

~Prep Your Yard for Spring
 ~The Gift Of Rubies
 ~Be Ready for Spring Migration
 ~Beautiful Bluebirds
 ~Going for the Gold-Finches!
 ~Nesting Tips & Information

Songbird Station NEWS

Celebrating 26 Years Helping Families Enjoy Nature Together

Get Your Backyard Ready for Spring & the birds will make your backyard their home!

Step into your backyard and you can feel it, spring is on the way! This issue deals with my favorite birds of spring; Bluebirds, Purple Martins, Hummingbirds, Wrens & Orioles. Spring delivers a fresh, lively world of birds and nature to our yards. Getting your yard ready now will give you a front row seat to enjoy the greatest variety of wild birds, and their fun, fascinating behavior in the coming months!

Start with preparing your yard for spring and summer feeding. Take an inventory of your feeders and determine if you want to add any specialty feeders to your feeding stations. Consider adding Hummingbird or fruit feeders to attract Hummingbirds and a variety of other fruit eating birds. Check out our recommendations in the story about hummers on p.2. Spring is also the perfect time to put out a new Oriole feeder.



SETC116

Next, make a splash with the birds by adding water to your yard. The sound of running water can be irresistible to our feathered friends!

Adding a birdbath, dripper or mister can attract many species such as Warblers, Cardinals, Thrashers, Orioles and Mockingbirds that might not normally come to your seed feeders.

Try your hand at landscaping by planting trees and plants that bear fruit in the summer and late fall. These provide food for fruit eating birds in the winter. Keep in mind that a variety of flowers, evergreens, shrubs and deciduous trees provide protective cover for birds.



Check out our feeder Recommendations in our story about hummingbirds on page 2! Spring is a perfect time to put out a new Fruit & Jelly Oriole Feeder! Item [SERUBFJF](#) Shown

Encourage birds to call your yard home by putting up a nesting box. Check out our story about nest boxes on p.6. This will allow you to observe the many fascinating behaviors as birds raise their families near your family!

Good Luck Charm!



Popular folklore has it that if a Wren selects your yard to raise its young, you will have good fortune all year! The male builds the nest, but the female takes care of "decorating," adding

feathers, plant fibers, yarn etc. The tiny House Wren is among the most common backyard nesters in North America, easily recognized by their bubbling, repetitive song. Songbird Station has the largest selection of Wren houses in mid Missouri!

What's a SubSong?



1st Year Oriole SEHHLBJL

Many species of young birds have a subsong that seems to be a rehearsal for the full, primary song that develops later. During the bird's first winter and early spring, the primary song is totally developed into a sequence of notes in a definite pattern that often is complex. A quiet rendering of the primary song, known as "whisper" or "muted" song, is often given by songbirds while sitting on the nest. Sometimes it is used when adult birds become slightly alarmed, sung by both males and females from a place of concealment in trees, shrubbery, or other cover.

Songbird Station Bird Pro Pop Quiz!

Test YOUR Bird Knowledge! Answers on page 3.

1. The fastest hunter is the Peregrine Falcon; it can reach a speed of ____ in a dive or stoop.
a) 87mph b) 100 mph c) 200 mph d) 120 mph
2. What percentage of migratory songbirds live less than a year?
a) 40% b) 55% c) 65% d) 75%
3. Egg Facts: Gray Partridges lay the largest clutches up to ____.
a) 20 eggs b) 16 eggs c) 14 eggs d) 12 Eggs
4. Which is the preferred food, bar none, of jays?
a) sunflower b) peanuts c) meat scraps d) cracked corn
5. Hummingbirds have less than 1,000 feathers, sparrows have 3,500 & swans have ____.
a) 25,000 b) 20,000 c) 14,000 d) 9,000.

Visit us at www.songbirdstation.com!

Place orders, read the newsletter, and get up to date information for all your birding needs! 1

Give Your Loved Ones Rubies for Easter & Mothers Day! by Grant Toellner



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

Spring is here and Easter and Mother's Day are just around the corner! If you are looking for a perfect gift, I know just the thing, rubies. Don't worry, I am not talking about the expensive red gem, I am talking about spring and summer's most popular birds- the Ruby-throated Hummingbird! Tax Day, April 15th, is the time to have Hummingbird feeders up and ready. This is when most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make their way here from their winter homes and when they arrive they sure do have an appetite. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, distinguished by their bright emerald green backs and white underbelly are eastern North America's only breeding Hummingbird. They occupy the largest breeding range of any North American Hummingbird. Males have a bright ruby colored throat, which gives them the name. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird beats its wings an astounding 53 beats per second, which explains why they look like they are buzzing around. To ensure you get these "Rubies" for your loved one, you need to choose the right feeder, supply nectar, and have all the accessories, which are necessary to encourage these Hummingbirds to stick around your yard.

While there are hundreds of different Hummingbird feeders available, there are several characteristics you want to look for. First, how easily can you clean the feeder? Hummingbirds are very particular and you need to make sure the ports, as well as the inside of your Hummingbird feeder are kept clean. Having an easy-to-clean feeder saves lots of time and effort. Look for several additional features in a feeder, including the feeder's color, the design of the nectar ports and the flow design. Look for a feeder that is red, as hummingbirds are naturally attracted to the color, increasing chances of successfully attracting the hummingbirds near you. The feeder's flow control is important, because a leaking feeder costs you wasted nectar and attracts bees and wasps. So check to make sure the ports are bee resistant- bees can deter hummingbirds from visiting your feeder.

My all-time favorite hummingbird feeder is the Songbird Essentials Dr. JB's Easy Clean Hummingbird Feeder which was designed with all these characteristics in mind! The late President of the Hummingbird Study Group, Bob Sargent, agreed with me! Bob has said this is "The Best Hummingbird Feeder Ever!" This all red feeder is dishwasher safe. Forget hand cleaning the feeder, you can just pop it in the dishwasher! I have also had great success with another feeder from Songbird Essentials, the Red Bird Hummingbird Feeder. This feeder can be purchased by itself, or as a window feeder combo that comes with a hanger system you can attach directly to your window for an up close view of the hummers in action! I have two of the window combos; one on my kitchen window and another on my living room window. I can sit back, relax and watch the buzzing birds from my couch.

Having the right accessories to go along with your feeder is also important for attracting hummingbirds to your backyard. One of the most common reasons hummingbirds stop using a feeder is because of ants. Ants love the sugar water just as much as the hummers and it is important to keep them out of the feeder. The best way to prevent an ant invasion is by using a Songbird Essentials Nectar Protector™ with your feeder. The Nectar Protector™ is an ant moat that simply attaches above the feeder. Ants can't swim so they can either retreat, or meet their demise. Having the right brushes to clean your feeder is also key. Like I mentioned before, Hummingbirds are very particular and like to feed from clean feeders. Keeping the ports and interior clean is easily done with the Songbird Essentials Brush Combo Set. The set includes brushes designed to easily clean

hard to reach nectar ports and the interior of nectar containers. Keep feeders clean & full and you will enjoy the beauty of Ruby-throated hummingbirds all season long.

In addition to our wide variety of feeders and useful accessories, we stock a selection of informative and gorgeous books & guides. Our favorites are Stokes Hummingbird Book & Hummingbirds by Stan Tekiela. These make great companion gifts when giving a feeder, and include incredible tips for bringing hummers to your yard!



Dr. JB's Easy Clean Feeder



Red Bird Feeder SEBCO312



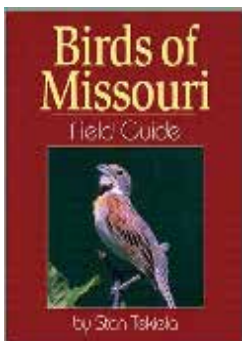
FREE!
1-8oz Red or Clear Nectar
with the
Purchase of 1 Dr. JB's Feeder!
Expires 5/15/21



Get Ready ~ Frequent Fliers are on the Way!

by Mel Toellner

After this long winter, the birds will be just as excited to begin spring migration as the bird enthusiasts. Expect different species to pass through your backyard, depending on location and types of attractants presented in different locations. Some birds live all year round on a permanent range. Other types of birds migrate and may only be seen in one season or when just passing through. Part of the fun of bird watching is attracting these migrants and seeing new kinds of birds in your



AP61355

backyard. Need help identifying your birds? Songbird Station has the very best selection of Bird ID Field Guides specific to our state. We also have a great variety of optics.

Birds that live on a permanent range include Chickadees, Cardinals, Titmice, Nuthatches & Woodpeckers. American Goldfinches can be seen year round in many areas, but they form into flocks when not breeding and may wander.



As we move into the spring season, many birds that have wintered in Central and South America, or the southern U.S., will begin their migrations north. April and early May are the big times for migration. If you have the right foods and habitat for them, they may stop by or choose to breed near you and spend summer at your feeders. My two favorite "Frequent Fliers" are Hummingbirds & Orioles. Both species arrive in the spring and depart in September-October.

The key foods to attracting Orioles are oranges, jelly and nectar. BirdBerry™ Jelly is a backyard bird favorite as it is made with a combination of all natural fruits. It's 100% safe for human consumption too, so you can have breakfast with your birds! Offer BirdBerry™ Jelly in the Ultimate Oriole Feeder. It holds 4 times the jelly as other nectar & jelly combo feeders. Both are available at Songbird Station.



SE6010



Oriole Fruit & Jelly Feeder

Hummingbirds go where the food is, both natural resources and in-home nectar provided. Putting out feeders in your yard is beneficial to you both as it helps offer them a reliable food source while attracting them to your yard for your viewing pleasure.

There are two great products I recommend that will greatly add to your enjoyment of hummingbirds:



Copper Swing SEHHHUMS

1) Hummingbird Swings - Allows you to view them up close. You'll get great photos!

2) Super Shaker Nectar Maker - It's a cocktail shaker with lines for sugar or nectar and water. The shaker makes mixing & storing nectar easy!

Additional Tips for Hummingbirds!

- **Have patience!** Allow ample time for birds to discover your feeder and become familiar using it. This is particularly true for birds that arrive in your yard for the first time, are not familiar with the exact feeder you are using, or babies learning how to use a feeder for the first time.

- **Remember to keep your feeders clean.** Hummingbirds will avoid visiting a feeder once they've had a bad experience with fermented nectar - and they'll tell their friends!

- **Avoid buying hummingbird feeders that feature yellow food ports** as the color yellow attracts bees.

- **Avoid sugar water and commercial nectars that have red coloring.**

- **A single feeder can be hung or installed anywhere your viewing is best.** Hummers will use any feeder as long as they can see and find it.

- **For multiple feeders, strategically locate feeders to avoid or lessen territorial disputes.** Locate your feeders in different areas of your yard, preferably out of sight of each other, and stagger the heights of the feeders above ground so no two feeders are the same height. Songbird Essentials Big Red Feeder is my favorite & I use it in lots of spots across the yard. It's small, affordable, and easy to fill & clean. I switch to Dr. JB's after the hummers have arrived.

Bird Pro Pop Quiz Correct Answers

1. C. Peregrine Falcons Reach 200mph. 2. D. Only 25% or less of migratory songbirds will make it from egg to adulthood. 3. A. Gray Partridges can lay up to 20 Eggs. 4.B.Jays LOVE Peanuts! 5.A. Swans have as many as 25,000 feathers!

Save 20%

Buy a Dr. JB's Hummingbird Feeder & Save 20% on a [Super Shaker Nectar Maker!](#)

Shake it! Pour it! Store it!



Coupon Expires 05/1/21

Save 10%

Buy an Ultimate Oriole Feeder & Save 10% on your 1st jar of BirdBerry Jelly



Coupon Expires 05/1/21

Save 20%

With the purchase of any oculars or spotting scopes save 20% off any Bird ID Book or Trifold.



Coupon Expires 05/1/21

Brilliant Bluebirds!

by Grant Toellner



Eastern Bluebird Pair

"Mister Bluebird on my shoulder, it's the truth, it's actual, everything is satisfactual", is part of the classic Disney song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" from the movie Song of the South. While it is unlikely a Bluebird would rest on one's shoulder, there is a great chance you can make this delightful bird part of your spring and summer by putting up a bluebird house in your backyard or field.

New York and Missouri both chose to make the Eastern Bluebird their official state bird, and it's easy to see why! The

males possess a stunning

royal blue on the back and head, with a brick red chest and white underside. Blue tinges in the wings and tail give the grayer females a chic look that distinguishes them from their male counterparts.

Eastern Bluebirds typically have more than one successful brood per year. Young produced in early nests usually leave their parents in summer, but young from later nests frequently stay with their parents over the winter. They prefer to live in meadows and at the edge of the woods, making it typical to see their nests along the golf course or in parks.

Eastern Bluebirds eat mostly insects, wild fruit & berries, but have been known to also nibble on suet pellets and sunflower kernels; especially during the colder months.

According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, from 1966 to 2010, populations of Eastern Bluebirds steadily increased at about a rate of 2% per year, mainly due to nest box campaigns by different Audubon groups & the North American Bluebird Society.

From housing to food, there are several ways you can help continue to make the numbers grow! The simplest way to start is to provide a bluebird house either in your own yard, or in an area suitable for the bluebirds. From economical to elite and even to do-it-yourself kits, Songbird Station

offers everything a Bluebird advocate could need. If you are on a budget, I suggest picking up a couple [cedar bluebird houses by the Town & Country division of Songbird Essentials](#). Made in Missouri specifically for Bluebirds, it has the appropriate 1.5" entrance hole, drainage holes, and features a side hinge for easy clean out during the off season. You can pick one of these up at a special price for a limited time only. See below coupon for details.



The premier house on the market, in my opinion, is the Ultimate Bluebird House by Songbird Essentials. Along with all of the features above, it also features a metal portal protector, longer slanted roof, & nest lift.

For folks looking for a fun project to do with kids or grand kids, grab one of the Cedar do-it Yourself Bluebird House Kits. Made in Missouri by local craftsmen, all of the boards and nails are included. This house will hold up for years &

provide entertainment for the whole family. Scoop up one fast as they are also on sale (see below)! Makes a great weekend project or even a Mother's Day present!

Want to do more than just provide housing for your Bluebirds? Offer some food to entice them to eat closer to your residence. As stated above, they do eat suet pellets & sunflower kernels, but their number one favorite food is mealworms. Bluebirds prefer live mealworms and Songbird Station offers a variety of sizes. If live bugs in your fridge is not your thing (or your significant other's), try dried mealworms! From small pouches to bulk tubs we have the best prices around on dried mealworms (see below special)!

Come on in today and take advantage of these spring specials to help our state bird and grab a free tip sheet loaded with more information on Eastern Bluebirds.



SEHHBMW

Save 10%



Cedar Bluebird House
(SETC101)
by Songbird Essentials
Town & Country

10% OFF!

Coupon Expires 05/1/21

Save 10%

Bluebird House Kit
(SESC00605)
by Songbird
Essentials

10% OFF!

Coupon Expires 05/1/21



Save 20%

Dried Mealworms
by Songbird Essentials

SE641- 100 gm Pouch
SE647- 7 oz Tub
SE648- 10 oz Tub
SE649- 28 oz Tub
20% OFF!



Coupon Expires 05/1/21

Go for the Gold! All About Gold Finches

by Mel Toellner



Finches Favorite Feeder SE324

when you simply "top off feeders." This old seed draws moisture and often gets moldy which is why birds don't like it. On feeders I use that don't fill from the bottom, I make a point each time to dump any leftover seed in the tube into a bucket and "mix it" with the fresh seed I'm putting out. Try this method I guarantee it will help you attract more finches to more ports on your feeder.

One final feeding tip: Gold finches like to feed in groups so offer a feeder with lots of perching room or use multiple feeders. My favorite and the finches' favorite is the 3 Tube Feeder that allows up to 24 finches to feed at once. You'll be rewarded for your efforts. See p.7 for a super special on SE324.

Unlike my songbirds, which begin to nest in April or May, gold finches delay nesting until late June or early July. Their nesting season often extends into September. In late summer, the male defends a territory of about 1/4 acre in which a female builds a compact nest.

This delayed nesting season may be related to a dependence on thistle plants, which gold finches use for both nesting material and food. Nesting seems to begin when thistle flowers mature and go to seed. Gold Finches weave thistle down, milkweed down, and other plant fibers to form a deeply cupped nest I find they often take the cotton fibers from the Hummer Helper Nesting Material I put out for the hummers (who nest early in the season) so I leave it out all the way to September.

Word Search!

bath	martin	robin	sun
bats	mate	roost	tapes
birdhouse	nest	scout	tweet
egg	perch	song	twigs
grass	purple	spring	wing
honk	raisins	starling	worms



DON'T STOP FEEDING NOW!

Springtime is a most important time to feed backyard birds! There are few other food choices, since winter supplies in the wild have run out. Natural food is scarce because seeds mature in the fall. If you're worried about seed mess or sprouting choose our Shell Free Deluxe! All seeds in the blend are hulled, every bite is eaten and seeds that drop can't sprout!

Spring also can be a time of unpredictable weather. Though the days might be warm, it can get quite cold at night or an unseasonable storm can blanket an area in ice or snow. Birds need to eat in order to stay warm.

Feeding this time of year is not harmful and does not interfere with Nature. By feeding during the summer months you have the opportunity to watch their nesting activities-mating, nesting and raising their young.

Spring and summer feeding also is an environmentally safe way to control insects in your garden. Wrens, Phoebe's and Flickers will consume caterpillars, ants and mosquitoes, reducing the need to use commercial insecticides.

You've worked hard to attract the birds into your yard, so enjoy the results. Sit on your deck and watch birds bring their young to the feeders for the first time. Observe a nesting robin as it incubates its eggs, and wait for signs of activity at the wren house that indicates a new brood has hatched!



SEBQSBF5Y

Information & Products to Attract LOTS of Nesting Birds to Your Yard!

Songbird Station Nest Boxes



We have Quality, Built to Spec houses for all the songbirds shown on the specification table to the right.



Metal Portal Protectors

Prevent Woodpeckers, Squirrels etc. from enlarging holes! Protectors also allow you to resize entrance holes on a damaged house. Available in 1 1/8", 1 1/4", 1 1/2" and 1 9/16."

Songbird Essentials Nesting Material

The only nesting material available containing a mixture of 5 natural materials preferred by North American Nesting Birds! Feathers, string, cotton, hemp, and Aspen fibers all included. Our nesting material attracts many more birds that "cotton only" mixes. Birds & Birdwatchers love it!



Make Sure to Provide the Right Size House for the Bird You want to Attract!

Bird House Specifications for Specific Species

Bird:	Floor Size	Entrance Height (Above Floor)	Hole Diameter	Height (Above Ground)
Chickadee	4" x 4"	4" - 6"	1 1/8"	6' - 10'
Titmouse	4" x 4"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	8' - 15'
Nuthatch	4" x 4"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	12' - 20'
House Wren	4" x 4"	4" - 6"	1 1/8"	6' - 10'
Carolina Wren	4" x 4"	4" - 6"	1 1/2"	6' - 12'
Screech Owl	8" x 8"	9" - 12"	3"	10' - 20'
Wood Duck	12" x 12"	10" - 18"	4"	8' - 20'
Purple Martin	12" x 12"	1"	2 1/2"	15' - 20'
Eastern Bluebird	4" x 4"	6" - 7"	1 1/2"	4' - 6'
Woodpeckers:				
Flicker	7" x 7"	10" - 20"	2 1/2"	10' - 20'
Red-Headed	6" x 6"	10" - 14"	2 1/4"	10' - 20'
Downy	4" x 4"	8" - 12"	1 1/2"	10' - 20'
Hairy	6" x 6"	10" - 14"	2 1/2"	10' - 20'

Switch & Swap™ Wild Bird Feeding System



Our Switch & Swap Bird Care System allows you to use the same high quality bases and jars, swapping as needed for water, Oriole Jelly, Hummingbird Nectar, and Bird Seed! An economical & fun way to feed your birds!

- Buy Just One Jar & Switch & Swap Bases all you want!
- 4 Different Bases & 4 Different Jars!
- Also Available as a Combo Kit!

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Songbird
Station!



Switch & Swap
5pc Combo Kit
BE139

Ask Birdman Mel!



Q. When is the date to put up my Martin Houses, Hummingbird feeders, Oriole feeders etc?

A. Each spring many people asked these dates. We recommend the following guidelines, BUT REMEMBER -birds don't read this bulletin.

March 1. Purple Martin houses open for established colonies. **April 1**-Purple Martin houses open for new colonies. **April 15**- Hummingbird feeders up and filled. **April 20 to May 1**- Oriole feeders up and filled. We used to always recommend May 1st for Orioles. However, during a couple of the past warm springs the Orioles have arrived earlier. More on Orioles and Hummingbirds in our next issue.



[SE954 - Excluder Gourd](#)



[SE6002W - Dr. JB's Window Feeder](#)

Q. I took advantage of your seed booking last fall and have enjoyed the convenience of locked in prices, quick checkout, and fresh seed without the hassle of storing the bags myself. I forgot though, when do the last bags from the seed booking need to be taken from Songbird Station?

A. You saved a lot of money because we always lock in seed at the lowest price in the fall for customers. We asked then, and we remind you now that all seed and suet paid for during the booking need to be taken from Songbird Station by April 1.



[BD1016-Squirrel Buster Finch](#)

Q. During COVID we started feeding the birds, love it-but the squirrels are driving us crazy! Any Solutions?

A. You are right. It seems squirrels quickly find new bird feeders. We will have an entire article on this challenge in the next issue! Our number one recommendation is to purchase one of the Brome Squirrel Buster models of feeders. They are squirrel proof. As one of Brome's largest accounts- no one, anywhere- beats our selection and prices. We stock all the models for sunflower mixes, suet, peanut, and finch mix. I gave my mom a squirrel buster for Christmas. We can also help you hang feeders you own on yard hooks and poles utilizing a Songbird Essential Squirrel Defeater baffle in such a manner that squirrels and even raccoons can't get to your feeders. Come in to the store, and we can show you how!



[SESQ85-Squirrel Defeater Baffle](#)



[SESQR89-4x4 Raccoon Defeater Baffle](#)

Q. What about Gourds? Do Purple Martins Like Them?

A. Yes-they do! In fact, that's how Native Americans attracted martins. We offer a couple of styles, but our favorite is the Songbird Essentials Excluder Gourd the Official Gourd of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. You can check nests and clean it through a side opening. Folks (& martins) love our Lone Star Gourd Racks especially because they are easy to lower. Martins love the connecting wires which offer sorely needed perching areas as TV antennas and electric wires overhead have become less common.



[SELSGR- Gourd Rack](#)



[SE324-Finches Favorite 3 Tube Feeder](#)

Q. Each spring it appears my goldfinches return. I love their bright yellow coat. Any suggestions on the best way to attract them?

A. You might be surprised that many of us have goldfinches all winter...they just appear in their drab winter coats. Finches love to feed in groups. Hang a [SE324-3 Tube Feeder](#) & [a spiral feeder](#). These let 24 or more feed at once! Our plastic SE324 is only \$20 right now-while supplies last! See a video of these on our website. I also offer thistle sacks to attract more in the spring (my favorite is the large black one-the gold finches really show up! Finches love Nyjer thistle & fine chopped sunflower. There are no fillers in our Fantastic Finch Mix! Try it-finch love it!



[SEBQSBF2C-Spiral Feeder](#)



[5 & 20lb Bags](#)

10% Off!



Yard & Deck Hooks- Great for hanging feeders & plants!

Coupon Expires 05/1/21

\$20.00



3 Tube Plastic Feeder! Was \$40.00! While Supplies Last

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Mix or Match-1 Flag or MatMate, get the 2nd at 10% off!



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