



BACKYARD nature center News

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Time...our most valuable asset.



I recently read an article that applies to every human

being, young or old. It made me take pause and think. Just how am I spending my time, my life, my most valuable asset? What can I account for? Am I making good memories, good friends. Do I use my “smart” phone to record memorable things and events or just take a picture of a beautiful sunset or a flower in full bloom, or a beautiful bird feeding a youngster? I often sit in a waiting room and scroll through those memories with a full heart. That wait isn’t wasted. Here’s what is actually happening.

Time doesn’t actually speed up as you get older. Your brain just records less of it.

When life is full of new experiences, your mind pays closer attention and creates

more memories. As routines take over, days blend together and time feels compressed.

That’s why childhood summers felt endless, and why years seem to fly by now, certainly at 75.

Nothing changed about time itself. What changed is how much of it you notice. My suggestion. Stop and smell the roses. Take time to notice a beautiful songbird outside your kitchen window, use that silly iPhone to record the beauty around you and if you get stuck in a waiting room, review the good moments of your life.

Like Nick. Good job honey!





Still time for Purple Martins!

Older martins arrive at the house in our parking about March 11th. These are not “scouts”, they are simply the older adult male and females that nested the year before and are just returning to the house the successfully nested in the previous year. You still have time to put up a new martin house as you will attract young/first time adults to your house some 4-6 weeks after the older birds get established. If there are other Purple Martin colonies in the area, they will be a natural attractor for the young “sub-adult” birds. That’s a real advantage!



Male

We have several houses to show you, including gourd systems with poles which easily raise and lower. Most have the preferred larger, 6"x12" compartments. These houses come with much stronger pole systems which is an advantage in Kansas winds. Consider that a full-sized Purple Martin is nearly 9" tip to tail and it can get pretty hot and crowded in the old design house which was 6"x6". Some young birds may not survive.



Female

We are so lucky to have entertained some 100 birds each summer in the 21-compartment house in the middle of our parking lot almost 20 years!

Gifts For MOM



Elegant Corinthian Wind Bells. Try the hand-tuned “church bells” that seem to resonate softly forever.

Invite butterflies to come in out of the weather or safely spend the night.



Just arrived beautiful glazed pottery and Campania stone birdbaths and fountains!



Check out our new bright, cheerful bee and butterfly department.



Coming and Going

We're saying goodbye to Junco's (snowbirds), Harris Sparrows, White-Crowned sparrows, White-Throated Sparrows, and Pine Siskins (a cousin of the American Goldfinch). It's hard to do but the incoming Purple Martins, Barn Swallows, Hummingbirds and Orioles, House Wrens and so many tiny warblers are a delight with color and song. Elusive Brown Thrashers and the Gray Catbird will be searching in the leftover winter leaves for insects trying to lay low. It's so fun to hear the distinct song of a Thrasher as he repeats each note 2-3 times as if he just can't get the song right! Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds arrive any time from tax time to the last of April, at our house and the Orioles just after that. Have your jelly and nectar ready and waiting as these guys will be depleted from their long trip here. They're ready to nest. Hope they pick your yard! Love is in the air!



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DID YOU KNOW?

More songbirds die of cat predation than hawk predation. Our next door neighbors at Snick's Cat Café have this to say.

At Snick's Cat Café, we're all about celebrating cats, their personalities, their quirks, and the joy they bring into our lives. But we also recognize that our feline friends are natural hunters, and that instinct can have a real impact on local bird populations.

Domestic cats, even well-fed and well-loved ones, retain strong hunting instincts. Studies estimate that cats are responsible for billions of bird deaths each year in the U.S. alone. While that number can feel overwhelming, small choices by cat owners can make a meaningful difference.

One of the best things you can do for both wildlife and your cat is to treat them like family and keep them indoors. Outdoor cats face significantly higher risks, including parasites, disease, injuries, and encounters with other animals, all of which can lead to stressful (and often expensive) vet visits.

If your cat loves the outdoors, there are still safe ways to give them that experience. Enclosed patios ("catios"), leash walks, or supervised outdoor time let cats explore while staying protected. For those who do go outside, brightly colored breakaway collars, bells, or bird-safe accessories can help reduce hunting success.

At the same time, supporting local bird populations through proper feeding, clean feeders, and thoughtful habitat design give birds a better chance to thrive.

Cats and birds are both important parts of our shared environment and with a little awareness, we can help protect both.

BACKYARD
nature center

For people who feed and care for backyard birds
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STORE HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 9:00 –5:00
Sunday: Closed

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.BackyardNatureCenter.com



Enjoy your spring to the fullest!

We appreciate your business!

– Steve, Nick, Cathy, Trudy, Tammy & Drew

Mother's Day Coupon



May 10th is her day.
Don't forget just how much
she's done for you!

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– COUPON EXPIRES MAY 31, 2026 –

God Bless Mom