



ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

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816 West 98th St.
Bloomington 55420
(952) 884-4103

EAGAN
Cedar Cliff
Shopping Center
2143 Cliff Rd.
Eagan 55122
(651) 459-0084

**MINNETONKA-
RIDGE SQUARE**
Ridge Square North
Shopping Center
12981 Ridgedale Dr.
Ste. 103
Minnetonka 55305
(952) 473-4283

**MINNETONKA-
WESTWIND PLAZA**
4759 Co. Rd. 101
Minnetonka 55345
(952) 935-5892

NORTH OAKS
Village Shopping
Center
121 Village Cntr Dr.
North Oaks 55127
(651) 482-1033

WHITE BEAR LAKE
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White Bear Lake
55110
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wildbirdstore.com

BIRD'S-EYE *View*

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Birds need pollinators!

Bird Behaviors
Seasonal Notes

FEATURE ARTICLE

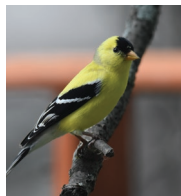
By Minnetonka Manager **CAROL CHENAULT**

Bird Behaviors *at* Your Feeders

One of the best things about having a feeding station in your yard is the opportunity to watch the varying behavior of birds.

Birds are in constant motion at feeding stations.

Smaller birds, like goldfinches, may fly off feeders and roost in nearby branches when larger birds come in to the feeding station. They return when the feeders



are available or if they realize the larger birds are no threat.

Feeding larger birds, like Blue Jays, at a separate feeding station will reduce some of the fly-off by smaller birds.

Position a double-arm step-in feeder pole away from your feeders for small birds. Hang a peanut



Give Blue Jays their own feeding station.

wreath feeder from one arm and a hanging tray filled with in-shell peanuts from the other to keep the Blue Jays occupied.

It is actually an advantage to have Blue Jays claim your yard as part of their territory. They will sound the alarm and alert other birds to the presence of predators like cats, snakes and hawks.

Birds are quite habitual and not overly fond of change.

Chickadees are usually the first birds to approach a new feeder.



It can take six weeks for birds to get used to a new feeding station, birdbath or even just a new feeder or a new seed at an established station. You may notice a bird flying up to and away from a feeder three or four times before deciding it is safe to land.

(continued on page 2)

Enriching Communities, *Fostering Connections*

Community is at the heart of what we do at All Seasons Wild Bird Store.

Here are some ways we're contributing to local communities beyond the stores.

On Earth Day, after our Feeder Swap promotion, we cleaned and donated dozens of bird feeders to local scout groups. This initiative not only supports the scouts' educational activities but also promotes environmental stewardship among young people. We love seeing their enthusiasm as they learn about bird conservation.

Coming up in June and July, we will be participating in Market Fest in Eagan, where we will have free bird feeder kit projects for kids. Any kid can show up and build a bird feeder and get some FREE Joe's Mix to get

started. We are looking forward to seeing families come together and to kids getting their hands dirty while learning about the birds in their backyards.

We are also excited about our upcoming event at the Minnetonka Farmer's Market in August, where we'll host another bird feeder kit-building experience. These events allow us to engage directly with our community, providing educational and fun activities that foster a love for nature.

At All Seasons Wild Bird Store, we are committed to making a positive impact,

One of the free bird feeder kits available at our booth at Market Fest in Eagan.



especially with kids in our communities. By participating in local events and supporting community groups, we aim to nurture a love for birds and nature in all ages. None of this would be possible without you, who support us every day. We're excited about continuing our community outreach and making a difference together.

—
Dave Netten,
Co-owner, All Seasons Wild Bird Store

Birds & Wellness

Backyard bird feeding is the second-largest outdoor hobby (after gardening) in the United States. Spending time outside for 10 minutes a day has been proven to boost serotonin and dopamine levels (American Psychiatric Institute).

FEATURE ARTICLE (continued from page 1)

Birds will even give a new type of seed mounded on the ground a wide berth for a few days as well. Patience will pay off and the birds will acclimate to the new set up.

Goldfinches are drawn to sources of oil and water.

The diet of an American Goldfinch consists almost entirely of seeds. Because they don't eat juicy berries and bugs, they'll frequent birdbaths for hydration.

They're also drawn to seed that is nice and oily to aid them in swallowing and digesting. Nyjer® and Nyjer® mixes left in the feeder for six weeks will be too dry to benefit the birds. Check your Nyjer® feeders every week to be sure the seed hasn't adhered to the tiny feeding slits or the tube.

Change the water in the bath daily and add a capful of Birdbath Protector to your birdbath to keep the water clean.



Northern Cardinals have daily, seasonal behaviors.

Northern Cardinals tend to visit feeders most at dusk and dawn. They like to face directly forward to their food on a U-shaped perch or on a tray.

During nesting season, the males are more territorial, resulting in just one resident pair and their young in your yard. In contrast, during the winter you may host several pairs of cardinals.

For their size, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are quite a force of nature.

A bird that chooses your feeder as their own will chase other birds away from the feeder throughout the day. Having two or three nectar feeders not in line of sight



of each other will allow more birds to feed. Add Hummingbird Nectar Defender to your feeder to keep the nectar fresh for up to two weeks.

A variety of birds can use the same feeding station.

Hummingbird and oriole feeders can be on the same station as seed, Nyjer® and suet feeders.

Stagger the height of your feeders on your feeding station with the addition of S hooks. This allows birds to enter feeders more easily as the feeding ports and landing platforms will differ in height. You can change feeding stations with the seasons; the birds will adjust. Who doesn't like to add a new feeder once in a while! ■



Birds *need* Pollinators

Are you working to create a bird-friendly yard? Don't forget about the pollinators!

A pollinator is any animal that visits flowers in search of nutritious pollen or energy-filled nectar and, as it travels, moves pollen between plants. Hummingbirds, bees and butterflies are well-known pollinators—but they're not alone. Here in Minnesota, many kinds of wasps, flies, moths, beetles and other insects also provide this essential ecological service. Pollination helps plants reproduce, resulting in fruits and seeds that feed a bounty of birds.

It Goes Both Ways

Adult pollinators use flowers as food, but they frequently need plants at other life stages as well. Moths and butterflies especially depend on leaves as a built-in food source for their caterpillars, and may require very specific plants or plant groups for this purpose.

That's a real boon for birds. Have you watched summer songbirds flit continuously between different plants and their nest sites? They are plucking juicy caterpillars and other insects from the leaves, because each nestling may need hundreds of these high-protein meals before it fledges.

Relationships Matter

In each region of Minnesota, North America and the world, plants, pollinators and birds have evolved in lockstep. Over vast stretches of time, they have formed mutually beneficial relationships. The result? Each of our native plant species

supports and depends on many local animal partners. Ornamental plants from other parts of the world can provide beauty in our yards and some environmental benefits, such as carbon capture or erosion control. But they can't match the impact of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses.

At Risk

Despite their diversity, pollinators are in decline everywhere.

- **One challenge is human land use, which alters habitat** where they feed, nest, migrate or overwinter. Pesticides often harm pollinators as well as the pests they target.
- **Exterior lights can be harmful** to moths and other night-flying pollinators as well as birds.
- **Climate change is shifting the distribution of some plants and the timing of flowering.** It also increases the frequency of drought, heat and other environmental stressors.

The Good News

Together, we can all take steps to protect, create and preserve habitat. Toward this goal, in 2017 the City of Minnetonka joined the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program from the National Wildlife Federation. This robust pledge provides a framework and 29 broad-action steps that help cities communicate and plan across departments, identifying pollinator-beneficial strategies in a wide range of municipal efforts—from



Photo by Christine Petersen

weed control and habitat restoration to development, park planning and recreation.

Minnetonka is proud to be a national leader in this effort. But the work isn't done! Minnetonka and other cities will need to continue taking bold steps and trying new approaches to help natural and human communities adapt to a changing environment.

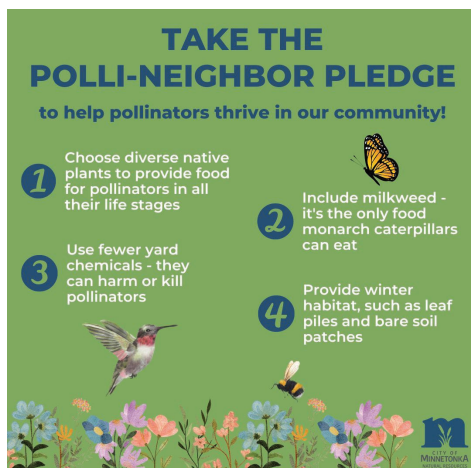
Your Yard is Habitat

In many cities, a large proportion of natural areas are found on private property. That makes it especially important for cities to inform, inspire and empower residents to take actions benefitting pollinators in their own yards. The message is simple: Whether you have a large yard or a small balcony, your property can provide healthy, diverse habitat!

Join us to celebrate pollinators!

July is Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month in Minnetonka. Whether you live here or elsewhere, join us to learn more, enjoy fun activities, and take the Polli-Neighbor Pledge. Learn more at: minnetonkamatters.com/pollinator-month.

CHRISTINE PETERSEN is the Natural Resources Engagement Coordinator for the City of Minnetonka. You can reach her at cpetersen@minnetonkamn.gov to learn more, or invite staff from your city to connect about pollinator efforts. ■



July & August

Find tips and seasonal updates online!

instagram: @allseasonswildbirdstore
 facebook.com/allseasonswildbirdstore
 youtube.com/@allseasonswildbirdstore



Goldfinches nest in July.

Their young hatch about the time that Canadian thistle plants release their seeds on fine white filaments. Goldfinches feed their young a slurry of partially digested seed. They are therefore particularly attracted to Nyjer®, Nyjer® & Chips and Finches' Choice during nesting season.

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Mr. Bird seed cylinders are compressed seed held together with gelatin.

These cylinders are great for use on our "set it and forget it" EZ feeder and can provide food while you are on vacation.



Bluebirds may nest 2-3 times in the same bird house. Check bluebird boxes and remove the old nest and debris between nestings.



Orioles feed caterpillars and larvae to their young. Attract orioles to your yard by offering live mealworms or dried mealworms soaked in nectar. Orioles visit backyard feeders through the first week of September for mealworms, nectar, grape jelly, oranges or dark grapes.

Avoid mess and seed germination in your garden and patio areas by using Kracker Jax or Select Sunflower Hearts (whole sunflower out of the shell). Both work great in window feeders as well.



By Mid-July, bird song decreases dramatically, as for many species nesting season is completed. Some birds, such as House Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds, have two or more broods and remain very vocal.



Additional birdbaths will help birds beat the heat. Use the battery-operated Water Wiggler in your bath; moving water attracts more birds and prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs in stagnant water. Clean baths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach; rinse well; then add Bird Bath Protector to keep the bath clean.

Hummingbirds are active at nectar feeders and flowers into October, with the female and juvenile hummingbirds staying the latest in the fall. Use Feeder Fresh Nectar Defender in your feeders to keep nectar fresh up to two weeks.



Mint extract or Hummingbird Bee Repellent on nectar ports helps to repel bees, wasps and bald-faced hornets. Hanging the feeder from an ant trap or applying Nectar Fortress gel to the pole prevents ants from reaching the nectar.



Divert squirrels from bird feeders with a Deluxe Squeegee, a bungee jumper for squirrels. Fill it with cob corn or Nut & Sweet Corn logs. Use Mr. Bird Flaming Hot Feast loose seed or seed cylinders in your feeders to deter them. Birds have few taste buds and are not bothered by the spice.



By mid-August, some warblers such as Nashville and Yellow Warblers begin migrating. Use our new Window Gems, prismatic static cling vinyl decals, to prevent window strikes. The prismatic colors warn the birds and create rainbows in your home.



As birds gather in pre-migration flocks, avoid large numbers of grackles and starlings at feeders by filling feeders with golden safflower or white safflower. Use Bye, Bye Starling to provide a sunflower mix while discouraging bothersome European starlings.