



BACKYARD nature center News

October/November 2026 • Issue 96

WindowAlert Protecting Wildlife

Millions of wild birds are killed each year flying into windows. Now you can save the lives of the beautiful birds you love.

Static-cling decals that can be applied to the outside of your windows, contain a component which brilliantly reflects ultraviolet sunlight. This ultraviolet light is invisible to humans, but glows like a stoplight for birds. Birds have vision that is up to 12 times better than that of humans. Be sure to read the vision comparisons between Humans and Birds, it is truly amazing! These decals help birds see windows and avoid striking glass. I hear customers telling of birds

VISION COMPARISON:	HUMANS	BIRDS
Eye Retina:	3-Cone or trichromatic	4-Cone or tetrachromatic
Color Vision Cells:	10,000 cells per sq. mm.	120,000 cells per sq. mm.
Low-light Rod Cells:	200,000 cells per sq. mm.	500,000 cells per sq. mm.
Eye Size:	Eyes represent 2% of head	Eyes represent 15% of head

that hit so hard they kill themselves, either from being frightened by a hawk, or because they see the reflection of their own yard and think they can fly through it. I usually tell people that their windows are too clean!

Note: If you witness a bird lying below the window that has suffered a strike and you think he may still be alive, you can place him in a paper grocery bag, place him in your home or garage for a few minutes. In 10-15 minutes, checking to see if there is movement and return him to your yard. He may have had just enough rest to recoup and fly away.

Note from an old birdwatcher:



*"I don't feed the birds because they need me;
I feed the birds because I need them."*

Life is going very fast at my age. The news can be disturbing and one feels a bit overwhelmed. Sometimes it does the senses good too just sit on the screened porch and be quiet and see what comes. It tends to re-calibrate and re-align me and get me ready for whatever the day brings.

Coming soon to
your backyard!



Dark-eyed Junco



White-crowned Sparrow



Eastern Towhee



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Harris's Sparrow



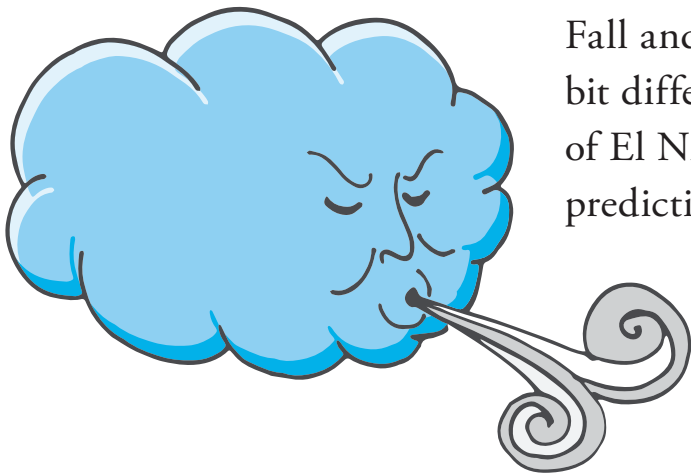
Brown Creeper



White-throated Sparrow

Birdfeeders

Did you have an unusually summer filled with Orioles dropping out of the trees to your jelly feeders and hummingbirds, so many they were fighting over the feeders until you had to come to the Backyard Nature Center to buy a second or third feeder? It was an unusual year for sure. This phenomenon can be attributed to the dry year from Kansas west and north, and to the fires that forced the birds to move east to a more hospitable area, which happened to be us. I would expect some of these birds to still be lagging behind going south so if you see a hummer or oriole, keep your feeders filled one more week, and on and on. With very little blooming, they will be grateful for the boost.



Fall and winter could be a bit different with the coming of El Nino, if weather predictions are correct.

Product Review

Holidays will be fast upon us. VORTEX binoculars make a great gift for any bird watcher or sports watcher. We carry a full line of optics and can fit you up for your need. VORTEX is one of the top ranked Binoculars on the market with a no questions asked return policy. We think you'll agree.



BACKYARD nature center

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA, KS
PERMIT NO. 68

STORE HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Sunday: Closed | Closed Thanksgiving Day

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.BackyardNatureCenter.com



HAPPY FALL!

– Steve, Tammy, Nick, Cathy,
Trudy and Drew.



Early Bird Seed Sale

It's unanimous, the Early Bird Seed Savings Account continues!

Now through October 31, 2026

Our high-quality seed is 20% off any 20-50 lb. bag



Now through October 31, 2026, take as many as you like or do what the penny-wise folks do. Open or add to an Early Bird Seed Account with a minimum of \$150. You can deposit as much as you like. All seed, suet, nuts, tree icing, even mealworms, come off your seed account at the 20% until your funds are used up. It's so convenient. We know your birds will love it!

