# Wild Bird Habitat Store

## June, 2021 Newsletter


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

**North Lincoln**
4900 Dudley St
*2 Blks S of Holdrege*
Lincoln, NE 68504
(402) 464-4055

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

www.wildbirdhabitatstore.com


---

## WILD BIRD HABITAT STORE EASES COVID SHOPPING PROTOCOL

**The Wild Bird Habitat Stores wish to thank all our customers for their support over the past 14 months during the Covid pandemic.**

- At this time we are not requiring but recommending masks for instore shopping
- We will accept our buckets & bottles to fill with your favorite bulk wild bird feeds
- For those who prefer we will continue to offer pre-ordering of wild bird feeds so it is conveniently ready for pickup when you arrive.

**Order wild bird feed north store at (402) 464-4055**

**Order wild bird feed south store at (402) 420-2553 Online at shopwildbirdfeed.com**

---

**June Bird Notes:**

- The excitement of bird migration continues through early June.
- Many people are enjoying the Orioles at their feeders.
- If you have nectar feeders out keep them clean and fresh.
- Many birds will be bringing their young to the feeders.
- If you have nesting bluebirds put some meal worms out.
- Robins are easily lured to a ground feeder with meal worms.
- Goldfinch and Cedar waxwings will be nesting by the end of the month.
- Suet feeders are being used by many birds.
- Believe it or not, the young blackbirds will be flocking up by the end of the month.

---



## Mourning Dove

In the spring and early summer, we may notice a bird with a stiff, flap and glide flight pattern, reminiscent of a Sharp Shinned Hawk. But closer inspection reveals the male Mourning Dove in a courtship flight, then returning to his favorite "cooing" perch. In flight he has a whistling sound as doves often do. However they are capable of quite flights as well. Watching the courtship it might appear strange. The male flies at the female and she quickly moves ahead, as if to avoid his advances.

This, however, is how she may be choosing her potential mate. If he persists long enough, she may pick him as her partner simply because of his "never give up" attitude. They will remain together forming a monogamous relationship unless one of the pair dies. At that time the other will search out a new mate.

Mourning Doves are smaller than the common Pigeon measuring 12 inches in length with a wingspan of nearly 18 inches. The male weighs about 6 ounces with the female weighing slightly less. Both have a blended grey and brown body leading to a mostly gray head especially on the crown. Mourning Doves have black spots below and behind their eyes with smaller black spots on the wings. The tail is long tapering toward the end. The white edging along the sides of the tail is noticeable in flight.



Mourning Doves are among the earliest nesters of all our songbirds in the Central Plaines and Midwest. The first attempt to nest might be as early as late March and continuing into September. Early on the male defends a territory up to one hundred yards in diameter. But as time passes, these territories diminish in size to just a few yards. In fact territories may grow so small during the summer that it is not uncommon for several doves to nest in the same tree.

The nest is a flimsy affair which is often built on the boughs of an evergreen. They will also use Cotton Woods and other deciduous trees and bushes once they have leafed out. Some folks have be lucky enough to have had doves nest in a hanging basket where they were able to watch the young grow and fledge.

Although the male will select the location for the nest, anywhere from three to thirty feet off the ground, it is the female that will construct it. She builds a loosely designed structure with twigs passed to her from the male while he often will stand on her back to do so. The completed nest is so scantly built you can actually see the eggs in the nest looking up from underneath it. It will take about four days before the 8" diameter nest is finished and ready to occupy. It has the appearance of being slightly funnel shaped.

The female Mourning Dove lays only two white eggs per nesting. For this reason it is amazing the dove population has remained as stable as it has since they are the most popular bird to hunt with over 20 million birds harvested annually. Both parents will incubate the two eggs with the male taking the day shift and the female on nights. They will continuously rotate, constantly incubating the eggs until they hatch in fourteen to fifteen days. It will be another two weeks before the young birds are ready to leave the nest.

During this nesting phase the adults will feed them "pigeon's milk", a regurgitated, partially digested gruel of seeds. Once they have fledged the nest they will feed on a variety of seeds swallowing them whole. Doves feed primarily on the ground foraging for seeds but occasionally may land on a platform bird feeder for a meal. They can consume almost a quarter of their weight in seeds daily but will feed on berries as well.

Wingtip: Doves consume large quantities of seeds found on the ground. These seeds are stored in a crop located in the birds esophagus where they are digested. The Cornell Bird Lab reports the contents of one dove's crop contained 17,200 bluegrass seeds.

The Mourning Dove populates most all of the United States down into Mexico and well into Northeastern and Northwestern Canada. They are considered partial migrants as many will remain in more Central and Northern areas if a food source is abundant. Others may drift south for the winter.

Mourning Doves are among the first birds to begin calling in late winter along with the Northern Cardinal. The "cooing" is calming and peaceful as if they are lamenting a woeful song. They will readily patronize backyard bird feeders preferring Safflower seeds, hulled sunflower seeds, and white Proso millet. They can be seen gleaning these and other seeds off the ground under bird feeders. Although their disposition appears to be low key they can become quite assertive with other birds over food sources. But the Mourning Dove continues to be a favorite of many folks that feed birds in their backyards.

Wingtip: Since doves search for seeds on the ground they have been know to ingest lead shot in heavily hunted locations. The Cornell Bird Lab reports some doves have eaten up to 43 lead pellets. Studies have shown as many as 1 in every 20 doves accidentally ingest lead pellets and its fatal.

---

## A Tribute to Elaine Bachel - Raptor Rehabilitator

**June 6, 1946 to May 22, 2021**



I met Elaine Bachel in 1993 after opening the Wild Bird Habitat Stores. Elaine already had years of service rehabilitating injured raptors as one of the core volunteers of Raptor Recovery Nebraska. She loved to go birding and at times traversed the state looking to add bird species too her life list of birds. But Elaine's passion was caring for birds of prey. She spent many dedicated hours triaging and caring for injured raptors at her home and the raptor hospital. She never missed an opportunity to present several of the non-releasable birds she cared for that became ambassadors of Raptor Recovery Nebraska, educating adults and children alike about these magnificent birds and their place in the natural world.

After more than 30 years as a raptor rehabilitator and an essential volunteer with Raptor Recovery Nebraska, Elaine passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on May 22, 2021. Her soul now soars with the eagles, hawks, all the raptors she cared so much for and dedicated her life to. As Raptor Recovery Nebraska has reorganized after 45 years to become the Raptor Conservation Alliance, the passing of Elaine Bachel will leave a permanent void in the organization.

The Wild Bird Habitat Stores are raising funds for the Raptor Conservation Alliance in honor of Elaine Bachel. You can make a tax deductible donation through Wild Bird Habitat, on the Raptor Conservation Alliance's Face Book page, or by mail to the Raptor Conservation Alliance / 27320 Adams Street / Elmwood, NE 68349. 100% of your donation will be used to purchase food and medical supplies for the injured and orphaned raptors in Nebraska.

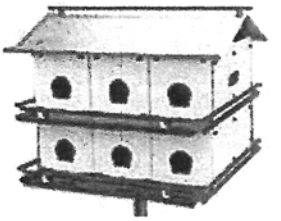
---


**Father's Day Special Offer**

**10% OFF**

**ALL BIRD HOUSES & NESTING BOXES THRU JUNE**





**In the Support Of Our Neo-Tropical Birds**

- The United States uses 25% of the worlds oil production.
- If the U.S. extracted every available oil deposit within its borders, it would reduce our oil dependency by less than 5%.
- The oil extracted in the U.S. is sold on the international market. That means the petroleum products Americans purchase is not necessarily the domestic oil the U.S produces..
- The oil spewing uncontrollably into the Gulf of Mexico is estimated to be between 5000 barrels and 100,000 barrels every day.
- While oil spills that impact sandy beaches can eventually be cleaned up to a point, crude oil entering sensitive wetland areas and marshes will kill the grasses that hold the substrate in place. This substrate, or sandy deposits, will erode into the sea and these habitats will be lost forever. They cannot be recreated.
- Many of the Neo-Tropical birds we enjoy in the Central Great Plaines and Midwest during the summer months traverse nearly 600 miles of open water from the Southern Hemisphere arriving on the U.S. gulf, tired and near starvation from the 12 hour flight. This includes hummingbirds, orioles, Purple Martins, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, just to name a few. Hundreds of other birds from warblers, vireos, shore birds and Tropical migrants that pass through the Central Plains headed to the Boreal forests and beyond to the Arctic to nest venture across the open Gulf of Mexico.
- When these birds reach the U.S. gulf coastal waters in early spring they are exhausted and use these sensitive habitats to feed, rest, and replenish the energy they need to continue north to their breeding grounds.
- Over 200 species that pass through the Plains States nest in the Boreal Forests in Canada where their nesting habitat is currently threatened by mineral and logging interests. Most all of the Neo-Tropical birds that nest in the Central Plains, Midwest, or migrate through these areas, stage their departure back to the Tropics in the fall along the U.S. Gulf Coast to rest, feeding to build up the energy needed for the long trip back to the Southern Hemisphere where they will winter over.
- This migration cycle of birds has gone on for millions of years, yet in the past 50 years alone human activity has reduced their overall population by nearly 50%.

## Shopping at the Wild Bird Habitat Store Supports Bird Conservation

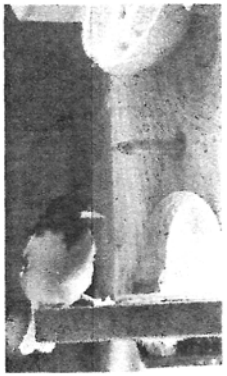
Over the past 28 years the Wild Bird Habitat Stores have partnered with government and non-government agencies, schools, nature centers, the University of Nebraska, and wildlife organizations across the state to promote, sponsor, assist in funding, and provide products for the installation of bird gardens and wildlife habitat.



Wild Bird Habitat's most recently endeavor was partner with the Wachiska Audubon Society, Audubon Spring Creek Prairie, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Lincoln City Libraries to create a native garden at the Walt Library at 67th and south 14th Street in Densmore Park. A 60 foot by 16 foot area on the north side of the library was carved out by Wachiska Audubon volunteers. They then planted native plants for pollinators and shrubs for birds. Two bird feeders were supplied and installed by Wild Bird Habitat along with contributing a $1000.00 to the project. This project was primarily funded with a $3000.00 PIE grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Walt Library staff is looking forward to using the area as an outdoor activities space for children.

So when you shop at the Wild Bird Habitat Stores you are helping to fund wildlife conservation, environmental education, and outdoor birding recreation, events and activities.

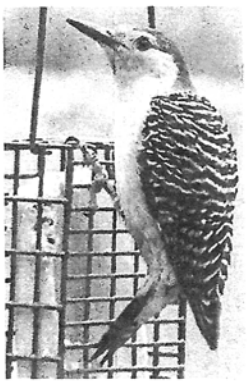
## Dave's Bird Chatter for June



Many folks will be excited to have the Baltimore Oriole coming to feed on oranges and grape jelly. A few may even be lucky enough to attract an Orchard Oriole at the feeders. Those that live on woodland edges next to open areas are most likely to attract them. Urban settings next to or near common areas or greenspaces can easily attract the orioles. But we do get reports of people in heavily urbanized neighborhoods having success. Each year the weather seems to be the determining factor in having success at attracting Orioles. A late spring will delay the leafing out of trees and make them more dependent on our artificial food. Although we can usually expect to see Orioles beginning to arrive the last week of April, it wasn't until mid-May this year due to the unusually cool damp weather. However it seems many enthusiasts have orioles coming to the feeders this spring.

Due to the weather this was a slow spring for people reporting hummingbirds coming to their nectar feeders. It was undoubtedly due again to the cool damp weather we experienced for most of the early spring right up to the end of May. We did receive several reports, but not near as many as in previous years. Those who live in heavily wooded riparian areas, such as along the Missouri River, seem to experience the best luck with hummingbirds. A few 'hummers' may very well patronize the nectar feeders all summer long since some do nest along these river bottoms. But unfortunately, the average city dweller will have to wait until mid-August for the return flow of these tiny birds. We have noticed that a midsummer dry spell seems to set the stage for a higher concentration of fall migrating Hummingbirds appearing in our gardens and feeding at the nectar feeders... The lack of nectar in the wild flowers caused by dry weather conditions often brings them to our gardens, which have been watered and as such will offer a larger supply of nectar. At that time the availability of our Hummingbird Feeders will heighten those numbers profusely.

Remember that with the onset of hot weather to keep the bird bath clean and filled with fresh water. Try to keep your bird bath in as much shade as possible. This will help to keep the bath cleaner as it is the sun which promotes algae growth. To clean concrete bird baths use a weak Clorox solution and lightly scrub with a brush. Then make certain to rinse the bath thoroughly. The Clorox will kill the algae spores that are in the porous concrete finish. Polypropylene, ceramic, and metal baths can be easily cleaned with a detergent or vinegar solution.. Whenever using any foreign product to clean your bird bath just make sure it is rinsed very well before filling it for the birds. Remember that moving water will attract more birds to the bird bath, so consider adding a dripper. The dripper will create sound, movement, and keep the bath replenished with fresh water during times of heavy use or evaporation.



Suet during the summer months is always a treat for the woodpeckers. After all, it takes a lot of energy to defend a territory while raising and feeding a family. Woodpeckers will consume 30% more animal protein during the summer months than all winter long. And don't be surprised to see some immature woodpeckers recently hatched brought to the suet feeders by the adult birds. It is always entertaining to watch these youngsters trying to figure out how to feed on the suet, especially if it is an up-side down suet feeder. It won't take long for them to figure it out. In the past many people considered suet a winter feed product, but I guarantee you'll enjoy feeding suet in the summer as well.

Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwings will start their nesting by the end of June. They are late nesters as to coincide with the proper nesting materials and to correspond with their needed food sources for raising their young. You may still encounter a few unmated adults at your feeders in urbanized areas during the summer, but our resident goldfinch will drift into rural areas to nest where materials and an abundance of natural foods are available.

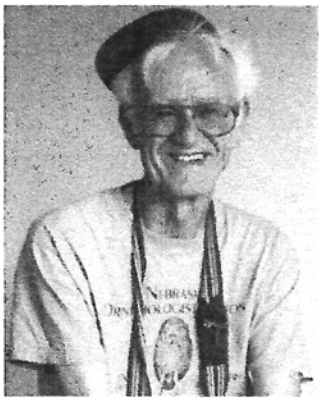
Watch carefully for young birds at your feeders as they will know little about feeding themselves at first. They will often flutter their wings with open beaks begging for handouts from their parents. It is fun to watch their skills advance with experience and mimicking their parents as they learn to take food from the bird feeder.

This is such an exciting time for bird lovers. So be alert, have a field guide and binoculars handy, and try to see something new each day. Good birding to you all.

---

## The Passing of a Nebraska Legend

**Paul Austin Johnsgard** - June 28, 1931 to May 28th 2021



Born in Fargo, North Dakota, he was introduced to the study of birds by a distant cousin who was a game warden. He spent these early years taking part in duck counts. After high school and junior college at Wahpeton, he enrolled at North Dakota State University to major in zoology. He then moved to Washington State University for his master's degree, encouraged by a professor who suggested that he could have a career in ornithology. His master's study was on the impact of the construction of O'Sullivan Dam to wetland habitats. Apart from the data collected and his interpretation, it included his pen sketches. This was published in The Condor and the article attracted the attention of Charles Sibley who invited him to consider a Ph.D. at Cornell University with him, with his work focusing on the phylogeny of six ducks

After completing his graduate degree, Johnsgard moved to England at the Wildfowl Trust at Gloucestershire founded by Sir Peter Scott. Over the course of two years, he produced his first book, the Handbook of Waterfowl Behaviour, which was published by Cornell University in 1965. He is considered one of the most prolific authors of ornithology books.



Dr. Johnsgard is a Nebraska scientist, ornithologist, artist and professor emeritus at UNL. As he closed in on the publication of 75 books with his survey of the Yellowstone ecosystem (in 2012), he was already the most published ornithologist of all time, the most published author in the history of the University of Nebraska, and the most prolific of all Nebraska authors, of fiction or non-fiction.

Johnsgard is one of Nebraska's most famous scholars. He is a world authority on waterfowl behavior and on several other bird groups such as grouse and cranes. His Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior (Cornell University Press, 1965) is considered the classic reference work on the subject. His book Grouse and Quails of North America received a Wildlife Society honor and Waterfowl: Their Biology and Natural History received honorable mention from the Wildlife Society and many other awards. His publications in professional scientific journals exceed 150.

## A Time to Fledge

This is the time of year when many young birds are beginning to fledge from the nest. On their first attempt they often times end-up on the ground, much like the first time we tried to walk and fell down. Although these birds may seem to flounder, you can bet the parents are nearby to protect, and encourage their offspring. Too many times people will pick these youngsters up with good intentions thinking they are in trouble. However it is best to leave them alone unless they are in immediate peril from a cat or other eminent danger. You may place them back in the nest if you can safely do so. Unlike mammals, handling young birds will not lead to their abandonment by the parents, a common misconception. If you must retrieve a young bird that is in danger, or if it becomes orphaned or injured, you can contact a licensed rehabilitator in your area who will care for them. Once the bird has been rehabilitated they will release them back
into the wild.



**Robin Fledgling**



**Screech Owl Fledgling**

**Birds, Mammals, Reptiles**

- Wildlife Rescue, Inc. / Lincoln, NE area / (402) 473-1951
- WildLife Rehab, Inc. / Omaha, NE area / (402) 341-8619

**Raptors (Hawks, Owls, Falcons, etc.)**

- Raptor Conservation Alliance / Statewide / (402) 994-2009

---

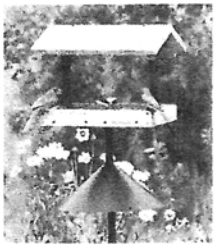
**Be a Friend of Wilderness Park:** One of Lincoln's jewels is Wilderness Park. With all its rich diversity which includes hundreds of native bird species and as many native plant species along with mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects, this is an area that needs the ongoing support, protection, and conservation of all of us. The history of Wilderness Park dates back to the earliest Native Americans, the pioneers on the Oregon Trail cutoff, wagon routes , railroads, an amusement park, an auto camp, several forgotten towns, outposts and more. This 15 mile long linear wilderness green space has over 20 miles of trails to explore by foot, on bike, or by horse. It follows Salt Creek where salt deposits can still be viewed on the west banks and is the primary reason Lincoln was established here in the first place. Salt from underground springs and wells was harvested to preserve meats for the settlers and those embarked on the continuing western movement. Pioneers Park is on the Haines Branch, a heavily wooded riparian saline tributary that joins Salt Creek near 1st and Park Street now Wilderness Park Day Camp, formerly a Boy Scouts of America camp. The Haines Branch runs along the western boundary of the Pioneers Park Nature Center where bison skulls dating back 5000 years have been discovered. Hundreds of bison teeth and vertebrate have been recovered by children "creeking" at Nature Center events. Today Wilderness Park provides an easy escape from the city to a peaceful retreat among nature. Find out more about Wilderness Park and how you can help to preserve it at Friends of Wilderness Park, www.friendsofwildernesspark.org





# Create a Complete Bird Feeding System





Let our staff help you create a complete backyard bird feeder system.

**A GREAT FATHER'S DAY GIFT**

1. Select any bird feeder or multiple bird feeders
2. Select a 1" tubular bird feeder pole or Sheppards Hook. (deck clamps not included)
3. Add a squirrel Baffle, Seed Catcher Tray, or accessory hooks

## Take 10% Off The Entire System

**June 2nd – 20th**

*Not good with other sales or promotional offers*

organizations to



promote, sponsor,

**Wild Bird Habitat's Silent Partner**



Linda with Barred Owl

Linda Titterington, my wife, just retired as the occupational health nurse after 34 years at the old Goodyear, now Continental. For the past 20 years she not only worked a full time job but played a major roll in the success of the Wild Bird Habitat Stores. Linda has helped to unload pallets of wild bird feed, help with remodeling as we expanded, and participated in events, activities, and presentations by the Wild Bird Habitat Stores. Linda has helped me install dozens of Purple Martin houses for customers as well as bird feeding stations for schools, nature centers and retirement communities. She was on the Nebraska Birding Trails Workgroup that I chaired and traveled with me across Nebraska attending meeting and speaking at conferences. Linda helps with employees as the Human Resource Manager for Wild Bird Habitat and does employee scheduling and payroll. Linda has been my right arm when I needed help and my backbone when I needed support. And now that Linda is retired I hope we find more time for new adventures.

### FREE Suet Cake
**With Any cake**
### Suet Feeder



***In June***
Woodpeckers will eat more suet in spring and summer than all winter long

### FREE 2 LBS Peanuts
**With Any**
### Peanut Feeder



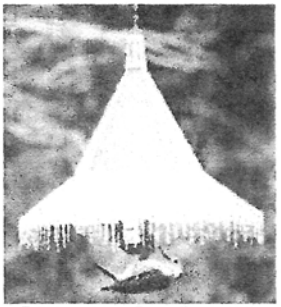
***In June***

### FREE Suet Plugs
**With Any**
### Suet Log



***In June***

### 10% OFF
**ARUNDALE HANGING SQUIRREL BAFFLES**



**Simply the best!**
***In June***