

Summer has fine-feathered fun

If you like watching birds in the winter, summer will bring a whole new world of entertainment to your yard.

All year long, birds bring color, sound and activity to a back yard or garden. However, feeding and caring for wild birds in the summer can give you many pleasures that you cannot experience during other times of the year. That's why so many people continue to feed the birds throughout the summer months.

"Summer is a most interesting time to attract birds to your back yard," said Chris Gardner, owner of the Rochester Hills Wild Birds Unlimited.

"Busy parents will stop by your bird feeder for a quick snack in between duties of raising their young. Plus, summer gives you the opportunity to observe fledglings as their parents bring them to the feeder to feed and teach them how to eat from the feeder."

To make a splash with the birds, just add water. By adding water to your back yard, you can dramatically increase the number of birds that will visit your yard and attract species that normally don't feed at your bird feeders, such as warblers, thrushes and flycatchers.

"Most birds come to water to drink or to bathe. And, every species of birds has its own unique behavior around water

that is fun to watch.

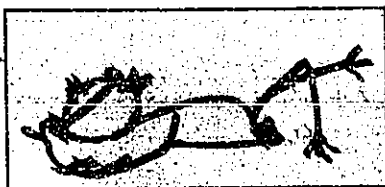
"There are many ways you can offer birds water. Water can be supplied in a birdbath, a small pool, a recirculating water-

fall, a shallow dish or through a dripper or mister.

"While vegetation holds water droplets from rain or morning dew, a more constant, reliable source of water is preferred in a wildlife habitat area and can lure unusual birds to your yard. In fact, the sound of water is so irresistible to birds that just a little water can bring your back yard to life."

Feeding fruit in the summer can also attract birds that normally won't come to your feeder. Use pieces of orange, apples and raisins to attract fruit-eating birds such as catbirds, bluebirds, robins and house finches. Put the fruit on a paper plate or use a feeder specially designed for offering fruit to birds.

Feeding and caring for wild birds is an activity your whole family will enjoy. Get your children involved through



MARY KLEMIC

Wild Birds

Unlimited-

ed's Kid-

Project

Days that

will help

you r

youngsters

learn

about how

fun it is to

provide

birds with

the four

basic elements of a wildlife habitat: food, cover, water and places to raise

young.

The Kid's Project Days are:

■ Build a Home for the Birds — 1 p.m. Saturday, July 27. The project fee for the one-hour program is \$10.

■ Build Your Own Bird Feeder — 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. The project fee for the one-hour program is \$10.

For more information, or to register your children for one or both of the Kid's Project Days, call Wild Birds Unlimited at (810) 852-5220. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Each child attending Kid's Project Days will receive a Wild Birds Unlimited Junior Naturalist Certificate.

Auction scheduled Sunday

Duke Gallery will have a public auction 10 a.m. Sunday, July 14, at 312 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, next to the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Inspection will take place 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday, July 11-12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 13, and 8:30-10 a.m. Sunday, July 14.

For information, call the Williams & Lipton Co. of Birmingham at (810) 648-7090.

The auction will feature a variety of

items including mission furniture; Rockwood, art and matte white pottery; Mexican silver and arts and crafts jewelry; contemporary "Spratling silver"; French art deco glass and chandeliers; and photographs by Edward Curtis.

Also, assorted light fixtures; "faville" glass vases and a bronze with gold dore patina enameled box from Tiffany Studios; textiles; arts and crafts rugs; and leaded glass windows.

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