

Our Lone Star Native

Every single Golden-cheeked Warbler was born in Texas. In fact, central Texas is their exclusive breeding ground. As you can see in the maze on the previous page, their breeding area is quite small, specific to the juniper and oak woodlands of central Texas.



Golden-cheeked Warbler

These birds are on the endangered species list and at risk for losing habitat. Therefore the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service created the 40,000 acre Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.

Golden-cheeked Warblers feed heavily on caterpillars, beetles, ants, and flies, as well as spiders. Because of that, they don't come to feeders. But they are special to us because out of the nearly 360 bird species that breed in Texas, the Golden-cheeked Warbler is the only one that nests here exclusively.

Basics of Transition

Join John Schaust and Brian Cunningham as they discuss the nutritional needs of birds molting and migrating. This episode will go live on September 7th.



Nature Centered is a podcast from **Wild Birds Unlimited** about feeding the birds and enjoying nature right in your own backyard. Relax, enjoy the birds, and stay Nature Centered.

austinsouth.wbu.com/nature-centered-onewbu



September 2023

Heading South



Orchard Oriole

**Do you have orioles
in your yard?**



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Little Flyers & the Little Flyers Passport

This is our sixth issue of *Little Flyers*, a zine designed for kids and their families. We provide fun information and activities on a monthly basis tailored to our seasonal focus.

Little Flyers is a unique program at the **Wild Birds Unlimited** South Austin located at 3535 Bee Caves Road in Westlake Hills. Come visit us in person or online at austinsouth.wbu.com for upcoming events, birding news, feeders, bird seed, nesting boxes, and more.

The *Little Flyers* zine is created and edited by Ginny Lindzey. If you are enjoying *Little Flyers*, let us know! You can contact us at wbuaustinsouth@gmail.com.

Upcoming Event: Exploring eBird

Come explore the wonderful world of **eBird** with retired educator Ginny Lindzey. Join the ranks of citizen scientists, whether you are just watching birds at your feeders or venturing to birding hotspots. Learn how to use both the **eBird** mobile app as well as the broader features offered on the full website at <https://ebird.org>.

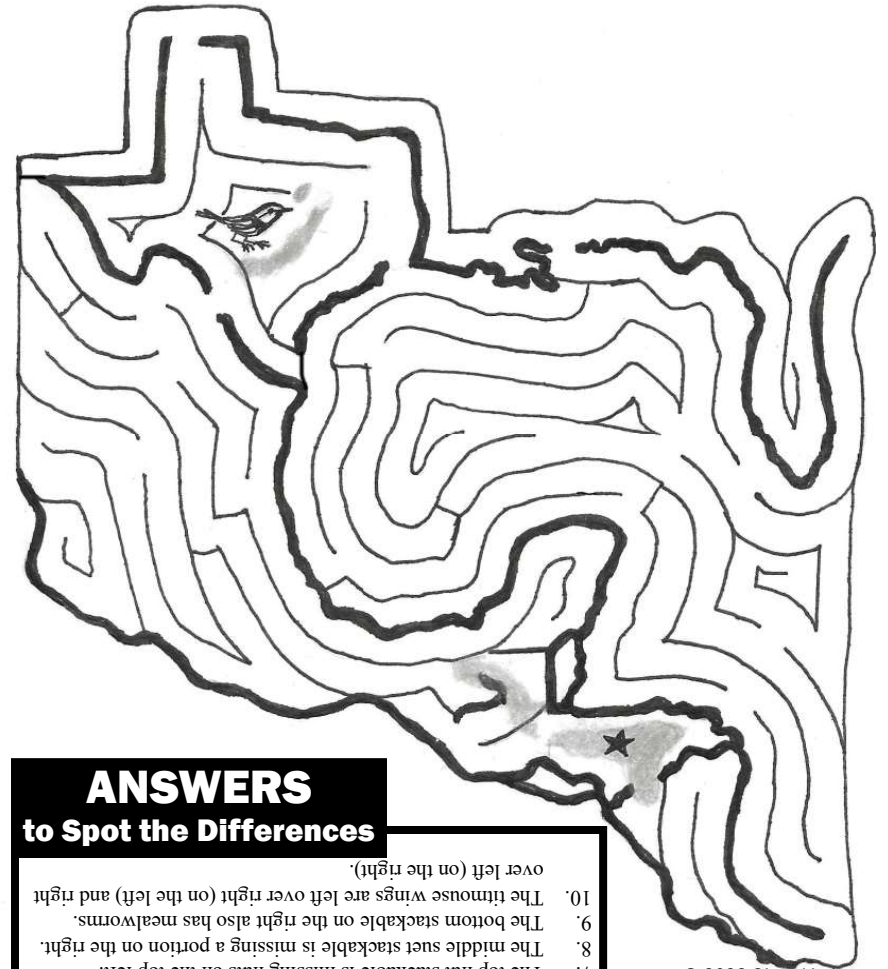
Date: Saturday, September 30th

Time: 2 PM

Place: Wild Birds Unlimited at 3535 Bee Caves Road

Time to Fly South!

This little Golden-cheeked Warbler only breeds in central Texas during the spring and summer. But now it's time for it to fly south to Central America. Help this special little song bird find its winter habitat (where the star is).



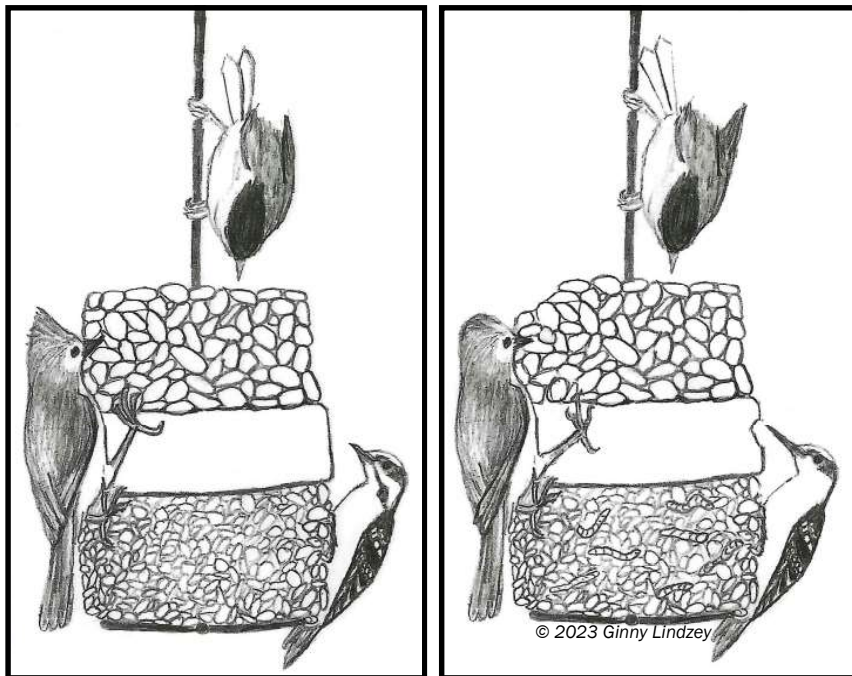
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ANSWERS to Spot the Differences

1. The right foot of the timonose (on the left) has moved.
2. The tail of the chickadee (top center) has moved.
3. The beak on the woodpecker (on the right) is longer.
4. The beak on the timonose has changed shape.
5. The wing of the chickadee has moved.
6. The face stripe on the woodpecker is missing.
7. The top nut stackable is missing nuts on the top left.
8. The middle suet stackable is missing a portion on the right.
9. The bottom stackable on the right also has mealworms.
10. The timonose wings are left over right (on the left) and right over left (on the right).

Spot the Differences

These birds have gathered on a Flying Start feeder to dine on the variety of stackables offered. At first glance these two pictures look identical, but there are actually 10 differences between the two. Can you spot those differences?



Websites about Migration

BirdCast Migration Dashboard

<https://dashboard.birdcast.info>

Type in your county and be amazed to see the number of birds that flew across on the previous night!

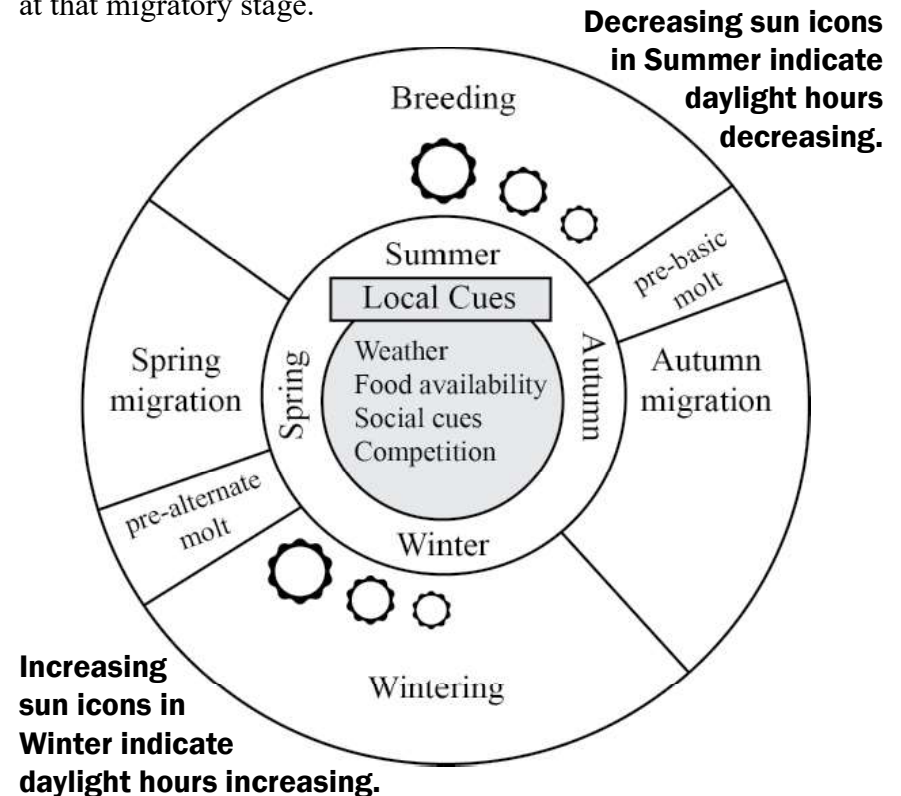
eBird Status & Trends

<https://science.ebird.org/en/status-and-trends>

Watch the flow of migration throughout the year for a specified species on the weekly animated Abundance maps!

How do birds know it's time?

Migration is one of the wonderful mysteries of the bird world that scientists enjoy studying. Below is a diagram of the annual cycle of a typical migratory bird. The flow goes clockwise around the image. The size of each section is relative to the time birds spend at that migratory stage.



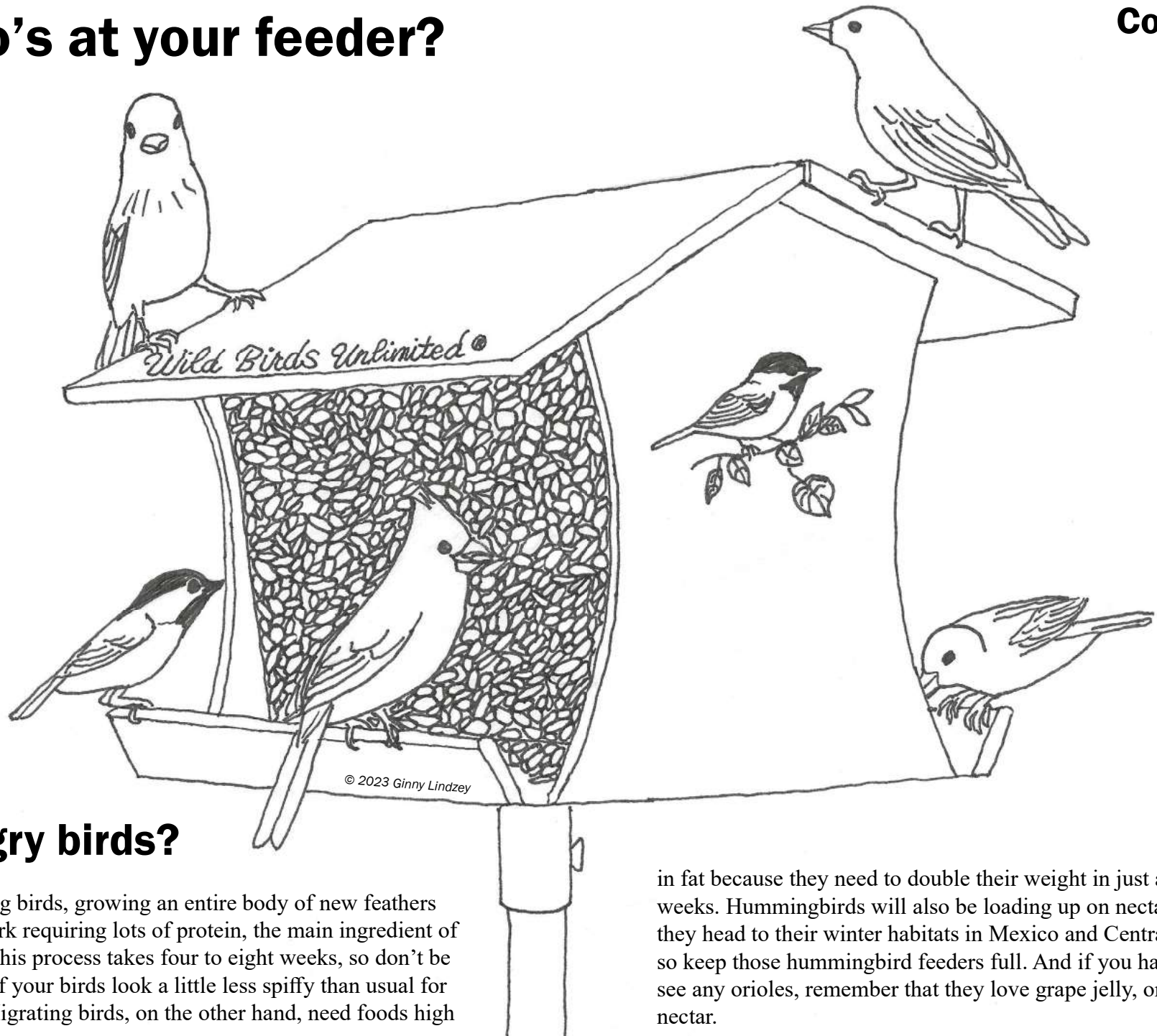
The length of daylight (more hours or fewer hours of light) tells birds when to be on the move. Local cues like food availability and weather also contribute to their movements, including when they get blown off course!

If you are lucky enough to have migrating orioles or warblers stop in your yard on their way south, make sure your feeders are full and your water is fresh!

The above illustration is based on Tsvey, 2016, with simplifications.

Who's at your feeder?

Color me!



Hungry birds?

For molting birds, growing an entire body of new feathers is hard work requiring lots of protein, the main ingredient of feathers. This process takes four to eight weeks, so don't be surprised if your birds look a little less spiffy than usual for a while. Migrating birds, on the other hand, need foods high

in fat because they need to double their weight in just a couple of weeks. Hummingbirds will also be loading up on nectar before they head to their winter habitats in Mexico and Central America, so keep those hummingbird feeders full. And if you happen to see any orioles, remember that they love grape jelly, oranges, and nectar.