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BIRD'S-EYE *View*

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FEATURE ARTICLE

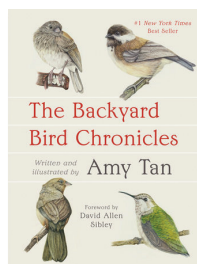
By Minnetonka–Westwind Plaza Manager **CAROL CHENAULT**

Lazy Summer Reads *for Bird Lovers*

Long, warm days and the gentle flutter of wings—summer is the perfect season to slow down, settle into a shady spot, and get lost in a good book. Whether you're a backyard birder or a lifelong ornithologist, these titles offer fascinating insights, charming anecdotes, and fresh perspectives on our feathered friends. Here are some of our favorite bird-themed reads to enjoy this summer—available in our stores as supplies last.

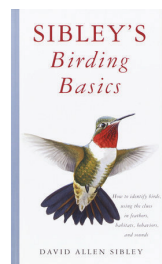
The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan

In this beautifully illustrated memoir, celebrated author Amy Tan shares her intimate observations of birds in her California backyard. With warmth and wit, Tan documents her growing fascination with avian life, blending personal reflections with sketches and journal entries to celebrate the wonder of everyday nature.



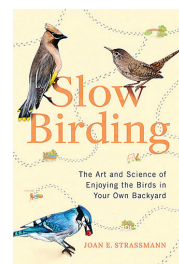
Sibley's Birding Basics by David Allen Sibley

Ideal for beginners and seasoned birders alike, this essential guide breaks down the fundamentals of birdwatching. Sibley explains how to identify birds by shape, color, behavior, and habitat, with helpful illustrations and tips that make birding more accessible and enjoyable.



Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard by Joan E. Strassmann

A reminder to savor the birds around us, this book encourages a mindful approach to birdwatching. Strassmann blends scientific insight with stories of common backyard birds, helping readers appreciate the rich lives of even the most familiar species.



Continued on page 2...

Help Nesting and Juvenile Birds Thrive this Summer

You can provide backyard elements to help fledglings thrive.

Summer is a season of life in the bird world—literally! Many of Minnesota's backyard birds raise multiple broods during the warmer months, and as bird lovers, we can support these hardworking parents and their fledglings right in our own yards.

1. Keep Feeders Full and Clean

Parent birds need energy-rich food to keep up with their demanding schedules. A consistent source of nutrition—like sunflower chips, suet, peanuts, and mealworms—can really help, especially for young birds learning to forage. Clean feeders weekly to prevent disease, especially in hot weather.

2. Add Water for Drinking and Bathing

Birdbaths are more than just pretty—they're essential. Clean, shallow water gives birds a place to drink and bathe, helping keep

feathers in top shape for insulation and flight. Place baths near shrubs for cover, and clean them regularly to prevent algae and mosquitoes.

3. Provide Shelter and Nesting Spaces

Natural shelter like trees, shrubs, and native plants offer nesting spots and food like insects and berries. Avoid trimming trees or hedges during nesting season to protect hidden nests. Nest boxes can also help cavity-nesting birds—just mount them securely and clean between seasons.

4. Let Fledglings Learn

It's common to see young birds on the ground after leaving the nest. They may seem helpless, but this is a normal stage of development. Unless clearly injured or in danger, it's best to leave them alone—



parents are usually nearby, watching and feeding.

With a few thoughtful steps, your yard can become a haven for nesting birds and their young. It's one of the most rewarding parts of backyard birding—watching new life take flight, sometimes literally from your own feeder!

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

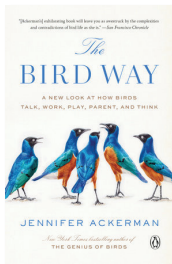
"I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes."

Despite being an aviator, Charles Lindbergh expressed a profound appreciation for the natural flight of birds over man-made machines.

FEATURE ARTICLE (continued from page 1)

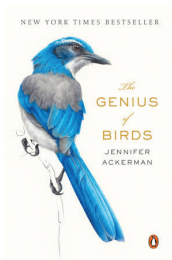
The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think by Jennifer Ackerman

Ackerman takes readers on a global journey to explore the fascinating behaviors of birds—from their social structures to their surprising intelligence. This engaging book challenges assumptions and reveals that bird behavior is as diverse and complex as that of mammals.



The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman

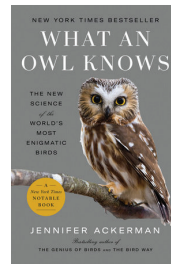
This compelling exploration dives into the remarkable intelligence of birds, showcasing how they use tools, solve problems, and communicate. Ackerman draws on the latest research to reveal just how "bird-brained" our avian friends



truly are—not foolish, but extraordinarily clever.

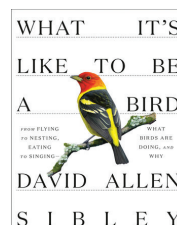
What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds by Jennifer Ackerman

With a focus on the mysterious world of owls, Ackerman uncovers the latest scientific discoveries about these elusive raptors. From their silent flight to their intricate communication, this book is a captivating look at what makes owls unique in the avian world.



What It's Like to Be a Bird by David Allen Sibley

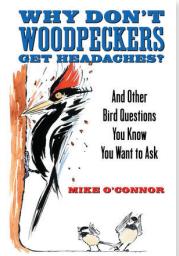
Lavishly illustrated and filled with accessible science, this book explores the everyday lives of birds from a bird's-eye view. Sibley answers common questions about bird



behavior and biology, making it a delightful read for curious minds of all ages.

Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches? And Other Bird Questions You Know You Want to Ask by Mike O'Connor

Drawn from the author's newspaper column, this humorous and informative book answers quirky birding questions with wit and wisdom. It's perfect for casual readers looking for fun facts and amusing insights into bird behavior and oddities.



Whether you're birdwatching from a porch swing or reading by the lake, we hope these books bring joy, curiosity, and a deeper connection to the wild world outside your window. ■

Summer's Bird Baby Boom

Double (or Triple!) the Nests: Birds That Raise Multiple Broods

Many of Minnesota's favorite backyard birds don't stop at just one family per season. In fact, several species raise two or even three broods during the summer months. These persistent parents bring lively activity to our yards and give us multiple chances to witness the wonder of young birds fledging for the first time. Below are some of the most common multi-brooding backyard birds you can spot—and support—right at home:

American Robin

One of the earliest and most persistent nesters, robins often raise 2 to 3 broods from April through August.



How to Help: Offer nesting material such as natural fiber twine, dried grasses, or feather fluff in a mesh holder or suet cage.

House Wren

These energetic songbirds often raise 2 broods and are enthusiastic users of nest boxes.

Tip: Mount a small nest box with a 1-inch entrance hole in a protected area. Wrens will readily move in and fill it with twigs.



Photo: George Brown

Eastern Bluebird

With proper support, bluebirds may raise 2 to 3 broods each year.

Support Their Success: Provide a clean bluebird nest box and offer live



or dried mealworms, especially while they're feeding nestlings.



Photo: Jay McGowan

Mourning Dove

Quiet and prolific, mourning doves may raise up to 6 broods in a single season.

How to Help: Offer an open nesting platform or hanging basket in a quiet, sheltered spot. They often reuse locations.

Northern Cardinal

These striking year-round residents often raise 2, sometimes 3 broods in dense shrubs or small trees.



Feeding Suggestion:

Provide sunflower seeds, fruit blends, and suet nuggets to keep energy levels high during nesting season.



House Finch

These cheerful, rose-colored, brown-streaked finches are frequent feeder visitors and often raise 2 to 3 broods throughout the summer.

Support Their Nesting: Keep feeders stocked with black oil sunflower seeds or finch mixes, and offer nesting material nearby such as the Best Nest Builder™.

Tips for Nesting Season

Feeding adult birds during the breeding season gives them more time and energy to care for their young. Consider offering:

- Mealworms—Live or dried, these are a favorite for robins, bluebirds, wrens and orioles.
- Suet—Choose soft, no-melt varieties formulated for summer use.

Also, consider offering nesting material—natural fiber kits are ideal; avoid synthetic yarn or dryer lint.



Turn Your Backyard Into a Nursery

With a little care and the right supplies, your yard can be a safe and welcoming place for multiple generations of birds this summer. Stop by the store to find everything you need to support these hardworking feathered families. ■

July & August

Find tips and seasonal updates online!

instagram: @allseasonswildbirdstore

facebook.com/allseasonswildbirdstore

youtube.com/@allseasonswildbirdstore

Help the birds beat the heat in July—our warmest, sunniest month—by adding another birdbath. Use Bird Bath Protector™ in the water to guard against organic contaminants.



American Goldfinch young hatch about the time Canadian Thistle plants release their seeds on fine white filaments.

Goldfinches feed their young a slurry of partially digested seed and are particularly attracted to Nyjer®, Nyjer® & Chips, and Finches' Choice during nesting season. Keep your feeders full of fresh seed and enjoy the show!

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



Call the Ridge Square store to set up Feed and Fill service to keep your feeders full and fresh while you're on vacation.

Call (952) 473-4283



By mid-July, bird song decreases dramatically as nesting season ends for many species. However, some birds—such as American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, and Northern Cardinals—have two or more broods and remain very vocal. Remember, fledglings are not fully flighted but generally do not need human assistance. Adult birds are nearby, feeding and guarding their young.

Baltimore Orioles feed their young caterpillars and larvae. Attract them to your yard by offering live or nectar-soaked dried mealworms. Orioles may visit backyard feeders through the first week of September for mealworms, nectar, grape jelly, oranges, or dark grapes. To host more birds, limit the use of pesticides and herbicides in your yard.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remain active at nectar feeders and flowers into October, with females and juveniles often staying the latest into fall. Use Hummingbird Nectar Defender to keep nectar fresh for up to two weeks.



Use Kracker Jax (shown) or Select Sunflower Hearts (whole sunflower seeds with shells removed) in the garden, on patio areas, or in window feeders—no shell mess!

To deter bees, wasps, and hornets, apply mint extract or Hummingbird Bee Repellent to nectar ports. Hanging feeders from an ant trap or applying Nectar Fortress gel to the pole will help prevent ants from reaching the nectar.

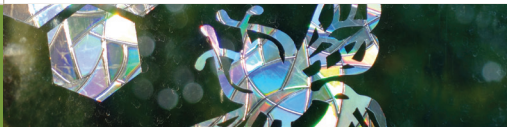


Many products containing hot pepper can deter squirrels.

Try Mr. Bird Flaming Hot Feast loose seed or seed cylinders, as well as hot-pepper suet, suet pellets, or seed cakes. Songbirds lack the receptor that detects capsaicin (the "heat" in peppers), so they aren't bothered by the spice.



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



As birds gather in pre-migration flocks, deter large numbers of grackles and starlings at feeders by filling them with Golden Safflower or White Safflower. Use Bye, Bye Starling to offer a sunflower mix that discourages European Starlings.