

The Bird Store
and more...

COLOR ME

Beautiful

The changing color
of bird's feathers

Did you ever wonder why the birds are more brilliant or a completely different color at different times of the year? It has to do with their molting patterns. Variations in plumage can be based on the sex of the bird, its age, or seasonal changes caused by molting. The molting process can be either very obvious or difficult to detect, depending on the species and its plumage pattern.



Young birds pass through one or more sub adult plumages before reaching full adult plumage. Depending on the bird this can be anywhere from one year to four years in the case of Gulls and up to five years in some Eagles.

In adult birds there are three different types of plumage patterns. Single plumage pattern is a plumage in which both male and female birds look alike and retain their definitive plumage throughout the year. Birds with this plumage do molt but they have the same coloration and pattern as the previous plumage. That is why Blue Jays appear brighter in the spring; they have the same look but new feathers.

Seasonal variation pattern is a pattern in which some adult birds (typically males) sport bright, colorful plumage in the spring which is replaced by more subdued colors in the fall molt. The male Goldfinch is a perfect example of this. His brilliant yellow feathers molting in signify the coming of spring for many of us, and in his basic (or fall) plumage he is similar in appearance to the female Goldfinch.

Sexual dimorphism is the third pattern where the males and females of a species have such different plumages that they appear to be different species. Male and female Rose Breasted Grosbeaks are a good example of this type of bird. Male and female Cardinals are another example. In species exhibiting

strong sexual dimorphism the young male birds resemble the females until they are one or two years old. Cases in point, Cardinals in their sub adult plumages resemble the female Cardinal in coloration.

The feathers of even the drabest bird can be complex and beautiful if you take the time to look at them closely. Next time you are watching your feeders take the time to look at the birds feathers.



Are You
Getting
The Latest
Updates?

To receive monthly updates enter your email address on our web site.
www.thebirdstoreandmore.com

We send monthly tips and updates as well as upcoming trips, specials and events.
Don't be left out!



THOUGHTS FROM THE



Bird Cage

Chippy: That is one thing I won't be bringing back to my nest!

Lacey: Minny Myrh, your not going to bring it back to the bird cage are you?

Minny Myrh: No Lacey, I don't think we want that in our house.

Chippy: Where did it come from, and what is that long thing on its back end?

Minny Myrh: According to the computer they are in this area, although you don't see them very often. I guess it must have come in when the door was open. The long thing is called an ovipositor. That's what those wasps use to lay eggs.

Many of you have asked why our birds haven't had anything to say in a while. You may remember past columns from Minnie's and Marley, and then Hey Marley, Minny Myrh has questions. So I asked the birds what was up.

scared of people. He is getting much better now, although he still doesn't want to be touched. He hangs out on the counter a lot and everyone talks to him so we think he may have a lot to say!



Minny Myrh - dove



Chippy - Canary



Lacey - Cockatiel

Minny Myrh is the Dove and she has been at the Bird Store and More the longest. (Our original Dove Minnie's and Original Cockatiel Marley have both passed on). Minny Myrh had lots of questions when she first came to the Bird Store and Marley was a great source of information to her. She has been quiet lately because she was sad when Marley was gone, but now she is happy with her new bird friends and she has been laying eggs again.

Lacey is the Cockatiel and he came to live at The Bird Store and More almost 2 years ago. We adopted him because his former family said he was noisy and mean. He was just lonely, and he started talking when he met Minny Myrh. His tail feathers grew back, but he was very

Chippy is the Canary, and she has been here a year. Chippy is a happy little bird who is always singing. She sees the world as peachy, just like her color. Chippy has been having great conversations with the goldfinch that come to the window feeder, so maybe she will share some thoughts with us.

So my bird friends any thoughts for today?

Chippy: Minny Myrh, what is that big bug on the ceiling? It's bigger than me!

Lacey: I've been watching it from the counter, and Chippy's right it's huge! Is it going to live here too? It better not touch me!

Minny Myrh: I looked at it when I went for a stroll around the store. Bill & Nancy were looking it up on the computer so I looked too. It is a Giant Ichneumon Wasp.

Lacey: It's a good thing you and Chippy don't lay eggs that way! Maybe if the door is open again it will go out. Of course that means we will have to stay in our cage.

Minny Myrh: Well that is a good safe place for us to stay, don't you think.

Chippy: Better safe than outdoors!

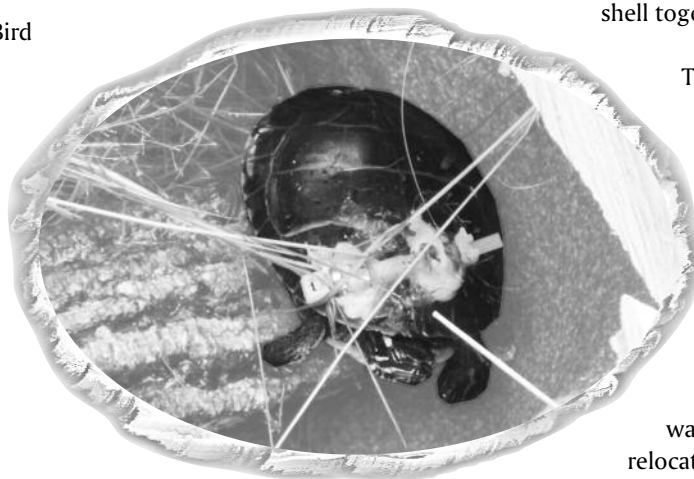
Till next time...
Minny Myrh, Lacey, & Chippy
To see a picture of the wasp the birds
were talking about go to
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sankax/3647504040/>

THE TALE OF THE FIBERGLASS



What do you do when the Veterinary Clinic brings you a broken painted turtle? Fiberglass him of course!

That's what recently happened at the Bird Store and More. A Painted Turtle with a broken shell (it was hit by a car) was brought over from the Veterinary Clinic next door. Bill researched the broken shell problem and found out that you can fiberglass or bondo and clamp the turtles shell back together and it will heal. Once healed the shell will shed off the old top layer and the bondo, so that's just what he did!



First he lightly sanded the shell then he bondo'ed on small metal angle brackets on either side of the crack and attached wire ties to pull the shell together.

The turtle was doing well so he drained out the Jacuzzi, added cold water, and a bunch of weeds, logs and boards to the bottom so that the turtle had a secure swimming hole. The Turtle lived in his new fangled swimming hole with his new back gear attached for a few days until we were sure he was doing well. We have now relocated him to a friend's small pond to continue his recuperation. Soon he will shed his gear and be all back in one piece.



Sunflower: Just the Facts

Plant: May and the first part of June.

Harvest: Late October, early November

Fertile, well drained mulched soil

Main Use: Cooking Oil, Baking Industry, edible snack industry, bird seed

In 2010 over 2 million acres were planted

Main U.S. growing area: North Dakota, South Dakota

The Sunflower plant needs full sun. At sunrise, the faces of most sunflowers are turned towards the east. Over the course of the day they follow the sun from east to west, while at night they return to an eastward orientation. This motion is performed by motor cells in the pulvinus, a flexible segment of the stem just below the bud. As the bud stage ends, the stem stiffens and the blooming stage is reached. Sunflowers in their blooming stage lose their heliotropic capacity. The stem becomes "frozen",

typically in an eastward orientation. The stem and leaves lose their green color. What is usually called the flower is actually a head of numerous florets crowded together. As the "flower" matures the sunflower seed is formed, ready to be harvested in the fall.



Reminders

- ◆ October 11—Columbus Day
- ◆ October 28—31 Seed Sale (you must preorder for the sale)
- ◆ October 31—Happy Halloween!
- ◆ November 7—Daylight Savings Time ends “fall back” 1 hour
- ◆ November 11—Veterans Day
- ◆ November 25—Thanksgiving Day – The Bird Store is Closed Today

TWEETS FROM LIZZIE MAE

Seed and Dry Goods

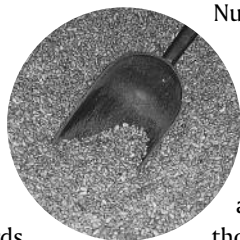
Lizzie Mae Bird Seed and Dry Goods from Ritman Ohio is singing a new song. Lizzie Mae is our Bird Seed Distributor and they have been sending us weekly informative “tweet’s” that we thought you might be interested in.



So here’s a lesson on where the bird seed comes from:

- The flow starts in the field from the farmer
- To a Seed Processor
- Through a Commodity Broker
- To a Bird Seed Packer
- To a Distributor
- To a Retailer
- To you the consumer
- And finally to the Backyard Birds!

That’s a lot of shuffling from the field to the birds



Overall commodity pricing has been relatively stable this calendar year after a couple of years with roller coaster pricing. Hopefully the Fall pricing will hold steady.

Here’s some news about a different type of Safflower seed. Nutra Safflower is an almost hull less Safflower seed that has an extremely thin outer hull. It is almost 40% thinner than traditional safflower. NutraSaff has 15% more oil content, 25% higher protein, and 30% higher fat content (energy) than regular safflower. The birds have an easier time digesting and extracting the meal from NutraSaff, and it provides higher energy sources with less waste than any other bird feed on the market.

Remember, Grackles and Squirrels do not like Safflower so this is a big bonus. The Bird Store and More will be stocking NutraSaff as an additional option seed.

FYI This is important information for anyone with peanut allergies. All of the seed mixes run through the same equipment for packaging at most packing houses so even though a mix doesn’t contain peanuts there is potential for peanut residue.



Because You Asked!

Q: Can I Grease the Bird Feeder Pole?

A: Many of you have used grease, cooking spray, Vaseline, and other slippery products to keep the squirrels off of your bird feeder pole and while it may look funny to see the squirrel sliding down the pole like a fireman you could be killing your birds and squirrels.

As birds fly by a greased pole they can easily brush up against it. Getting grease on their feathers affects the birds’ ability to regulate their body temperature and to shed water from their feathers. Both can lead to hypothermia and death. Grease can also hamper a bird’s ability to fly, putting it at greater risk from predators, and the birds can ingest potentially toxic grease products while trying to clean their feathers. (Think about the oil covered birds in the Gulf).

Squirrels have the same issues with grease, they may die from hypothermia because the grease has matted their fur and they have no insulation to protect them from the cold, and as they try to clean themselves they will also ingest potentially toxic materials.

Be kind to the birds and animals. Use a properly sized baffle on a properly placed pole (10 feet from anything the squirrels can launch from) and your feeders will be squirrel proofed. And it’s 100% safe to birds and squirrels.



Nancy's Notes



It's September its worth reminding you that our busy little hummingbirds are making their way back south. We always leave a feeder out for them until mid October, just in case there is a traveling migrant that may need a meal. Don't forget to take in your hummingbird

feeder by late October. Frozen nectar means a cracked feeder next spring!

Now is a good time to give those feeders a good scrubbing, and repair or replace worn parts.



Remember to clean your bird houses out. Taking old nests out of the houses will help preserve the house as old nests can get wet and rot the box.

Enjoy! Nancy

Planning Ahead October Store Hours

We will be attending the Fall Goldcrest Distributing tradeshow in October. We hope to bring back lots of new items for you!

Please check our web site www.thebirdstoreandmore.com for our store hours on October 5 – 8. Our hours may change due to the availability of our help. Sorry for any inconvenience.

FREE DELIVERY within 10 miles!



Bird Store Hours:
10:00-6:00 Monday - Saturday
11:00-5:00 Sunday

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