



Inside:  **STOP**
The Squirrels


News
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 2022 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, call or stop by.
- 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 Do Hummingbirds Hum?

No, it's not because they don't know the words!

The humming that you hear is not from their voice. It is from the sound of the hummingbirds wings as they flap. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flap their wings an average of 53 beats per second! The force and volume of the wingbeats makes the hum that the hummingbirds are known for.

There are over 330 species of hummingbirds in the world and less than 2 dozen of them are commonly found in the US and Canada. Of those only 1, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is common east of the Mississippi.

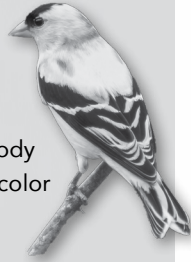




Goldfinch You Are What You Eat

Did you know that the bright yellow summer color of the American Goldfinch is enhanced by the food that they eat.

Once the spring molt is complete, the body of the male is a brilliant lemon yellow, a color produced by carotenoid pigments from plant materials in its diet. Carotenoid pigments are yellow, orange, and red organic pigments that are produced by plants and algae. Carotenoids give the characteristic color to pumpkins, carrots, parsnips, corn, tomatoes, and birds like Goldfinch and Flamingos.



American Goldfinch are the only finch that molts body feathers twice a year; once in late winter and again in late summer. During the winter molt it sheds all its feathers; in the summer, it sheds all but the wing and tail feathers, which are dark brown in the female and black in the male. The markings on these feathers remain through each molt, with bars on the wings and white under and at the edges of the short, notched tail.

The American Goldfinch breeding season begins later in the year than any other finch and later than any other native North American bird. This may be related to the abundance of seeds in the late summer months, as seeds represent most of their diet.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology American Goldfinch are one of the strictest vegetarians in the bird world. Goldfinch diets consists of the seeds from a wide variety of plants, often those of weeds, grasses, and trees, such as thistle, teasel, dandelion, ragweed, mullein, cosmos, goatsbeard, sunflower, and alder. They also consume tree buds, maple sap, and berries. They are also attracted to nyjer feeders and will visit both sunflower and nyjer feeders year round.

Did You Know?

Baltimore Orioles sometimes use their slender beaks to feed in an unusual way called "gaping". They stab their closed bill into soft fruits, then open their mouths to cut a juicy swath from which they drink with their brushy-tipped tongues.

STOP The Squirrels

You know we love our squirrels, that said we do want to keep them from ruining the bird feeders. Love them or hate them, there are ways to keep them out of your bird feeders.

The biggest problem is how far they can jump. If you want to put a bird feeder on your deck railing rest assured there will be a squirrel on the bird feeder making a mess of the railing and eating the bird seed. Feeding off a deck railing is more difficult because you can't keep the squirrel from jumping onto the feeder. Squirrels can jump 4 1/2 feet straight up and 8-10 feet on an angle. That's sideways, above, or below. Things you can do are use a deck pole that has a long enough arm and use a Squirrel Buster feeder. The Squirrel Buster feeder closes when the squirrels get on it so that they can not get to the seed.



Brome Squirrel
Buster Plus
Weather Guard

Having the longer arm puts the feeder farther away from the pole itself so that the squirrel can't hold onto the pole and eat from the feeder without putting weight on the feeder to close it. Yes, the squirrels apparently all have PhD's and have learned to engineer solutions to the bird feeder problem. The feeder can be made even more unappealing by using Nutra Safflower seed which is slightly bitter. The squirrels don't care for it, but the birds love it.

Putting your feeder on a pole in the yard is a much better solution providing you follow the same rules. Place the pole at least 10 feet from anything the squirrel can launch off of. If you are not using a Squirrel Buster feeder then place a baffle can or

cone approximately 4 1/2 feet high on the pole. Remember the rules, squirrels can jump 4 1/2 feet straight up. Having a baffle at that height prevents them from making it up the pole.

Use a seed that doesn't leave much mess on the ground, the squirrels have to eat too so let them clean up the ground.

The exception to the rules, because you know there are always exceptions. There are always what we call Superman squirrels. They are just bigger or more "springy" or fly like superman and will make it up the feeder pole and get on your feeder. Nothing's perfect, and we applaud their efforts. We once saw a squirrel leap from a limb 12 feet above the feeder and nearly impale itself on the feeder pole just to get to the seed. The squirrel made 2 attempts, falling all the way to the ground only to run up the tree and try again. The squirrel made it to the feeder on the 3rd attempt. An "A" for effort, so we let it eat.

The next exception are the Mama Squirrels. The mama's have babies to feed and they need to feed themselves in order to feed their babies. They are relentless in their pursuit of food. But they are mama's so we don't chase them away.

Sometimes you just have to live in harmony.

HMANA Hawk Migration Association of North America

The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) was founded in 1974 when over 300 hawk watchers from across North America first gathered in Syracuse, New York.

Interest in raptors and their conservation grew dramatically after the Second World War, even as populations of Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcon were declining from the effects of DDT.

Hawk counts were conducted at Hawk Mountain and Cape May before the war, and seasonal hawk watches were still conducted at several dozen sites, primarily from Duluth, Minnesota, and in the eastern U.S. and Canada.

Unfortunately, even as the number of hawk watches increased, no established standards existed for recording species data, weather conditions, and other parameters. Worse, no mechanism existed for communicating and sharing count data or interpreting raptor population trends.



The 1974 conference established HMANA as a volunteer, non-profit organization of field birders, research scientists, banders, and conservationists. They organized to promote and conduct studies of the migratory patterns and behavior of diurnal birds of prey.

It took several years to develop a standard paper reporting form, called "green sheets," which was eventually entered into mainframe computers. A semi-annual newsletter published complete daily counts for each site's season. This was before the era of the personal computer, the Internet, and cell phones. News of significant flights was passed on by phone after the long-distance telephone rates went down at 7 pm. Seasonal site reports and daily species totals were not seen until a full year after the actual count.

As time and technology progressed HMANA created HAWKCOUNT <https://hawkcourt.org/> a near-real-time international database of hawk counts across the continent. On this website you can check daily entries across the country or look for a specific hawk watching site. The selected site will give general information, site history, data inventory, and migration timing.

HMANA collects hawk count data from almost two hundred raptor monitoring sites throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico and publishes the semi-annual journal Hawk Migration Studies, which includes seasonal reports on the migration and more.

HMANA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in November 2024.

Saying So Long to the Feeder Birds Birds of Summer



Many of our summer bird species have already begun their southbound journey.

One of the most colorful birds, the **Oriole** is one of the first to leave. The Orioles, both Baltimore and Orchard have a short season here in New England. They arrive at the beginning of May and are usually on their way south by early August. The Orioles are neotropical migrants and their non breeding wintering grounds are in Mexico, Central America and the northern South America.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are on their way to Mexico and Central America.

Some will also winter along the Gulf coast and the southern Atlantic coast. They are such a welcome sight in late April and early May, it's sad to see them leave. The male hummingbirds begin to leave around the full moon in August with females and juveniles following behind.



Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, another beautiful feeder bird that arrives in

May is making its way back to Central and South America. Most of them fly across the Gulf of Mexico in a single night, although some migrate over land around the Gulf. Grosbeaks that winter in Panama and northern South America tend to summer in the eastern US.



Did You Know?

The oldest known Gray Catbird was at least 17 years, 11 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in New Jersey in 2001. It had been banded in Maryland in 1984.

Gray Catbirds will move

out of the area and to the coast. They can be found in a year round habitat along the east coast and a non breeding habitat through Central America.



Marshmallow Goes Camping

On Monday August 21st Marshmallow the cockatiel decided to leave the Bird Store. We don't know how or when she did it, but she disappeared. She got outside somehow and was nowhere to be found. We posted her disappearance on social media, and as they say many hands make light work. Thanks to so many people who shared and reposted, watched the skies and searched.

We hoped Marshmallow would go to someone, and that she did. She went camping! On Thursday she landed on some unsuspecting campers at Pine Lake Campground a few miles away from the Bird Store. Sophia and her family checked Facebook to see if there were any missing birds, and found Marshmallows picture and information posted on the Lost Birds of New England Facebook page. They gave us a call

and a little while later the family showed up to return Marshmallow to us. Marshmallow looked happy to be back. She was tired and hungry and spent quite a long time eating. She probably didn't find much food and maybe she figured if she went to the campground she might get a picnic or a barbecue! She apparently forgot all about s'mores!

All kidding aside we are truly grateful for her safe return, and for all of the watchful eyes and good wishes we received, and in thanks to Saint Anthony and Saint Francis for finding and keeping her safe.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



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
thebirdstoreandmore.com
Sturbridge, MA 01566
(Route 20, Cedar Street Intersection)
4 Cedar Street,



Fall Seed Sale!
October 1st - 31st



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