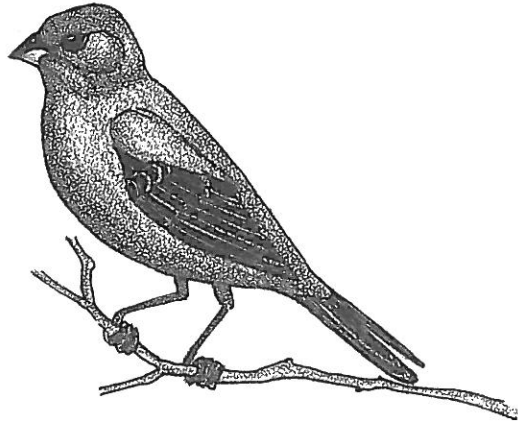


**BACKYARD BIRD NEWS  
WILDLIFE HABITAT  
MAY, 2017**



**INDIGO BUNTING**

The Indigo Bunting is a beautiful small, all blue bird, that is slightly larger than a Goldfinch. It winters in Mexico and Central America for the most part. In the upper Midwest, it will arrive about May 1 for it's summer nesting. Watch your Niger feeders in late April and early May, as the Buntings will use them for several days, until their natural food becomes available. They feed on many noxious insects and weed seeds, as well as fruit and occasionally from our backyard bird feeders. They are not only beautiful, but also very beneficial to man.

Upon it's arrival, the male's, set up a territory and begins to sing. When the female arrives on the scene, he will chase her for several days and finally accepts her as his mate. She is very secretive and is seldom seen by the average observer. The male is very open and sings loudly from an

**YOUR INFORMATION STORE**

**THIS IS THE MONTH THAT ALL BIRD WATCHERS AND FEEDERS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR**

**WE SELL ONLY RE-CLEANED NYJER**

**THE WARBLERS WILL BE FLASHING THROUGH IN THEIR BRIGHTEST COLORS**

**THE BRIGHT YELLOW NORTHERN GOLDFINCHES, WILL BE LEAVING AS THE DANDELIONS RIPE**

**TRY OUT OUR "GOLDEN SAFFLOWER SEED" SOFTER SHELL FOR SMALLER BIRDS**

**THE SHALLOW MOVING WATER, IN YOUR YARDS WILL BE ATTRACTING HORDES OF BIRDS**

exposed perch. He will continue to sing until late summer, even past the time of nesting.

The female does all the nest building and constructs a well made tight nest, usually in the fork of a sapling or small bush, from 5 to 15' above the ground. Their territory is normally located along wood edges, roadsides, streams and dry open woodlands. The well hidden nest often contains from 3 to 4 bluish white eggs, which will hatch in about 12 days. The female does all the incubation. After hatching, the male is thought, not to come near the nest for the first 8 to 10 days, but will bring food to the female, who will then feed the young. The chicks will leave the nest in 8 to 10 days and the male will then assume a major part in their feeding. During the first nesting, the male will

actually take over responsibility at this time, while the female begins the second nest.

If you are fortunate enough to have an Indigo Bunting come to your feeders, even for a few days, you will observe an aggressive little fellow, who can hold his own against most of the smaller birds in the yard. The real surprise is it's beauty, especially on a sunny day.

A few years ago, a near albino Indigo Bunting, stopped at our feeders for a few days. I took a number of pictures of the bird and was so nervous about the film, I took it to the processor, so I wouldn't screw up the film taking it out. He returned in a few moments and announced there was NO film in the camera. What a shock. Please don't do that with a valuable shot. Check the camera first.

### MAY RAMBLINGS

What an exciting month. The Orioles, Hummingbirds, Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings and myriad's of Warblers will be arriving or passing through our area. You should have had your feeders out for the Orioles by the 24th of April . They come in hungry, cold and tired, thus getting them to the feeders is an easy task. I find that a number of Warblers are also interested in the nectar, jelly and Oranges. Last year we had close to a dozen Cape May Warblers, mostly males, spend at least 10 days at these various feeders. Catbirds, Woodpeckers and Nuthatches are also drawn to these various food sources.

Warblers are the real stars of the month for the average "field" birder. These tiny feathered Butterflies are numerous and quick. More than 25 species will pass through our part of the country each spring. This time of the year they are at their brightest of colors. The fall Warblers are much more subdued in color and much

harder to distinguish. These small Song birds are usually vocal and it is a challenge to memorize and remember their songs from year to year. Watch the trees and shrubs in your yard, for an extra joy this May, as these little guys parade their beauty through your yard.

Do not overlook the idea of shallow moving water, in your yard this year. They can be as simple or sophisticated as you choose them to be. The bottom line is, moving water has 5 times the attraction as still water. We can even show you how to jazz up a bird bath, to do the same thing. Some of our units not only drip in the bird bath, but have a mist nozzle that can be fastened in a tree or shrub above the bath, to further draw in the little feathered jewels. Please come into the store that provided you with this newsletter and they can show you many ways to enhance the beauty and drawing power of your own yard.

The Northern Goldfinch should be storing up on food by now and will be following the ripening Dandelions on up to their feeding grounds in the upper parts of this continent. The Finch we retain in this area for the summer, are the one's that spent the winter far South of us.

We are now missing all the winter visitors, that we have been so used to seeing. It will be fall before we see them again. In the meantime, let's enjoy our bird feeding all summer long.

Good birding to you all.

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