ALL SEASONS WILD BIRD STORE

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Cedar Cliff Shopping Center
2143 Cliff Rd.
Eagan 55122
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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
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White Bear Lake
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BIRD'S-EYE *View*

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FEATURE ARTICLE

By Minnetonka Manager **CAROL CHENAULT**

Winter Weatherproofing

During the cold weather months, it is very encouraging to watch the chickadees flit about the backyard. If these hearty little birds can endure, we can too! Here are some ways we can help them weather the winter a little easier.

Weatherproof Your Feeders

Hanging feeders such as seed bells, Nyjer® and tube feeders, as well as compressed seed cylinders under a domed weather guard keeps the seed drier and fresher. Birds are able to eat during the snowfall without getting snow-covered.

Clear acrylic weather guards allow birds to see the food in the feeders below and the predators in the sky above. The clear material is color-neutral and works well with any color feeder.

1) The 10.5-in diameter clear Weather Dome with chrome-plated hanger and hook can be used with a variety of feeders.
2) The 12-in. diameter clear acrylic Aspects Tube Top slips over the bail wire and rests on the cap of seed tube and Nyjer® feeders.
3) The Mr. Bird weather guard is 9.5 inches in diameter and made of powder-coated steel. This heavy-duty weather guard can be used with various feeders, and nicely tops the EZ Feeder for compressed seed cylinders.

Provide a Water Source

Another essential cold-weather addition to your bird-watching habitat is a heated birdbath. In the winter, fresh water is a scarce but vital resource. Birds are able to acquire water from snow, but this requires heat, a precious resource in the winter that also requires energy. (Continued on page 2)

Recognition *for our* Eagan Store!

Named the 2024 Retailer of the Year by Wild Bird Feeding Institute

We are thrilled to announce that All Seasons Wild Bird Store in Eagan has been named the 2024 Retailer of the Year by the Wild Bird Feeding Institute! This incredible honor would not have been possible without your unwavering support and the vibrant community we are so fortunate to serve.

Thanks to you, we've been able to grow beyond just being a store. We've become ambassadors of the backyard bird feeding hobby, and it's your trust in us that has fueled our passion to keep innovating and inspiring others. This past year, we proudly distributed free bird feeder kits to over 200 children at two Eagan community events, sparking a love of birding in the next generation.

Our Eagan Store Manager, Ann McCarthy, has also shared her birding expertise with a broader audience through regular appearances on KSTP-TV, including *Twin Cities Live* and *Minnesota Live*, helping to make the joy of bird feeding accessible to more people throughout the region.

We've been blessed to receive similar awards in the past, but each recognition feels even more special, knowing it's a reflection of the amazing community we serve. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire staff, whose energy and commitment have been the foundation of our success over the years.

As a family-owned business, this award is more than just a title—it's a celebration of the relationships we've built with customers like you, who allow us to continue doing what we love. Thank you for being part of the All Seasons Wild Bird Store family and for your ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to serve you and the backyard birding community for many years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,

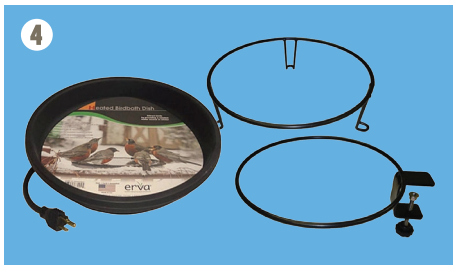
Al and Dave Netten
and the All Seasons Wild Bird Store Team

Birds & Wellness

We spend much of our time focused on doing and thinking. Rachel and Steven Kaplan, Professors of Psychology at the University of Michigan, found that this results in directed energy fatigue. Spending time in nature, a form of fascination, allows people to reset from task-driven fatigue.

FEATURE ARTICLE (continued from page 1)

4) The 14 in. Erva heated insert can be used with a patio stand, clamp-on deck ring or a ground level ring.
5) The Allied Precision 650 with EZ-Tilt-To-Clean™ deck mount can be either mounted to a deck or placed in a stand. This birdbath's heating element is fully enclosed and protected. This bath keeps the water free of ice down to -20°.



Keep your birdbath clean and use a capful of Bird Bath Protector™ at each water change to protect birds from organic contaminants. Refilling with cold water will reduce evaporation.

Remember Ground-Feeding Birds

Sprinkle Finches' Choice on the ground under the feeding station to accommodate ground-feeding birds like Dark-eyed Juncos, native sparrows, Mourning Doves and others.

Over-wintering robins and bluebirds are not seed eaters, but will appreciate dried mealworms sprinkled on the ground. They'll visit heated birdbaths as well.

Make Suet Essential

Don't forget to offer suet for chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and others. Suet kibbles and suet morsels offered in platform or hopper feeders provides suet for cardinals and other birds that don't easily cling to suet cages.

Winter birding may not have all the color of spring and summer but is very beneficial to our mental health and enjoyment, helping us to feel connected to nature. Enjoy your birds! ■

It's important to provide a source of fresh water for winter birds.

By Guest Contributor **Katrina Hase**

Season Standouts

Here are some tips on foods and feeders to attract some of Minnesota's most eye catching winter birds.

NORTHERN CARDINAL

Foods: Mahtomedi Cardinal Mix, Songbird Mix, and Joe's Mix. Cardinals also love Golden Safflower. Mix in suet kibbles or suet morsels for a cold weather energy boost. For a no-mess mix, try Kracker Jax—with no hulls—or a Bugs, Nuts and Fruit seed cylinder, which is 100% edible.

Feeders: Tray and hopper feeders or feeders with larger perches. We recommend feeders like the Large Recycled Hanging Tray, Recycled Fly-thru Feeder, EZ Feeder (for seed cylinders), and the Quick Clean Seed Big Tube Feeder.

Large Recycled Hanging Tray

BLUE JAY

Foods: Whole or cracked corn, in-shell peanuts and peanut pickouts. Our Critter Crunch mix is a great option that offers corn and peanuts in one convenient mix.

Feeders: Sprinkle corn and peanuts on the ground, in a ground feeder, or in tray or fly-through feeders. The Large Recycled Hanging Tray and Recycled Fly-thru Feeder are both good options. A special feeder for serving in-shell peanuts, the Whole Peanut Wreath, is particularly fun to watch as Blue Jays retrieve several whole peanuts, fly off to cache them, then return for another helping.

Whole Peanut Wreath
Photo: Leah Coughlin

DARK-EYED JUNCO

Songbird Delight

Foods: Nyjer®, Nyjer® & Chips, Spectrum Mix, Songbird Delight, white millet and #1 Select Chips.

Feeders: Juncos are primarily ground-feeding birds. Sprinkle seed directly on the snow or in a ground feeder. They may also come to lower-hanging tray feeders, like the Large Recycled Hanging Tray. If serving Nyjer® or Nyjer® mixes, use a feeder with small seed ports, like the Quick Clean Nyjer® Large feeder.

Quick Clean Nyjer® Large Feeder

PILEATED WOODPECKER

Foods: Suet cakes and suet plugs are your best bet for attracting Pileated Woodpeckers. Pileateds are also attracted to seed cylinders containing nuts and mealworms, like the Bugs, Nuts and Fruit Seed Cylinder or Wild Bird Feast Seed Cylinder.

Feeders: Suet feeders should be long enough to accommodate the Pileated Woodpecker's tail feathers, which they use to prop themselves in position while they feed. We recommend the Recycled Double Suet Feeder, an XL Birch Suet Log (for use with suet plugs), or the Wildlife Sciences wire Double Suet Cake Feeder. The EZ Feeder, for seed cylinders, also accommodates Pileateds.

Wildlife Sciences Double Suet Cake Feeder

By Minnetonka Manager **CAROL CHENAULT**

November & December

Find tips and seasonal updates online!
instagram: @allseasonswildbirdstore
facebook.com/allseasonswildbirdstore
youtube.com/@allseasonswildbirdstore

November is a month of big waterfowl migration. Watch for American Wigeons, Pintails and Canvasbacks. Look for Tundra Swans overhead and listen for the muffled musical whistles of the flock.

Install Wood Duck houses before ponds freeze over.

Switch at least one feeder to Golden Safflower to prevent the last flocks of migrating Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles from eating all your seed.

White-throated and Fox Sparrows arrive and feed on the ground under bird feeding stations. Help them out with some Finches' Choice or White Millet on the ground.

Fill heated birdbaths with cold water to reduce evaporation. Cedar Waxwings and American Robins will visit baths, though they are not typical visitors to seed feeders.

European Starlings in winter garb of black bills and speckled plumage may visit feeders throughout the winter. Serve Bye-Bye Starling if you want a mix to attract songbirds and discourage starlings.

Northern Flickers may join other woodpeckers at suet feeders during the winter.

Photo: Jim Weisman

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 stuck seeds.

Watch for Brown Creepers going up and around tree trunks searching for larvae.

Crows are regular sights in the southern half of Minnesota throughout the winter. Crows gather in large flocks to roost together in trees overnight.

Blue Jays cache peanuts in preparation for colder temps. Use a peanut wreath or fly-through feeder to offer in-shell peanuts.

On December 1st, darkness exceeds 15 hours a day, but the daylight hours begin to extend following the winter solstice (Dec 21st).

Decorate your deck and yard with seed bells. Use Flaming Hot seed bells to deter the squirrels but feed the birds.

Prepare to participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count: *audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count*

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.

Northern Minnesota bird feeders host Pine Grosbeaks and more Red-breasted Nuthatches visit feeders throughout the state.

Add a Weather Guard to your Squirrel Buster Plus feeder to keep the seed drier.

Mix in dried mealworms, peanut pick-outs, suet kibbles or suet morsels to hopper and tray feeders to help birds survive the cold with these foods that are high in fat and protein.

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 Minnetonka–Ridge Square store to set up a Feed and Fill service.

Listen for Great Horned Owls hooting back and forth as they establish nesting territory.