

Backyard Tweets.....

Fall is in the air and that means shorter days, cooler mornings and birds on the move. You can expect changes in what you'll be seeing at your feeders as well.

The **ruby-throated hummingbirds** have or are about to migrate to Central and South America. It's important to keep your hummingbird feeders out with fresh nectar in them at least 2 weeks after your last sighting of a hummer at your feeder. They need to fill up on all the energy they can consume to make that long flight.

The male **American Goldfinch** molts in the early part of the fall, as he sheds his bright yellow coloring and black cap. He'll then resemble his female counterpart with a grayish brown body accented by black wings with white wing bars.



Wintering Goldfinch



Female & Male Grosbeak

You may be lucky enough to spot some species of birds such as **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and **Indigo Buntings** (electric blue when the sun hits the feathers of the male) at your feeder as they make an occasional visit to a well-stocked feeder to get nourishment during their migration south. Many varieties of ducks and other waterfowl also come to North Carolina to spend the winter. The duck-like **American Coot** is one of our favorite with its slate-colored plumage and distinct white bill.

Feeder activity is transitional at this time of the year. You may experience a slow-down of seed consumption as birds follow their instincts to feast on fall delectable's ripe berries, nuts and dried flower seed heads. Don't worry, they'll be back in force as soon as the trees and bushes are picked clean. Note. Our **Birds Gone Wild** and 'no mess' **Patio** seed mixes contains seed blends that appeal to every feeder bird now in our area, including the grosbeaks and indigo buntings.

New at Outdoor Bird Company:

As you work outside to clean up your fading summer plants and shedding leaves, think about adding one of our lovely garden stakes to give color and interest to your landscape. We have a new line of folk art made in the USA whimsical tin birds and signs for indoor or outdoor décor. Our quality made in America hand-tuned wind chimes will bring peaceful sounds to your yard as they resonate in the fall breezes. We're also stocking unique 2012 Charlie Harper calendars that make great gifts – for yourself or for others.

Last but not least, **Outdoor Bird Co. of Asheville has a new location and new hours.** We're now at **946 Merrimon Avenue,** just two doors down from Fresh Market and are open **Sundays from 12 noon to 4:00.** Our Raleigh and Durham locations are still open on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. *Come check us out!*