



# BACKYARD nature center News

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## Nothing Sings Spring like a Cardinal!

What is it we fall in love with every time we see one at the feeder? Sometimes it's like there's no other bird we want to attract!

Sometimes it's like there is no other bird that sings so sweetly!

Sometimes it's like there's no other bird who feeds his mate in such a caring, loving way, lowering, turning his head slightly like the gentle kiss of a prince waking his sleeping beauty. Could it be the fact that he helps build the family nest, or helps feed the young? Yeah, give mom a break! The only thing he doesn't do is relieve the female while incubating. But, come on, he still loves her. He just has no bald incubating patch

on his belly. Not that we're so vain and hooked on looks but, how many backyard birds are scarlet-red, with a crest that crowns his glory



and literally says "look at me, look at me, I'm pretty, pretty, pretty!" I guess I just answered my own question!

What a bird!

\*A special note that will make you look bird-wise among your neighbors! When young cardinals fledge, they are full size and for the first year, their plumage,

male or female, will look undecided much like females. Adults have red-orange beaks, whereas the young have black beaks until their first adult year.



**Ruby-Throated Hummingbird**



**Orchard Oriole**



**Baltimore Orioles**

## Don't Miss Out!

Tax time is a great way to remember to get those hummingbird and oriole feeders out and ready to receive exhausted birds who've come from south and Central America to nest in our beautiful state and enjoy our very decent weather!

Plants are barely beginning to bloom so make your yard a welcome mat! Keep hummingbird nectar natural and fresh with a 4 parts water to 1 part sugar. Only fill the feeders to half full, no need to waste until your action gets going.

In Kansas, our best hummingbird activity is spring and fall, coming in and going out. If you don't see activity during mid-summer, that's simply because they are not nesting in your immediate area.

Baltimore and Orchard Orioles are easy to attract with grape jelly. Make sure it's free of fructose corn syrup. Lots of sugar is okay but some commercial jelly is filled with corn syrup and it's very hard on the reproductive system of our beautiful birds.



**Delight Hummers and Orioles!**  
**20% off** a Hummingbird or Oriole Jelly or Nectar Feeder  
*Offer expires 4/30/2022*

**Add Inspiration and Color To The Garden with beautiful, weather proof Art Poles**

**20% off!** Sorry, no special orders!  
*Offer expires 4/30/2022*





## Spring Feeding, Don't Stop Now!

Spring and summer we get the big question, should I quit feeding my birds now? A common misconception is that the birds can fend for themselves during the warm months, when in fact, the nutritional needs for the birds during nest building and feeding young is so high that the birds can really use the help. Here's a fact, flowers, shrubs and bushes are in bloom and looking quite beautiful while providing good cover for the birds but natural seed is not available until those plants reseed

themselves in fall! There you have it. Insects are plentiful for sure and the birds will take advantage of their abundance. Feeding young mouths is a never-ending job from dawn to dusk. Seed-eating birds feed their fledglings regurgitated insects but they themselves prefer a nice oily sunflower! Blessed with year-round seed eaters, we get to enjoy the bright plumage of Goldfinch, Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatch, Cardinals, and all the spectacular woodpeckers.

Warm weather activities are so fun to watch. It is really a special time of year and one that I always look forward to. There's nothing sweeter than watching mate feeding or seeing a full-sized baby downy follow mom to the feeder, stand there dumbfounded waiting for a hand out. They soon get the idea. Bird feeding is a most relaxing and enjoyable hobby and we know the birds are grateful. Nothing like sitting on the back porch hearing their grateful song!



## Don't Forget MOM's Day

Offer her the Best Nest!  
20% off a nest box!

*Offer expires Mother's Day, May, 2022*





*For people who feed and care for backyard birds*  
The Shops at Tallgrass  
8336 E. 21st Street, #500 • Wichita, KS 67206  
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**316-683-2121**

**STORE HOURS**  
Monday–Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:  
[WWW.BACKYARDNATURECENTER.COM](http://WWW.BACKYARDNATURECENTER.COM)



from left to right  
Tammy, Trudy, Cathy & Nick

Words to live by:

“Live in the  
sunshine, swim  
the sea, drink  
the wild air...”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**April 22 is Earth Day.**

**Take it to heart every day.**

