



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 06/08/09

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Young Bird Fledglings Experience Life Away from the Nest

Carmel, Indiana – Families opting for a “staycation” this summer won’t have to travel any farther than their backyards for fun and entertainment. Across the country, millions of wild bird parents are introducing their young fledglings to a whole new world of experiences.

“People who only feed the birds during the winter will miss out on [summer bird feeding](#) fun and fascinating wild bird ‘family life’ activities,” explained John Schaust, Chief Naturalist at Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop. “By mid-summer, fledglings will begin leaving the nest and are being fed and taught to eat from feeders by their parents; a fascinating interaction to observe.”

The health and growth rate of a fledgling is determined by the amount of nutritional foods it consumes, and high-protein foods are especially important until a bird is full grown. Fledglings require a lot of protein to help them grow strong, properly-colored feathers and strong, healthy bones.

Fledgling Facts

- Fledglings are about the same size as adults, but often their plumage color is muted and similar to adult females.
- In some species, fledglings' tails are shorter than the adults', because the tail feathers are still growing.
- You can recognize [Downy and other woodpecker](#) fledglings by their fresh and dapper plumage, whereas that of the adults is worn and dusky from their repeated trips in and out of the nest hole.
- [Chickadee](#) fledglings follow their parents to the bird feeder and perch nearby as the parents go to get food. They either wait, looking like they are waiting to be served, or they call incessantly "teeship teeship" and flutter their wings until fed.
- After one to three weeks, the parents stop feeding their fledglings and may even peck at them if they persist in begging for food to get them to feed themselves.

“It’s a perfect time to see a lot of interesting bird activity,” said Schaust. “In some instances, bird family behaviors resemble human family behaviors.”

Wild Birds Unlimited is the original and largest franchise system of backyard bird feeding and nature specialty stores with more than 275 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in bringing people and nature together with bird feeding and nature products, expert advice and educational events. Visit our Web site to learn about franchise opportunities and shop online at www.wbu.com.

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