



# BACKYARD nature center News

August/September 2013 • Issue 19

## Migration Already?

We have noticed over the years that there are two different kind of traveling folk. The one likes to take in the scenery, enjoy the journey, and then eventually end up where they are heading. The other prefers to get where they are going... as quickly and efficiently as possible please!

Well wouldn't you know, we have found the same thing seems to be true in the bird world during migration! You don't believe us? Well, consider the hawks...

Already, in August, the Broad Winged Hawks are on the move. They start their journey south very early. Why you may ask? Well, because they are amblers! Let us explain.

Hawks are big birds and because of that they like a little help during their migrations. If they can get the "air" to cooperate and give them a little extra lift, they are happy travelers. One way that you can use the air currents (if you are a hawk or a glider) is to find thermals. Thermals are columns of rising heated air created on warm, calm days. The air in a thermal heats faster than the air around it and so it rises, lifting things

within it up as well. These things may be water, dust and even hawks.

Eventually the thermals cool and they let go of the water they hold (forming clouds!) These thermals

can go many thousands of feet in the air and so when the hawks sense that the lift is giving out,

they simply glide to another thermal and ride it. What a super way to travel! They hardly have to

flap!

As the fall progresses though, the days get shorter and cooler.

Thermals are fewer and far apart. Now we get the movers!

Accipiters like Sharp-shinned hawks start moving. They use deflected air currents usually following mountain ranges.

As the air hit's the mountains, it deflects up and over. The hawks

simply ride these currents south.

Thermal riders tend to travel in large loose groups, individuals watching each other and noting where the best thermals are. The deflected air current group tends to travel alone, although if you sit in a spot where the air is moving along like this you are likely to see many hawks pass by in the course of a day!

In the end, everyone hopefully gets where they are going... but we think that the Broad Wings have the right idea. Start early and make it a leisurely trip!



# Great ways to battle the elements this fall and winter

## Feeder Fresh

Change is in the air and at the feeders! With empty nests and full sized babies following mom and dad to the feeders, you can expect lots of action! With all the rain that we have been blessed with this unusual summer, feeders get mucky with soggy seed, not a healthy situation for the birds. I sprinkle a small layer of the light granular product on the bottom of the feeder when I fill it and also a small bit on the top after filling. Fights rain, condensation, leaks and keeps feeder fresh! What a great helper to keep my seed flowing in rain or even wet snow! I would call this the best new product of the summer!



## Domed feeders will weather the storm ....and snow!



Good Droll Yankee and Aspects domed feeders will keep seed and birds dry and out of the weather. Made of sturdy lexan, these feeders have large covers that completely protect feeder trays and ports!

The All Weather 6 Quart Clear Feeder is the first weatherproof wild bird feeder. Through rain, snow, sleet and ice, the All Weather Feeder delivers the seed—DRY!! Won't clog up with snow and ice. The circular perch lets you see all the birds that are feeding, even those on the far side. Catches spilled seed for less waste. Easily removed for cleaning. Comes completely apart so each piece can be individually cleaned. A clean feeder helps keep the bird population healthy. This feeder will be more popular amongst the birds if it is not hung near a cluster of other feeders because unlike other feeders which let the elements in, it is also not as easy for the birds to eat from. The benefit



being that it is worth it because when the birds can't eat from feeders unprotected from the weather, they WILL be able to eat from the All Weather Feeder. To draw a crowd of birds, try feeding Sunflower Hearts versus Black Oil Sunflower so they don't have to mess with the hull, or you can try putting some seed in the tray or peanut butter on the holes to further entice the birds to work for their dinner.



## Here we go again to market

Once again, every October, we go off to our wild bird feeding trade show and market. But before we go, we want your input. What would you like

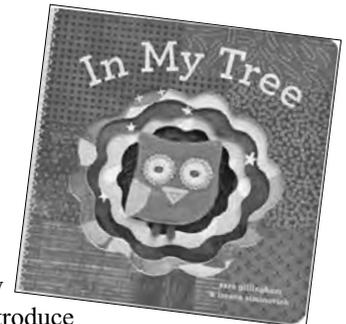


to see more of in our store? More binoculars? More specific types of feeders? More kid stuff? Perhaps we should carry goldfish and koi food and some pond accessories? We know lots of you have small fish ponds that you enjoy as much as you do your birds!

Thanks. We greatly appreciate your input!

## Kids Corner Coming!

New Kids Corner coming before the holidays! We have been thinking about how



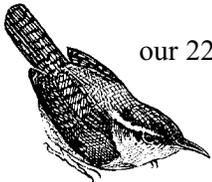
we can introduce more children (and future customers) to the delights of bird feeding. We are currently ordering products that will not just entertain but encourage our kids and grandkids to connect with nature. Interactive, fun games, puzzles, kids binoculars, the wonderful Folkmanis Puppets! Watch our back corner grow into the kids corner! Just opposite the wall of birdhouses and nesting supplies. Change is coming and we hope you will like it!

### BACKYARD Nature Center News

is a publication of  
 BACKYARD Nature Center of Wichita, KS  
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 Nick and Cathy Clausen, Owners

# HAPPY BIRD/BIRTHDAY BACKYARD Nature Center!

Now through September 15, 2013



Stop by and enjoy big savings as we celebrate our 22nd anniversary! It's a big deal to us and we could not have done it without your continued support! Our biggest thanks and appreciation goes out to you for your patronage! To help us celebrate, we are offering you a one time discount of 20% off your entire purchase.



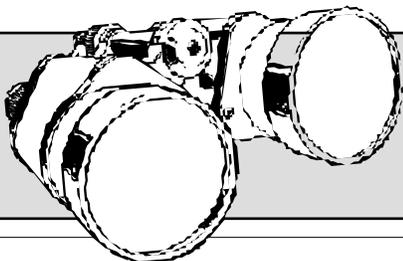
**20% OFF**  
your entire purchase\*!

\*Now through September 15, 2013; One time use only.  
In stock items only, no special orders. Does not include seed accounts or optics.



## Purple Martin Update

One of America's favorite birds is preparing to migrate. All is quiet now around Wichita's martin houses and our house too as the fledglings and adults no longer need the house. No more of the beautiful martin chatter and singing that delight us every time we step outside. They will be missed for sure. This year from the house in our parking lot we fledged between 80 and 100 young birds from 19 nests. A good nesting season for sure. It was an incredible summer for our martins as they survived two intense thunderstorms without being scathed. Returning only to visit and bond for their return next year, the birds are busy building up their reserves for migration. Remember that purple martins now only use man made housing and it is up to us to supply that for them to thrive. It is with great reward that we do so because the payback is tremendous. The martin song coming from the little community that they build with other martins is a good example of harmony among the species for sure, a lesson for all. If you get a chance, and would like to say goodbye, drive by the St. Francis Hospital campus where the martins have congregated in the evenings to discuss the trip to their winter home. The sight is something to be witnessed. You should be able to see them until mid to late August. Then without notice, they're gone.....til next year.



The BACKYARD nature center  
is your local resource for Alpen binoculars. We offer expert  
advice while providing you with quality optics.



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

## STORE HOURS

### OPEN 7 DAYS WEEK

Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday: 12 noon–4 p.m.

*We will be closed on Independence Day.*  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.BACKYARDNATURECENTER.COM

## In Our Area . . .

What to watch for in August and September in our area. Hummingbirds beefing up for migration. Ruby Throats, Caliope, Broad-Tailed and Rufous hummingbirds are all a possibility at your feeders as they pass through to southern winter homes. Keep that nectar fresh! Jelly eating Baltimore and Orchard orioles will be leaving our area toward the first of October as will the elusive beautiful brown thrasher and yellow billed cuckoo. Never fear though, we will still have birds! Chickadees, tufted titmice, Carolina wrens, cardinals and bluejays, redbellied woodpeckers, downy and hairy woodpeckers, nuthatches and both goldfinch and house finch are here year round so we won't be lonely til our winter birds arrive! We are very lucky to be in the middle of the country where nature is all around us and migrating through us! Enjoy the diversity.



Remember to Recycle