



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 28 Issue 6 | November/December 2021

ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

Backyard Dazzler:

Pileated Woodpecker

**Steve Endres' Retirement
+ 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.

2021 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

GIFT Ideas



SCANDINAVIAN SEED BAG

A small pouch of our Songbird Delight for friends to scatter on their doorsteps on New Year's Day and ensure luck in the coming year.
Great for: neighbors, service providers, teachers.

FLAMING HOT FEAST SEED BELL

Contains sunflower hearts, peanuts, golden safflower, mealworms—and hot pepper to keep squirrels away.
Great for: people new to bird feeding, those who have small yards with a lot of trees.

SUET LOGS AND SUET PLUGS

Made in the Midwest, these one-of-a-kind suet logs are beautiful additions to backyards and incredibly attractive to woodpeckers! Hot pepper suet plugs make sure you feed birds, not squirrels.
Great for: amateur bird photographers, folks who serve seed but not suet, cabin life enthusiasts.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS: MIDWEST

In this book, award-winning author and wildlife photographer Stan Tekiela provides the information you need to become a skilled birder in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,

Minnesota, Wisconsin and many other midwestern states. The first section of the book presents "how-to" information and the second section is an identification guide.
Great for: backyard birders, people interested in venturing beyond the backyard, hikers.

Gift cards available, too!



Thank You, Steve!

With mixed emotions, we are announcing the retirement of Steve Endres, manager of our Bloomington store, effective January 7, 2022.

With Us Since Day One—And Before!

Steve has served as manager of a specialty wild bird store for 36 years. He began his tenure with the *Minnesota Greenery Wild Bird Store* in 1985 as store manager of their Newport location. Lucky for us, he was subsequently transferred to their Bloomington location in 1988. When Al acquired the Bloomington store from Minnesota Greenery in 1991, we were fortunate that Steve agreed to stay on as store manager—and the first employee—of our newly formed *All Seasons Wild Bird Store*. He's the only employee in our company that has been with us since day one!



Steve (center) was our first manager and first employee

No Stranger to Change

During his 30-year tenure with All Seasons, Steve has experienced a lot of change. Under his management, store sales more than doubled and he expanded the Bloomington staff from 2 sales associates to 6. As we outgrew our original location, Steve and his crew moved the entire store operation a few doors down to a larger space. Never to shy away from a challenge or some hard work, Steve and his crew accomplished the move all in one night and were open for business the very next morning—an amazing feat!



Al and Steve in 1994.

It was clear to us early on that Steve was exceptional at his job and that customers were extremely loyal to him. Just about every day, someone would either stop in or call and ask to talk to the “big guy” because he was always very friendly and most often had an answer to their question. The gruff yet friendly voice was immediately recognizable and will be one of many things we all will miss the most.

Some of Steve's Noteworthy Accomplishments:

- When we upgraded our old National Cash Register (NCR) “adding machine” technology to a new computerized point-of-sale system, Steve was more than a little apprehensive. The new computerized system required typing skills versus adding machine skills for data entry. This was a challenge for Steve since he had no keyboard training. So, he enrolled in an evening typing class and soon transitioned from his one finger “hunt ‘n’ peck” to an effective typist. A typical response from Steve: “You got-ta do what you got-ta do to solve the problem”.

- Steve was also integral in our participation in the annual spring Home and Garden Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center for 13 consecutive years. He was responsible for all the merchandise, fixtures, logistics and staffing. In other words, it was Steve's show, and it was excellent for the business. It gave the All Seasons brand exposure to over 100,000 attendees each year!
- Steve was always wanting to stay up-to-date on his bird knowledge and was a regular attendee at the annual bluebird workshop sponsored by the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota.
- Steve created and maintained relationships with all our vendors, and attended many workshops given by our vendors to stay informed of their latest product offerings.
- In 1992, Steve started up our home delivery business at the Bloomington store. It's now a flourishing service, operating out of our Wayzata store, that serves the entire 7-county metro area.

A True Backyard Birding Expert

Steve is one of the most knowledgeable backyard birding staff members in our company. He's amassed a wealth of knowledge about bird behavior, what they eat, the most effective feeders and nesting boxes, etc. over the years. If we have a question or need help, Steve is the guy we go to.

Leaving a Legacy

Steve has provided excellent service to over 5,000 loyal Bloomington customers and hired and trained over 50 employees during his time with us. It's been a privilege to work side by side with Steve all these 30 years and to learn so much about backyard birding from him. He is a valued and trustworthy employee and resource, and he will be greatly missed as a member of our management team and as the *only* manager our Bloomington store has ever had.

Steve, on behalf of all the Bloomington customers that you served, your employees, the management staff, and very grateful owners, we want to wish you and Sonya the very best in your retirement years!

~Al and Dave Netten

Owners, All Seasons Wild Bird Store



Bloomington Store Manager, Steve Endres

The Mighty PILEATED

A flash of red and a mass of black-and-white wings sweeps into view. A bird of great size grips to the side of an oak tree with sturdy, scale-like feet. It swivels its head, revealing an impressive bill and handsomely striated face. You've just been visited by a Pileated Woodpecker—an experience nearly all backyard birders revere.

Prehistoric Appearance

There's something about the appearance of the Pileated Woodpecker that feels prehistoric. Indeed, with its capped forehead and long bill, it bears a resemblance to images of Pterodactyls from childhood picture books. Interestingly, birds of today—including the Pileated Woodpecker—are more likely descendants of a group of small, two-legged, feathered dinosaurs called *Theropods*.



Pterodactyl



Archaeopteryx fossil, a Theropod

PILL-ee-ay-did or PIE-lee-ay-tid?

The scientific name of this stately bird is *Dryocopus pileatus*, which translates as “crested tree cleaver”. There's some confusion about how to say this species' common name, Pileated Woodpecker. While *PIE-lee-ay-tid* is considered correct, it's common to hear people say *PILL-ee-ay-did*. The bird itself is unlikely to take offence to either pronunciation!

Courtship and Mating

Male Pileated Woodpeckers put on quite a show for potential mates, spreading their wings to show off their white wing patches, raising their flame-red crest, swinging their head back and forth and performing gliding flight displays. The payoff is great—mated pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers are monogamous and remain in their nesting territory year-round.



The male's (left) mustache is red, while the female's (right) is black.

Large, dead trees make ideal nest sites for Pileated Woodpecker pairs. Male Pileated Woodpeckers typically begin the work to excavate a nest hole, with the female contributing. As the hole reaches deeper, the bird climbs inside and makes the finishing carvings, collecting debris in its bill to deposit outside. The nest-making process can take up to 6 weeks! Pileated Woodpeckers have just one brood per year of 3-5 young.



Vital to the Forest

Pileated Woodpeckers play a vital role in the forest. They excavate large, oval-shaped holes in dead trees in search of their favorite food, carpenter ants. In the process, other woodpeckers and House Wrens may show up to dine on insects displaced by a Pileated's drilling. Excavated holes later become homes to multiple species of birds and bats.

Favorite Foods

Aside from carpenter ants, Pileated Woodpeckers enjoy suet from feeders as well as wild fruits and nuts. Hackberries, blackberries, sumac berries, dogwood berries and even the berries of poison ivy plants are food sources.

Attract Pileated Woodpeckers

Pileated Woodpeckers are common in forested areas, especially where there are plenty of dead trees, and are no strangers to urban areas. To attract Pileated Woodpeckers to your yard, hang a suet feeder with a long tail prop, like our **recycled double suet feeder** or **large birch log suet plug feeder**. Curious Pileateds may also occasionally visit **seed cylinders**. Leave standing dead trees (called snags) in place on your property. Pileateds will also come to **birdbaths**; provide a source of water for them year-round. ■



Photo by Jim Weisman



Seasonal Notes

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

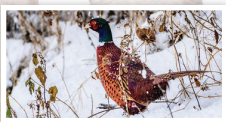
November: WEEK BY WEEK

Week 1	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sunset is 6:02pm and moves to 4:34pm by the end of November. ✓ November is typically a cloudy month in MN but the sunsets are exceptional! Two-thirds of our November days are fully overcast. ✓ November is a month of much waterfowl migration. ✓ Look for Tundra Swans overhead and listen for the muffled musical whistles of the flock. ✓ White-throated (shown) and Fox Sparrows gather under bird feeding stations. ✓ Central Standard Time resumes on 11/7/2021. <p><i>Tip:</i> Install Wood Duck houses before ponds freeze over.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Milkweed pods open and shed dark-brown seeds on white parachutes. ✓ Cedar Waxwings visit heated birdbaths, plus crabapple, juniper and mountain ash trees. ✓ Waterfowl migration continues, including American Wigeons, pintails and Canvasbacks. ✓ Flocks of Snow Buntings arrive from the Arctic and feed in roadside ditches and in farm fields. <p><i>Tip:</i> Fill heated birdbaths with cold water to reduce evaporation. Provide peanuts as fuel for the birds. Peanut fat and protein helps birds combat cold temps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Now is peak mating season for white-tailed deer. ✓ Raccoons enter winter sleeping dens. They don't truly hibernate, as they will forage when temperatures are about 27° F or higher. ✓ European Starlings are in winter garb of black bills and speckled plumage. <p><i>Tip:</i> Serve suet in an upside-down feeder; switch to Golden Safflower and Nyjer seeds to discourage starlings and still feed other birds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Northern Flickers may join other woodpeckers at suet feeders during the winter. ✓ Flying squirrels do not hibernate and may use bird feeders at night. ✓ Opossums have become more frequent backyard visitors but are mostly nocturnal. <p><i>Tip:</i> Keep feeders full of fresh seed and shake feeders periodically to loosen frozen or stuck-together seeds.</p> <p>Use a clamp-on deck rail hanger (shown) for easy winter feeding.</p>



December: WEEK BY WEEK

Week 1	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ December 1st is statistically the start of the coldest 90 days of the year. Darkness exceeds 15 hours a day but the daylight hours begin to extend following the winter solstice (Dec 21). <p><i>Tip:</i> Decorate your deck and yard with seed bells for the holidays! Use Flaming Hot seed bells to deter squirrels while you feed the birds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Northern MN bird feeders host Pine Grosbeaks and more Red-breasted Nuthatches visit feeders throughout the state. <p><i>Tip:</i> Switch some of your feeders to out-of-the-shell seed like Medium Sunflower Chips or Kracker Jax. Birds are able to replenish faster and there is no shell mess for you to clean up.</p> <p>Add a Weather Guard (shown) to your Squirrel Buster Plus to keep the seed drier.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mature white-tailed deer bucks begin dropping their antlers throughout mid-December. ✓ Dec. 21st is the this first day of astronomical winter—the winter solstice. We receive only 25 percent of the solar intensity we had on June 21st and experience the longest shadows. <p><i>Tip:</i> Toss Finches' Choice on the ground under feeding stations to attract Dark-eyed Juncos, Mourning Doves and Northern Cardinals.</p> <p>Mix in dried mealworms to boost the nutrients in your feeders and to help birds survive the cold winter days and nights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each individual Downy and Hairy Woodpecker roosts at night in separate tree cavities. Downy Woodpeckers may also use a well-insulated bird house at night. ✓ Squirrels are active all winter but will stay in their leafy nests until mid-morning when temperatures climb a bit. ✓ Wintering robins snack on crabapple tree fruits. ✓ Flying squirrels (shown) may feed from bird feeders nightly soon after sunset.



Tip: Switch some of your feeders to out-of-the-shell seed like **Medium Sunflower Chips** or **Kracker Jax**. Birds are able to replenish faster and there is no shell mess for you to clean up.

Add a **Weather Guard** (shown) to your **Squirrel Buster Plus** to keep the seed drier.



Photo by Don Curle

