

# Wild Bird Habitat Store

Spring Special Newsletter - April, 2021

## South Lincoln

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

## North Lincoln

4900 Dudley St  
2 Blks S of 48th & Holdrege  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
(402) 464-4055

## Omaha

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



[www.wildbirdhabitatstore.com](http://www.wildbirdhabitatstore.com)

## APRIL'S BIRD NOTES

- April is shore bird migration and the beginning of the songbird migration.
- Many of our winter visitors will be gone by months end.
- Bluebirds will begin nesting in earnest.
- Male Goldfinches will be showing their breeding plumage.
- Time to prepare for Orioles and Hummingbirds.
- Make sure to keep a field guide nearby. New birds will be arriving for the summer and many others passing through.
- Wildlife plantings now will provide future food and homes for our birds.
- Take advantage of some exciting bird watching during migration at a local wildlife sanctuary.
- Make a point to take a child on a bird walk.

## Inside April's Newsletter

- What is the RCA?
- Time For Orioles
- Get Nest Boxes ready
- 15 Bird Questions Answered
- Some Spring Special Offers
- Dave's "April Bird Chatter"

## WILD BIRD HABITAT IS OPEN FOR SPRING SHOPPING OF

Bird Feeders, Bird Baths, Nest Boxes, Bird Houses, Oriole Feeders,  
Hummingbird Feeders, Mothers Day Gift Items, Birding Supplies, Pet Products

## MASKS REQUIRED IN STORE

To reduce over-crowding in store we ask you please pre-order your wild bird feed so it is ready for pickup when you arrive, but feel free to stop in and shop Thank you

## TO PRE-ORDER WILD BIRD FEED

South Wild Bird Habitat (402) 420-2553

North Wild Bird Habitat (402) 464-4055

Online Ordering - South Store Only

[shopwildbirdfeed.com](http://shopwildbirdfeed.com)

## Brown-headed Cowbird



The Brown Headed Cowbird is not the sentimental favorite of many birders since they do not have the ability to build a nest but rather resorted to laying their eggs in other birds' nests. In doing so the host bird of the nest where the cowbird lays its eggs will hatch and raise the young cowbird. This parasitizing on other birds evolved eons ago and continues to this day.

They have become common in fields, along woodland edges, in parks, and even urban areas. You may see them foraging under bird feeders mostly in spring and early summer when they migrate back from their winter ranges and again in the fall before they depart.

They are slightly larger than a sparrow, about 7" to 8" with a wingspan of roughly 14". The male Brown-headed Cowbird's body is covered in glossy black plumage with the head being noticeably brown. The female on the other hand is a softer plain brown bird with lighter shades on the head and underparts and fine streaking on her belly. They are dimorphic finding new mates each year, although the female will mate with several males during the breeding season.

Brown-headed Cowbirds were traditionally found across the Great Plains of North America where they followed the enormous herds of Bison. You may have seen pictures in Nebraska history books where a small bird was poised on the back of one of these 2000 pound beasts. Those would have been cowbirds. As the herds of bison roamed the vast expanse of grasslands foraging along the way these large animals kicked up a host of insects. These insects, along with the seeds from native prairie grasses, comprised a great source of easy food for cowbirds

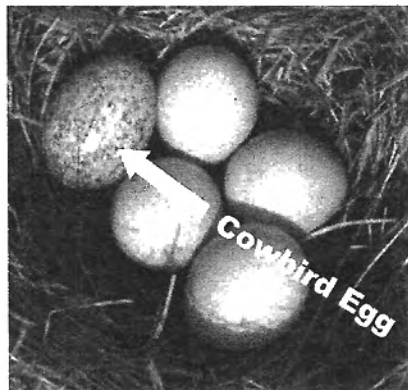
The Brown-headed Cowbird's habit of following these roving herds seems to be the reason for developing their parasitic nature. These herds of bison were constantly on the move and since the cowbird's food source was continually moving, they moved along with it. This left little time for the cowbirds to stop, build a nest, and raise a family. So they lay their eggs in other bird's nests which allowed them to continue to follow the herds.

Eventually the bison herds disappeared and were replaced with cattle, thus the name cowbird. Fences went up across the rangelands, grasslands were replaced by row crops, cities and towns began to dot the landscape, and with the advancement of human activity the cowbirds adapted to this changing environment. However what didn't change was their persistent parasitizing the nests of other bird species letting that host bird act as a surrogate parent.

The female Cowbird is very stealthy about her egg laying and will quickly dart in to deposit her egg when a nest of another bird is left unguarded. Cowbirds can lay up to 40 eggs each nesting season.

When parasitizing a nest the Brown-headed Cowbird may remove one or more eggs of the host bird from the nest before laying one or more of their own eggs. The host bird may recognize the egg of the cowbird and eject it from the nest. They may also just construct a new nest over the top of the nest parasitized by the cowbirds. But unfortunately many host birds often, and unwittingly, incubates her own clutch of eggs along with the cowbird egg.

The cowbird eggs will hatch a day or two before the eggs of the host bird and begin begging to be fed. The demanding young cowbird chick gets fed more often than the other chicks in the nest growing at a more rapid pace. As they do they will scoot around in the nest attempting to knock the other nestlings out of the nest. But even if they don't succeed in doing so, they often receive as much as 100% of the food brought to the nest leading to the starvation of the host bird's young.



About 50% of the host birds will reject this effort in one way or another. Some Robins and Catbirds will puncture the shell and throw the egg out of the nest. Yellow Warblers, Phoebes and Cardinals may build another nest on top of the parasitized nest. None-the-less a large number of host birds will not recognize the difference in the eggs or chicks and raise them as their own. If you do see Cardinals feeding a strange looking gray youngster, it is probably a cowbird.

**Wingtip: Sometimes a Brown-headed Cowbird will return to the host nest to check on their young and have been known to destroy a nest if the cowbird chick was not successful**

Many think some of our forest birds are being adversely affected by cowbirds while others argue they are not. But with the fragmentation of large woodlands and forests with roads and logging operations cowbirds have begun to have an impact on woodland bird species. It is believed the cowbird will not penetrate more than about 100 yards into a canopied forest or woodland. So birds that nest in very large forested tracts seem to fare better than birds in small woodlots or fragmented forest areas.

Besides the Brown-headed Cowbird, Southern Florida has a tropical species called the Shiny Cowbird, while Texas and Arizona have the Bronzed Cowbird. The range of all cowbirds seems to be expanding.

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird Facts**

- Brown-headed cowbirds will lay eggs in nests belonging to over 220 bird species
- Before laying eggs, the female selects a nest which has eggs smaller than hers
- A Brown-headed Cowbird can live 16 years
- In winter, Brown-headed Cowbirds may join huge roosts with several blackbird species. One such mixed roost in Kentucky contained more than five million birds.



### **It's Time for Orioles!**

**All oriole feeders  
now**

**10% OFF**

Thru April 20th

**Become a  
"landlord"  
It's for the bird's!  
ALL  
Bird Houses  
& Nest Boxes  
10% OFF  
Thru April 20th**



**PRE MOTHER'S DAY SALE  
ALL GIFT ITEMS  
10% OFF**

### **Enjoy Birds More Upclose**



**ALL VORTEX BINOCULARS  
15% OFF**

*Unlimited Lifetime Warranty*

### **Hummingbirds**

*Be ready first week of May*

**FREE Bag of  
E-Z Mix  
Hummingbird  
Nectar**



**With any  
Hummingbird Feeder  
Over \$25  
Thru April 20th**

## Dave's April Bird Chatter

The Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes have passed on to their northern breeding grounds. It was another exciting season viewing the geese and cranes, but migration is far from over. April is one of the three most exciting migration months of the year. We will once again welcome back many of our summer favorites to the yard; the brown thrasher, catbird, towhees and chipping sparrow to name a few. The Rose Breasted Grosbeak and Orioles are just two of the Neo-tropical migrants we enjoy welcoming back. But at the same time we will be bidding our winter friends a fond farewell this month until we see them return next fall. They entertained us during the long winter and though they will be missed, the changing avian calendar will surely bring some exciting bird species for the season.

One of the most exciting events during the spring migration is seeing birds that are just passing through on their way north. About thirty species of warblers move through Nebraska. Several species such as the Common Yellow Throat and Yellow Warblers will remain to nest. Many will only be stopping off for a short stay before moving on. Swainson Thrushes are commonly seen, and one might even witness a Yellow Headed Blackbird if you're near a wetland. Even a short drive through the country to grandma's house can produce some exciting bird watching results. And backyards with a little mature habitat can become a haven for migrants.

Wild Bird Habitat encourages everyone to have a field guide as you never know what bird may appear or when. This will even help you enjoy the migration period more as you identify these birds. It is fun to be able to identify these new strangers as they arrive or pass through. We get many calls on bird identification and it is helpful if the caller has a guide to describe the mystery bird. It also adds to your enjoyment as you figure them out on your own.



## Project BEAK

Bird Education Awareness for Kids



[www.projectbeak.org](http://www.projectbeak.org)

*Developed in Nebraska by the former  
Nebraska Bird Partnership*

## BIRD IDENTIFICATION MADE EASY

Do you have a smart phone, tablet, or PC? Here are the best birding ID APPS and website for identifying birds. Best of all they are **FREE** from the Cornell Bird Lab

MERLIN BIRD ID APP & MERLIN PHOTO ID BIRD APP  
[merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org)

AUDUBON BIRD ID APP (Great app as a field guide)  
<https://www.audubon.org/app>

BIRDNET (Identify birds by sound)  
[birdnet.cornell.edu](http://birdnet.cornell.edu)

**Free to download on I-phone, Android, Tablets, & PC's**

The male Goldfinches are dressed in their canary yellow breeding plumage for the summer months, and after a long and snowy winter, all is well. It will be May before the Northern Goldfinches that have been in our company all winter follow the Dandelion blooms back north, leaving us with our resident Goldfinches for the summer. By late June our resident Goldfinches will move into rural country sides to nest. Since they feed their nestlings strictly seed they are late nesters, waiting until there is a bountiful supply of seeds for their young.

Bluebirds will get serious about their nesting as the weather warms and the cool winds subside. If you have bluebirds, be sure you monitor their nest boxes, as many well meaning people just install a nest box without following-up to insure the birds are successful. If you're not sure how to monitor your bluebird nest boxes, Wild Bird Habitat can provide you with that information. You can also get additional information on attracting bluebirds at Blue Birds Across Nebraska's website at [www.bbne.org](http://www.bbne.org).

Orioles will be arriving by months end. Make sure you have your Oriole feeders ready by April 25. This is also a good time to be thinking about hummingbirds which will be arriving the first week or so of May. For these two Neo-Tropical migrants it all about timing. If you are ready for them before they arrive you have a better chance of attracting them.

In spring we turn our attention to planting spring flowers and installing new landscape plants. Select those that will encourage birds and other wildlife to visit your yard. Carroll Henderson's publication, "Landscaping for Wildlife" is designed for creating a wildlife habitat in our area. There are a number of UNL Extension NebGuides at [ianrpubs.unl.edu/](http://ianrpubs.unl.edu/) to guide you as well information from the Nebraska State Arboretum at [www.arboretum.unl.edu/](http://www.arboretum.unl.edu/). Don't just landscape your yard, birdscape it.

The spring migration of birds is an incredible phenomenon that is unequalled by any wildlife on the planet. From the short distant migrants to those long range migrants, they return to their same breeding ground, often within a few hundred yards, year after year. Many male birds arrive first and wait for their monogamous mate to show up, sometimes several weeks later. Others perform exotic displays to attract a new mate for the season. Using stars, landmarks, and electro-magnetic fields, they imprint these exact routes, which are from a few hundred miles up to more than ten thousand miles, on their young. It has occurred year after year for thousands, if not millions of years. In the spring they don their bright breeding plumage and perform courtship rituals that are choreographed to perfection. Don't miss the opportunity to witness this incredible springtime event. Keep a good eye on your backyard for new arrivals, but take the time to venture out to the many birding sites in your area. Nebraska is one of the premier migratory locations on the continent.

### To find a bird watching site in your area go to:

- **Nebraska Birding Trails** - [www.nebraskabirdingtrails.com](http://www.nebraskabirdingtrails.com)
- **Nebraska Flyway** - [www.nebraskaflyway.com](http://www.nebraskaflyway.com)
- **Nebraska Metro Birding** - [www.nebraskametrobirding.com](http://www.nebraskametrobirding.com)
- **Chicken Dance Trail** - [www.chickendancetrail.com](http://www.chickendancetrail.com)
- **Nebraska Ornithology Union** - [www.noubirds.org](http://www.noubirds.org)
- **Nebraska Birds Online**—<https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov>





## THE RAPTOR CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (RCA)

Since 1976, injured and orphaned birds of prey in Nebraska have been cared for by a statewide network of dedicated volunteers who recover injured and orphaned birds of prey and transport them to the raptor hospital in Lincoln, NE. In the beginning they were the Nebraska Raptor Center and later became the well known Raptor Recovery Nebraska.



In 1999 the raptor hospital under Raptor Recovery Nebraska was relocated east of Lincoln near Elmwood, NE on a rural homestead. Numerous building were revamped. Additional buildings constructed, A new raptor hospital facility was erected. And two large flight pens were put up where prior to release recovering raptors can exercise their wings and build up muscle mass and regain the agility needed to once again roam the skies freely.

It can be heart breaking recovering these magnificent birds of prey since many are in such traumatic condition they can't be saved. But if there is any possible way to repair broken wings, stitch up lacerations, repair fractured legs, these birds are given every opportunity to heal to the point they can be released. Other birds are brought to the raptor hospital suffering from lead poisoning, West Nile virus, or any other number of issues. Through medications and 24 hour care, many of these birds survive thanks to those dedicated people at the raptor center.

Raptors in the wild face numerous threats from human activity as do many of our birds. Habitat loss is a major factor in declining bird populations, but many acute injuries and illnesses are caused by the direct impact of human activity. Collisions with automobiles and trains. Collisions with windows and building. Gunshots wounds. Some birds contract lead poisoning from inadvertently consuming prey that had ingested lead buckshot shot from area lakes. Pesticide poisoning. Bites from feral cats which is often fatal. Humans' misuse of rodent baits and traps. These birds face many perils. But the raptor hospital is prepared to address these and many other medical issues that raptors suffer in the wild..

For example: With the expansion of habitat across Nebraska, Bald Eagles are nesting at record numbers. However 7 of the last 10 Bald Eagles brought to the raptor hospital suffered from lead poisoning. It is an expensive process but through medications and experienced care many of the eagles recover and are returned to the wild.



Peregrine Falcon

Even when releasing rehabilitated raptors consideration is taken to release them in the area where they were recovered where they may have mates, offspring, or the location they may have nested and hunted for years. Every spring orphaned birds are recovered and brought to the raptor hospital where they are taken care of until they can be released back in the area of the nesting adults.

Since 1976 raptors have been rehabilitated and released by the former Raptor Recovery Nebraska, renamed the Raptor Conservation Alliance. Just to feed the high number of raptors that pass through the hospital is costly and the medications can be expensive along with the treatment of those birds that require veterinarian intervention.

**Wingtip:** The Raptor Conservation Alliance website is under development and will be launching soon. There you will be able to meet the raptors that have become the ambassadors for the work of the Raptor Conservation Alliance. These birds are non-releasable due to injuries, but remain healthy and vibrant providing educational opportunities at public events. For a nominal fee you can schedule a live raptor presentation of owls, falcons, and hawks for an event since the raptor facility near Elmwood is closed to the public. We ask for your support of the Raptor Conservation Alliance



Halsey the Great-horned Owl

You can help by making a tax deductible donation to the Raptor Conservation Alliance. Corporate sponsors are also welcomed and may contact the RCA for information on corporate sponsorships. Please make a donation so our raptors can continue to fly healthy and free. Donations can be sent to:

**The Raptor Conservation Alliance / 27320 Adams Street / Elmwood, NE 68349**



**ARNIE'S  
CORNER**

## PESTICIDE FREE FLEA, TICK, & MOSQUITO CONTROL FOR YOUR PET

Mother Nature doesn't use synthetic chemicals, and neither does Earth Animal. So when it comes to protecting dogs and cats from mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks, our philosophy is simple: We believe they should never have to carry or consume insecticides and pesticides.



And Receive A 10oz Bag Of  
**SPOT FARMS DOG TENDERS**  
(chicken, duck, turkey or beef)

**FREE**

Just For Joining

The All Natural,  
Human Grade  
U.S Sourced Dog Treat

Exclusively at  
Arnie's Pet Food Store



Buy Any Nature's Protection Internal Flea & Tick  
Product - Receive a **FREE** Collar or Spot On  
Value At Up Up To \$16.00 - **FREE**  
Now through June 30th, 2021

Exclusively at Arnie's Pet Food Store

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

As a special feature for April I thought I would address some of the frequently asked questions by our customers. Information on these and other topics are available at the Wild Bird Habitat Stores. Just ask the staff at Wild Bird Habitat, one of the nation's leaders in the birding industry.

### **1. Is it too late to install a Purple Martin house?**

Not at all. Early arriving Martins are those adults having prior nesting experience in established colonies. Sub-adults arrive throughout the month of April and are responsible for starting colonies in newly erected Purple Martin houses.

### **2. When should I have my Oriole feeders ready?**

Orioles begin to arrive by the end of April and will continue to migrate in for several weeks. For best results Wild Bird Habitat recommends having Oriole feeders; orange halves, grape jelly, or nectar ready by April 25<sup>th</sup>. Timing is the key and being ready prior to their arrival increases your opportunity to enjoy them all summer long.

### **3. How can I keep black birds, from over taking my bird feeders?**

If you have a feeder that is over-run with Grackles you may want to consider using straight Safflower seed or Nutra-Safflower seed. Safflower can be used in any feeder, but Wild Bird Habitat recommends using it especially on ground feeders and in platform feeders during the summer months.

### **4. The Grackles chase off all my small birds. What can I do?**

Again, Safflower seed can help deter Grackles, but for small birds and woodpeckers you may want to consider a bird feeder protected by a wire cage. These make great feeders for all smaller birds; Chickadees, Nuthatches, Finch and also is excellent feeder for all members of the woodpecker family. Hulled sunflowers work best in caged bird feeders.

### **5. When can I expect hummingbirds at my nectar feeders?**

As with Orioles, attracting hummingbirds is all about timing. In the spring have your nectar feeders ready by Mother's Day, preferably the week before. On their return trip south have the feeders ready by the second week in August. Plant tubular flowers this spring to attract hummingbirds in late summer and early fall. Ask our the staff at Wild Bird Habitat for more hummingbird tips

### **6. I have had my thistle feeder out, where are the Goldfinches?**

If you have not attracted Goldfinches to your thistle feeders this spring you may want to consider refilling your feeder with fresh Nyjer thistle. Thistle seed has a shelf life of 3 to 4 months after Goldfinches and House Finch will ignore it.

### **7. How can I attract House Wrens?**

The male House Wren prefers multiple bird houses where he will build several nests to impress his mate. Although she will only accept one, having multiple wren boxes will increase you opportunity to attract a nesting pair.

### **8. How do I keep my bird bath clean?**

Wild Bird Habitat recommends keeping your bird bath in as much shade as possible. It is the sun that promotes Algae growth. Clean concrete bird baths once a month during the summer with a weak solution of Clorox and water, rinsing well. The Clorox will kill the Algae spores in the porous concrete keeping your bird bath cleaner longer. For decorative finished concrete bird baths use a solution of vinegar and water. Add a few drops of Wild Bird Habitat's "bird bath cleaner" to reduce the amount of cleaning necessary. It is non-toxic to birds.



**9. Is there any way to keep squirrels from getting on the bird feeder?**

At Wild Bird Habitat we have a variety of squirrel baffles that are extremely functional and can be used with all Sheppard's hooks, bird feeder poles, 4 X 4 posts, and those bird feeders hung from branches and more. We also have a full line of squirrel proof bird feeders that allow birds to feed but block the squirrel's access to the bird seed. Check with a Wild Bird Habitat Store specialist for more information on preventing squirrels from robbing your bird feeders. Try Nutra-Saff safflower or safflower seed.

**10. Should I continue to feed suet during the spring and summer months?**

Definitely! Woodpeckers will consume 30% more animal protein between March and the end of summer than all winter long, even bringing their young to the feeder. If Starlings become a problem try an upside-down suet feeder or log, or one of Wild Bird Habitat's caged suet feeders.

**11. Is it too late to put up bluebird houses?**

Although bluebirds begin nesting in earnest in April, they have two to three broods each season. It is always a good time to install bluebird nesting boxes, even through mid-summer. I have had bluebirds re-nest as late as early September if the weather permits.

**12. Woodpeckers are damaging the siding on my house. How can I prevent this?**

The remedies for this would be too lengthy to publish in our FAQs. We may address this in a later newsletter, but in the meantime Wild Bird Habitat recommends going to the Cornell University Bird Lab website for advice at [www.birds.cornell.edu/wp\\_about/control.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/wp_about/control.html).

**13. House Sparrows keep taking over my Wren bird house. How do I prevent that?**

House Wrens only require an opening to a bird house of 1" to 1-1/8". Anything larger and a House Sparrow may gain access. If you have a nest box with a larger opening Wild Bird Habitat has metal portals to reduce the size to allow a House Wren to enter, but not a House Sparrow. You can adapt these portals to any of your favorite bird houses.

**14. How can I keep rabbits from eating my spring plants?**

Wild Bird Habitat has a variety of products that are all natural and safe to use in your backyard to prevent hungry rabbits and deer from eating your new plantings and gardens, and deter raccoons from raiding your bird feeders. Shake-Away has proven to be effective at controlling everything from rabbits to free roaming cats. Check out our "pest control" display for other available products.

**15. What should I use to clean my bird feeders?**

A weak solution of Clorox and water will do the job and disinfect the feeder as well. At Wild Bird Habitat we have brushes designed for seed tube and thistle tube bird feeders. There are also several products available to make cleaning bird feeders and bird houses a breeze. One thing to note. If you dry your tube feeders or the plastic lens on hopper bird feeders use a cloth or rag. Do not use paper towels. The cellulose fibers in the paper will leave little scratches on the polycarbonate tubes and the clear Plexiglas parts on other feeders. Also, make certain to rinse the feeders well, flushing them with water to remove any cleaning solvents.

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## **Home-made Nectar Recipe**

One part table sugar to four parts water. Bring to a boil making certain all the sugar has dissolved. Let it cool before filling the hummingbird feeder. Refrigerate any un-used portion. *Never use any artificial sweeteners or add any coloring additive.* **NOTE: Homemade nectars should be changed every other day to prevent bacteria developing as the refined sugars ferment. Commercial nectars made with natural fructose should be changed once a week. Clean hummingbird feeder when changing nectar.**



## **Attracting Orioles (Be ready by April 18th)**

Two species of orioles occur in eastern Nebraska. The Orchard oriole and the more common Baltimore or Northern Oriole. Attracting either of these colorful birds to your yard is an exciting experience. Primarily an insect eater, orioles can't pass up a juicy orange half or a treat of grape jelly. Nesting primarily in rural areas or on the perimeter of communities in stands of large mature trees, it is not uncommon for orioles to occasionally nest in towns if they locate a nearby food source of fruit bearing trees. The nest is an intricately woven basket of plant fibers suspended from the end of a branch six to sixty feet off the ground. A clutch of 4 - 6 pale, bluish-white eggs with dark spots are incubated for 12 - 14 days. The nestlings fledge after another 12 - 14 days in the nest.



Attracting orioles can be fun and relatively easy. Just spear orange halves on branches, a nail in a fence post, or use any one of a variety of oriole feeders available at the Wild Bird Habitat Store. Grape jelly is another favorite of these birds as is nectar. Oriole feeders are available to provide any one or a combination of these food products.

Orioles, as with many birds, migrate at night. When they arrive at their nesting grounds they are hungry, cold and tired, and immediately search out a food source. It is much easier to attract orioles to a feeder if you have it ready before they arrive. Since they generally begin arriving the first week in May, it is suggested to put the oranges and jelly out the last week of April, keeping it fresh as needed. If you do not get the food out for the orioles until after they have arrived, you still have the opportunity to attract them, however it may take a little more patience.

## **Hummingbirds (Be ready by May 1st)**

Many customers ask when is it time to put out their hummingbird feeders. You want to get your hummingbird feeders out no later than the second weekend in May. However it is best to have them out the week before Mother's Day, and if the weather is quite warm you might want to consider May 1st. Again, timing is essential and you want to be ready for these little jewels prior to their arrival.

Until they arrive at your feeder you only need to fill the feeder half full. This will help save on nectar, as it needs to be kept fresh. When using homemade nectar consider changing it every other day. The refined sugar in home-made nectar ferments quickly and can generate a bacteria which could affect the hummers. Commercial nectar is more stable and only needs changing every 4 to 6 days. Recently premixed nectars have made their way into the market place and provide an added convenience since it requires no mixing or preparation. Just pour it directly into the feeder.



Hummingbirds nest in areas along the Missouri River, but for the majority of the Central Great Plains, their stay during the spring is brief, usually 3 to 6 weeks. Their return migration is late summer and you want to have your feeders back out by mid-August.

Nectar only provides hummingbirds with carbohydrates, a much needed source of energy. Their main diet consists of invertebrate insects and small spiders. Avoid using any pesticides near plants and flowers as this will eliminate their major food source. Plants with tubular flowers are most attractive to hummingbirds as they contain a higher amount of nectar.

## Nest Boxes

Many birds nest in tree cavities, so a nest box is essentially providing them that same nesting habitat. That's why placing a nest box on a tree trunk is often an effective way to mount a box. At the store we also have poles for mounting boxes right where you want them. Species that use nest boxes include: Wood Duck, American Kestrel, Eastern Screech-Owl, Woodpeckers (Red-headed, Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy and Flicker), Purple Martin (colony nesters), Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird and House Finch.

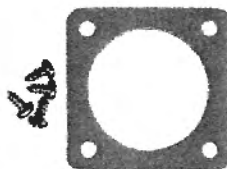
Wild Bird Habitat has nest boxes that are the size appropriate for each species. They are made of natural cedar, Cyprus, or durable recycled composite plastic. These houses have thick walls to insulate from heat and cold. Drainage holes allow moisture to drain through and ventilation slots provide for air flow. They also have an easy way to swing the door open for cleaning. We also have do-it-yourself kits and many decorative style houses in a variety of artistic shapes, colors and sizes. Another unique option is our Window View Nest Box that mounts to a window, allowing you to view the nesting birds.



Nesting accessories include portal protectors, metal rings that can be attached to the nest box opening that will prevent larger birds from entering or pecking a bigger hole and keep predators from gnawing into the box. Nesting materials that consist of five natural-colored materials preferred by birds: feathers, string, cotton, hemp and aspen fiber. This mixture will attract many more birds than cotton only. (*Avoid dryer lint as it retains moisture in the nest.*) Nest material can be presented to the birds with our hanging Songbird Essentials Nesting Wreath and Birdie Bell. This material will benefit all nesting birds.



At the Wild Bird Habitat Store we have a variety of natural nesting materials preferred by nesting birds. From the popular Birdie Bell to the Bird Wreath. We have all your bird nesting needs.



Copper portals to size an opening for a specific bird species or prevent opening enlargement by woodpeckers

Largest selection of bird houses & nest boxes you'll find anywhere for all cavity nesting birds



# Keep your bird bath filled with fresh water!

The Wild Bird Habitat Store offers a full line of bird bath supplies. Our drippers will help keep your bird bath filled with fresh water during times of high usage and evaporation on hot days



- Easy to use control valve regulates the rate of water flow
- Attaches to any outside faucet
- Creates sound and water movement that birds cannot resist.
- No need to constantly fill your bird bath, it's automatic

## Life's Good



Instant Ready to  
use  
Hummingbird  
and Oriole  
nectar.

- No Mixing
- No Mess
- Easy to use



*Now stocking specially formulated  
Grape jelly for Oriole feeders*

Can't find what you're  
looking for



just ask us. We can get  
whatever it is you need.

## Ask Wild Bird Habitat Store's Staff About Our Money Saving programs



**Bird Seed  
By-The-Bucket  
Program**

WILD BIRD HABITAT STORE  
56TH & HWY 2 • 402-420-2553

*rewards*  
GET MORE THAN YOU PAY FOR

**Customer  
Loyalty Program**

*Senior's Day  
1st & 15th  
of each month*