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A rare Painted Bunting spotted in Maryland - Read more on Page 3.

A Message from our Director

Dear Backyard Bird Haven Community,

As we continue our mission of fostering bird-friendly spaces and educating others on the importance of conservation, we are thrilled to share exciting updates, upcoming events, and actionable insights in this edition of our newsletter. Whether you're a backyard birder, a conservationist, or simply a nature enthusiast, your involvement makes a difference.

We are especially excited to announce the official launch of our Instagram, Facebook, and website! These platforms will help us reach more bird lovers, share expert advice, and create a stronger community for backyard birdwatchers.

This past few months have been an incredible journey of growth and discovery. We've expanded our reach, connected with fellow bird enthusiasts, and taken steps to make bird conservation more accessible.

Our efforts to promote native planting, habitat creation, and responsible bird feeding have already made a significant impact, but we are just getting started.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue building a network of bird-friendly backyards, educate more individuals on the joys of birdwatching, and strengthen our advocacy for bird conservation policies. Every small action we take contributes to a bigger movement—one that will ensure birds thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey to create safer havens for our feathered friends!

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Carpenter
Director

A Snapshot of the Month

Quote of the Month:
"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." – Albert Einstein

Milestone Achievement:
Our team just installed our 500th certified bird-friendly backyard—thank you for being part of this journey!

Community Engagement:
We partnered with The Rotary Club to plant 200+ native trees in urban spaces—ensuring more birds have safe nesting areas!



(Becky Cahill and nephew (Right) on the search, Aberdeen, MD
September 25)



Backyard Bird Haven Grows Online Presence!

We're thrilled to announce the official launch of our Instagram, Facebook, and website! Now, you can connect with us, learn from experts, and share your birdwatching experiences with a broader community.

What You Can Expect:

- **Instagram** (@backyardbirdhaven) – Daily tips, stunning bird photography, and interactive stories.
- **Facebook** (Backyard Bird Haven) – Join discussions, participate in live Q&As, and share your backyard birding moments.
- **Website** (www.backyardbirdhaven.org) – Explore resources, sign up for webinars, and access our certified bird-friendly backyard program.

With our new digital platforms, we hope to make it easier than ever for bird lovers to find reliable information, engage in meaningful discussions, and take action to support bird conservation. Whether you are a seasoned birder or just starting, our goal is to provide valuable content that helps you create a thriving bird habitat in your own backyard. Join us online and be part of our growing community!

Tips & Tricks

Bird-Friendly Gardening

Choose the Right Plants: Incorporate native flowers and shrubs that provide food and shelter year-round.

Keep a Water Source Available: A birdbath or small pond helps birds stay hydrated and clean.

Say No to Pesticides: Chemical-free gardens support insects, which are a critical food source for many bird species.

Create Layers: Plant trees, shrubs, and ground cover to offer nesting and hiding spots.

Take Action: Start small! Even a single native plant can attract more birds to your yard.

In Focus

Birdwatching Trends

Migration Watch: Spring migration is in full swing! Keep an eye out for warblers, orioles, and hummingbirds returning to the region.

Bird Photography Tips: Get the perfect shot by using soft morning light, staying patient, and blending into your surroundings.

Join Our Backyard Bird Challenge! Share your best backyard bird moments with #BackyardBirdHaven and enter to win a free bird feeder!



Community Spotlight: Backyard Heroes

This Month's Featured

Backyard: A huge shoutout to Kathy Miller for transforming her backyard into a thriving bird habitat!

With native plants, multiple feeders, and a fresh water source, their space is a perfect example of how small efforts lead to big conservation wins. Want to be featured? Tag us using **#BackyardBirdHaven!**



Upcoming Event

If you've had a unique sighting, share it with us! Upcoming Event: Join us for a free webinar on "Designing the Ultimate Bird-Friendly Garden" with special guest Linda Castner. Reserve your spot here: [Link](#)



Rare Sighting Alert!

A Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) was recently spotted in Maryland (pictured above)! This vibrant, rainbow-colored songbird is typically found in the Southeast U.S. but occasionally makes surprise appearances in the Mid-Atlantic, drawing excitement from birdwatchers.

These rare visitors favor open woodlands, brushy areas, and backyard feeders stocked with millet or sunflower seeds. Their striking blue heads, green backs, and bright red underbellies make them an unmistakable sight, often stirring excitement in birding communities when spotted this far north.

For the best chance to see one, create a quiet observation area near dense native vegetation, as Painted Buntings seek shelter while foraging. Reports suggest this sighting occurred near Aberdeen, making it a great destination for bird enthusiasts. If you spot a rare bird in your area, share your sighting with us using **#BackyardBirdHaven!**



Goals for a Bird-Friendly Future

At Backyard Bird Haven, we envision a world where every backyard can be a thriving habitat for birds. Our goals include expanding our network of certified bird-friendly spaces, increasing awareness about the importance of native planting, and encouraging sustainable practices that benefit both birds and the environment.

Through education, community engagement, and conservation efforts, we aim to inspire bird lovers to take action—one backyard at a time. Together, we can create a future where birds not only survive but thrive.



Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram ([@backyardbirdhaven](#)), Facebook ([Backyard Bird Haven](#)), and visit [backyardbirdhaven.org](#) for bird-friendly tips, updates, and resources!

Thank you for reading!