



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 28 Issue 3 | May/June 2021

ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

1991-2021

Celebrating **30** *Years!*
+ **Bird Anatomy**
+ **Birding Hot Spots**

In this issue...

Feature Article	1
Chirps.....	2
Staff Tips.....	2
Field Trip	3
Seasonal Notes	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.

FEATURE ARTICLE

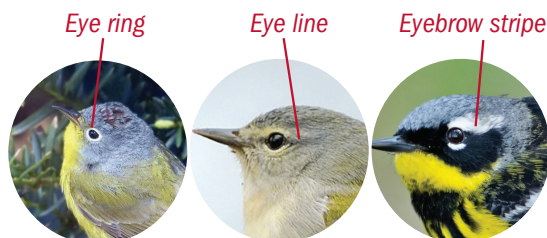
By Guest Contributor MELISSA BLOCK

Basics of **BIRD ANATOMY**

IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY BIRDS, IT'S HELPFUL TO KNOW THE BASIC ANATOMY OF A BIRD.

Field guides often use field marks to provide a description of a bird. Field marks are distinctive colors, stripes, patterns, or spots. You'll often see descriptions like "red mark on the nape" or "white breast," so it helps if you know a little bit about a bird's anatomy.

Ornithologists often divide a bird's body into regions. The main regions are: beak, head, back, throat, breast, wings, tail and legs. These regions can be divided even further.



HEAD

A bird's head is one of the easiest places to look for field marks. The *nape* is the back of the head, the *crown* is the top of the head, and the *chin* and *throat* are immediately under the beak. The other area of the head to look for distinctive markings is the eye. Does the bird have an *eye ring* (circle of color around the eye)? Does it have

an *eye line* (line through the eye), or an *eyebrow stripe* (line over the eye)?

NECK

Sometimes the neck of a bird can help with identification, although it is hard to see on many species. The neck of wading birds is much more prominent and therefore easier to check for field marks.

BREAST AND BELLY

The breast and belly of a bird often show distinctive field markings. For instance, the White-breasted Nuthatch is distinct in its white color from the throat to its belly. The Red-bellied Woodpecker has a small patch of red on its belly, not on its breast. It also has a red patch on its nape, a part of the head.

RUMP

A bird's *rump* is just where you'd think it would be—on its back, just above the tail (think Yellow-rumped Warbler, aka "butterbutt"). Sometimes the field marks on the rump can be hard to see and don't stand out.

TAIL

A tail can have many distinctive field marks. What is the length, the shape, the color?

Continued on page 2 . . .

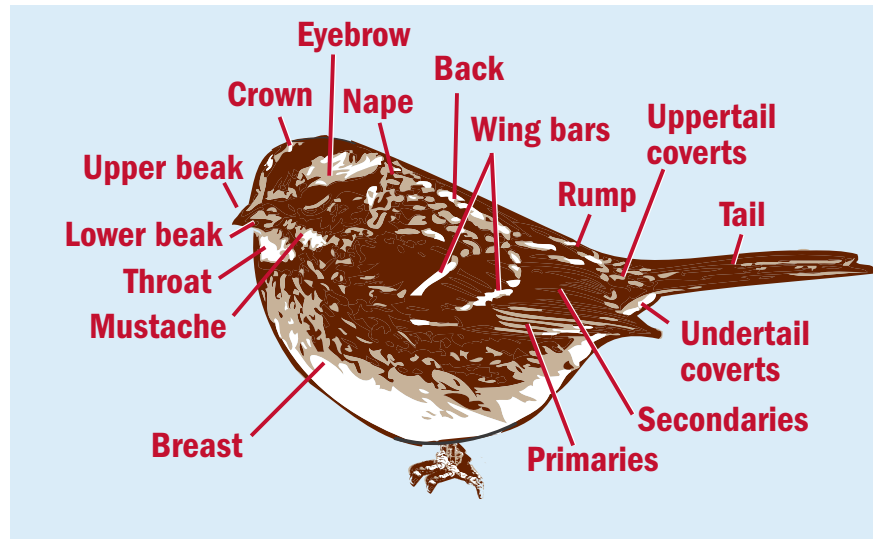
Your Window to Nature for Over 30 Years!

As we've mentioned previously, 2021 commemorates our 30th anniversary as All Seasons Wild Bird Store. In that 30 years, we've seen many changes, but ultimately, the most important things have stayed the same.

- We've seen the excitement that fun new products have brought to our customers, like various iterations of squirrel-resistant feeders: some that spin, some that spring and some that simply shut the door on invaders. We've seen squirrel feeders that bounce up and down like bungee cords with a corn cob swinging as the prize.
- We've witnessed the trend of cleaner bird foods that don't germinate in our lawns and gardens—the less mess or no mess trend.
- We've seen an explosion in interest in feeding hummingbirds and orioles when they arrive each spring.
- We've seen many more flavors, shapes and sizes of suet and seed cakes come to market—most with gourmet ingredients like peanut butter and insects.
- We've seen people become very comfortable with offering mealworms at their feeding stations year-round.
- We know many of you probably still experience the singing songs of birds as your bird clock strikes the hour.
- The mix that started it all for us, Joe's Mix, has been our steady top seller for every year of the last 30 years.
- Steve, our Bloomington store manager has been a steadfast overseer of that store and customer favorite for every day we've been in business.

The joy that we all experience while watching and listening to the song birds that grace our yards year-round remains the single reason that our business has survived this long. We are grateful to all of our wonderful staff and especially to our customers who remain loyal and continue to choose to shop with us. We wouldn't have made it without all of you and we truly appreciate you.

~Al and Dave Netten



There are *undertail coverts* (the short feathers underneath the tail) and *upper tail coverts* (feathers on top of the tail).

WING

Many distinctive field markings can be found on a bird's wing. Does it have a *wing bar* (stripes across a folded wing)? Check for *wing patches* (blocks of color on the wing). What do the *wing tips* look

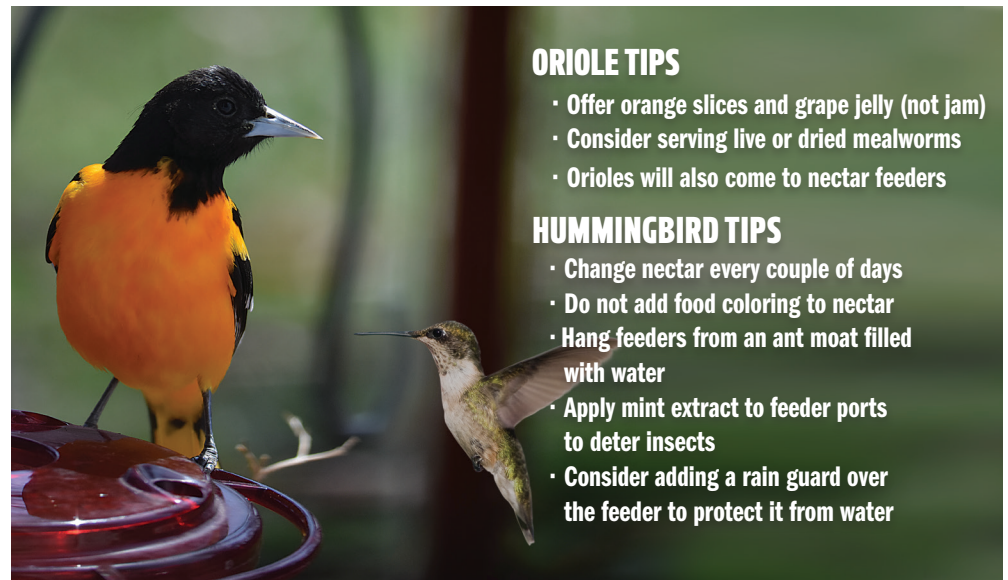
like? There's also the *primaries* (long flight feathers on the outer half of the wing) and *secondaries* (flight feathers on the inner half of the wing). The length of the wing compared to the length of the tail can also be a good field mark.

Being able to identify birds is a lot of fun and knowing a bird's basic anatomy can be very helpful. ■

STAFF TIPS

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

It's Oriole and Hummingbird Season!



ORIOLE TIPS

- Offer orange slices and grape jelly (not jam)
- Consider serving live or dried mealworms
- Orioles will also come to nectar feeders

HUMMINGBIRD TIPS

- Change nectar every couple of days
- Do not add food coloring to nectar
- Hang feeders from an ant moat filled with water
- Apply mint extract to feeder ports to deter insects
- Consider adding a rain guard over the feeder to protect it from water

Join the Conversation!

Facebook.com/WildBirdStore

Twitter: ASWildBirdStore

Instagram: AllSeasonsWildBirdStore

Share your photos!

Share your photos for our in-store displays and Facebook page! Send digital files to: carol@wildbirdstore.net

For many of us backyard birders, we're perfectly content to put out seed and see what comes to visit. And why not? We have the best views, the birds are fantastic, and we don't have to leave our homes! But going birding—beyond the home—can also be rewarding, especially with a small group of friends, and can help you to see species of birds beyond your local habitat. So grab your binoculars, a field guide and your smart phone and head to these popular Twin Cities birding destinations!



Spectacular seasonal displays of native wildflowers in woodland, wetland and prairie areas. Frequently hosts Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings.



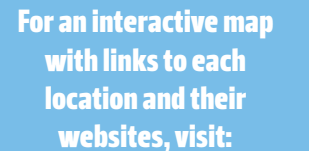
31 acres, including woodlands, wetlands and gardens by Lake Harriet. Warblers, vireos, flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Wood Ducks are common.



4500 Rice Street, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Trail that runs between lakes. Loons, swans and Ospreys, plus a variety of songbirds.



2520 Dale St N, Roseville, MN 55113
Boardwalk and trails that circulate through 52 acres of marsh, prairie and forest habitats. Wood Ducks, herons, egrets, Common Yellow Throats, Eastern Kingbirds, Marsh Wrens, flycatchers and more.



bit.ly/331q9Wk



Floodplain forests, prairie and wetlands along the Minnesota River. Expect a diversity of waterfowl and other migratory birds.



Hiking trails weave between the diverse habitats of restored prairie, oak forests, and wetlands. Nesting pairs of Ospreys and Trumpeter Swans arrive seasonally.



Gently rolling hills with a variety of landscape types, including forest and prairie. Look for pheasants, woodpeckers, cardinals, bluebirds.



Oak forests, prairie, ravines and floodplains.
Observe hawks and waterfowl, bluebirds,
meadowlarks and migratory birds.

Seasonal Notes

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

May: WEEK BY WEEK

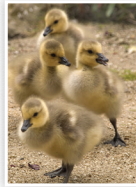


1st Week

- ✓ On May 1st, sunrise is at 6:02 am, and sunset is at 8:19 pm.
- ✓ Early May sees the return of **warblers**, **Scarlet Tanagers**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and the continued return of **orioles** and **hummingbirds**.
- ✓ 5/5/2018 tied for the latest ice-out date on Lake Minnetonka.
- ✓ **Robin** eggs are hatching and **Blue Jays** and **Northern Cardinals** incubate eggs.
- ✓ **Canada Geese** goslings follow the adults to eat grass.
- ✓ Young gray squirrels leave the nest.

Tip:

- ❑ Discourage birds from fighting with their reflections by covering windows with landscaping cloth and side mirrors of cars with plastic bags.



2nd Week

- ✓ **House Wrens** and **orioles** are very vocal.
- ✓ **Warbler** migration is at peak.
- Tip:**
 - ❑ Change nectar in oriole and hummingbird feeders every couple of 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.



3rd Week

- ✓ **Orioles** are nest building.
- ✓ **Gray Catbirds** and **Indigo Buntings** arrive.
- ✓ First monarch butterflies return.
- Tip:**
 - ❑ 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.

4th Week

- ✓ Tiger swallowtail butterflies take wing.
- ✓ **Loons** incubate eggs.
- ✓ **Chipping Sparrows** call and **Common Grackles** fledge.
- ✓ **Wood Ducks** jump from nest boxes around Memorial Day into the first week of June.
- ✓ White-tailed deer give birth to fawns.



June: WEEK BY WEEK

1st Week

- ✓ **Cedar Waxwings** are nest building.
- ✓ Young **Red-tailed Hawks** practice flying.
- ✓ Great bird sounds and songs fill the air. Especially vocal are: **Song Sparrows**, **Warbling Vireos**, **House Wrens** and **Common Yellowthroats**.



Tip:

- ❑ Cardinals have difficulty eating from a cage-style feeder, but will feed their young **dried or live mealworms** offered from a dish-style feeder.

2nd Week

- ✓ Lights attract luna moths.
- ✓ **Orioles** feed nestlings. They feed caterpillars to their young and are especially attracted to mealworm feeders while they have nestlings.
- ✓ Numerous dragonflies dine on mosquitoes.
- ✓ **Eastern Wood Pewees** call.
- ✓ **Purple Martins** hatch.
- ✓ Fledgling **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** come to feeders with the adults.
- ✓ June 10-20 are our earliest sunrises of the year.



Tip:

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



3rd Week

- ✓ Many birds fledge: **House Wrens**, **Song Sparrows**, **Blue Jays**, **cardinals** and **orioles**.
- ✓ **Gray Catbirds** and **Indigo Buntings** arrive.
- ✓ June 20 is the official first day of summer and has the most hours of daylight: 15 hours, 37 minutes.
- ✓ **Robins** sing bright and clear around 4:30 am and call for 40 minutes after sunset.

Tips:

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Scrub birdbaths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach—rinse well.

4th Week

- ✓ First monarch butterflies of the new generation are on the wing. Swamp milkweed begins to bloom.
- ✓ **Common Nighthawks** feed in the evening sky.
- ✓ Waterfowl are currently flightless as they molt.
- ✓ **Goldfinches** are our latest nesting songbird.



Tips:

- ❑ Hang another **Best Nest Builder** to provide nesting material for goldfinches.
- ❑ Found an injured bird? Contact the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at 651-486-9453. wrcmn.org
- ❑ Found a baby bird? Watch our short video to see if intervention is needed: bit.ly/32YY7e3

