



Wild Birds Unlimited
1739 W. Grand River Ave.
Okemos, MI 48864

Join our **NEW**
Daily Savings
Club
and
Save 15%
Everyday
on Birdfeed!
Details in Newsletter.



Daily Savings Club

Dear Friends,

As we get ready for another school year, some may be feeling excited about the challenges, whether from the student's, parent's or teacher's point of view. Others may be feeling a little bit blue, especially parents suffering from Empty Nest Syndrome. Well, we have ideas that can help everyone.

For those students going back and their parents looking for ways to get excited about school, suggest adding more nature education to the curriculum. Bird feeding is an easy way to start to get kids interested in nature and there is a lot of support and research available to help. Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology has a Project Classroom Feeder Watch that lays out a curriculum for students of different ages to participate in nature education. But even something as simple as a small feeder in your backyard a basic field guide and maybe even a pair of binoculars can enthuse all ages.

For teachers: If you are a teacher or know of a teacher that would like to add more nature education to their curriculum, we'll make it especially easy. This year, for the first time, we are introducing the *Wild Birds*

Unlimited Nature Exploration Grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding and support to local schools and encourage appreciation and education about birds and nature.



Bird Tracks[®]

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To find out more about this funding opportunity, visit the store and ask for an application packet or go online at www.wbu.com/okemos and download the application.

For Empty Nesters, bird feeding in your backyard is an excellent way to spend your extra time and learn about wild life. It is also a good way to see the world. "How," you ask? I've talked to many friends in the community and have heard stories of how they started feeding birds as a fun hobby then started taking trips to see some unique birds. Before they knew it, they were on trips and cruises around the world with the excuse of chasing a new bird. What could be more fun than that?

Finally, we have a **new program** that many of you may be interested in. It is a new savings program that allows members of our **Daily Savings Club** to buy all their bird food products at sale prices every day. If you buy just 5-10 bags of seed from us over the course of a full year (depending on the seed type), this program pays for itself and more. Read all about this exciting new program for loyal customers later in this newsletter. We appreciate your business and hope to talk with you soon. Keep feeding the birds.

Daniel Zarka, and staff
Wild Birds Unlimited
1739 W. Grand River Ave.
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Ph. (517) 349-6417

Michigan Woodpeckers

There are eight woodpeckers that make Michigan their home, at least during part of the year. These include the Red-headed woodpecker, the Red-bellied woodpecker, the Yellow-bellied sapsucker (who doesn't really suck sap but rather laps it up with his tongue from holes that he drills), the Downy woodpecker, the Hairy woodpecker (can you tell the difference between a Downy and Hairy?), the Black-Backed woodpecker of Northern Michigan, the Northern Flicker, and the Pileated woodpecker. A few have claimed to have seen an Ivory billed woodpecker in their backyard but unfortunately, those birds



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Wild Birds Unlimited
Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist
1739 W. Grand River Ave. Okemos
ph. (517) 349-6417 web: www.wbu.com/okemos



Store Hours
Mon-Sat: 10am-6pm
Sun: Noon-5pm

are not found in Michigan.

Woodpeckers, especially the Downy and Hairy, are quite common in our area and are easy to attract. Putting up a suet feeder or peanut feeder is an easy way to attract them. Some of the favorites of these birds are the WBU Naturally Nuts and the WBU Bug Bites, but it is worth the time to try



some different suet varieties to see which ones your birds like best. I have also found that there is a difference in the quality of suet on the market. You may be able to get more suet bricks with the cheap brands, but you will get more enjoyment from the many more birds you get with higher quality suet brands. If you don't believe me, do the test yourself. I think you will find a difference.

Aside from food, providing for the other needs of these birds will help keep them in your area, like leaving old or dead trees in your yard. The birds love them for sources of insect food as well as a place to nest. Leaving those trees in your yard will also help keep them off of your house especially if it has wooden sides.

Yes, these birds can occasionally cause problems for homeowners. Drumming or drilling on houses can occur in both the spring and fall. Springtime drumming is a form of communication used by the birds to signal location or stake out territories at the onset of breeding season. It is also used to wake up homeowners that are sleeping too late. Drumming usually does not cause severe damage.

Drilling, on the other hand, will actually chip out wood and create holes where the birds are searching for food or are preparing a nest or roosting house. To prevent damage, you will need to scare the birds away quickly. There are several ways to do this. First patch any holes that may have been started to prevent them from making them larger. Covering the area with a loose

sheet of plastic for a couple of weeks will help deter them from that area. Hanging mylar streamers, or aluminum pie pans or other "dangly" things helps to scare them. Remember too that you are trying to scare the birds away but please don't hurt them. (Read about the law below). The trouble usually increases for only a few weeks through September and then it will subside until next spring.

If you would like to learn more about birds feel free to call us at 517-349-6417 visit us. Our trained Bird Feeding Specialists are here to help.

BIRDS AND THE LAW
All birds are protected by federal laws under the "Migratory Bird Act of 1918," as well as by state laws. It is illegal to destroy, relocate or possess birds, their nests or their eggs. The only exceptions are non-native species. Trained and licensed wildlife rehabilitators, who have passed a federal and/or state-administered test, are permitted to care for injured or orphaned wildlife.

a large bill both in length and diameter.

☞The Pileated Woodpecker digs rectangular holes in trees to find food.

WaBU Art Gallery News

This month we are featuring works of art by Sharon Zarka and Cindy Hefty.

Sharon Zarka is a local water color artist widely recognized for her talent and style of painting cats, pets and nature.

Cindy Hefty, formerly of Sunfield MI, and now residing in Southern Ohio, will be displaying works of art grown in her own backyard.



Actually she grows gourds in her yard then uses a variety of techniques to carve or burn decorative

images into the skin. The gourds are then finished and decorated for your home. It takes a lot of time and work to produce these pieces and they are well worth a visit to see them.

Join the Wild Birds Unlimited Daily Savings Club™ and SAVE!

Have you ever run out of seed or suet between our regular sales and wished you had bought just a little more during the sale. Well, imagine your own private seed sale, every day of the year. That's what you'll enjoy, and more, as a member of our new Daily Savings Club. By joining, you receive these benefits:

- 15% off regular prices of bird and wildlife food, every day!
- Additional 5% off sale prices of bird and wildlife food
- \$10 Bird Bucks coupon with every \$150 purchased
- Club-member-only specials
- Free gift for joining



Club cost is only \$22 for 12 months. Our Certified Birdfeeding Specialists are ready to help you get your yard ready for maximum birdfeeding activities. Stop by today to sign up and start taking advantage of Club benefits!

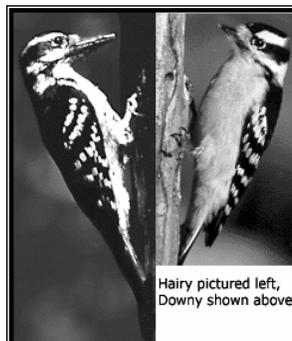
As a reminder all Wild Birds Unlimited stores are independently owned and operated, your Daily Savings Club membership benefits are valid only at the WBU store of purchase and are not transferable to other WBU stores. Happy birding!

Woodpecker Fun Facts

☞Woodpeckers excavate cavities in wood for places to rear young during the breeding season, and to roost during the winter. They are the only birds in our region to make tree cavities and therefore have an important role in the ecology of the forest as a whole. Kestrels, owls, Tree Swallows, Crested Flycatchers, chickadees, nuthatches, bluebirds, flying squirrels, and other species all use abandoned woodpecker holes for rearing their own young.

☞Flickers feed mainly on the ground and are often seen hopping about lawns looking for their favorite food, ants.

☞To distinguish between a downy and hairy woodpecker, look at the size of the bill. Downys have a very small short bill and the Hairys have



Hairy pictured left, Downy shown above

Preparing for Fall and Winter

If you haven't cleaned your feeders lately, now is the time to do it. A thorough job now makes winter maintenance easy. Soaking in an enzyme solution like Scoot® for a short time will help remove caked on debris. Just follow the directions on the bottle. If prefer not dealing with the cleaning yourself, we offer a **\$5 cleaning service**. Just bring in your feeder, and we will do a thorough cleaning and have your feeder ready to pick up the next day.

To help keep the seed in tube feeders from getting soaked every time it rains or snows, try using a WBU Weatherguard. This simple clear plastic dome device acts like an umbrella to prevent moisture from entering the feeding ports and spoiling your seed.

