

June 2009
Issue #23.6

BIRD*Tracks*®

Wild Birds Unlimited — Middleton, WI

8402 Old Sauk Rd., Middleton, WI 53562, 608-664-1414
www.wbumadison.com

Happy Father's Day



Male Indigo Bunting

Dear Friends of Nature:

In the bird world it's the fathers who get most of the attention. Being the more brightly colored and visible of the pair, the male bird has specific functions that are intended to increase the success of the species.

The role of the father bird is to attract a suitable mate, and in some cases, like the House Wren, to build nests to suit the female. Some also have the task of acquiring food for the female as she sits on the nest, and, as in the case of the Cardinal, to actually feed her as well.

His brightly colored plumage increases his chances of defending and maintaining his territory from rivals, an area that has abundant food, water and shelter to raise youngsters.

You can help these dads be successful, and enjoy watching babies grow, by providing appropriate food and water all summer. Here's how.

Feeding your birds in the summer will not make them too lazy, too dependent or keep them from migrating at the appropriate time. All of these old myths have been dispelled by modern research and observation.

To see our full newsletter, and this Indigo Bunting, in color, please visit our website, www.wbumadison.com.

aware of threats from predators and to preen their feathers for flight and insulation. Studies have also shown that birds with access to feeders during nesting season spend less time away from their nests looking for food. These birds will lay their clutch of eggs earlier and fledge one more chick per clutch than birds without access to feeders.

Summer bird feeding will bring new birds to your yard with interesting behaviors to observe and enjoy. Summer is actually the most heavily bird populated season in most of North America. Contrary to popular belief, recent research also shows summer to be the most abundant season for birds to visit feeders.

Early summer visitors at your feeders will be featuring their brightest breeding plumage, and, later on, they will often be accompanied by their young offspring with duller feathers. Summer provides a fascinating opportunity to see adult birds feeding and interacting with their young, and it's an experience that you do not want to miss.

Happy Birding!

Bob & Jan Ross

*For Pat, Sharon, Marta, Meghan, Heather, Jim, Jean,
Steve, Barb, and Tom*

Your backyard Birdfeeding Specialists at

Wild Birds Unlimited

Inside BIRD*Tracks*:

- * Summer Feeding Hints
- * Free Bat Seminar
- * June 15% Off Coupon
- * Binocular Weekend Specials
- * Bird Feeding Essentials
- * Father's Day Gift Ideas

Feeding Summer Birds

Wild Birds Unlimited Food of the Month

Summer Blend



Summer Blend should arrive at WBU any day now. One of our most popular blends, Summer Blend contains 30% medium chips, 20% peanuts, 20% black oil sunflower, 10% almonds, 10% safflower, 5% cashews and 5% hulled millet. This is definitely one your backyard birds will gobble up and keep coming

back for more.

Summer Blend 20 lb. bag ON SALE in JUNE \$22.50

Wow Your Birds With Water

Give your birds a nice place to cool down and keep clean by offering them a fountain or bird bath. Birds find water by sight and sound of moving water. A fountain or added water wiggler will not only get your birds flocking back, but it's also a way to add decorative flair to your backyard refuge. We offer a wide variety of fountains and birdbaths in different shapes, sizes and materials, even solar!

Fountains and Bird Baths From \$109.00

Earth Friendly Feeders Birds Love

A smaller version of our Classic design the EcoTough™ Classic Too is made of recycled milk jugs so it won't crack, fade or rot and it comes with a lifetime guarantee. The specially designed curved ends enable you to better view feeding birds, and the perch drains allow seeds to fall for ground-feeding birds. You can hang it from your pole system or mount it on the top. Either way it's a winner.

EcoTough Classic Too \$44.99

Guard Against Extreme Weather

Add WBU weather guards to our seed tube, finch and peanut feeders to protect the food and birds from inclement weather. They include a lifetime guarantee and are easy to install. For a little extra flair, check out our decorative weather guard.

WBU Weather Guard: Sm \$17.99, Lg \$43.99

Freshen Up Your Feeders

Keep seed fresh and mold-free with Feeder Fresh™. Mix it with your bird food, and the absorbent granules will "drink up" excess moisture. It's completely safe for you and your birds.

Feeder Fresh \$9.99

Ding, Ding — Dinner Bell

Fill this versatile feeder with one of our specialty seed blends a seed cylinder or mealworms and see how many birds you can attract. The Dinner Bell's dome will protect your food from the elements.

WBU Dinner Bell Feeder \$34.99

Daily Savings Club Special Coupon



50% OFF Feeder Fresh

With Purchase of Any WBU Quick-Clean Finch Feeder

Expires June 30, 2009

Our Daily Savings Club members not only save money on fresh bird food every day, they get great deals as well.



Look, Listen and Learn All About Birds

Identify birds by sight and sound. Just press a button, scan a barcode and iFlyer plays a high-quality digital recording of a bird's song. The removable "ScanCode" stickers can also be placed in your favorite field guide.

iFlyer, Book & Stickers \$109.95

Manager's Special

While they last.



Have you ever wondered who visited your feeders while you were at work or away on vacation? Now's your chance to find out. For a limited time we are offering the **WINGSCAPES BirdCam** for a special reduced price of \$245.99, that's a savings of **\$100.00!**

Wingscapes BirdCam captures digital photos and videos of your birds. It's weatherproof, action-activated, easy to use and comes with a 1GB Memory Card.

See what you've missed ... The BirdCam watches your feeders (or nest, birdbath, etc.), so you can watch whenever you want. Stop in today and ask to see some great pictures taken with BirdCam.



June Birding Opportunities

Call or visit these websites for specifics..

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

(608) 255-2473, <http://www.madisonaudubon.org>

Fri., June 5: Canoeing Smith Slough

Sat., June 6: Birds of Devils Lake & Baxter's Hollow

Thu., June 11: Evening at Owen Park Wildlife Ponds

Sat., June 13: Geology of the Baraboo Hills

Thu., June 18: Evening at Black Earth Prairie

Sat., June 20: Grassland Birding in Dane & Iowa Counties

Sat., June 20: Butterflies & Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Sat., June 27: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

UW ARBORETUM

(608) 263-7760, <http://uwarboretum.org/news/>

www.wbumadison.com

Binocular Bonanza

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

June 5, 6 & 7

All Binoculars and Spotting Scopes

ON SALE

10% OFF

Selected Binoculars 50% OFF

PLUS Receive

**FREE Lens
Pen** (a \$10 value)
with optics
purchase of
\$50 or more



**FREE Harness
Strap** (a \$22 value)
with optics
purchase
over \$150

**ENTER THE
DOOR PRIZE DRAWING
For
Vortex
Diamondback Binocular
A \$200 Value**

www.wbumadison.com

Free Bat Seminar



**Saturday, June 6th
10:30 am**

With Scott Craven

Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology
at the University of Wisconsin



Would you like to discover the secret lives of these gentle mammals? Come to our **FREE Bat Seminar**, Saturday, June 6th at 10:30 and learn: How helping bats will help you and your gardens, how you can tap into this natural insect exterminator, what good are bats anyway?, where bats live and do they hibernate, and why bats hang upside down.

*This seminar is FREE, but space is limited.
Call us at (608) 664-1414 to reserve your seat.*

For Dad & Nature

Give Dad the gift of nature this Father's Day, June 21st

GET 15% OFF

Any Single Item \$25 or More*

*Bring in this coupon and receive 15% off any bird feeder, bird bath or unique nature gift throughout the store.

*One discount per purchase. Offer not valid on previous purchases, bird food, pet food, optics, tripods, gift certificates, gift cards, Daily Savings Club® memberships or sale items. Offer expires 6/30/09.

Wild Birds Unlimited
Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Bird of the Month: Indigo Bunting

Of all the birds in the United States, the Indigo Bunting stands out as one of the most spectacular. Beautifully plumed in brilliant indigo blue, the mail automatically catches your eye as he flies across your vision.



Indigo Bunting is a small finch in the Cardinal family that breeds from southeastern Saskatchewan east to the Atlantic and south to the Gulf coast and northern Florida. They spend their winters in southern Florida, the tropics and Central America. Indigo Bunting is drawn to feeders that provide sunflower chips and Niger (thistle) seed and Millet. We will frequently see him at our Niger sock side by side with the brilliant yellow goldfinches. Providing a clean water source within viewing distance of the house also attracts this and many other birds for you to enjoy.

You may know already that Indigo Bunting's feathers are actually black and that the diffraction of light through his feathers makes them look blue. This explains why the colors vary from male to male, from turquoise to black and even brown. The female is all brown with indistinct streaks on her chest.

Indigo Bunting's favorite habitat is woodland edges, open woodlands and along roads where you may see this small finch sitting on a power line singing his heart out. It's song is distinct, a "kissy sound", that goes like this: "sweet-sweet, sweeter-sweeter, here-here". If you're lucky, you may find their nest in some shrubby underbrush, or thick lower story bushes close by.

You can learn more about the Indigo Bunting, listen to his song, and find other birds you wish to identify by visiting our website, www.wbumadison.com. Click on "Nature Links and Resources" in the left hand column and "Right Bird" under the Bird Tools heading.

Keep feeding this beautiful blue bird Niger seed to keep him singing in your yard all summer.

Are You A Summer Resident, Too?

Please Help We'd like to ask a favor. When you decide to "fly south" again, please give us a call, email us, or send a note so we can adjust our mailing list accordingly. Each returned newsletter costs us the price of a first class stamp, just increased to 44 cents. By helping us this way you won't miss out on anything — just visit our website, www.wbumadison.com to view all of our recent newsletters in full color. Thanks for your help. 608-664-1414 or bross@wbumadison.com

Thanks!



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Wild Birds Unlimited

8402 Old Sauk Road
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Return Service Requested

Visit Wild Birds Unlimited today!

Mon - Fri: 9-7
Sat: 9-6 Sun: 11-5
608-664-1414

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Next to Walgreens where Junction and Old Sauk Roads intersect.
Seniors Save 10% on non-sale items each Wednesday!

June Nature Happenings

- June 7: Full Moon, June 22: New Moon
- June 21: Summer solstice - the sun is at its highest point in the sky. It's the longest day of the year and the first day of summer.
- Hummingbirds are nesting; they may become scarce at your feeders until July.
- Tiger Swallowtail and Monarch Butterflies emerge.
- Young birds leave their nests; their parents are usually nearby. Do not disturb them.
- Bird migration is finished. Birds that are here now are summer residents that nest. As the month progresses, feeders can become busy with visiting parents and fledglings.
- House Wrens are nesting. • First fireflies of the year
- Fawns continue to be born mid-May through mid-June.
- Wood Duck and Mallard ducklings hatch and venture forth early in the month.
- Canada Geese begin molting.
- Young Woodchucks and raccoons emerge and venture out.

We're Your Experts in Bird Feeding.
Got a question? Ask our bird feeding specialists