



Wild Bird Chalet

705 Kentucky Street, Bellingham, WA, 98225 360-734-0969

E-Newsletter

Winter 2010

Holiday Hours:

During December

Monday-Friday

11:00 to 6:00

Saturday

10:00 to 5:00

Closed Dec. 25th

Regular Hours

Mon-Fri 11-5

Sat 10-4

Meet Candice



An expert on bird feeding for the apartment dweller, Candice will cheerfully help answer any of your questions. Stop in and say hi.

Winter Water

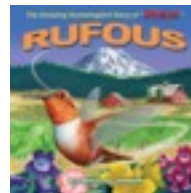
Keep your bird bath thawed with a heater. Choose from five types.



For hummingbird feeders too!

New Children's Book

Beautifully illustrated and full of fun facts!



Matching greeting cards available.

Local illustrator, author and printer

Bird Feeder Count

A Free Family Activity December 19th

Information & sign up at the Wild Bird Chalet



It's easy, fun and helpful!

Electronic Newsletter

We're saving paper and keeping costs down by switching from paper to an e-newsletter.

As always, printed copies are available at the Chalet.

Online copies at WildBirdChalet.com

Bird Bites

Alter your patterns, or your perspective, to see new birds doing things you've never noticed before.

Sometimes people see a flock of birds and think "just a bunch of seagulls" or "look at all those starlings". But if you look closer you'll often find other birds mixed in, once in a while even unusual ones.

Slate-colored juncos hang out with Dark-eyed juncos. Occasionally a Mountain Chickadee will show up with Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Uncommon this far north, two Western scrub jays (along with Steller's Jays) were seen eating peanuts at Drayton Harbor.



Tropical Kingbird on Whatcom Creek sighted for the first time in Whatcom County.

Photo courtesy of Jon Timmer.

Walking quietly along Whatcom Creek, you might have seen an American Dipper frolicking in the falls behind the post office, or the Tropical Kingbird that foraged recently there for weeks. He was completely unconcerned about all of the attention he received.

While walking in the forest, you might find bird cities - spots where there is concentrated bird activity. Winter wrens flit around near the ground. Brown Creepers cling to trunks of trees and warblers may be heard and glimpsed high in treetops. Thirty feet down a path may have little sight or sound of birds.

Those little brown birds that all get lumped together as "sparrows" can be fun to learn about (and you can really impress your friends). What once seemed like a single species becomes males, females and juveniles of dozens of different types. Their behavior and songs are great clues to their identity.

Try going outside at dusk and dawn to catch sight of owls, flying squirrels or Anna's hummingbirds.

Black-capped Chickadees:

dedicated family birds

Small Feeding Areas



You don't need a lot of room to make a great bird feeding area. Provide food, water, shelter, and a place to raise babies and you've got wildlife habitat. It may be easier than you think. Stop by the Chalet and we'll be happy to give you tips.

Good, fresh food in an easy to clean feeder will quickly draw birds.

They also need clean water to help them digest food. Birds who don't come to feeders may come to bathe instead. Dirt-free feathers make the best insulation.

The cover of evergreen trees and shrubs can make survival possible during a cold winter. Bird houses or roosts can also offer temporary shelter from icy, north winds.

Come and see goldfinches at the Wild Bird Chalet's very small, but popular bird habitat.

Good Seed/Bad Seed Tips



Good Seed:

Fresh seed has a vibrant color, not gray and stale looking. You also know it is fresh, because sunflower seed smells mildly of, well, sunflower. Our "No Grow" blend with sunflower pieces and peanuts smells so good, it makes you want to eat it. Give it the sniff test.

Good seed also means getting the "right" food for our local birds.

Bad Seed:

Seed is oil rich, so it goes rancid when exposed to heat and air. Most birds won't eat it, not because they're picky, but because they instinctively know they need good nutrition to survive.

Filler seed like milo, barley, oats, wheat, and grass seed make a mix appear cheap, but so much is wasted it ends up costing more.

Seed blended and packaged in Washington State means less travel time.

Winter Projects



Make winter easier on you and the birds with a few simple projects.

Clean Feeders Thoroughly: We use a 10% bleach solution to sterilize them.

Check Condition of Feeders: Replace broken parts (we have some spare parts at the Chalet). Also replace feeders that can't be fixed. Ask us about lifetime guarantees.

Clean Out Bird Houses: These make great roosts during cold weather.

Provide Water: Make sure your birdbath will stay thawed during a freeze.

Put Up A Fruit Feeder: Apples and oranges make great food for Flickers and Varied Thrush.

Get A Bird Song CD: Learn bird calls while relaxing or simply enjoy recordings of bird filled forests.