



NEWS RELEASE

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Getting Wet and Wild (Birds) This Summer

Water is the center of many fun summer activities. Other than children on summer vacation, it's possible that no one enjoys splashing around in water more than wild birds. Many people around the country are allowing birds to indulge in their watery desires by making sources available in their backyards.

["Water is crucial to birds](#), sometimes more than food," said John Schaust, Chief Naturalist at Wild Birds Unlimited. "Water is vitally important when it's extremely hot because birds do not sweat and must remove excess body heat through their respiratory system. So, when temperatures rise, birds respiration rate increases, sometimes to the point that they can be seen panting like a dog. This activity dehydrates birds," added Schaust.

A reliable source of water allows birds to bathe regularly, a critical part of feather maintenance and staying in top-flight condition. However, offering water does not have to be difficult or expensive.

Attracting our feathered friends with a bird bath is a popular choice of many bird enthusiasts. These water sources are normally elevated to protect birds from natural predators. Bird baths with sloped sides permit visitors to move from shallow to deeper water, and they accommodate different sized birds that need to drink or bathe.

Some people use [mist](#)ers to provide birds with water. When located near foliage, misters provide birds with the opportunity to "leaf bathe." Birds exhibiting this behavior will flutter against wet plants or leaves to release droplets onto their feathers.

Open sources of water, such as bird baths, can cause a potential mosquito problem. For this reason, many people use a [Water Wiggler](#), an agitator that creates ripples in water (mosquitoes cannot/do not lay eggs in moving water). Also, water in motion is far more attractive to birds than a stagnant pond.

"Water is essential to their survival," said Schaust, "and many people see that necessity as an opportunity to be entertained by the birds."

Wild Birds Unlimited is part of 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, and shop online at www.wbu.com

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