

Wild Bird Habitat Store

October Newsletter - 2018

South Lincoln

In the Alamo Plaza
56th & Hwy 2
Lincoln, NE 68516
(402) 420-2553

North Lincoln

NEW ADDRESS
4900 Dudley St
Lincoln, NE 68504
(402) 464-4055

Omaha

Harrison Village Mall
168th & Harrison
Omaha, NE 68136
(402) 504-4450

www.wildbirdhabitatstore.com



1993-2018



THE Wild Bird Habitat Stores

Celebrating 25 years as Nebraska's Backyard Bird Feeding Specialists

10% OFF 25LB Bags Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Premium Grade, NON-GMO, Pesticide Free

Through October / Limit 2 per visit

Weekly Drawing!

Win \$100.00
your choice of
wild bird feed
Ask for more details

ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS THROUGH OCTOBER CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALES ON SATURDAYS

Check out details in October's newsletter and watch for Emails

Arnie's Pet Foods \$100.00 Giveaway

Presented by
Zignature Dog Food

5 Star Limited ingredient Dog

Includes Fussy Cat Food

Ask Staff For Details

Zignature formulated the first limited ingredient, hypo allergenic dog food and strives to create the best dog food in the world. We do that by using meat first and limited ingredient recipes to provide a Physiologically Tuned™, nutritionally correct diet for your canine companions. Highly recommended by Dog Food Advisor with a 5 Star rating.



Arnie's Pet Foods
A division of Wild Bird Habitat
Only the best for our pets!



The Carolina Wren is a small sparrow size bird a bit larger than the House Wren. They are just over 5 inches in length with a seven inch wingspan weighing about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an ounce. That's the weight of three pennies in the palm of your hand. The House wren is 4.5 inches in length weighing less than a half ounce with a wingspan slightly less than 6 inches. The Carolina Wren is a subtle rusty-brown on the back, buff colored underside, light colored throat. The House Wren is brownish with barring on the tail and wings. But the dominate field mark of the Carolina Wren is a distinctive white eyebrow.

A male Carolina Wren's call I believe is much sweeter than the House Wren. It is a loud melodious whistling: "TEA-kettle TEA kettle TEA-kettle" or "cheery cheery, cherry." Each male has a repertoire

Carolina Wren

of up to several dozen different song variations. He'll sing one of these about 15 times before changing his tune. The female responds with a sweet chirping sound. Both the male and female will sing throughout the year. One captive male Carolina Wren sang nearly 3,000 times in a single day.

Carolina Wrens are primarily a bird of the southeastern U.S. but their range has greatly expanded north and west and continues to do so. Their range extends as far north as southeastern Ontario, Canada, and as far west as eastern Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas. Severe winters will limit their northern range as these birds are not winter hardy. When caught in prolonged cold spells and heavy snow many will perish and it may decimate local populations.

This wren prefers similar habitats to that of the House Wren. Woodlands with good understory, thickets, riparian areas, and rocky slopes covered with brush. Carolina Wrens like to move low through tangled understory. They will frequent backyard brush piles and areas choked with vines and bushes. In fact they are quite comfortable in neighborhoods with mature trees and good habitat where they nest and spend the winter foraging for food.



Their diet consists primarily of insects, including beetles, caterpillars, moths, crickets, bees, spiders and ants. They will move about a tree trunk probing the bark with their beak in search of these delicacies. You may also see them on the ground rooting through leaves and other vegetation. A good reason not to clean up every inch of your yard in the fall. Leave some leaves under shrubs and bushes. There are insects and larvae wintering over in that debris. They will commonly frequent feeders in your backyard filled with hulled sunflowers or shelled peanuts and may be seen at the suet feeders as well.

Carolina wrens are monogamous, maintaining pair bonds and territories throughout the year. The male and female Carolina Wren sing to each other to communicate and announce their territory to others. They will remain within a territory year round to nest, feed, and raise their young.



These birds primarily seek out cavities to nest in and the male will construct several nests. It may be an old woodpecker hole, a man-made nest box, but may include an old can lying on the ground, mailboxes, old boots and shoes. However if a cavity of some sort cannot be found they are capable of building their own nest. I found such a nest once. It was the size of a basketball and perfectly round with a large hole on one side for the entrance. I'm not certain I'd have the capacity to weave such a nest.

The female lays a clutch of three to seven eggs that are creamy white, heavily spotted with purplish-brown to rusty brown flecks. Incubation begins after the last egg has been laid and the female will incubate them for approximately 12 to 14 days while the male retrieves food for her. They will both assume the task of feeding the young. However the female may ultimately leave the task of feeding the young after they have fledged so she can construct a second nest for another brood. They may even have a third brood during the nest season. After four weeks the young fledglings will become independent and search for their own territories where they can attract a mate and set up housekeeping.

Keep a good ear and you will undoubtedly hear a Carolina Wren from time to time. I have had excellent success with a peanut feeder filled with shelled peanuts where Carolina Wrens make frequent visits. Where as the House Wren moves to southern states and Mexico for the winter months, we'll enjoy the Carolina Wren throughout the year.

The Difference in Wild Bird Habitat's Black Oil Sunflower Seed

I'm sure everyone likes a bargain, so why not purchase a 50 LB bag of black oil sunflower seed at the big box store for as little as \$14.99? The facts are that those economical bags of black oil sunflower contain what is called "seconds" which means they did not make grade to be used for human consumption. Premium grade oiled sunflower is crushed for the oils and is used from manufacturing potato chips to many of the food products we buy. These seconds as they are called may have been damaged by an early frost not reaching maturity. Possibly they were infested with insects or disease during the growing stages. Most often these black oil seeds are purchased as feed by the livestock industry. But economy bird feed packagers buy seconds at a greatly reduced cost and sold at a discount to the consumer for wild bird feed. They are small, some may not even have a sunflower heart, just an empty shell. Backyard birds may pick through them looking for an edible seed, most often just rejecting them altogether. Birds have little time at the feeders to sort through seeds while constantly on the lookout for predators and competing with other birds.



Wild Bird Habitat's black oil sunflower is premium food grade oil seeds. NON-GMO and pesticide free. Our black oil sunflower seed is air cleaned to remove debris and foreign matter. It may cost a bit more but there is little to no waste and the birds know it.

THE Wild Bird Habitat Stores

Celebrating 25 years as Nebraska's Backyard Bird Feeding Specialists



1993-2018

**25th Anniversary
Customer Appreciation Sales**

On Saturdays In October



October 6th - 20% OFF 40 LB. bags Standard & Classic Wild Bird Mix - Limit 2 per customer
Premium food grade seeds, air clean, no fillers, NON-GMO, pesticide free

October 13th - Customer Appreciation Day
10% OFF ALL bird feeders in stock

October 20th - 10% OFF ALL bird baths, heated bird baths, ALL bird bath de-icers
Great opportunity to provide birds with water this winter and save

October 27th - Customer Appreciation Day
10% OFF ALL WILD BIRD FEEDS

Includes bulk wild bird feed in bottles, buckets, and sacks

Wild Bird Habitat's 25th Anniversary Sales are separate and not valid with Senior's Day discounts or Customer Loyalty Redemption points.

Dave's October Bird Chatter

Early October is the normal arrival date of the Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows from the north. These two birds announce the onset of the fall migration of northern bird species. Other early birds from the north to watch for include Pine Siskins, Purple Finch, Harris' Sparrow, and the Red-breasted nuthatch. This little nuthatch, often a common winter visitor, is so tame it has become everyone's favorite seasonal bird. As we move closer to the month of November we may be blessed with crossbills, Red-polls, and any number of other birds from the North Country in search of winter food resources.

Red-breasted Nuthatch



The ducks and geese are becoming restless for their flight to southern regions where open water will be abundant all winter long. They are among the last of the migratory birds to head south ahead of approaching cold weather. As with most birds, the trip south is relaxed and unhurried. Area lakes are a great place to view the many species of waterfowl on the move.



The huge flocks of blackbirds, including the notorious Common Grackle, will be growing in numbers and eventually they will leave as well. The folks in the southern Gulf States where these birds are headed are already dreading their arrival. Some of these flocks can number in the millions and the noise and upheaval can be hard for us to comprehend. These large flocks of blackbirds on the wing are truly a sign of autumn along with the changing colors of the leaves. But mind you, they don't all leave at the same time. And blackbirds from the north will continue to filter through our area for the next week or two.

This is again the time of year for big changes and even surprises. Watch your feeders and surrounding yard for new birds showing up or just passing through. October is the month when many warblers that summer in the Northern U.S. and Canada will be moving through. Vireos, thrush, flycatchers, kinglets, and others will be drifting south to winter territories along with a number of native sparrows. Keep your field guide and binoculars at the ready.

If you are just getting started feeding birds, you can be confident the staff at the Wild Bird Habitat Store will provide you with the information to become instantly successful. With 25 years of experience and knowledge about the latest techniques and products in the bird feeding industry, we are here to help you. Bird feeders, and other products, sold at Wild Bird Habitat with a warranty are repaired right at our facility. Bird feeders without warranties are also repaired as needed at little or no cost. We will even repair feeders purchased from other outlets. Now is the time to have your bird feeders ready as our winter visitors will be arriving, and our resident birds are preparing for winter.

Now is the time to make preparations to provide water for your backyard birds this winter. One can almost attract more birds to open water when the temperatures plummet than with just seed alone. If you have a bird bath heater or de-icer, check to make certain it is still in working order. Since most are thermostatically controlled you can determine if it is working by putting it in your freezer for 20 minutes. Remove it from the freezer and plug it in. You should be able to feel the device warming up. If your bird bath heater or de-icer is covered with scale from last year, you can improve its efficiency by soaking it in vinegar for about an hour, then scrub with a stiff brush. Repeat the process as necessary. Wild Bird Habitat has Nebraska's largest selection of bird bath heaters, de-icers and heated bird baths fully covered by a manufacturer's warranty.



WENDSDAY SPECIAL

Every
Wednesday
in
October



**10% off ANY
Squirrel Proof Bird Feeder
Plus 5 LBS. Hulled Sunflower Seed
An added discount of \$7.75**

Fall Bird Migration

Bird Migration

One of the most amazing phenomena, if not the most amazing of all in the wildlife kingdom, is the migration of birds. Bird migration has fascinated humans since the beginning of history. It is not only mentioned in the bible, but was studied by ancient philosophers. While many questions have been answered, many other questions remain.

Why Do Some Birds Migrate?

We know for certain birds migrate not because of cold weather itself, but because of the impact cold weather has on a bird's food resources. If they feed strictly on insects, fruits, or rodents, chances are they will need to move to a moderate or warmer climate to find the food they need in order to survive. In respect to ground foraging birds as the Juncos who feed on seeds, they will need to relocate to an area where heavy winter snows will not cover their food resources beyond their ability to reach them for an extended period of time. So we know for certain that bird migration is driven by the availability of food. Temperatures alone won't make most birds migrate. In fact many exotic birds could survive outside in temperatures well below zero if they had enough food.



How Do Birds Know When Migrate?

How do birds know when it is time to migrate? Well, we know that birds migrate quite punctually every year when the season is changing. And what is the most unmistakable clue to the fact that the season is changing? The length of the day! It is believed that birds can tell when the days get shorter in late summer and longer in the spring. It is believed that shorter daylight hours striking the brain through a thinning area on the top of the skull is what triggers this "alarm clock" in the fall. That combined with cooler weather and reduced food supplies tells migratory birds its time to go.

In the spring the amount of available light resets their clock. Only in this case, it's migration northward. Certain glands in the bird begin to secrete chemicals that have to do with breeding. The bird feels the need to breed and heads north where it will be summer. So the change in the length of days and the disappearance of food tell the bird to head to warmer places. And the breeding instinct in the spring tells them to head north. There are many other factors involved, of course, and many things we still don't understand, but these are certainly among the chief clues to bird migration.

How Do Birds Migrate?

Could you image traveling across two complete continents without a road map, and reaching your point of destination with pinpoint accuracy? The Arctic Tern, North America's longest migrant, does just that. A 12,000 mile trip one way from the Arctic to the Antarctic in the fall, then returning another 12,000 miles on a different route in the spring. Or a Rose-breasted Grosbeak that nested in your yard traveling to South America in the fall, only to return to your yard the following spring. And the Dark-eyed Juncos who wintered gathering seeds under your feeder, and the same Juncos showing up the following winter in the same yard. How do birds that migrate continue to follow the same routes generation after generation for thousands of years?

DAVE'S WINGTIP:

Fall warblers are moving through. They are not in our yards for wild bird feed, but rather to glean insects off leaves and quench their thirst in the bird bath. As of October 1st in our yard we have seen: Black & White Warbler, American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, and Orange Crown Warbler. I am certain we will see other migrating birds in our backyard as fall migration continues. Keep a close eye in the trees and bushes and at your ponds and bird baths for unusual birds.

Migratory birds have several methods of navigation. Birds that migrate during the day, such as hawks, eagles, and vultures, use the position of the sun to find their way. They also can use the setting sun as an indication of due west. Those which migrate at night use celestial navigation. They find their way by using the patterns of the stars. During a bird's first year migration they memorize the position of the constellations in relation to the North Star. These star patterns stay the same even though the Earth moves through space, making the constellations appear to move to different spots in the sky during the year.



Central Flyway

Birds also use magnetic fields to navigate by. They have tiny grains of a mineral called magnetite just above their nostrils. This mineral may help them to navigate using the Earth's magnetic field, which tells the bird what direction is true north.

It is also widely believed that in their first years birds learn to identify unchanging landmarks in the landscape such as rivers, mountain ranges, and coastlines. Consider this. For at least 14 million years, Sandhill Cranes, which winter across Southern Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Northern Mexico, arrive by the hundreds of thousands in Nebraska on a 65 mile stretch of the Platte River. After several weeks of feeding they fan out, heading for their previous years nesting territories that stretch from Nova Scotia to Siberia.

Wingtips: Migrating flocks of birds can easily be tracked by Doppler radar, the same radar meteorologists use to track storms. Birds have a high moisture content appearing on radar as large rain drops moving in patterns not associated with weather systems. Once these radar returns are established as flocks of migrating birds, visual observation by spotters can confirm the species and approximate numbers.

How High Do Migrating Birds Fly?

The altitude at which migrating birds fly often depends on the winds, after all, it is more efficient to use wind energy. In the fall advancing cold fronts produce winds out of the north helping to propel migrating birds that are headed south for the winter. Just the opposite happens in the spring as warm winds are generated from the south. Some ducks and geese fly at remarkable heights with some geese reported flying as high as 29,000 feet, five miles up. Most songbirds that migrate at night fly between 2000 and 6000 feet, although they may fly higher to reach favorable winds.

Arnie's Corner



Arnie's
Pet Foods
Alamo Plaza
56th & HWY2

Bring your four legged companion on Sunday October 28th 2018 from 12-4, to **Paws 4 Fun Indoor Dog Park** at 3704 N 44th Street. Dress up your dogs in their best costume for the 2nd annual Halloween "Bark at the Moon"! There will be dog trick-or-treating, a costume contest as well as other great door prizes, coupons and games!



Get more info and pre-register at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/alpha-media-14927565593>

Born from the love of animals, Ultra Oil Skin & Coat Supplement is a pure gift from Mother Nature designed to alleviate the flaky skin, itching and excessive scratching caused by deficiencies in a pet's diet. Ultra Oil is the most effective way to relieve hot spots, allergic breakouts and other skin and coat irritations. Also relieves joint pain, dryness and excessive shedding plus many other benefits.

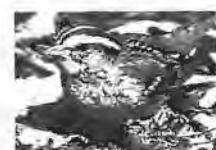


Ultra Oil available at Arnie's Pet Foods
A division of Wild Bird Habitat

arniespetfoods.com

Changing Seasons Tips for Birders

- Some folks had hummingbirds show up the last week of July. Mine, as usual, didn't appear in my yard until September 1st. There is still plenty of time to attract a hummer as they slowly filter through our area. Even the occasional straggler may stop by into early October.
- Grackles will be forming small flocks in preparation to migrate and they may congregate around bird feeders. They will join larger pre-migratory flocks only to join even larger flocks of blackbirds that will soon pass by. It will only be a temporary inconvenience before they are gone for the winter. Be patient.
- Watch for native sparrows passing through. White-crowned and White-throated sparrows, Harris' Sparrow, Tree and Song Sparrows, and others. What's the easiest way to tell if it that little brown bird in your yard is a House Sparrow or a native sparrow? Watch their feeding habitats. Native sparrows scratch the ground with their feet to turn up seeds. House Sparrows sweep with their bill.
- Wild Bird Habitat recommends everyone have a field guide for birds. Our staff can help you select one that fits your needs whether you're a backyard bird watcher or avid bird enthusiast venturing out to identify as many birds as you can. Many online bird identification websites are available such as at nebraskabirdlibrary.org but nothing can replace a hard copy field guide where you can compare and ponder the birds you see.
- This time of year some folks may experience a slowdown of birds visiting the feeders. One reason is that when birds are molting they venture out into open areas less often. Their flying ability is hampered making them more susceptible to predation. The other reason is a natural abundance of food that has matured or gone to seed. Birds will take advantage of that additional food resource. They know where the bird feeders are and we recommend you keep them stocked even if activity at the bird feeder slows down.
- It won't be long before cold nights will lead to iced over bird baths. It is best to check your bird bath heater before to make certain it is in working function. To test your thermostatically controlled bird bath heater put it in the freezer of your refrigerator for 40 minutes. Remove it from the freezer and plug it in. You should feel some warmth in just a few minutes. Remove scaling on the heater soaking it in a solution of vinegar and water then brush good.
- As the grasses and flowers in your gardens go to seed don't be too hasty to nip them off. Make those seed heads available for the birds. Coneflowers are particularly a favorite of Goldfinches and seeds that drop to the ground provide a banquet for the many ground foraging birds that will be passing through over the next couple of months.
- Leave some leaves under shrubs and bushes. This will help protect the roots during the winter and harbor insects and larva for foraging birds. You can do a thorough cleaning in the spring.



Thanking everyone for a wonderful first 25 years

Dave, Linda, Katie, and our dedicated Staff

THE Wild Bird Habitat Stores

Serving bird enthusiasts from across Nebraska and beyond for 25 years

GO NUTTY WITH A PEANUT BIRD FEEDER



**10% OFF
All Peanut Bird Feeders**



Plus 3 lbs. Shelled Peanuts FREE

*An added value of \$5.40
Through October*



Birds are attracted to seeds that contain a high concentration of fat such as black oil sunflower, hulled sunflower, and Nyjer thistle seed. This fat provides the energy that fuels them. Shelled-peanuts contain as much as 48% fat. Peanut bird feeders with shelled-peanuts are highly attractive to woodpeckers, nuthatches, Chickadees and Carolina Wrens. On a platform feeder Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays will feast on shelled-peanuts. Even the American Robin. With winter approaching a Peanut Bird Feeder would make a great addition to your backyard bird feeding program.

FUN SUNDAYS 10% OFF ALL KIDS PRODUCTS

*Books, activity sets,
kits, toys and more*

Sundays in October



Elementary school age children visiting Wild Bird Habitat on Sundays receive a
FREE WILD BIRD FEEDER
FREE WILD BIRD FEED



1 corn log contains 24 ears
of compresses corn.
Squirrels love'em

FREE SQUIRREL LOG With the purchase of any squirrel corn or log Squirrel Feeder



Last 20 X's long than
one ear of corn
Through October