



# Backyard Birds

February 2012

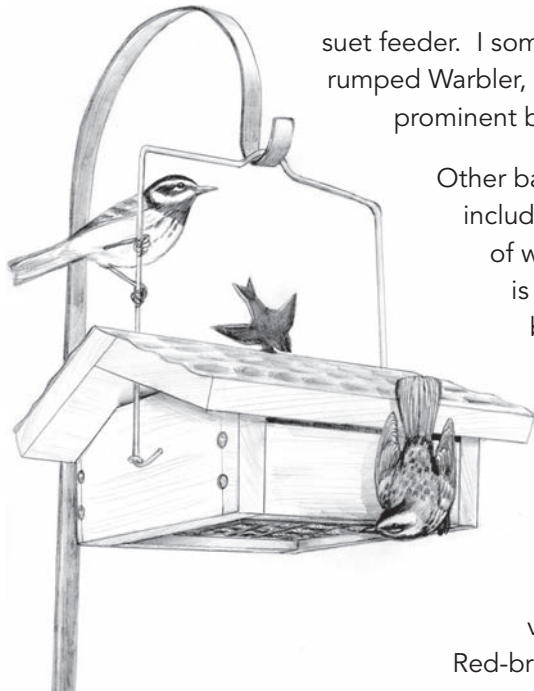
## Winter Color in your Backyard

By Michele Dupraw

While many people travel to sunny exotic places in late winter, I prefer to stay home, take a seat in the cozy chair by the window, and watch for a bit of color in my backyard.

The activity at my feeders during the cold and wet months never ceases to amaze me. My suet feeders have been especially satisfying and full of birds. The closer I look the more I see! I keep lists of birds that visit my yard and it is fun to compare my lists from year to year. The variety of birds and their vibrant colors make bird feeding a hobby of which I never tire.

Recently I saw a flash of hot yellow and black fly by my window and was pleased to see a Townsend's Warbler land on my



suet feeder. I sometimes see his relative, the Yellow-rumped Warbler, with yellow markings that are a lot less prominent but equally delightful.

Other backyard color I have enjoyed recently includes that of the Northern Flicker, a type of woodpecker. This rather large bird is speckled on the chest with a black bib. Males have a flashy red mustache that distinguishes them from females. Although they might not seem bright and colorful, the busy activity of chickadees on a sunflower seed feeder surely cheers me on a dark day. Those chickadees frequently visit my suet feeder as well, as do Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Take time out of your busy schedule and sit down with a warm drink and enjoy your feeders. Connecting with nature will surely brighten a cloudy winter day.

### February Savings



# \$5 OFF

Your Purchase of \$20 or More

Coupon cannot be applied toward the purchase of sale-priced products. Cannot be combined with other coupons or discounts. Coupon cannot be used to purchase gift cards. Must be presented at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per customer.

Valid February 1 - 29, 2012

### March Savings



# \$5 OFF

Your Purchase of \$20 or More

Coupon cannot be applied toward the purchase of sale-priced products. Cannot be combined with other coupons or discounts. Coupon cannot be used to purchase gift cards. Must be presented at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per customer.

Valid March 1 - 31, 2012

# Sunflower Chips: A Fractured Story

By Scott Lukens

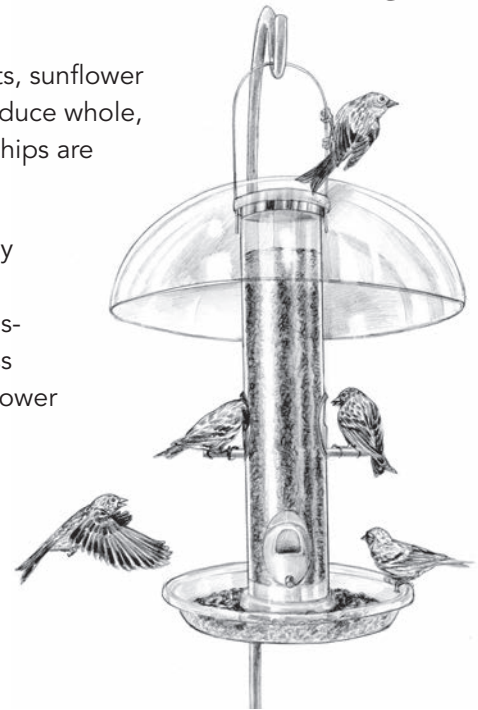
**Sunflower chips are the mistakes.** Like many other wild bird products, sunflower chips are a by-product. Seed processors de-hull sunflower seeds to produce whole, full-sized, unbroken seed kernels for human food products. Sunflower chips are created when sunflower kernels are broken or chipped by mistake.

**Seed De-hulling Processes are Improving.** Poor crop yields caused by weather in the Dakotas, where 70% of the U.S. sunflower crop is grown, have led to fewer seeds available. Decreased availability plus high transportation costs have driven prices upward, motivating de-hulling process improvements to reduce mistakes and produce more whole kernel sunflower seeds, which capture the highest prices.

**Chips are Larger and Less Available.** As de-hulling techniques improve, there are fewer mistakes. Scarcity makes the price of chips rise, and available chips are trending larger, closer to that of a full seed meat. Of course, little chickadees and other birds don't mind larger chips! They readily crack open whole sunflower seeds to get to the seed meat.

**Rising prices drive us to search for ways to keep prices reasonable and competitive.** We focus on seed quality and price, buying directly from processors for the best deals on the current crop.

**Freshness is of utmost importance!** 365 days a year we offer the freshest, highest-quality seed possible, purchased directly from a seed processor. Your backyard birds will love them!



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## Calling all Squirrels!

### New Peanut Shipment

Commodity price fluctuations due to crop yields are a daily concern for us. We search constantly for the best possible prices and utilize our multi-shop buying power and warehouse space to help in our negotiations. We buy only the current year's crop of U.S.-grown peanuts: this time, from Georgia!



Squirrel photo by John and Robin Bailey



**New! Feeder Fresh** Add a little of this bird-safe substance to your feeder during our rainy days to reduce seed caking and aging, and mold formation. It's great for both feeders and seed storage containers (16 oz, 15.99; 9 oz, 11.99).

# Mason Bees

The Orchard mason bee is a native bee known for its pollinating efficiency. Adult bees emerge between March and June, which means that they are busy nesting and collecting pollen when many of our favorite fruit trees are in bloom: apples, pears, blueberries and strawberries. They're docile and interesting to watch, and really easy to encourage in your garden!

We have a range of products for mason bees, ranging from bee blocks that make it quick and easy to host some backyard bees, all the way to stacking tray systems that allow access to cocoons.

**New! Mason Bee Observation Deck** (shown right) features a cover that slides away to expose a Plexiglas side which protects the bees while allowing you to get a great view of the nesting process. Mount in a sheltered spot that receives morning sun and enjoy observing the 6 nesting slots fill up (\$21.99).



**NEW! Natural Reed Bee Tubes** are harvested in Utah from winter lake beds, selected for an 8 mm diameter and cut to the correct length. They wick moisture away from mason bee cocoons which lessens mold buildup. Can be split apart with a butter knife, and fit well in our Bee Barrel (25 reeds, \$9.99).

**New! Mason Bee Attractant Sheets** Mason bees use their senses of smell and sight to locate nesting sites. Place a bee attractant sheet, made of pulverized old cocoons, in your bee house and the scent will encourage bees to consider your nest block (2 sheets \$5.99).



**Live Mason Bees** Cleaned and sorted live, hibernating mason bees are available now (10 cocoons, \$17.99).

## Mason Bee Hosting Made Easy

Keep it Simple	Bee-Keeping for Fun	Cleaning for Pest Control
Simply mount a bee block in an appropriate backyard location; add hibernating bees to ensure success	Reusable stacking trays come apart for cocoon cleaning, to reduce mite infestation and increases bee yields	Replaceable paper or reed bee tubes permit maintenance of a block or barrel
<p><b>Recommended Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Bee Bungalow (\$17.99)</li> <li>•Horizontal Bee House (\$21.99)</li> <li>•Observation Deck (\$21.99)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommended Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Single Shelters (\$21.99)</li> <li>•Shelter w/Cocoon Release (\$24.99)</li> <li>•Stacked Cedar Trays (\$19.99)</li> <li>•Stacked Corn Plastic trays (from \$24.99)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommended Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Bee Barrel (\$15.99)</li> <li>•Double Bee Barrel (\$19.99)</li> <li>•Kraft Paper Tubes/Paper Liners (25/\$7.99)</li> <li>•Natural Reed tubes (25/\$9.99)</li> </ul>

# Nesting Season is Now

Owls and hummingbirds are already building nests while other species are pairing up and searching for suitable nest sites. Birds have different, species-specific nesting requirements. Some of our most popular backyard birds, such as chickadees, nuthatches and wrens, use bird houses. Others build a cup nest of twigs and other materials on a branch, ledge, or nesting shelf. All birds search for materials to line their nests. Prune trees now! Spring pruning risks exposing nesting families.

**Bird House Construction, a February Family Activity** The easy assembly of a locally- made cedar birdhouse kit is something all generations can enjoy (chickadee/nuthatch, swallow or wren, \$17.99).



**Pygora Goat Fleece Nesting Material** is a locally-produced favorite of birds in our area. Each bag contains fine filaments that are soft and insulating for nests. You may see Anna's hummingbirds collect it in early February, and others access it through mid-June (\$5.99).



**Wildwood Bird Houses** are hollowed logs fashioned to Audubon Specifications by Portlanders Arlie Boyce and his son Fritz. They are naturally attractive to chickadees, nuthatches, wrens and swallows (\$42.99 – 52.99).

**Wooden Portal Cover** helps protect the entrance hole from widening, and improves predator resistance by elongating the entrance to over an inch. It can also be used to adjust the entrance hole size of a non-Audubon specification birdhouse (chickadee/nuthatch or swallow size, \$3.99).



## Backyard Nesters

Birdhouse Nester	Shelf Nester	Nesting Material User
Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens, Swallows, Bluebirds, Flickers, Wood Ducks	Robins, House Finches, Barn Swallows	Hummingbirds, Goldfinches, Chickadees, Nuthatches ... potentially everybirdy

# Calendar

**Free Bird Walks** Free expert-guided bird walks are a great way to see and learn to recognize our local birds. Walks start at 8 am and last 2 – 3 hours. Register in advance by phoning the host shop\*. We carpool from the host shop. Please, no pets!

**Feb 12** Mt. Talbert (C)

**Feb 18** Sauvie Island (P)

**Mar 3** Fernhill Wetlands (B)

**Mar 17** Graham Oaks Park (LBF)

**Mar 25** Steigerwald NWR (V)

**Apr 8** Tualatin NWR (LBF)

**Apr 28** Smith-Bybee Lakes (P)



**Owl Prowl** 6 – 8 pm. Meet at our shop for an introductory slide show, then join us at a local site to look and listen for local residents. \$5 pre-registration fee, phone the host shop. Fee will be refunded with a gift card at the class.

**Feb 27** (B)

**Mar 11** (P; \$7 parking fee)

**Birds of Peru** Doris Valencia of Habitats Peru Travel will discuss Peruvian birds, conservation and culture in our N.E. Fremont shop on Feb 26 from 5:15 – 6:45 pm. Peru is one of the richest countries in the world for birds with more than 1,800 species. You'll be charmed by Doris and inspired by bird habitat conservation work ([habitatsperu.com](http://habitatsperu.com)). Space is limited, please register in advance.

**Kids' Nature Walks** 10 am to noon. Child educator and naturalist Elaine Murphy introduces kids to the plants and animals that live in the Pacific Northwest on a free nature walk. Reservations are required, phone the host shop. We meet at the location, specifics are provided with registration. Children must be accompanied by an adult, space is limited.

**Apr 15** Mary S. Young State Park (LBF)

**Apr 22** Mt. Talbert (C)

**Mason Bees Made Easy** Join staffer Mark Fitzsimons from 6:15 – 7 pm for a review of mason bee hosting options. We will cover the super simple, and also options that allow you to clean and inspect dormant cocoons each winter to optimize colony growth and health. Space is limited, so please phone the host shop\* to register in advance.

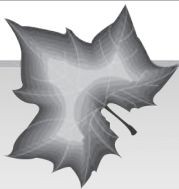
**Feb 11** (B) **Feb 15** (LBF) **Feb 28** (V)

## \*Host Store Key\*

B = Beaverton C = Clackamas

LBF = Lower Boones Ferry P = North Portland

V = Vancouver



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Molly Evans, Deborah Kapral

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**Bird Guides from A - Z** Join staffer Laura Whittemore April 3 from 6:15 – 7:15 pm in our Clackamas shop for a lively presentation on bird books, birdsong CD's, birding software and apps. Why should you choose one book over another? Which are best for local birds? How to recognize birds by their songs? How can you organize lists and photos of birds you see? Get answers to these and your own questions when you attend this informative event. Free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

**Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project Monitor Workshop**  
Feb 25, 9 am – noon. Email [email@prescottbluebird.com](mailto:email@prescottbluebird.com) to register; visit [www.prescottbluebird.com](http://www.prescottbluebird.com) for info.

**Follow us on Facebook** for weekly specials and calendar additions, and watch our website at [www.backyardbirdshop.com](http://www.backyardbirdshop.com) for calendar additions.



# Super Suet Selection!

February is a great time to offer suet – many birds eat it in winter. You may see birds that do not regularly feed at your seed feeder, too. We offer over two dozen suet flavors spread among four excellent brands ...

## Suet Central

NEPO (NE Portland)	Insect Lovers	Pinetree Farms	Nature's Cafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local, small-batch</li> <li>• Insects in most cakes</li> <li>• Insect Blend &amp; Insect/ Peanut Butter (best sellers)</li> <li>• Top quality beef kidney suet</li> <li>• 85 – 95% fat content</li> <li>• \$5.49; 3/\$14.99; 12/\$57.57</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made to our specifications</li> <li>• Insects in all cakes</li> <li>• Nutty Feast our top seller</li> <li>• Top quality beef kidney suet</li> <li>• 82 – 97% fat content</li> <li>• \$4.99; 3/\$13.89; 12/\$49.99</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of fruit, nut and insect blends</li> <li>• Vegetarian option</li> <li>• Beef suet</li> <li>• 35 – 40% fat content</li> <li>• \$4.49; 3/\$11.97; 12/\$39.99</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economically priced with many flavor choices</li> <li>• Several good nut blends</li> <li>• Beef suet</li> <li>• 35% fat content</li> <li>• \$2.29; 3/\$5.55; 12/\$19.99</li> </ul>

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(503) 445-2699

**Clackamas Promenade**  
8960 S. E. Sunnyside Rd.  
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**Lake Oswego**  
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**Beaverton Fred Meyer Center**  
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**Vancouver**  
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Near 164th & East Mill Plain Blvd.  
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