



# Wild Bird News<sup>®</sup>

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WILD BIRD CENTERS OF AMERICA, INC.<sup>®</sup>

*Be surprised by your backyard™*

## Who's in My Tree?

Spring. Who doesn't love it? The short days of winter yield to earlier sunrises and later sunsets as days grow longer and warmer. Irises and daffodils bring bright hues to the dreary landscape, and my yard begins to burst with color. With the return of blooming plants, spring foliage and the warm sun comes nature's symphony.

On queue with the sunrise, the tree outside my window comes alive with the 'Songbird Choir,' a sound nothing short of amazing. The dulcet tones of sopranos, baritones and tenors, each singing a unique and distinct melody, herald spring.

As the days lengthen and mating season begins, the sounds grow louder and the serenade lasts longer. The songs are so numerous and so diverse, I often wonder which birds are living there.

When summer gives way to autumn and the trees become barren of foliage, I can clearly see the evidence of bird civilization left in my tree. Fascinating bird nests remain long after their inhabitants have vacated for the winter. Sizes vary from petite in small trees to larger nests high off the ground; it's remarkable that an animal measured in ounces is able to construct a home to raise their young using only their beaks and talons. Most materials are natural--twigs, sticks, grass and leaves--but some include remnants left behind by humans, such as string, yarn and packaging materials. Hidden by leaves and foliage, my avian friends raised their young and built a home that survived heat, cold, rain, snow and wind!

Shelter, food and water are key elements of backyard bird feeding, and a yard offering all three will attract the most birds, thereby rewarding you with your own backyard

performance of the Songbird Choir.

Birds provide a fascinating daily show, one I watch every day at home and at work, and every species has its unique traits. Titmice grab a peanut at the feeder and fly to a nearby tree to eat, only to repeat the same routine over and over. Goldfinches stay for hours at my Nyjer<sup>®</sup> feeder, feasting until full. Nuthatches cling upside down selecting their treat, but leave quickly when other birds approach. Blue Jays simply stay at the feeder for as long as they desire--just bigger birds of the bird world.



Last year, a pair of Red-bellied woodpeckers frequented both the suet and seed feeders at work. The male and female would dine together and peck at any bird that tried to join them. As spring progressed, I noticed that the male and female started alternating

feeding times, leading me to suspect they were nesting. Each would feed for a few minutes, then disappear into a nearby oak tree. Late in the spring, the pattern changed again, with each bird appearing at the feeder, grabbing food and then returning to the oak tree, over and over again. I suspected the pair now had a baby, but it was impossible to see a nest in the dense cover. When summer started, my suspicions were confirmed when the female showed up at the feeder with her baby. What a rewarding and fascinating sight!

Early spring is a great time to prepare your yard and lay out the welcome mat for your feathered friends. Full feeders, a watering station, nest boxes for cavity dwellers and protective plants will reward you for the entire year and fascinate you with the joys of nature. Watch your birds and listen to your trees and you, too, will wonder, "Who's in my tree?"  
—Caroline Flicker

**Spring Tweets:** Spring is a great time to clean your feeders. Use a 10% vinegar and water solution, rinse thoroughly. Your birds will thank you!

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## Meet the Finches!



One of the smallest birds, finches belong to the largest bird family.

Lifespans can range from four to seven years, but many live longer.

House finches were found only in the western states up until 1940, when they were illegally shipped to the east coast for trade as pets. Eventually released, today they are one of the most commonly found backyard birds across the country.

Finches are fairly non-migratory, usually staying close to their breeding areas during the winter season.

Goldfinches can feed upside down, and feed almost entirely upon seeds, with Nyjer the most preferred feeder food.

Winter finds goldfinches traveling in large flocks, many times alongside Pine Siskins.

Your Wild Bird Center® carries both Nyjer® and FinchWise® seed to offer finches.

Combined with WBC feeders, including the entertaining Cheepers™ Down Under® Goldfinch feeder, you're sure to have finches feeding all year long!

## Flock 'em to you ...

**B**etter seed makes for a better backyard bird feeding experience. All Wild Bird Center® seeds contain only the freshest ingredients, and selecting the right blend, such as FinchWise, means no wasted seed and more finches at your feeders!

### with FinchWise®

Sure to attract goldfinches, house finches and purple finches along with a variety of smaller songbirds, FinchWise is a balanced mix of Nyjer®, Fine Hulled Sunflower and small Millets. Use in Nyjer® and finch feeders for the best results.



## Spring Tweets

All Wild Bird Center products are designed for functionality, beauty and performance to provide years of entertainment. Let us help you choose the best style, size, seed and placement to fit your backyard birding needs. Experience the Wild Bird Center difference!

# Nesting Season

HOME SWEET HOME

Complement your backyard feeders with houses that birds will call home. A nest box provides shelter and replaces nesting space lost to urban sprawl. Many come with hinged roofs or sides, so you're able to observe the nestlings inside, and are available in hanging, pole or tree mounted styles.

Typical bird house tenants include chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, bluebirds and downy woodpeckers. A nest box brings added fun to your backyard!



## Nest Boxes

WBC has many nest box styles, each designed to attract different bird species. Bring bluebirds with the Bluebird Winged Nest Box (blue roof above), with side wings for easy viewing and cleaning. Our Hanging Wren Nest Boxes come in traditional cedar styling (middle) and Cheepers™ (bottom), a wonderful, value-priced version, and an excellent choice for all birders.

WBC nest boxes feature proper venting, easy cleaning & drainage and all-screw, cedar construction that provide a cool nesting environment for your backyard tenants.



## What a View!

What better way to watch your favorite feathered friends than an up-close view?

Window feeders are perfect for attracting the widest variety of birds. Simply attach our durable, long-lasting suction cups to the window of your choice, and view away!

Easy to fill and a breeze to clean, these window feeders are a quick and delightful way to keep an eye or two on the comings and goings of your backyard birds.



## Window Feeders

Going Green® Window Feeder (bottom) and WBC Window Platform Feeder work with any seed. Simply fill with your seed of choice. As an added bonus: the covered version protects your birds and seed from the elements.



# Hang Them Up Down Under!

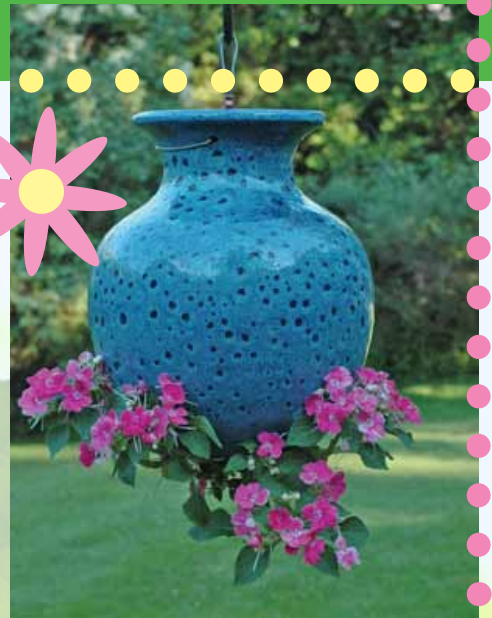


## Awesome Blossom!

Beautifully hand-crafted, these unique Down Under Pot planters are a joy to own!

Simple to use, easy to hang and lovely to behold, watch your favorite blossoms thrive this spring.

*A perfect gift for every occasion!*



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## Spring Clean!

### Bird baths bring nature to your backyard!

One of the three main elements to encourage the arrival of backyard birds, bird baths are a must for bathing as well as offering up drinking water.

Birds are attracted to movement in water, so adding a water feature to the bath will ensure more birds to your yard!



### Spring Tweets:

Attract birds with a water feature. The Water Wiggler (right) with its unique agitation attracts birds with the sound of moving water and gentle motions.