



# BIRD'S-EYE *View*

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Steve Byland | Dreamstime.com

## *Hosting Bluebirds*

### Spring Product Picks

### Seasonal Notes

#### FEATURED PRODUCTS

By Bloomington Administrative Assistant **Gail Conley**

## *Product Picks for* **Spring**

*Spring is the perfect time to refresh your backyard for birds, with products designed to make feeding, nesting, and birdwatching easier and more enjoyable. From innovative feeders to safe nesting boxes and window decals, these featured items will welcome feathered friends to your yard all season long.*

### **Erva Iron Baluster-Mounted Dish Support Ring and Hanger**

As people are transitioning to more maintenance-free decking, there are options specifically designed for metal balusters. The **Erva Iron**



*Baluster-mounted Dish Support Ring*

**Baluster Dish Support Ring** allows a way to enjoy a birdbath from iron

balusters. A special screw-mount bracket clasps to vertical iron balusters on decks, iron fences, and porches.

Similar to the support ring, the **Erva Iron Fence/Porch Mount**



*Baluster Fence/Porch Mount Hanger*

**Hanger** also attaches to vertical iron balusters and allows you to

hang bird feeders, hanging baskets, or decorative wind chimes with a 30-pound weight limit.

### **New! Modern Dot WindowAlert Decals**

WindowAlert decals help prevent bird collisions by using small UV-reflective dots that birds see as bright markers, while remaining mostly invisible to humans.

Applied to the outside of windows, these static-cling dots break up reflections of sky and trees, helping birds recognize glass as a solid barrier.

*Continued on page 2 . . .*

## Celebrating Melissa Block: A Lasting Light at All Seasons

### **A Cherished Member of the All Seasons Family**

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, we lost a cherished member of the All Seasons Wild Bird Store



family. Melissa Block—beloved mother, wife, sister, colleague, and friend—passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 74.

For those of us who worked alongside her, Melissa was far more than an employee. She brought an impassioned presence, a trusted voice, and was someone who deeply shaped

the culture and success of our Wayzata store and our business as a whole.

### **From Sales Associate to Store Leader**

Melissa joined All Seasons in October 2003 as a part-time sales associate at our Wayzata location, where her knowledge, passion, and natural leadership quickly stood out. In August 2010, she was promoted to Wayzata Store Manager, a role she held with pride and purpose until her retirement from store management on December 31, 2016.

### **A Passionate Naturalist and Trusted Voice**

A Certified Backyard Naturalist, Melissa was passionate—often opinionated in the best possible way—and deeply invested in both her team and her customers. She built strong, lasting relationships and brought a sharp

business sense, leaving our company better because of her care and conviction.

### **Continuing Her Influence**

Even after stepping away from day-to-day store leadership, Melissa continued to share her talents, transitioning in January 2016 to a part-time Marketing Consultant role, from which she fully retired in December 2021. She was a highly valued leader in our small, family-run business, and her influence will continue to be felt in ways both big and small. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Melissa's family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know her. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

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

*A bird came down the walk / He did not know I saw. — Emily Dickinson, Poem 328*

### **FEATURED PRODUCTS** (continued from page 1)



We've long carried WindowAlert decals in pretty shapes like flowers and insects, but the new **WindowAlert Modern Dots**—recommended by the Minnesota Bird Coalition—allow full window coverage.

Each pack includes 30 dots, providing effective protection at a lower cost. While most noticeable when first applied, they quickly blend into the background and become virtually unnoticeable to people.

### **Gilbertson Bluebird Box**

The **Gilbertson PVC Bluebird box** comes with a brown poly roof. By squeezing the

nest box, it removes easily, allowing you to easily check on nestlings. This nest box comes with drainage holes, proper venting, and toe holds under the entrance to help fledglings. It mounts to a ½-inch conduit pole, available in our stores. If you want to learn more about bluebirds, stop in at any of our six locations and we would be happy to help you.



**Gilbertson PVC Bluebird Box with poly roof**

### **Brome Squirrel Buster® Evolution**

This feeder was selected as Product of the Year by the Wild Bird Feeding Institute. Features include a double cardinal ring, which welcomes a variety of bird sizes, and a patented water diversion system designed to keep seed dry.

Touted by the manufacturer as Truly Squirrel Proof™, the design features openings in the shroud which align with the seed feeding ports. The weight of the squirrel automatically forces the shroud down, closing off access to the seed.

This feeder is easy to disassemble and thoroughly clean, which is important for both birds and humans. The Evolution feeder itself holds 1.9 pounds of seed. By using a squirrel-resistant feeder, bird enthusiasts save money on seed. ■



**Brome Squirrel Buster® Evolution**

# Hosting Bluebirds

## Creating the Right Space for Backyard Bluebirds

*There's something magical about watching a flash of brilliant blue settle onto a fence post in your backyard. Eastern Bluebirds are one of Minnesota's most beloved songbirds, and thanks to conservation efforts and dedicated backyard hosts, their populations have rebounded in recent decades. If you're lucky enough to have an open yard with short grass, scattered trees, and plenty of space, you may be able to invite bluebirds to nest right at home. With proper nest boxes and a little commitment, you can play a meaningful role in their continued success.*

### **Q:** *What is the ideal habitat for hosting nesting bluebirds?*

**A:** Eastern Bluebirds prefer open habitats with short grass where insects are easy to spot — lawns, pastures, and open fields are ideal. Avoid heavily wooded or brushy areas, which favor competitors like House Wrens. Bluebirds also appreciate nearby perches such as fence posts, small trees, or utility wires for hunting.

### **Q:** *How much time should I plan to commit?*

**A:** Hosting bluebirds requires responsibility. The Bluebird Program of Minnesota recommends checking nest boxes at least once per week during nesting season (April–August). Monitoring allows you to track eggs and nestlings, ensure native species are nesting, and address issues quickly. If you cannot commit to weekly checks, it's best not to install a box.

### **Q:** *How often should nest boxes be cleaned?*

**A:** Clean out boxes after each brood fledges to encourage additional nesting attempts and reduce parasites. A final



Photo: Katrina Hase

cleaning in late fall or early spring prepares the box for the next season.

### **Q:** *Can I attract bluebirds even if they don't nest in my yard?*

**A:** Yes. Even if your yard isn't an ideal nesting habitat, you can still encourage bluebirds to visit.

Offering live or dried mealworms in a small dish feeder can be especially effective during early spring or cold snaps when insects are scarce.



A clean, reliable water source — such as a birdbath refreshed daily — also makes your yard more appealing. Open feeding areas (rather than dense shrubbery) will feel safer and more attractive to bluebirds.

### **Q:** *What type of nest box do you recommend?*

**A:** Choose a sturdy, weather-resistant box that opens easily for monitoring.

A reliable local option is the Green Solutions recycled bluebird house, available at All Seasons Wild Bird Store. It meets recommended bluebird box specifications and is easy to maintain.



Photo: Katrina Hase

Mount boxes 5–6 feet high on a pole with a predator baffle, facing open habitat.

### **Q:** *Should boxes be paired, and how far apart?*

**A:** In areas where Tree Swallows compete for cavities, pairing two boxes 10–15 feet apart can improve success — one may be used by swallows and the other by bluebirds. However, separate bluebird territories should generally be at least 300 feet apart in open habitat.

### **Q:** *Where can I learn more about hosting Eastern Bluebirds?*

**A:** Visit the Bluebird Program of Minnesota at [bbpmn.org](http://bbpmn.org) for detailed guidance. You can visit our website, [wildbirdstore.com](http://wildbirdstore.com) and click on Resources > Attract Species You Want > Attracting Bluebirds tabs on our website. You can also find great articles on our blog, using the search term "bluebird": [wildbirdstore.com/blog](http://wildbirdstore.com/blog). ■

# March & April

*Find tips and seasonal updates online!*

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

**The trilling of the Red-winged Blackbirds** is one of the first signs of a Minnesota spring. To avoid attracting a mob of Red-wings at your feeder, switch to golden safflower. Red-wings are less interested in golden safflower, but Northern Cardinals, Black-capped Chickadees, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks love it. Extra bonus: Common Grackles and European Starlings aren't fond of golden safflower.

**An upside-down suet feeder** also feeds woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees but makes feeding more difficult for grackles and starlings.



Photo: Katrina Hase

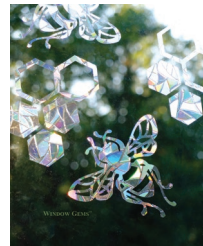
**Tired of battling squirrels?**

Make bird feeding more fun with a squirrel-defeating pole system or squirrel-resistant feeders. Our Store-to-Door Services team will install the pole system for you. Fees apply. Call the Ridge Square store for service at (952) 473-4283.



**Nest boxes need to be ready for Eastern Bluebirds and Wood Ducks in early March.** Use a 50/50 water and white vinegar solution to clean the houses. Replace the wood shred in Wood Duck boxes. Chickadee and House Wren houses should be ready for habitation by April 1.

**Protect birds from window strikes** with WindowAlerts or Window Gems placed on the outside of the windows.



**When spring cleaning, don't forget the bird feeders and birdbaths.** Rake up seed debris and dispose of it in the trash. Check out our YouTube channel ([YouTube.com/@AllSeasonsWildBirdStore](https://www.youtube.com/@AllSeasonsWildBirdStore)) for cleaning tips. Add a Copper Purification Disc to the freshly cleaned bath, or add Bird Bath Protector™ to the water to keep it clean longer.

**Song Sparrows return** around the third week of March. White millet or Finches' Choice are excellent options for ground feeding our native sparrows.

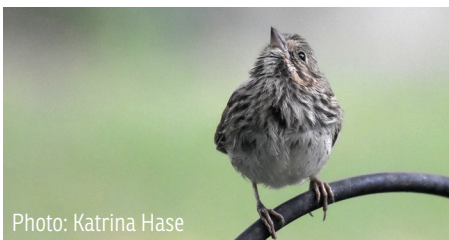


Photo: Katrina Hase

**Nesting is a lot of work.** The Havgård Best Nest Builder provides nesting material, and offering live mealworms will help parent birds feed their young.



**It is typically the House Finches that choose eclectic nesting sites,** like decorative wreaths and hanging flower pots. For nests in flower pots, poke drainage holes in a plastic container, such as a small margarine tub. Before the eggs hatch, lift the nest and place it in the container. This allows for watering the plant while keeping the nest dry.

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** will use suet feeders and live or dried mealworms when bugs and insects are scarce. Year-Round Suet from Pacific Bird is loaded with dried mealworms and crickets—yum!



Photo: Jeff Oberman

**Early migrating orioles and hummingbirds** may arrive in the last week of April. Be ready to greet them with full feeders. Review our free in-store handouts or visit our website for details on feeding these spectacular birds:

- [wildbirdstore.com/resources/attracting-specific-birds/attracting-hummingbirds](https://www.wildbirdstore.com/resources/attracting-specific-birds/attracting-hummingbirds)
- [wildbirdstore.com/resources/attracting-specific-birds/attracting-orioles](https://www.wildbirdstore.com/resources/attracting-specific-birds/attracting-orioles)

**Remember to put out nectar feeders during the last week of April!**

