
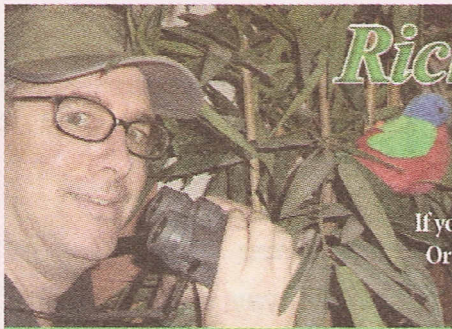


Rich's Backyard Birds

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If you have a question for the Bird Man, his email is: Rich@RichsBackyardBirds.com

Or stop by the store in the FishHawk Publix strip center at 5670 FishHawk Crossing Blvd.

Or call 813-657-BIRD(2473) ... Or try telepathy (results vary)

Rich Crete is the owner of Rich's Backyard Birds and has been a birder for over 30 years.



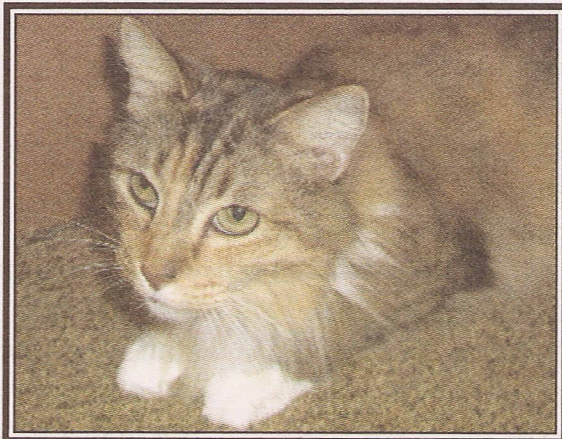
Hey Bird Man! For my school project I'm writing about conservation. What's the best thing we can do to help save birds?

M.B. Bloomingdale West

Great idea, Miss M. I know it's hard to help save the rain forests or stop suburban sprawl from eliminating habitat but I can tell you something you can do in your own home, neighborhood and school that can make a huge impact. Educate people about pet cats! That's right.

Here's an amazing statistic for you: domestic cats kill literally millions of songbirds every year in the U.S. alone. (Some research has this number as high as 15 million) The frustrating thing about that is, it is avoidable. In general our pets in this country are far from under fed. That means they are not killing the birds for food. They are doing it for sport. We can prevent these sport killings by simply keeping our pet cats indoors.

For generations, our culture has considered cats indoor/outdoor pets. It's time to get with the program. It's 2012,



folks! Knowledge is wasted if we don't adapt. We know cats also live substantially longer if they live strictly indoors. We all want that, right?

"Hey Bird Brain!" Ahem,

that's Bird Man. "Whatever. If I try to keep my cat indoors it will never give me a moment of peace." I know cats can react that way so here's what I propose. If you already have an indoor/outdoor cat, put a bell on its collar so it is harder for it to sneak up on the birds. It will still kill some, but certainly fewer. Every time you get a kitten from this day forward, start it off as an indoor only cat. If they never go out, they won't bug you. They are perfectly happy, have a tendency to be more affectionate and as stated before will be much healthier so they live longer!

When you were in my store, Miss M. you met my indoor store resident cat, Audubon. Her main purpose is to show everyone how friendly and content indoor cats can be! She never even tries to bolt outside because she knows she has it great in here. She's super happy being inside and your cats can be too.

Thanks for helping to spread the word and making a difference, Miss M! You rock!