



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 29 Issue 6 | November/December 2022

ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

Spiraling Tree Climber:

Brown Creeper

Holiday Gift Guide

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.

2022 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

HOLIDAY Picks



SUET LOG AND SUET PLUGS

This complete gift is great for seasoned and novice backyard birders alike.



ALICE'S COTTAGE HOLIDAY FLOUR SACK TOWELS

In beautiful nature and bird-themed holiday designs.



MINNESOTA WEATHERGUIDE CALENDAR

2023 edition of the popular calendar that includes an almanac.



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.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS: MIDWEST

Stan Tekiela provides the information you need to become a skilled birder in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and many other midwestern states.



GIFT CARDS

Great stand-alone gift or add it to a feeder gift so they can buy the seed of their choice!

Happy Holidays!

The holiday season is quickly approaching and we've put together some of our favorite unique gifts that any bird lover would love to find in their stocking. Also, don't forget about the ever flexible gift—All Seasons Wild Bird Store gift cards, which can be purchased in the store or conveniently online at WildBirdStore.com.



Call our Wayzata store to schedule home delivery once or on a repeating basis: 952.473.4283

As the weather is getting cooler, we also want to remind you of our hassle-free home delivery service. You can place your order online or call the Wayzata store and within a few days—voila'—a little birdy will bring it to your door. We deliver to the entire Twin Cities Metro.

Our All Seasons family wishes to express a heartfelt thank you for your loyalty and for the continuing opportunity to help you with all of your bird feeding needs. This is a joyful hobby and we feel that joy from our customers every day. From our family to yours, Happy Holidays!

~Dave Netten

Join the Conversation!

Facebook.com/WildBirdStore

Twitter: ASWildBirdStore

Instagram: AllSeasonsWildBirdStore

Share your photos!

Share your photos for our in-store displays and social posts! Send digital files and credit info to: carol@wildbirdstore.net

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

A few years back, we realized that videos were a great way to share useful tips, information about backyard birds, product information and more. Here's a sample of some of our most popular videos. If you'd like, click that subscribe button to get updates when we add videos!



The Anatomy and Wonders of Bird Feet

<https://youtu.be/cMcplbrlcOI>

Birds' feet are amazing multi-tools that grant them many functions.



House Finch or Purple Finch?

<https://youtu.be/zHIVeh2CGMk>

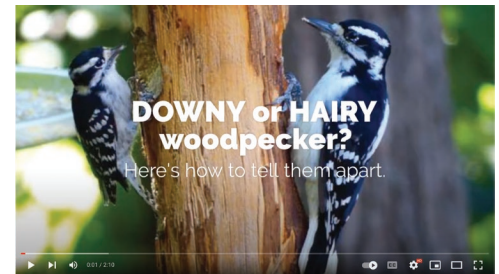
This video points out the characteristics that you can use to tell them apart.



Stay or Go? Winter Birds in Minnesota

<https://youtu.be/WtVmxXUmv8>

Some of our songbirds head south for the winter, but many stay all year—or even arrive in autumn to weather our Minnesota winters.



Downy or Hairy Woodpecker?

<https://youtu.be/obYy2S2KNU8>

Here's another pair that's difficult to tell apart! Watch this video to learn to see the differences.



Minnesota's Owls

<https://youtu.be/lqKHJBk9Xul>

Minnesota plays host to 12 species of owls. Here's a guide to when and where you might find each species.



You Can Help Winter Birds

<https://youtu.be/AhV1gr50b9U>

Harsh winter weather and scarce food options are challenges. Here are few things you can do to help increase birds' chances of survival.

BROWN Creeper

Far from creepy, the delicate Brown Creeper sweetly spirals up tree trunks, in search of delicacies in the form of insects. Keep your eyes out for this winter visitor. Here's more about this unassuming bird.

Appearance

Brown Creepers are so well camouflaged against the trunk of a tree that it is a special treat to spot them. They winter in the metro and along the southeastern edge of Minnesota.

These tiny woodland birds are slender, white from chin to belly, sport buffy eyebrows and are streaked brown and buff from beak to tail allowing them to blend into the visual contours of the tree bark. Creepers are *monomorphic*, meaning the male and female look alike. Brown Creepers are 5" in length, the same size as the familiar Black-capped Chickadee.

Behavior and Diet

Brown Creepers seem to prefer the biggest trees in the area with deeply furrowed bark. Once you are familiar with their unique movements, they will be easier to spot.

Creepers forage from the base of a tree, hitching up the trunk in short jerky movements while spiraling around the tree. They hop with both feet at the same time which causes their heads to bob down after each hop. They will also search the main branches of larger trees.

The long, spine-tipped tail is used to brace against the tree trunk while their long, curved claws hook into the bark. The long, downward-curved and slender bill of the Brown Creeper is just the right tool for probing crevices and picking under loose bark.

Brown Creepers forage for caterpillars, spider eggs, insects and larva. Once they reach the top of the trunk they fly to the base of the next tree and begin their spiral upward all over again.



A Brown Creeper makes its way up the trunk of an oak tree in the winter. Photo: Katrina Hase

Seasonal Habits

In winter, creepers often roost together and join flocks of other birds to forage during the day. When a predator such as a cat, Northern Shrike or hawk is near, creepers flatten themselves against the bark and remain motionless.

In the spring, the male helps to gather nesting materials and the female builds a hammock-like nest behind loose bark on a dead or dying tree in the pine-deciduous forests of northern Minnesota. They have one brood a year with the adult male feeding the female during incubation and both feeding the young.

Attracting

Though Brown Creepers eat mostly insects, they will eat suet, dried mealworms and shelled sunflower seeds. To attract them, mount a suet feeder to the tree trunk and fill with Flaming Hot seed cakes or Insect and Hot Pepper suet cakes. The hot pepper will deter the squirrels but will not bother the creepers, as birds have few taste buds. With luck you may host Brown Creepers this winter! ■

Shown (top to bottom): Mr. Bird wire suet feeder, Flaming Hot Feast seed cake, Insect + Hot Pepper suet, dried mealworms. Selection may vary by store.

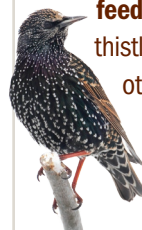


Seasonal Notes

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

November: WEEK BY WEEK

| Week 1 | 2nd Week | 3rd Week | 4th Week |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ November is typically a cloudy month in MN but the sunsets are exceptional! We average one sunny day per week. ✓ 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. <p><i>Tips:</i> Install Wood Duck houses before ponds freeze over.</p> <p>To prevent the last flocks of migrating Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles from eating all your seed, switch at least one feeder to Golden Safflower. They find it less appealing than sunflower mixes but finches, cardinals, and chickadees love it!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cedar Waxwings visit heated birdbaths, hackberry trees for seeds, crabapple, mountain ash and junipers. ✓ 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>Tips:</i> Fill heated birdbaths with cold water to reduce evaporation.</p> <p>Peanuts, suet, suet kibbles and suet nuggets provide fuel for the birds with nutrient dense fat and protein to help them combat the cold temps.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Raccoons enter winter sleeping dens. They don't truly hibernate, as they will forage when temperatures are about 27° F or higher. <p><i>Tip:</i> European Starlings, in winter garb of black bills and speckled plumage, may visit feeders throughout the winter. Use Bye-Bye Starling or Golden Safflower in seed feeders, upside down suet feeders and Nyjer/thistle feeders to enjoy other birds while discouraging Starlings.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Northern Flickers may join other woodpeckers at suet feeders during the winter. ✓ Watch for Brown Creepers going up and around tree trunks searching for larvae. <p><i>Tips:</i> Nyjer feeders may host Pine Siskins, redpolls, House Finches, Purple Finches, and goldfinches (now in dull winter plumage) as winter continues. Keep feeders full of fresh seed and shake feeders periodically to loosen frozen or stuck on 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 1 is statistically the start of the coldest 90 days of the year. Brrrr, it's cold! Feed the birds! ✓ 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> <p>Prepare to participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.</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> Add a Weather Guard (shown) to your Squirrel Buster Plus to keep the seed drier.</p> <p>Photo by Don Curle</p> <p>Switch some of your feeders to out-of-the-shell seed like Select Sunflower Hearts or Kracker Jax. Birds are able to replenish faster and there is no shell mess for you to clean up.</p> | <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. ✓ Wintering robins snack on crabapple tree fruits. ✓ Squirrels are active all winter but will stay in their leafy nests until mid-morning when temperatures climb a bit. ✓ Bald Eagles fish in open water on the Mississippi and around marinas where the water is kept open on area lakes. ✓ Listen for Great Horned Owls hooting back and forth. <p><i>Tips:</i> Use a large Wild Bird Feast seed cylinder or Flaming Hot seed cylinder in a covered feeder to provide seed while you are out of town. Better yet, call the Wayzata store to set up Feed & Fill service: 982.473.4283.</p> |

