and not squirrels.</li> <li>❑ Check out our blog at <a href="http://wildbirdstore.com">wildbirdstore.com</a></li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Some winter visitors begin their northward retreat but many Dark-eyed Juncos remain until early spring. They love Finches' Choice sprinkled on the ground or served in a Nyjer tube or mesh feeder.</li> <li>✓ The American Crow "rattle calls" are another sign of spring.</li> <li>✓ Courting male pheasants make a double squawk call.</li> <li>✓ The first migrating Red-winged Blackbirds, American Robins and Common Grackles are returning. Watch for returning Wood Ducks and Canada Geese as well.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. See <a href="http://gbbc.birdcount.org">gbbc.birdcount.org</a> for more information.</li> <li>❑ We want your bird photos! Send your bird photos to <a href="mailto:carol@wildbirdstore.net">carol@wildbirdstore.net</a> to be used on our digital sign in the stores or on our Facebook page.</li> </ul> 