



Mark your Calendar

News
from the bird store

Night Owl Christmas

Fri., Dec. 5th, 2025
6:30 - 9:00pm



Join us for our Annual Night Owl Christmas Event!

We'll have music, food, and holiday cheer galore!

Lori Brooks will once again be here playing your favorite music.

Relax, shop, and enjoy an evening with us. It's our holiday party for you! We couldn't have done it without you. Have a Very Merry Evening and hope to see you here!



The Bird Store will be Open 7 Days a Week from Thanksgiving till Christmas for your Shopping Convenience.

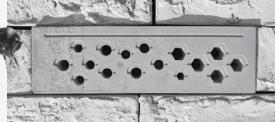
Beginning the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas the Bird Store Hours are:

Monday–Saturday 10am–6pm • Sunday 11am–5pm

Bee Bricks: What Are They?

With bee populations declining rapidly due to pollution, disease, climate change, and pesticides, a creative bricklayer from Brighton, UK has introduced a simple way to help: **Bee Bricks**. Created by an eco-conscious couple, Bee Bricks look a lot like regular bricks, but with a twist - the sides are punctuated with holes of various sizes where solitary bees can rest and nest.

Not all bees live in hives. Solitary bees - like mason bees and leafcutter bees - are excellent pollinators, and as the name suggests, they live independently. They'll lay their eggs in a small cavity, seal it with mud and chewed-up vegetation, and the next spring, new bees emerge to continue the cycle. What could be easier than placing a few bricks in your garden or incorporating them into your construction projects?



Bee Bricks can replace standard bricks or blocks in building projects to create habitat, or they can serve as standalone bee houses in your garden or wild patch. Each cavity is designed with a solid back to provide a safe nesting spot for these non-aggressive pollinators. If having bees on your house worries you, no problem - Bee Bricks can also be stacked in insect hotels or tucked into your garden instead.



For best results, place Bee Bricks in a warm, sunny spot on a south-facing wall, at least one meter off the ground, with no vegetation blocking the holes. And remember, bees are more likely to use the bricks if food is nearby. Plant pollinator-friendly flowers like lavender, honeysuckle, black-eyed Susan, nasturtium, marigold, foxglove, mint, or pansies. Even a small patch of wildflowers can make a big difference and turn your garden into a buzzing oasis.

Want to make your yard a bee-friendly hotspot? Stop in and we'll fill you in on the buzz!



Reminders:



Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 27th
The Bird Store is Closed

The Bird Store
Holiday Hours
(Thanksgiving - Christmas)
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 11-5

Sturbridge
Christmas Stroll
Wednesday Dec. 3rd -
Sunday Dec. 7th
Shop Local



Night Owl Christmas
Friday Dec. 5th
6:30 – 9:00pm

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24th
The Bird Store closes early



Christmas Day
Dec. 25th
The Bird Store is Closed



New Year's Day
Jan. 1st
The Bird Store is Closed

Jan. 2nd, 2026
The Bird Store is back
to Standard Hours
Closed on Sundays

Wishing you a joyous
Holiday Season
Dezeree, Benjamin,
Ed, Sam & Marshmallow

Christmas Gift ideas for the nature lover in your life



Holiday Decor
Cheerful holiday decorations for your home.



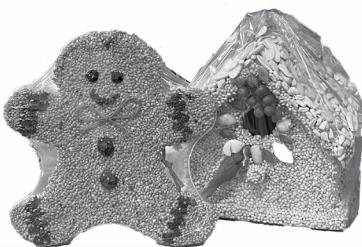
Bird Collective Hats, T-Shirts, Stickers, Patches, Mugs & More with a purpose. Bird Collective is passionate about birds and committed to preserving their populations for future generations.



Shimmer Lanterns
Who can resist these gorgeous lanterns.



Shimmer Lanterns
Who can resist these gorgeous lanterns.



Mr Bird Festive Seed Wreaths, Houses, and Ornaments for the birds.



Holiday Decor Cheerful holiday decorations for your home.

The Wise Way to Welcome Owls to Your Yard

Now is the perfect time to add an owl box to your yard! Owls can take some time to locate and begin using a new box, so getting your box up early gives them time to settle in. The ideal height depends on the type of owl you're hoping to attract and your surroundings, but in general, aim for 12 to 18 feet high - or even higher for some species.

Orientation matters, too. Positioning your box to face east or southeast gives owls a cozy, sunlit spot in the morning without exposing

them to harsh afternoon rays. Try to avoid windy locations, and be sure the entrance hole isn't too exposed. The best sites offer a balance of visibility, shelter, and access to food and water - everything an owl family needs to feel right at home.

Have questions? We're happy to share a little of our "owl-ledge," so stop by the store and let's give your yard a hoot-worthy upgrade!



Bird Spotlight

Northern SAW-WHET OWL

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is a year-round resident in our area. It's a tiny owl with a catlike face, an oversized head, and bright yellow eyes - cute and full of attitude, though perhaps less so if you're a mouse or other small mammal. Saw-whets are fierce, silent hunters, highly nocturnal, and seldom seen. Their high-pitched too-too-too call is a common evening sound in evergreen mountain forests from January through May. During the day, these small, hard-to-find owls roost quietly in dense conifers. Your best chance of spotting one is to watch small songbirds - if they discover a roosting saw-whet, they'll often create a ruckus, calling and diving at the owl until it moves on.

Northern Saw-whets seem to prefer mature forests with an open understory for foraging, deciduous trees for nesting, dense conifers for roosting, and riverside habitats nearby. However, they can nest in a wide range of wooded environments, including coniferous swamps, disturbed deciduous woods, savannahs, riverside forests, and shrub-steppe habitats.

Saw-whets are usually monogamous, though when prey is abundant, males may have more than one mate. Males begin their too-too-too calls as early as late January, before females arrive, and continue until May. When a female responds, she uses a high-pitched tssst call or a series of whistles. The male then circles her about 20 times before landing beside her and presenting a prey item. Some year-round resident males or pairs likely maintain territories throughout the year, though each year they typically pair with new mates.

Females generally select the nest site, though males sometimes assist by perching in potential locations while calling. They nest in previously excavated holes, often made by Northern Flickers or Pileated Woodpeckers in dead snags, and they will also use nest boxes.

Northern Saw-whet Owls are common and widespread, but their secretive lifestyle makes it difficult to track population trends through standardized surveys such as the North American Breeding Bird Survey or the Christmas Bird Count.



Interesting Saw-whet Owl Facts

The female Northern Saw-whet Owl does all of the incubation and brooding, while the male does the hunting. When the youngest nestling is about 18 days old, the female leaves the nest to roost elsewhere. The male continues bringing food, which the older nestlings may help feed to their younger siblings.

The oldest Northern Saw-whet Owl on record was at least 9 years, 5 months old when it was captured and released by a Minnesota bird bander in 2007. It was originally banded in Ontario in 1999.

traps right here at The Bird Store and More to help you protect both your car and your furry neighbors.



When managing unwanted visitors, we also encourage avoiding poisons. While they may seem like an easy fix, rodenticides can cause serious harm to the broader ecosystem. Birds of prey, pets, and other wildlife can be affected when they eat poisoned rodents, often leading to illness or death. Safer, more responsible options like deterrents or humane traps keep your space protected while ensuring the natural balance - and the birds we all love - stay safe and healthy.

Did You Know?

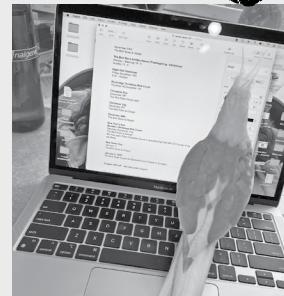
Mice have a sweet tooth for soy wiring! Many modern vehicles now use soy-based wiring, a more eco-friendly and cost-effective alternative to petroleum-based coatings. This material, derived from soybeans, is flexible, durable, and biodegradable - making it a win for the environment.

Automakers began introducing soy-based wiring in the early 2000s to reduce petroleum use and promote sustainability. However, this innovation came with an unexpected drawback: soy insulation can be especially appealing to rodents such as mice, rats, squirrels, and even rabbits. For them, it's not just wiring - it's a snack.

That said, soy-based materials aren't the only reason rodents find vehicles attractive. Mice have been chewing on wiring for decades. The warmth of the engine, tight spaces, and the need to keep their teeth filed down all make vehicles an inviting habitat, regardless of wiring type.

Rodents can cause costly damage, so it's worth taking preventive steps. Avoid storing bird seed in your car, and consider traps or deterrents to keep curious critters out. We carry **Mouse Magic** and **humane catch-and-release**

Marshmallows Musings



Hello, feathered friends and humans alike! It's me, **Marshmallow**, here to share some owl-tastic science about my wise, wide-eyed pals and the way they "see" the world... with their ears!

Some owls, like Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech Owls, have ears pretty much like mine - level on both sides of their heads. But the real ear geniuses, like Barn Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and Great Gray Owls, have one ear higher than the other. Why? Because these owls rely on sound to hunt, and their ear placement is basically a built-in GPS for mice!

Here's the magic: their offset ears compare timing and loudness of sounds from each side. The right ear picks up sounds from above, the left from below. By crunching the tiny differences in timing and volume - faster than you can say "tweet tweet" - their brains create an auditory map. This lets them pinpoint prey with astounding precision... often within just two or three degrees. Basically, it's like advanced math, but feathered and nocturnal. My owl friends are doing Bayesian inference while I'm just trying to remember where I left my sunflower seeds!

So remember: next time you hear a too-too-too in the night, that's an owl turning sound into science. And if you want a side of cuteness with your facts, come visit me at the *Night Owl Christmas Party* - I promise I'm fluffier than any owl brain could ever calculate.

Love (and a little chirp),
Marshmallow the Cockatiel

20% off any one item with this coupon.

(Excludes Optics)

Discount cannot be combined with any other discount offer, seed saver, or squirrel card reward points. One per customer please.

 **Valid through 12/24/2025**



Because You Asked

Q: Why Do Squirrels Like Lilac Bushes?



A: Squirrels have a well-earned reputation for being both clever and hungry - and lilac buds are one of their favorite treats. Rich in nutrients and easy to access, these tender buds often disappear as spring arrives, long before other plants are producing fruits or seeds. Unlike deer or rabbits, squirrels tend to eat buds cleanly, leaving little evidence behind - so if your lilacs are suddenly missing blooms, you can safely blame these furry gardeners.

While nuts, seeds, fruits, and vegetables make up most of a squirrel's diet, they're opportunistic eaters and will happily sample whatever else is available. It's important to note that squirrels primarily feed on lilac buds when other food sources may be scarce. They are most likely to target lilac buds during early spring when new growth is emerging and other plants have yet to produce fruits or seeds. Grey squirrels may also strip bark from the wood to line their dreys.

If you'd like to protect your lilac buds and bark, here are some simple solutions: wrap the base of the bushes with hardware cloth or chicken wire, or apply a taste deterrent like hot-pepper spray to keep curious squirrels away. With a few precautions, your lilacs - and your blooms - can thrive without turning into a squirrel snack bar.



A Note from Dezeree

Taking over The Bird Store and More has been an absolute delight, and it's all thanks to you, our amazing customers. Your loyalty, enthusiasm, and love for feathered (and occasionally furry) friends have made this first year of ownership unforgettable. You are what makes this store so special!

Here's to another year of birds, blooms, and maybe even a little mischief along the way - after all, what's life without those darn squirrels?! —*Dezeree*



Bird Store Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6 • Sunday 11-5
Open 7 Days Thanksgiving till Christmas

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 736, Fiskdale, MA 01518

Phone: (508) 347-BIRD

thebirdstoreandmore.com

Sturbridge, MA 01566

Route 20, Cedar Street (intersections)

4 Cedar Street,

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