

# RUBICON



## Wild Birds & More

Newsletter Winter 2010



### It's fun to be Blue

Many people think that all you have to do to attract bluebirds is to offer them housing. While this is certainly a key first step, there are several other ways you can help and enjoy the bluebirds even more. A real key is water—make it available because bluebirds bathe with enthusiasm and are readily attracted to water. Often a simple birdbath will do the job—check out the new ones we have in stock. A key is to position the bath so there is a perching site nearby for the birds to preen after their bath. **OFFER FOOD.** The key here is to think of what bluebirds want to eat. The answer, generally, is insects. The best way to start is to offer mealworms on a platform or in a bluebird feeder. We sell mealworms because they are the favorite of bluebirds and at 50.4% protein they are an excellent nutritional source. You can start feeding mealworms in a cup or pan—but because many birds like ‘em and will eat you out of house and home—most people graduate to a bluebird feeder. In a bluebird feeder, you have to go through an entrance hole to find the worms and few birds besides the bluebird will do so. You might spend weeks trying different presentations of worms before bluebirds learn to dine regularly, but the results are worth it as bluebirds are delightfully trainable—even to the point of responding to whistles and other calls when your feeder is refilled. As we mentioned earlier in this article, correct housing is a must. Make sure that they are clean and ready for the bluebirds. We have several different models that meet the North American Bluebird Society Specs and poles to mount them on. Come see us as bluebirds are looking for housing to winter as well as to nest in the spring.



**Bluebird House with mealworm feeder below**

**Check out our new website: [www.rubiconwildbirdsandmore.com](http://www.rubiconwildbirdsandmore.com)**  
**There are some links to good articles and copies of our newsletters.**  
**We will be announcing our seminars on the site also.**

*Put January 29 and 30, 2010 on your schedule as we are having a special event. We have asked Uncle Joe's Graphics to come out and we will be doing tiles and coasters printed with your favorite photos of birds, pets, or family. He will print them at the store on those dates. Should be great fun and something different!!*

**Purple Martin season is almost upon us. Now is the time to get your houses ready for the early scouts. They normally appear in early to mid February. The key is to get them up and ready and make sure that the sparrows stay out of them. The best pole systems are those that you can easily allow to come down by telescoping or by a crank system. You should check the rooms weekly to be sure Martins are coming and not other unwanted birds. We have houses and pole systems in stock. We will be having a seminar on Purple Martins and Hummingbirds on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Please mark you calendars and reserve your seating. Mark Klym is our speaker.**



**The Gold Finches are here. These pictures are at our shop. Get your feeders out and enjoy. Make sure that your thistle is fresh and you will enjoy many cool hours of colorful birds. We have different size Thistle feeders from socks to 36" long feeders. We also carry Thistle seed which the finches love.**



**‘Tis the season to be sure you have plenty of food and water for your birds. The natural food in the wildlife and woods has been pretty much depleted and the birds will be depending on us to feed them, give them water, and keep them healthy. There are several types of seed that help keep the birds warm in the winter. Suet and seed cakes are very popular this time of the year as well as all good seed mixes. You can read on our website about all the seeds and what birds will eat what seed. We carry a good selection of mixes as well as bulk seed for those of you that wish to mix your own. The other important item is water. Make sure you keep water in your birdbath during the day when the birds are there feeding and drained during heavy freezes or a heater to keep your birdbath from freezing and cracking.**

**February is National Bird Feeding month. We will be offering several specials so watch our website or come in see us for the special offers. We really want to keep the bird population healthy during the cold winter months!!**



**Check out our large selection of bird baths!!**

**Next Newsletter will be in the spring. Until then, great birding!!**