



# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 30 Issue 3 | May/June 2023

ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE

## Ode to the Oriole

+ Help Our Pollinators  
Seasonal Notes



### *In this issue...*

Backyard Habitat .....	1-2
Chirps.....	2
Bird Bio .....	3
Oriole Feeder Picks.....	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-RIDGE SQUARE AND WILD BIRD DELIVERS**

12981 Ridgedale Dr Ste. 103  
(Ridge Square North Shopping Center)  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
**952.473.4283**

**New location!**

#### **MINNETONKA-WESTWIND PLAZA**

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**

#### **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.

### BACKYARD HABITAT

By Eagan Manager ANN MCCARTHY

## Help our Precious Pollinators

After months of anticipation, life has returned to the northland. Native flowers such as Dutchman's Breeches, Bloodroot and Blue Phlox are in full bloom. Non-native species are also blooming in gardens and in flowerpots. Did you know all this is brought to us by our precious pollinators?

Birds, bees and butterflies are all part of the pollinator family. Pollinators are critical to our flower and food production. In fact, pollinators are responsible for more than 130 fruits and vegetables, including some of our own favorite foods like apples, blueberries and avocados.

Unfortunately, our pollinator numbers are declining due to habitat loss, disease, parasites and environmental contaminants, including pesticides.

### HOW CAN WE HELP OUR BIRDS, BEES AND BUTTERFLIES?

We can help in simple ways everyday by reducing pesticide use, leaving leaf litter and dead wood, creating brush piles and rock piles, planting pollinator gardens with native species and planting fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.



Photo: Ann McCarthy

#### 1) Reduce Pesticide Use

One way to reduce pesticide use is by fostering a healthy backyard environment. Since healthy plants are more insect and disease-resistant, plan to enrich your plants' soil with compost and to water roots deeply but infrequently. Use natural pest control methods like companion planting and commit to inspecting plants and hand-removing pests when it's possible.

... continued on page 2



Photo: Ann McCarthy

## On Empty Nests and Landing Softly

I will be attending the last of my children's graduations this month and have more than once thought about the "fledglings leaving the nest" analogy. We have used (over-used probably) many "birdisms" in our household over the years—*kill two birds with one stone*, *flying off the handle*—I'm sure there are many more, but you get the idea.

But, the thought of launching a couple of more matured offspring into the world tends to give me pause as I aptly recall what that felt like when I was their age. It was darn scary and like many, I had no idea what I was going to do with my life. I'm sure they're both feeling the same.

Amidst my deliberation and confusion about the future so many years ago, my dad approached me about becoming a partner in "the bird store". I had no idea what "the bird store" was and he explained it to me. It didn't sound as bad as I thought and I agreed to give it a try. As such, I didn't have to leap too far from the nest and have found great value in the lessons learned from my mentor along the way.

It's been a fun-filled 30 years and at the end of the day, I can confidently say that things rarely go as planned. But if you're willing to take the leap, you land pretty softly most of the time.

I wish that for my new "flappers" as they take one of many upcoming leaps. May we all land softly and when we don't, learn the important lessons an uncomfortable landing can provide.

~*Dave Netten*

### Join the Conversation!

Instagram: AllSeasonsWildBirdStore

LIKE OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!

Facebook.com/Allseasonswildbirdstore

YouTube.com/@allseasonswildbirdstore

### 2) Leave Habitats to Host Insects

Leaf litter, dead wood, brush piles and rock piles create environments for insects to thrive. Many of these insects are pollinators, while still more provide food for other pollinators. For example, most of our backyard songbirds rely on insects as a food source, especially during nesting season, as insects are high in protein needed by growing young.



### 3) Plant Pollinator Gardens with Native Species and Fruit-bearing Trees and Shrubs

Planting pollinator gardens and/or pollinator containers provides healthy habitats for birds, bees and butterflies.

Plant a diversity of plants that bloom at different times of the year to provide a continuous food source for a variety of birds and insects.



We all benefit greatly from our precious pollinators. Lets all do our part in our own yards to help them—and the plants they benefit—thrive! ■

#### EXAMPLES OF NATIVE SPECIES THAT BENEFIT POLLINATORS:

- American cranberry bush
- Bee balm
- Blazing stars
- Common boneset
- **Brown-eyed Susan** (shown)
- Chokeberry
- Clover
- Coneflower
- Crabapple
- Cup plant
- Currants
- Dogwood
- Eastern red cedar
- **Foxglove** (shown)
- Joe pye weed
- Ironweed
- Milkweed
- **New England aster** (shown)
- Pasqueflower
- Serviceberry
- Shooting stars
- Shrubs
- Spiderwort
- Stiff sunflower
- Tickseed
- Wild bergamot
- Wild lupine
- **Yarrow** (shown)



See also: [Wildbirdstore.com](http://Wildbirdstore.com) > Resources > Getting Started > Landscaping for Birds

#### METRO NURSERIES THAT SELL NATIVE SPECIES:

- Blazing Star Gardens
- Sogn Valley Farm
- Naturally Wild
- Natural Shore Technologies
- Native Sun Seeds and Plants
- BluPrairie Native Plant Nursery
- Kinnickinnic Natives

Visit the Pollinators article at [Wildbirdstore.com](http://Wildbirdstore.com) > Blog for links to the above nurseries.

# ORIOLES ARRIVE!

Are you among those who celebrate the day orioles arrive like it's a national holiday? Then read on, this article is for you!

**A CLEAR, WHISTLE-LIKE SONG RINGS DOWN FROM THE TREE TOPS**, cutting through all of the busy summer afternoon chatter.

A flash of orange enters your peripheral vision and, in a moment, you see the graceful Baltimore Oriole alight on your jelly feeder. If you're a photographer, you'll come to rely on the oriole's tendency to announce his intentions before landing to get the perfect shot!

With a particular and specific taste for grape jelly versus seeds, the oriole sets itself apart at feeding stations, mingling only with other orioles and the occasional Gray Catbird or House Finch. Beaks glistening with jelly, they make a post-feeder stop to a nearby branch to scrape their beaks clean.

You may also find orioles clinging acrobatically to hummingbird and oriole nectar feeders or landing on the narrow ledges of cup feeders to stock up on mealworms. Despite their medium body size, these relatives of blackbirds somehow move with graceful agility.

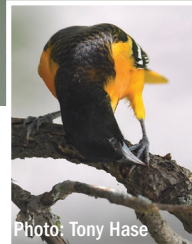


Photo: Tony Hase



Photo: Bob McFarlin



Shortly after they arrive each spring, orioles seek out protein-rich foods, enthusiastically consuming live mealworms at feeders. They're among the first to arrive for the feast when fresh mealworms appear, eager to fuel their nesting efforts.

Towards the end of the summer, you'll notice an assortment of colors of orioles visit your yard: olive-yellow female and immature Baltimore Orioles, orange and black mature male Baltimore Orioles, and even the occasional mature (rusty orange and black), immature, or female (yellowish) Orchard Orioles. The subtleties in coloration can make your head spin! Still, relish every moment you spy an oriole in your yard. Their visits, while fleeting, are memorable highlights of summertime. ■

## ORIOLE FEEDER PICKS

### Droll Yankees Classic Oriole Nectar Feeder

This inverted-style feeder has a 16 oz-capacity glass bottle and three bee guard nectar ports.

### Oriole Fest Nectar/Cup Feeder

Fill the base with nectar, then use the four small depressions in the lid to place jelly, insect suet pellets, and/or dried mealworms soaked in nectar. Includes a built-in ant moat.

### Recycled Double Cup Oriole Feeder

This feeder provides two cups for serving jelly and live mealworms as well as two spikes for attaching orange halves.

### Oriole Flower Feeder

An attractive addition to the feeding station, this feeder features a cup to fill with grape jelly or mealworms and spikes to spear a couple of orange halves.

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT



# May & June



**Early May sees the return of** warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and the continued return of orioles and hummingbirds.

**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. Pick up our **Nesting Notes** in stores or visit our website: Resources > Getting Started > Tips for Bird Houses.

**Use calcium-rich suet during egg-laying season** such as **Pacific Bird and Supply suet cakes** and MN-made **Woodpecker Products Suet Plugs**.

**Discourage birds from repeatedly fighting with their reflections** by temporarily covering windows with landscaping cloth or protective netting and shrouding side mirrors of cars with plastic bags.

**Change nectar in hummingbird and oriole feeders every three days.** Or, use liquid or powder nectar with **Hummingbird Feeder Fresh 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 artificial sweeteners in nectar feeders.



**Orchard Orioles return**, as do Common Nighthawks, Eastern Kingbirds, Least Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewees. The arrival of the Eastern Wood Pewee the last week of May means spring bird migration is coming to a close.

**Wood Ducks jump from nest boxes around Memorial Day** into the first week of June. 8am is a good time to be watching nest boxes!

**Meteorological summer starts June 1**, the start of the 90 warmest days of the year and the first of a three-month stretch that is historically snow free. Astronomical summer begins June 21.

**Great bird sounds and songs are music in the air!** Especially vocal are Song Sparrows, Warbling Vireos, House Wrens and Common Yellow-throated Warblers.

**Orioles are feeding nestlings.** They feed caterpillars to their young and are especially attracted to mealworm feeders while they have nestlings.

**Keep ants out of nectar** by hanging a feeder from an ant moat filled with water, or from an **Antguard®**, which repels ants. Or use **Nectar Fortress Natural Ant Repellent gel** in a ring around the pole to prevent ants from climbing.

**June is a great time to feed suet**, as fledgling Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers come to feeders with the adults.

**Prevent just-fledged juvenile birds from hitting your windows** by applying **Window Alerts**. Window Alerts are clings that you place on the outside of the window. Replace them every six months.

**Deter bees from feeders** by rubbing mint leaves or mint extract on the nectar ports, or by spraying with **Hummingbird Bee Repellent** (all natural and safe for birds and bees).

**Scrub birdbaths** with 9 parts water/1 part bleach then rinse well. For a safe and healthy birdbath add **Bird Bath Protector™** to the just-cleaned bath.

**A Water Wiggler attracts more birds to a birdbath** and prevents mosquitoes from laying their eggs by moving the water constantly.



Water Wiggler

**Store seed in the freezer or in metal garbage cans** in the garage, shed or on the deck. Hang a moth trap on the underside of the lid.

**Goldfinches are our latest nesting songbird.** Hang a new **Best Nest Builder** to provide nesting material.

**Deter unwanted European Starlings** with **golden safflower**, **white safflower seed**, **Bye-Bye Starling mix** and by using tube seed feeders with short perches, an upside-down suet feeder or metal mesh finch feeders without perches.

**Found an injured bird?** Contact the Wildlife Rehab Center at 651-486-9453. [wrcmn.org](http://wrcmn.org)

**Purchase the Feed-and-Fill service** before you leave on vacation to keep your feeders full and fresh while you are gone. Call our Ridge Square—Minnetonka store at 952-473-4283 to arrange service.

## Bee Repellent Spray



## Ant Repellent Gel



## Ant Guard



## Best Nest Builder



**Have an idea for a future issue of Birds-Eye View?** Photos and articles may be submitted by email to [carol@wildbirdstore.net](mailto:carol@wildbirdstore.net).

**Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter** at [WildBirdStore.com](http://WildBirdStore.com) to receive information about backyard birding, store events and exclusive discounts.