



Wild Bird Center of Boulder

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Boulder Backyards

Your Backyard Bird Feeding and Bird Watching Experts

September 2008

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Wild Bird Center Saturday Walks:

Every Saturday year-round. From 7:30 am (promptly) to 9:45 am (approximately) Every last Saturday of the month we travel further afield than normal and return a little later.



Nature Photography by Wendy Marie Scott

Visit our store to see a gallery of Wendy's matted and framed prints and greeting cards for all occasions or visit Wendy's site at: <http://www.cloudphotographytld.com/>

Photo Credits

"Flight Management" by Wendy Stuart
"September Egret" by Wendy Stuart

Xcel Energy Bird Cams

Visit the bird cams at: <http://birdcam.xcelenergy.com>



Grandma Opal



chickadee



white-breasted nuthatch



pileated woodpecker



cardinal



tufted titmouse

My grandma Opal Frye died two weeks ago, just six weeks shy of her 104th birthday. She was an amazing person. The oldest of seven sisters - she was determined to outlive all of them. It was unthinkable to grandma that her sisters would not have their older sister to rely on. All of them lived into their 90's, but Grandma Opal was the last survivor.

One of grandma's passions was genealogy. For the last several decades, she spent a lot of time typing letters contacting relatives to learn more about her roots. All of her records she kept on her computer and the last I heard she had about 1800 people in her Family Tree. About ten years ago I was walking past her room and noticed that she had her computer all apart on the table. I, of course, had to ask her what she was doing, to which she replied 'my old CD-Rom drive was too slow so I'm installing a faster one'. 'Let me know if you need any help', I said as I kept walking. A half hour later I went by her room again and she was playing a game of freecell just to make sure her computer was working right. She was always busy with projects be it cooking, needlework, or genealogy.

Another one of grandma's passions was feeding and watching the birds. She lived most of the year at my Uncle and Aunt's house in Columbia, Missouri. My Uncle is an architect with an incred-

ible house build on a wooded hill. They took special care when building not to disturb the trees of their wooded lot so mature trees grow within feet of the house. The living room is at canopy height and it features glass corners so with very little imagination you feel like you're in a tree house. Some of grandma's favorite birds to watch were tufted titmice, pileated woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, and, of course, cardinals.



chickadee

My grandma also despised the squirrels. She spent long hours watching them, cursing them, and trying to defeat them. This was also one of her passions - albeit a negative one. However, I should add that she had great respect for their abilities and ingenuity. squirrel sign People who feed birds, like sports fans and golfers, have a unique opportunity to enjoy their favorite passion and interest while simultaneously grappling with intense negative emotions. This mix of emotions keeps it interesting and I think it kept grandma going just a little longer.

My grandma lived a long, productive, passionate, interesting, and loving life. It's hard to imagine that she won't always be around. I know the squirrels might not miss her, but I know the birds and I will.

-your grandson, Stephen Frye

Flower Seed Sale 50% Off

During September we are selling all our Botanical Interest Flower Seeds at half price. This is great way to stock up for next year's garden. You can either save them to plant in the spring or many varieties can be sown in the fall. We have all kinds of great wildlife attracting seeds available including ones for attracting hummingbirds. Come check out the selection.

Mention CODE WBC091008. Call (303) 442-1322 or bring in to redeem. Some restrictions may apply. Not valid in combination with other promotions. Expiration date: 10/9/08.

25% Off All Bird Seed Cakes!

The Wild Bird Center has this Wild Bird Center Seed Cakes for sale. The cakes come in a variety of seeds & seed mixes including patio, pecan, safflower, nyjer, peanut, & more. Present these cakes to the birds in any suet cage feeder

Mention CODE WBC091008. Call (303) 442-1322 or bring in to redeem. Some restrictions may apply. Not valid in combination with other promotions. Expiration date: 10/9/08.

We Love to Hear From You!

Stop on in, send an email, or, give us a call. We love to hear about your latest birding experiences and look forward to sharing ours. Thanks for your support! Happy Birding! -- Steve, Scott, Marlene, Bill and Wendy

Boulder Backyards

September 2008



Bird Food Preference Chart

Are you interested in fine tuning your feeding station? Check out the Wild Bird Center of Boulder's Bird Food Preference Chart telling the favorite seeds for most of our local birds. This chart also shows the most preferred feeders for the birds. What is the best way to attract mourning doves? Interested in other Charts & Tips. Find out when you look at the reference area of our Website.



Colorado Birding Trail

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has recently published a small booklet highlighting the best birding spots in Southeastern Colorado. This glossy booklet is well organized and informative. It's a must have for local birders and its FREE. The Division has sent us a case of these books to give away. Please stop by the Wild Bird Center to pick up your copy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year??

At the Wild Bird Center we have been ordering Christmas Christmas downy Cards and 09 Calendars recently. (Believe it or not, we were a little late in ordering.) We have some lovely cards and calendars on the way so don't forget us if you have a need. We should have most of them out by late September/early October (but not our Christmas decorations).



"flight management"

Upcoming Events



Raptor Watching: September 27

For our special last-Saturday-of-the-month bird walk in September we are going raptor watching. Join us for a moderately strenuous walk to the top of Bald Mountain to view migrating raptors. We will carpool from the store at our usual time--7:30am. We will return about

11:00. Call the Wild Bird Center at 303-442-1322 if you have any questions.

Annual Fall Sale: October 21-26

It's time for our Annual Fall Sale! Put these dates on your calendar now so you can save on feeders, baths, seeds, gifts, and more. Stock up for heavy winter feeding or start your holiday shopping.

Send Us Your Photos! A fun new feature at the store is a digital photo frame to show camera lenscustomer pictures. Please send us photos of your backyard wildlife and we will add them to our slide show. Along with your pictures please give us your name, date of the photo, and your general location. (We especially love to get pictures of birds on feeders) E-mails can be sent to WBCBoulderCO@aol.com.



Ask Steve



Q: Will all my goldfinches stick around for the winter?

A: We have been enjoying great numbers of American and lesser goldfinches in the last part of this summer. Will they stay for the winter? Some always do overwinter, but it's impossible to say if a lot will stay. Of course, I hope we have huge flocks overwintering. Whether we have few or many goldfinches this winter, if you keep feeding them this fall you are more likely to have a group(s) set up winter territory to include your property. Some winters I only have 4-6 goldfinches and other winters I have had 30-40. If you check with the Bird Food Preference Chart, you will find that the goldfinches prefer sunflower chips and nyjer seed. Also, a weedy patch or overgrown garden will help keep the goldfinches around. I'm not sure if this will have any effect on our goldfinch numbers, but the eastern plains of Colorado are loaded with wild sunflowers after the rains of early August. The goldfinches love these plants. It may increase our numbers because of the great influx of birds into our region feeding on these plants. Or, it may reduce our numbers because the birds are all out near Fort Morgan. It will be interesting to see what effect these plants have on our local bird numbers.

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE!
<http://shop.wbcboulder.com>

- Bird Seeds
- Hummingbird & Oriole Feeders
- Birdhouses
- Bird Feeders
- Baffles
- Accessoires
- Video
- Gift Cards



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