



Mark your Calendar

News
from the bird store

Night Owl Christmas

Fri., Dec. 15th, 2023

6:30 — 9:00pm



Have A Very Merry!

Join us for our Annual Night Owl Christmas Event!

Enjoy some music, food, and Holiday Cheer!

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

Don't miss out!

Relax, Shop and Enjoy an evening with us, it's our Holiday Party for you!



Bird Spotlight Winter Wren



Winter Wrens can be described as plump round balls with stubby tails that they usually hold straight up. Their bills are small and thin and their size is smaller than a Carolina Wren.

Did You Know?

In the fall, bears engage in a process called hyperphagia which means they eat and drink as much as possible to get ready for winter.

The Winter Wren is a tiny ball of energy that sings with a rich cascade of bubbly notes. This songster shakes as it sings its astoundingly loud song. Per unit weight, the Winter Wren delivers its song with 10 times more power than a crowing rooster.

Winter Wrens are often more common in areas near streams. They use evergreen forests with spruce, fir, and hemlock as well as deciduous forests. They are more common in old-growth evergreen and deciduous

forests than in younger forests stands. In winter, they move south or to lower elevations with milder temperatures. Here they use dense tangles, gardens, and brushy fields as well as deciduous forests.

The Winter Wren appears brown overall. With a closer look, you'll see darker brown barring on the wings, tail, and belly. It has a pale tan eyebrow stripe above the eye and a plain brown cap. Its unmarked throat and barred belly are pale tan, paler than the back.

Winter Wrens fly short distances with rapid wingbeats in the understory. They scurry and hop along fallen trees and roots in search of food. They can also cling to tree trunks in a manner similar to a Brown Creeper. Winter Wrens intently search downed logs, root masses, and dense foliage on the ground for insects. Once they find food they pick it from the foliage or jump up to grab it.

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 10-6 • Sunday 11-5

Reminders:



Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 23
The Bird Store is Closed

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



Night Owl Christmas
Friday Dec. 15
6:30 - 9:00pm



Sturbridge Christmas
Bird Count
Thursday Dec. 14

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24
The Bird Store closes early



Christmas Day
Dec. 25
The Bird Store is Closed

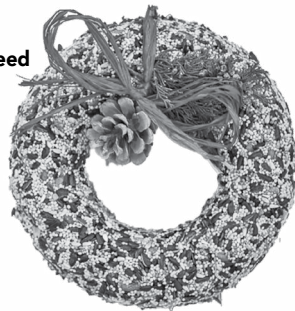
Dec. 26
The Bird Store is Closed

Quabbin Christmas
Bird Count
Saturday Dec. 30

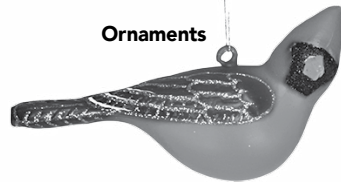
New Year's Day
Jan. 1
The Bird Store is Closed

Jan. 2, 2024
The Bird Store is back
to Standard Hours
Closed on Sundays

Mr Bird Seed
Wreaths



Ornaments



Ornaments



Colorful Bird Houses
from Old Time Woodworking



Madd Capp
Shaped Puzzles



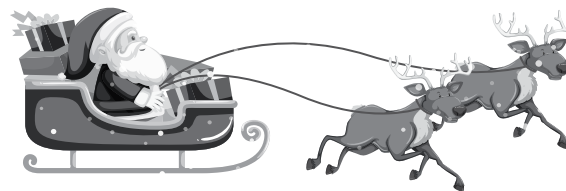
Murano Glass
Solar Lights



Red Carpet
Studios Face
Bird Houses



Gift Cards - help your family
feed the birds!



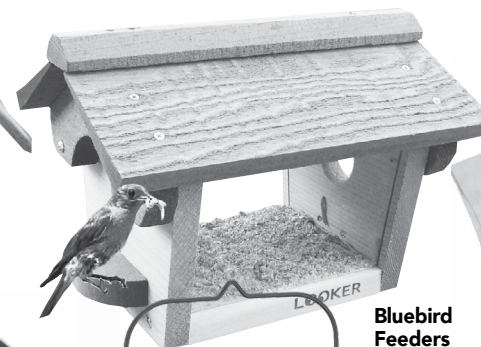
Santa's on his way, He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh. Make sure Marshmallow knows your wish list - she's very good at asking her human friends to add it to your account.

These are some of the things I know people really like a lot.

- T-Shirts
- Wind Spinners
- Lighted Christmas Shimmer Lanterns
- Colorful Bird Houses from Old Time Woodworking
- Murano Glass Solar Lights
- Madd Capp Shaped Puzzles
- Suet Balls and Feeders
- Regal Shadow Lanterns
- Mr Bird Seed Wreaths and Ornaments
- Aspects Tube Feeders
- Gift Cards - help your family feed the birds!
- Red Carpet Studios Face Bird Houses
- Color Pop Tray Feeders
- Bluebird Feeders



Aspects Tube
Feeders



Bluebird
Feeders



T-Shirts

Letters from Marshmallow

Dear Santa,

I've been a really good bird this year! Well, except for the time I went camping. I was lucky the nice people at the campground brought me home.

I thought I could make up for going outside and being naughty by helping you with some gift ideas. Maybe you will put me back on the Birds & Animals "Nice" list and bring me some tasty treats for Christmas!

Santa, I think I would make a great elf. I can sit on people's shoulders and see what they want for Christmas!

Hope this helps to put me back on the "Nice" list, I don't want to be a "Naughty" Bird.

Merry Christmas Santa

*Love,
Marshmallow the Cockatiel*

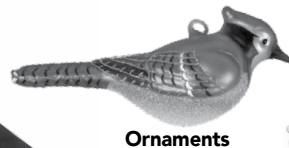


Wind Spinners

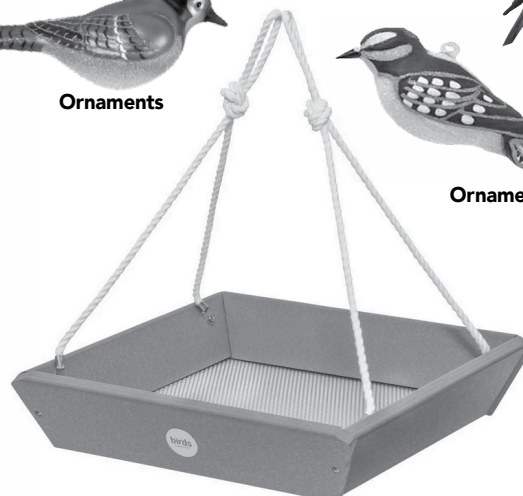


Lighted Christmas Shimmer Lanterns

Ornaments



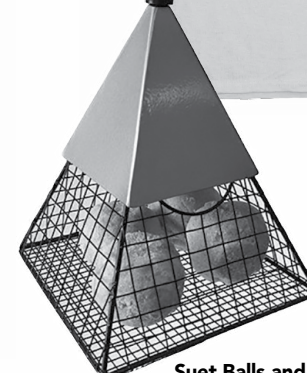
Ornaments



Color Pop Tray Feeders



Regal Shadow Lanterns



Suet Balls and Feeders

WHAT IS A Mast Year

Where are the birds? Our feeders aren't being used. Is something wrong with the birds? There are no squirrels. In the last 6 or 7 weeks these questions keep popping up. No there is nothing wrong with the birds, they haven't disappeared, they are just doing what nature intended. They are foraging in the wild. This happens every fall when the seeds, nuts and berries are available. That said some years are Mast Years. Since trees need to use a significant amount of their energy to create flowers and seeds (aka mast), they don't produce heavy crops every year. When they do, it happens with surprising synchronicity among species, which means the forest canopy can be affected region-wide (since more energy for mast means less energy for leaves). This year is turning out to be a pretty big mast year in New England — a bit surprising, given that the late frost should have killed off much of the trees' flowering activity. Beech, maple, hickory, and even witch hazel are all having big seed crops; even some oaks are putting out a lot of acorns, depending on the species. The theory is that the trees produce enough seed to overwhelm the birds and animals eating it so that some seed remains and will grow, reseeding the forests.

Pine cones, acorns, hickory nuts, maple seeds, they are everywhere and the birds and mammals are loving it. Think about it, when is the last time you had a squirrel in your yard? At the Bird Store we don't even have pigeons, and we always have pigeons! The one good thing about all of these mast crops is that the bears, who eat approximately 15,000 calories a day to get ready for winter are not bothering the bird feeders very much because they are easily finding food sources.

Here at the Bird Store we keep our own "unofficial" records, and the last big mast year where the birds were away from the feeders was the Fall of 2017. We can tell this by the volume of seed that we sell. On a normal week we bring in between 6 - 8 thousand pounds of seed. (Yup, our seed is the freshest and you guys love it!). In the past 6 weeks we have only been bringing in 1 thousand pounds of seed per week.



Lizzie Mae Bird Seed, our seed distributor has also confirmed the lack of seed deliveries across the whole eastern region, and as far west as Ohio. They also said that last time the deliveries were this slow was pre covid.

The good news is your seed budget got a bit of a break, and in the past week we have started to see some activity at the bird feeders again. This is the time to make sure your feeders are clean and ready for the winter season. The birds are scouting their food sources (your feeders) even though they may not need to feed from them right now. They want to know where the food will be available when needed.



20% off
any one item
with this coupon.

Excludes Optics and Bear Proof Poles.

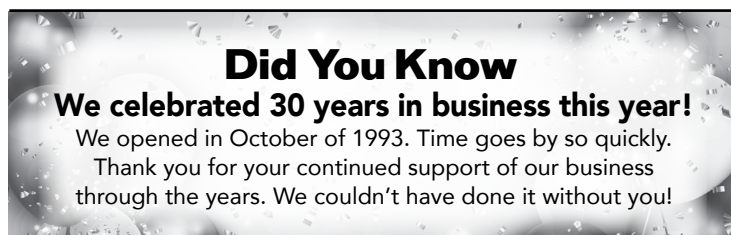
Discount cannot be combined with any other discount offer, seed saver, or squirrel card reward points. One per customer please.

Valid through 12/24/2023

Because You Asked

Q: How many pounds of seed do you sell in a year?

A: We had an idea but didn't know for sure so we added it up.
We sell **220,000 pounds of seed** on an average year.



Did You Know
We celebrated 30 years in business this year!

We opened in October of 1993. Time goes by so quickly.
Thank you for your continued support of our business through the years. We couldn't have done it without you!

Interesting Wren Facts

-The oldest recorded Winter Wren was a female and at least 6 years, 6 months old, when she was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in California in 2009. She was banded in the same state in 2003.

-The Americas are the land of the wren: more than 80 species live in North and South America, but only one wren occurs in the rest of the world (the Eurasian Wren).

-Winter Wrens hop and scamper through the understory moving more like a mouse than a bird as they investigate upturned roots and decaying logs for food.

These energetic birds often bob their entire bodies as if doing squats while they nervously look around in the forest understory. In flight they rapidly beat their tiny wings to move short distances between cover.



"What is Christmas?"

It is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace." – **Agnes M. Pharo**

Wishing you a Season of Joy



Bill, Nancy & Dezeree



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

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Gift Certificates
are always a
welcome gift!



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