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from the bird store



## FALL Seed Sale

### It's That Time of Year Again!

The Seed Saver Cards will be on sale during the month of **October**.

 Please use up balances on your 2021 card by the end of September.

From **October 1st through the 31st** you will be able to purchase a **SEED SAVER CARD** in any denomination that you choose. The **SEED SAVER CARD** will be good for all SEED purchases throughout the year regardless of the bag size. All seed purchased with the **SEED SAVER CARD** will receive **15% off** up to the value of your card. The **SEED SAVER CARD** will not be valid with any other offers, promotions, discounts, or bucks.

### What the seed card does for you:

- You don't have to store your seed; it will be fresh when you want it.
- You are not limited to certain size bags – Some of you like your seed in smaller bags and had not participated in the sale in the past.
- All seed is available for purchase on your seed card, not just specific types.
- You can purchase it when you need it, and don't have to buy large quantities.



### The rules:

- You must purchase your card between **October 1st -31st**. This is the only time that a **SEED SAVER CARD** will be available for purchase. The **SEED SAVER CARDS** will be available for use the same day as purchased.
- You will have to purchase your card here. We do not have the cards available on our web store.
- You must present your card prior to your purchase so that we can apply your discount.
- The **SEED SAVER CARD** cannot be combined with any other offers, promotions, discounts or bucks and will not earn bucks.
- The **SEED SAVER CARD** can be used on any size bag of seed.
- The **SEED SAVER CARD** gives you a discounted price off of the regular retail price. If prices go up or down the discount will be off of that price.
- If you are planning to pick up a large number of bags please check with us first to make sure they are available.



## Why are the Woodpeckers drinking from the Hummingbird Feeders?



Woodpeckers are attracted to hummingbird feeders because the sweet nectar also attracts the ants and insects that the woodpeckers enjoy eating. That said the main reason they like the nectar is because they also like the sweet tasting

liquid, and their long tongues can easily reach into the hummingbird feeder. This behavior also seems to occur more when we have had an unusually dry summer. The moisture content of a tree is usually lower in the summer.

# Why Birds Sunbathe



Have you ever seen a bird flat on the ground or on its side with its head turned up exposing its upper parts and head to the sun. It may look like the bird is ill but that is not the case. Birds sunbathe for a number of reasons including warming up after a cold night, production of vitamin D, and raising body temperature to get rid of parasites.

Exposing the skin through the feathers produces vitamin D which helps metabolize calcium in the birds. The preen gland which produces oil for the birds feathers also produces compounds containing vitamin D when exposed to sun. The birds also ingest the oil when preening their feathers. Without exposure to uv light birds will develop a calcium deficiency.

Birds will also sun themselves to raise their body temperature, temperatures between 140 and 160 degrees will help dislodge the parasites on a bird. Sunning helps birds maintain feather health. It is essential to get rid of parasites since the tiny insects that infect feathers can cause problems for a bird's flight, insulation, and appearance, all of which can impact its survival.



## Did You Know?

In 1991 over 75% of the wintering Monarchs from North America froze to death in Mexico as a result of three days of rain and sub-freezing conditions.



# Monarch Butterfly Troubles



**It's a sad truth that the beloved Monarch butterfly has been named an endangered species, and they need all the help we can offer.**

With its iconic orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species in North America. Monarchs are particularly remarkable because they migrate each year, flying from as far as Canada and across the United States to congregate at a few forested overwintering sites in the mountains of central Mexico and coastal California. These sites are an amazing phenomenon: thousands of monarchs cluster in the trees in California, and millions of monarchs drape large swathes of forest in Mexico.

But over the past two decades, monarch numbers in North America have declined, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to join state agencies, tribes, other federal agencies and non-government groups to identify threats to the monarch and take steps to conserve monarchs throughout their range.

The primary drivers affecting the health of the two North American migratory populations are changes in breeding, migratory, and overwintering habitat (due to conversion of grasslands to agriculture, urban development, widespread use of herbicides, logging/thinning at overwintering sites in Mexico, unsuitable management of overwintering groves in California, and drought), continued exposure to insecticides, and effects of climate change.

What can you do to help? Plant milkweed seeds next year to help the Monarch Butterflies. [livemonarch.com](http://livemonarch.com) is a very informative site that also has free milkweed seeds available by request.



# Remember the Bears



Just a friendly reminder that the Bears in our area are beginning to feed up for the winter. In the fall a bear can eat up to 15,000 calories a day. That's a lot of nuts, berries and birdseed! If a black bear visits your property and finds no food it will most likely move on. If your feeders are not protected then take them in overnight so they don't get damaged or destroyed. Thoughtful planning can save your feeders from being destroyed.

**Try our Bear Proof Bird Feeder Poles**



# THE Seed SCOOP

Seed prices like all other things have seen a dramatic increase over the past year. We just wanted to keep you informed. According to Lizzie Mae Bird Seed & Dry Goods there continues to be very little product left that will carry over into the end of the year. Lizzie Mae has had to pay significantly higher prices with no negotiation on many of the seed products just to stay stocked. The pandemic created many stay at home jobs which significantly increased the amount of people who discovered the joy of bird feeding and bird watching. The downside of that was that there were only so many acres of crops produced, and you "can't make more" until the following years harvest. This combined with drought conditions last year caused bidding wars and higher pricing. Lizzie Mae made a decision early on not to take on any new accounts so that they could make sure they would be able to continue to service their existing accounts. We have had many people come in and say that their local supplier is out of seed. Although we have seen price increases we are still getting our weekly deliveries with no issue.



**Nutrasafflower** is one of the seeds that has been completely bought out until the new fall harvest. That seed should become available again in early October.

According to the latest information from Lizzie Mae there was a positive report that came out that the U.S. planted over 25% more sunflower than it did last year and so far the crop looks good. They expect to see better pricing with the new crop in November. The **sunflower chip** market appears to have topped. Assuming there is a good harvest they should expect a better priced product at the end of the year.



**Peanut** prices are staying firm and the new crop is being quoted the same as the old crop.



**Safflower and Millet** are being quoted lower than the current costs so there is a potential to see better pricing at the beginning of October.



**Nyjer** pricing is expected to stay close to where it is until the end of the year (Nyjer is an imported seed).



Diesel prices are beginning to see some backoff, which is a good thing. As we have learned directly from our driver, who also owns the tractors (4 in total) hauling Lizzie Maes product weekly, the cost of diesel to fuel the 4 trucks for weekly deliveries from Ohio to New England have risen close to \$8000 per week MORE than the cost of weekly delivery two years ago. That's a significant

up charge to the seed company as they are billed for the service. Unfortunately those operational charges are rolled into the seed cost passed on to the stores.

Lizzie Mae's believes that they may have seen the top in grain markets. They state, "as we are all aware pricing always comes down slower than it goes up. Our overriding mission has been to "stay stocked" through this past crazy year. Some of the prices we have paid and passed through to you have just been crazy. We believe we are in for another year of crazy but there are some signs of hope out there to bring the markets down as we get through the year. We know you, like us, have

cut margins to the bone. Hopefully we have seen the worst and brighter days are ahead. We thank all of you for what you have done at the retail level to have this hobby viable."

We, as well as the team at Lizzie Mae's Bird Seed & Dry Goods thank you for hanging in there with us. **Your patronage and loyalty have warmed our hearts through the years. Bless you all!**



## Did You Know? A Slippery Fact:

That the slugs you have in your garden have eyes at the top of their antennae? In fact they have 2 sets of tentacles or antennae; the longer sets are used for seeing and smelling. They can "see" by touching also and will retract their tentacles for protection when it touches something it doesn't like or something that might attack it.

The shorter tentacles that sit lower on a slug or snail's face are used to smell, feel, and taste things. So the next time you're clearing slugs from your plants check out their retracting antennae.

## Did You Know?

The only bird that can see the color blue is the Owl.



## New Product Update

### Lake Shore Woodworking

A new local vendor from Coventry, CT. Lake Shore Woodworking is a husband and wife operation. They have hand-crafted a quality copper topped bird feeder made of natural cedar. The feeder is designed to fit a 4x4 post (post not included) with an easy lift off lid for filling and cleaning of the inner clear cylinder. Also included is a handmade metal pyramid style squirrel guard made to slip over your 4x4 post.



### Yankee Woodworking Bird Houses

A new local vendor from Woodstock, CT. Yankee Woodworking bird houses are constructed using a selection of native and exotic live edge wood for the face of these beautiful bird houses. No two houses are alike. Yankee Woodworking uses beautiful Apple, Cherry, Black Walnut, Elm, Cedar, Spalted Maple and many other species to create these gorgeous bird homes.



## Fall Seed Sale It's That Time of Year Again!

**Bird Store Hours:**  
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 736, Fiskdale, MA 01518  
Phone: (508)-347-BIRD

[www.thebirdstoreandmore.com](http://www.thebirdstoreandmore.com)  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
(Route 20, Cedar Street Intersection)  
4 Cedar Street,



**Fall Seed Sale!**  
October 1st - 31st



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