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 hummer 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.

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.
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/

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

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
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Week</th>
<th>2nd Week</th>
<th>3rd Week</th>
<th>4th Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ On May 1st, sunrise is at 6:02 am, and sunset is at 8:19 pm.</td>
<td>✓ Warbler migration is at peak.</td>
<td>✓ Baltimore Orioles begin to build nests.</td>
<td>✓ White-tailed deer give birth to fawns.</td>
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<td>✓ Early May sees the return of warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and the continued return of orioles and hummingbirds.</td>
<td>✓ House Wrens and orioles are very vocal.</td>
<td>✓ First monarch butterflies return.</td>
<td>✓ Tiger swallowtail butterflies take wing.</td>
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<td>✓ Dandelions are an essential food source for honey bees and pollinators.</td>
<td>✓ Change nectar in oriole and hummingbird feeders every three days. Or, use liquid or powder nectar with Nectar Defender 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.</td>
<td>✓ Loons incubate eggs.</td>
<td>✓ Chipping Sparrows call and Common Grackles fledge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Robin eggs are hatching and Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals are incubating eggs.</td>
<td>✓ Leopard frogs, American toads and chorus frogs are vocalizing.</td>
<td>✓ Chipping Sparrows call and Common Grackles fledge.</td>
<td>✓ Wood Ducks jump from nest boxes around Memorial Day into the first week of June.</td>
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<td>✓ Young gray squirrels leave the nest.</td>
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**Tip:** Use calcium-rich suet during egg-laying season such as Pacific Bird and Supply suet cakes and MN-made Woodpecker Products Suet Plugs.

#### June: Week by Week

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<td>✓ Cedar Waxwings build nests.</td>
<td>✓ Lights attract Luna moths.</td>
<td>✓ Many birds fledge: House Wrens, Song Sparrows, Blue Jays, cardinals and orioles.</td>
<td>✓ First Monarch butterflies of the new generation are on the wing. Swamp milkweed begins to bloom.</td>
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<td>✓ Young Red-tailed Hawks are ready to practice flying.</td>
<td>✓ Orioles feed nestlings. They feed caterpillars to their young and are especially attracted to mealworm feeders while they have nestlings.</td>
<td>✓ Gray Catbirds and Indigo Buntings arrive.</td>
<td>✓ Common Nighthawks feed in the evening sky.</td>
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<td>✓ Great bird sounds and songs fill the air. Especially vocal are: Song Sparrows, Warbling Vireos, House Wrens and Common Yellowthroats.</td>
<td>✓ Numerous dragonflies eat mosquitoes.</td>
<td>✓ June 20 is the official first day of summer and has the most hours of daylight, 15 hours &amp; 37 min.</td>
<td>✓ Waterfowl are currently flightless as they molt.</td>
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<td>✓ Eastern Wood Pewees call.</td>
<td>✓ Eastern Wood Pewees call.</td>
<td><strong>Tips:</strong> Keep ants out of the nectar by hanging a feeder from an ant moat filled with water or an Antguard® which repels ants. Or use Nectar Fortress Natural Ant Repellent gel in a ring around the pole to prevent ants from climbing.</td>
<td>✓ Goldfinches are our latest nesting songbird.</td>
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<td>✓ Purple Martins hatch.</td>
<td>✓ Fledgling Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers come to feeders with the adults.</td>
<td>✓ Many birds fledge: House Wrens, Song Sparrows, Blue Jays, cardinals and orioles.</td>
<td><strong>Tips:</strong> Deter unwanted starlings with Golden Safflower seed, Bye Bye Starling mix and by using an upside-down suet feeder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ June 10–20 are our earliest sunrises of the year.</td>
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<td>✓ Many birds fledge: House Wrens, Song Sparrows, Blue Jays, cardinals and orioles.</td>
<td>Purchase our Feed-and-Fill Service 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tip:** Cardinals have difficulty eating from a suet cage but will feed their young suet pellets and dried or live mealworms offered from a dish-style feeder.

**Tip:** Prevent just-fledged juvenile birds from hitting your windows by applying UV-reflective decals by WindowAlert.