



# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 27 Issue 3 | May/June 2020

ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE

MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL:

## Bird parents

+ Birdfeeding: A Stay-at-Home Activity

+ May/June Seasonal Notes



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#### 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.

#### FAVORITE PRODUCTS

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

## NEW and CLASSIC PICKS

Here are a few products that our staff are discovering—or rediscovering—as helpful to their backyard birding efforts.

#### NEW: Squirrel-Proof Suet Feeder

The (1) **Squirrel Buster Suet Feeder** is chew-proof and holds 2 5x5 in. suet cakes. It's weight adjustable to help control unwanted birds and comes with a lifetime limited warranty.



#### CLASSIC: Hummingbird Swings

Hummingbirds are territorial and will use a "swing" as a perch to watch over their food source. Simply place it near hummingbird feeders and enjoy watching them sit and swing. We recommend the (2) **Copper Hummingbird Swing** with a red glass bead dangler that attracts birds, or our (3) **Black Hummingbird Swing**, made of a durable powder-coated wire and a walnut-stained birch dowel.



#### CLASSIC: Weather Guards and Domes

Hang a weather guard over your feeders to keep seed dry and allow birds protection from rain and snow while they visit.

We recommend: (4) **Birds' Choice Weather Guard**, (5) **Woodlink Protective Hanging Dome**, (6) **Birds' Choice Hummer Dome**, (7) **Squirrel Buster Plus Weather Guard**.



#### CLASSIC: Seed Trays

The perfect accessory for Aspects Quick-Clean feeders! The (8) **Aspects Quick Clean**

**Bigfoot Seed Tray** catches falling seeds and reduces debris beneath feeders. Easily snaps on to feeder base, no hardware required.





## Online Shopping Improvements

As we've been working to adapt quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made some improvements to our website to make it easier to shop online.

### Frequent Feeder Memberships

First, you can now apply your Frequent Feeder Membership to your purchases, allowing you to receive your discount when shopping online. Visit the following link for help attaching your membership to your first order:

[wildbirdstore.com/placing-an-order-with-your-membership-number/](http://wildbirdstore.com/placing-an-order-with-your-membership-number/)

Don't have a membership yet? You can now purchase a Frequent Feeder Membership through our online store. Simply click on SHOP, then click on the MEMBERSHIP tab.

### Fast and Free Shipping

We're also offering FREE local shipping direct to your door with purchases over \$75. Typical delivery time will 5 business days. Orders under \$75 have a flat \$8.99 shipping fee.

Finally, we're working to add more products to our online store.

We welcome your feedback on your shopping experience! Please feel free to email us your comments or suggestions about your online shopping experience to:

[shop@wildbirdstore.com](mailto:shop@wildbirdstore.com)

### 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!

Facebook.com/WildBirdStore

Twitter: ASWildBirdStore

Instagram: AllSeasonsWildBirdStore

# Bird Feeding: *the Ultimate* Stay-at-Home Activity

*Home, abode, mi casa, my domain*, are just some of the references we use to describe the spaces that we live in and call our own—spaces we're growing to know very, very well lately.

As I write this, the stay-at-home order in Minnesota has been extended until early May and even though that's weeks away, it definitely piles on to the cooped-up feeling that's been building at my house. That being said, we're still able to count many blessings as a result of this more confined reality. One of my favorites: we take more family walks together and we (yes, my college-aged kids too) are really enjoying it. It's become part of our daily after-dinner routine, a dinner that we're actually creating and eating at home. (*We're* is really my wife, I need to give credit where it's due.)

There's no question that we've been thrown a giant curveball relative to how our daily realities will work for a while in the environment of social distance and deadly viruses. More deliveries, more remote workers, more distance, less travel, fewer group activities and so on. I've been impressed by the innovation and ingenuity of all of us as we've learned very quickly to adapt and survive. Who knew what Zoom was before? Or how often did you Facetime your loved ones? Technology has certainly made this easier to adjust.

Bird feeding (not very technological) has also begun to appear on many more

people's radars as a wonderful stay-at-home activity. As regular customers of ours, we don't need to tell you about the power that a bird feeder has at sparking excitement or a conversation with a nearby loved one or inspiring that moment of awestruck hesitation while you just observe one of nature's most unique and beautiful creations close up. You know how special it is already. But the exciting thing that's happening now, is that more and more people are making that same discovery.

As a business person, this is exciting. But as a human being, it's even more exciting because values are being rediscovered that have been hiding in plain sight—values that are powerful, important and will foster stronger connections than we had before. We need to rely on each other more than we're used to and that's such an important part of this lesson in my view.

Enjoy your homes and families and it's our hope that you've been able to share some wonder and excitement around the natural beauty in your yards that are there each and every day.

We've included some favorite products of ours that we feel are great for getting started or adding to your established avian buffet. These are all available on our website and via curbside phone order at all of our locations.

*~Dave Netten*

## STAFF PICKS

These tried-and-true products are great for getting started or adding to your feeding stations.

1. QUICK CLEAN SEED FEEDER, LG
2. QUICK CLEAN NYJER MESH FEEDER, MED
3. RECYCLED DOUBLE-CUP ORIOLE FEEDER
4. KIDS' GUIDE TO BIRDS OF MINNESOTA
5. BEST-1 HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER



# BIRD Parenting Roles

As we celebrate Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June, let's take a look at the roles of "moms" and "dads" in the bird world. The "Best Parent" award would have to go to the Sandhill Cranes. Sandhill Cranes mate for life. They equally share the nest-building, incubation, feeding, and raising of the young for a full year. The "Worst Parent" award goes to the Brown-headed Cowbird. They don't build a nest, don't incubate their eggs, or feed their young. They simply lay their eggs in other birds' nests and let the other birds do all the work. Take a look at some more parenting styles of common backyard birds.



*Both oriole parents feed young.*

## Baltimore Oriole

The female chooses a nest site with the territory defended by her mate. The female then weaves the nest, while the male occasionally brings nesting materials but doesn't help with the actual construction. The female oriole incubates the eggs. Both parents feed the young.

## Black-capped Chickadees

Pairs form in the fall and remain together as part of a larger winter flock. In the spring, both male and female chickadees excavate a nest cavity, which is usually selected by the female. The female builds a cup-shaped nest within the cavity. The female chickadee remains with the young most of the time at first, with the male bringing food. As the nestlings grow, both parents bring them food.



*Male chickadees do the bulk of feeding early on.*

## Downy Woodpeckers

Downies form pairs by late winter. Both of them excavate a nest cavity and both incubate the eggs. Males and females take turns during the day, but it's mostly the male at night. Both parents feed the young by bringing a bill full of insects.

## House Wren

The male House Wren starts nests in several cavities, but the female chooses one and finishes the nest. House Wrens are sort of a "love the one you're with" kind of bird. Males may have more than one mate. Females may leave the male to care for the young from her first brood and move to another male's territory and start another brood. Both parents may feed the nestlings. It keeps both parents very busy if they both have multiple nests going.



*Male House Wrens start nest building.*

## Northern Cardinals

Cardinals usually start their courtship early in the breeding season, with the male feeding the female. When it comes to nest building, the male sometimes brings nesting material to the female, who does most of the building. Both parents feed the nestlings. Eventually, the female may leave to start another nesting site, while the male continues to feed the fledglings.



*Both parents feed nestlings.*

## Pileated Woodpeckers

These woodpeckers are monogamous. The male Pileated Woodpecker begins excavating the nest cavity, doing most of the work. The female does contribute, especially as the cavity nears completion. Both males and females feed the nestling, by regurgitation.



*Males choose the nest site.*

## Red-bellied Woodpeckers

These woodpeckers begin nesting when the male chooses the nest site—often multiple sites—and begins excavating. Males then try to attract a female by calling and tapping on wood on or near the cavity. The female chooses which nest she prefers and then she helps put the finishing touches to the nest cavity. Both males and females feed the nestlings.

## Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

The females build the nest, feed the young, and may even begin building a second nest while still feeding the young in her first nest. The male hummingbird doesn't participate in nest-building, incubation, or feeding of the young. However, he does feed the female while she incubates the eggs.

## White-breasted Nuthatch

These birds remain together in their nesting territory year round and may mate for life. Female nuthatches build the nests, in a cavity or nestbox, on their own. Both parents feed the young. ■



# Seasonal Notes

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

## May: WEEK BY WEEK

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ On May 1st, sunrise is at 6:02 am, and sunset is at 8:19 pm.</li> <li>✓ Early May sees the return of warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and the continued return of <b>orioles</b> and hummingbirds.</li> <li>✓ Dandelions are an essential food source for honey bees and pollinators.</li> <li>✓ Robin eggs are hatching and Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals are incubating eggs.</li> <li>✓ Leopard frogs, American toads and chorus frogs are vocalizing.</li> <li>✓ Young gray squirrels leave the nest.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip:</i> Use calcium-rich suet during egg-laying season such as <b>Pacific Bird and Supply suet cakes</b> and MN-made <b>Woodpecker Products Suet Plugs</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Warbler migration is at peak.</li> <li>✓ House Wrens and orioles are very vocal.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip:</i> Change nectar in oriole and hummingbird feeders every three days. Or, use liquid or powder nectar with <b>Nectar Defender</b> already added to keep your nectar fresh longer. Great for use at the cabin when larger-capacity nectar feeders will be unattended for a week. Do not use Kool-Aid, honey, or sweeteners in nectar feeders.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Baltimore Orioles begin to build nests.</li> <li>✓ First monarch butterflies return.</li> </ul>  <p><i>Tip:</i> Put out at least two bird houses—one for chickadees and one for wrens. Place the chickadee house out of direct sight line of the wren house to keep the peace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ White-tailed deer give birth to fawns.</li> <li>✓ Tiger swallowtail butterflies take wing.</li> <li>✓ Loons incubate eggs.</li> <li>✓ Chipping Sparrows call and Common Grackles fledge.</li> <li>✓ <b>Wood Ducks</b> jump from nest boxes around Memorial Day into the first week of June.</li> </ul> 

## June: WEEK BY WEEK

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Cedar Waxwings</b> build nests.</li> <li>✓ Young Red-tailed Hawks are ready to practice flying.</li> <li>✓ Great bird sounds and songs fill the air. Especially vocal are: Song Sparrows, Warbling Vireos, House Wrens and <b>Common Yellowthroats</b>.</li> </ul>   <p><i>Tip:</i> Cardinals have difficulty eating from a suet cage but will feed their young <b>suet pellets</b> and <b>dried or live mealworms</b> offered from a <b>dish-style feeder</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lights attract Luna moths.</li> <li>✓ Orioles feed nestlings. They feed caterpillars to their young and are especially attracted to mealworm feeders while they have nestlings.</li> <li>✓ Numerous dragonflies eat mosquitoes.</li> <li>✓ <b>Eastern Wood Pewees</b> call.</li> <li>✓ Purple Martins hatch.</li> <li>✓ Fledgling Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers come to feeders with the adults.</li> <li>✓ June 10–20 are our earliest sunrises of the year.</li> </ul>  <p><i>Tip:</i> Prevent just-fledged juvenile birds from hitting your windows by applying UV-reflective decals by <b>WindowAlert</b>.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Many birds fledge: House Wrens, Song Sparrows, Blue Jays, cardinals and orioles.</li> <li>✓ Gray Catbirds and Indigo Buntings arrive.</li> <li>✓ June 20 is the official first day of summer and has the most hours of daylight, 15 hours &amp; 37 min.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tips:</i> Keep ants out of the nectar by hanging a feeder from an ant moat filled with water or an <b>Antguard</b>,® which repels ants. Or use <b>Nectar Fortress Natural Ant Repellent gel</b> in a ring around the pole to prevent ants from climbing. Deter bees from feeders by rubbing mint leaves or mint extract on the nectar ports. For a safe and healthy birdbath add <b>Birdbath Protector™</b> to the just-cleaned bath.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ First Monarch butterflies of the new generation are on the wing. Swamp milkweed begins to bloom.</li> <li>✓ Common Nighthawks feed in the evening sky.</li> <li>✓ Waterfowl are currently flightless as they molt.</li> <li>✓ Goldfinches are our latest nesting songbird.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tips:</i> Deter unwanted starlings with <b>Golden Safflower</b> seed, <b>Bye Bye Starling</b> mix and by using an <b>upside-down suet feeder</b>. Purchase our <b>Feed-and-Fill Service</b> before you leave on vacation to keep your feeders full and fresh while you're gone. Call our Wayzata store at 952-473-4283 to arrange service to your home.</p>