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# Songbird Station

Look for Hyperlinks &  
Linked Images Throughout The Newsletter!

## NEWS



Celebrating 25 Years of Helping Families Enjoy Nature Together

# Holiday 2020

## Songbird Station Events >>>

### 25 Days of Christmas

Each day In December through Christmas Eve Songbird Station is giving away a FREE gift! Stop in & enter to win! Daily winners will be announced on the Songbird Station Facebook Page.

### Curb Side Pick Up Available

Call Us at (573) 446-5941 and we will have your items ready to be picked up & placed in your trunk when you arrive! We are happy to answer questions & help you select the perfect gift!

### Rewards Program

Sign up for our Rewards Program & earn 5% back when you spend \$200 or more in a quarter. Your earnings are paid in the form of a gift card which we mail to you.

### Songbird Station 2021 Calendar

Our 2021 Photo Calendars are available now! Pick one up for valuable monthly coupons.

### 2022 Calendar Photo Contest!

Enter your photographs of Native Missouri Birds for an opportunity to be featured in our 2022 Songbird Station Calendar. Submission period begins 1/15/21. Email quality images to [edkuras@songbirdstation.com](mailto:edkuras@songbirdstation.com)

### Bird Man Mel Live!!

Videos of all the Bird Man Mel Live Sessions are available on his Birdman Mel YouTube Channel.

### [SongbirdEssentials.com](http://SongbirdEssentials.com)

If you cant visit Songbird Station Shop Our site [SongbirdEssentials.com](http://SongbirdEssentials.com)!

## Share the Joy Outside Your Window this Christmas

Birdman Mel

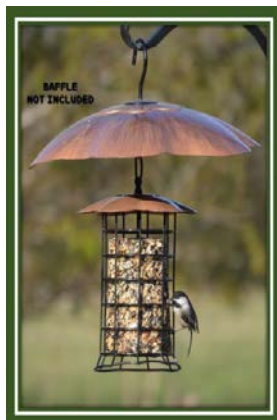
No doubt about it 2020 has been a difficult year, and this holiday season will be different. I hope you, like I, have been able to take a few moments to look, listen, and even touch the ever-changing wonder of nature that God created. For years I've ended my emails with the words, "Nature is a stress reliever from God, take time today to listen to the birds sing." Having such a stress reliever has been a huge blessing in 2020. As you choose gifts this year, why not share the joy of bird feeding with family and friends?

With all the extra time Covid gave me to look out the window {no baseball, movies, travel, etc.} I quickly noticed new arrivals often went to my [open tray](#) & [fly through feeders](#) first. I think the new birds felt safest there as they can easily see all around. If you haven't started using a tray feeder or a covered fly through feeder, I would greatly recommend getting and giving one! I normally fill this sort of feeder, which hangs on my deck, with our [Songbird Essentials Hearty Hearts](#). This seed is high energy and leaves little to no waste behind on the deck or patio below. This year I started a new routine. Each morning with my first cup of coffee, I go out and throw a handful of our [Shell Free Deluxe](#) which is 50% nut pieces, a handful of whole peanuts, or some live or dried mealworms on my tray and fly through feeders. I am quickly rewarded with Blue Jays lining up to grab a personal whole peanut, while Chickadees hug and fly off with whole nuts as big as they are! Nut-



hatches, Titmice and Woodpeckers fly in and out to grab pieces of [Shell Free Deluxe](#) and quickly nibble before dashing off to stash it in a crevice to enjoy later. It seems like all the birds love meal worms. Wrens, bluebirds and others that don't often visit will come in for such a treat. I have grown to recognize many of the individual neighborhood birds that come to enjoy a morning treat while I enjoy my coffee and it has helped me to start my days with a more positive, cheerful outlook.

Because I want to make sure my new buddies have available treats all day, this fall I've used my deck hooks [available at Songbird Station.] to hold one of our premium [copper top mesh seed cylinders](#). The seed cylinder I use is full of nuts & lasts for days. I have another copper top feeder that holds one of our large seed cakes which also lasts for days. Also, I keep one of our Songbird Essentials (p2)



# Make sure you invite the children in your life to help you fill your feeders and watch the birds....

(cont.) [Cedar Suet Logs](#) with out perches filled with [Songbird Essentials Suet Plugs](#). Seed cylinders and cake feeders both make wonderful gifts! Neither needs



to be filled often making them low maintenance & low cost. The suet log is a gift I absolutely guarantee, as you will almost always have a line of visitors seeking suet from the natural looking log. Make sure

you invite the children in your life to help you fill your feeders and watch the birds. One of my missions in life is to get children away from screens and out into nature to enjoy the wonders God created around us.

Bring the children in to Songbird Station and we will give them a free bird feeder! Be sure to check out our expanded children's section! We have great puzzles for all ages, puppets, science and nature kits, butterfly nets, and more. Check out a video of our grand children building [bird feeder kits](#) on the [Bird Man Mel YouTube Channel](#). They truly enjoyed the free squeeze birds included in the kit. I love using the squeeze birds to teach children the sounds and names of the birds outside our windows.

In closing Holly, Deborah, and we, the local Central Missouri Family that owns Songbird station, sincerely thank each and every one of you for your support during this our 25th and strangest year, as we serve you for your backyard birding, nature and gift needs.

**We wish each and every one of you a blessed and joyful Christmas!**

**Birdman Mel, Bev, Becky, Grant Toellner.**

## Free Feeder For Kids!



## Window Feeding >>>

# Up Close & Personal



Over the years I've grown to love more and more those feeders that bring birds "up close and personal" to a window. I can tell a Downy is on my [suet window feeder](#) when I hear his "drumming sound" as he rapidly picks at his and my favorite peanut butter suet (available at Songbird Station). Children young and old alike can enjoy and learn about how some birds like a Chickadee or a Titmouse will fly up to one of our clear plexiglass window feeders (made right here in Mid- Missouri) and grab one seed and take it away to eat or cache in a crack of tree bark to enjoy on another day. You will also see that a Black Capped Chickadee is a great judge of the quality of a bird seed as he picks up one seed and then another looking for the heaviest, most nutrient dense seed. In side by side tests, I'm proud that



our specially formulated for Mid-Missouri mixes are almost always the winner for the heaviest, most nutrient dense seed. Recently several customers have said the same thing on our Facebook page. You can also enjoy up close and personal with a feeder you already have on one of our Songbird Essentials' Window Hooks. My Favorite is [SE077](#) which allows you to adjust it side to side. I often have one on a window from April-October with my favorite [Dr. JB's Hummingbird Feeder](#) or a [Hummingbird Haven Feeder](#). I'll then replace it with a [Clingers Only Feeder](#) with our [Hearty Hearts](#). Birds love it and I love that there is very little or no mess!! Last but not least, you might enjoy one of our nest-

view window-mount bird houses. A great way for children or grandchildren to learn the process of nest building, egg laying, and hopefully songbird babies fledging. This Christmas give strong consideration to a gift for yourself or others that brings birds "up close and personal".





# Q & A with Birdman Mel

**Q:** Should I take down my bird houses in the winter?

**A:** Please don't. Many times several birds will huddle together in a house to stay warm. I just made all my bluebird houses more winter friendly by sealing off top ventilation vents with weather stripping tape, And putting several inches of dry warm grass in the bottom. You can spoil your birds and help them even more by providing [roosting pockets](#) and or, our deluxe roost box which has a removable ladder inside



Which facilitates roosting. This box also has a reversible front door that conserves heat by having the hole, at the bottom in the winter. You can then change it to the top in the spring and use it as a nest box.

**Q:** Birds don't seem to use my feeders. Any suggestions?

**A:** A couple thoughts. 1. Try moving your feeder if possible. A protected spot which is closer to some trees or shrubs that they can fly to for protection is the best spot. After Christmas you can improve any feeding station by placing your used live Christmas tree beside it.

2. Make sure your seed is fresh. Try scattering a little on the ground. I've had people tie strips of red ribbon or tinfoil to attract attention to a new feeding station. Make sure you're using a quality feed containing sunflowers

and you might add a few nut pieces to help attract more birds. DO NOT use grocery store and mass merchant mixes that are full of millet, milo and junk that birds simply don't like.

3. Provide a [heated source of water](#) like our [Song Bird Spa](#) nearby



. Even just putting water in a saucer nearby a bird feeder set up daily can be a big help to the birds and draw them to your feeding station.



**Q:** Can you really offer me a squirrel & raccoon proof feeding solution. I want my money to go to the birds that I spend for birdseed.?

**A:** Absolutely. As one of, if not the largest seller of **Brome Squirrel Proof Feeders** in America we offer every model that company has at unbeatable prices.



When used as directed **Brome Squirrel Buster Feeders** are squirrel proof, and most of them have a lifetime warranty. We not only offer your best price, we help you assemble them, and help you figure out the best place and way to put your **Brome Squirrel Proof Feeder** to attract the birds you want. To raccoon proof a feeding station you will need to utilize one of our tallest yard poles and place and mount per our directions with one of our raccoon and squirrel proof [SESQR 87 Long Pole Baffles](#). This is the one way we can squirrel AND raccoon proof a feeder. Otherwise taking a feeder in at night is about the only way to keep it away from raccoons. We will have in stock soon a similar baffle for 4x4 posts. There are shorter metal pole baffles and wrap around models we can squirrel proof many poles with.



PTF1352

**Q:** Even though they're a bit bossy, I like the flash of blue the Blue Jays provide in my yard. Do they have a favorite seed?

**A:** You're dead right about Bluejays! My grandkids called them the bossy bossy Blue Jays. As I said on page 1, I have discovered that Blue Jays absolutely love the unsalted whole peanuts we sell at



Songbird Station. You can either hand feed them daily, or provide [whole peanuts](#) in one of our [Peanut Wreaths \(SE6019.\)](#) Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, and Woodpeckers will

become frequent visitors to your wreath and even Cardinals stop by. Squirrels also love them, so either be prepared to share with the squirrels or ask us how to hang your squirrel wreath on one of our squirrel proof set ups. I put whole peanuts in a **Squirrel Snack Box**, where squirrels learn to open the lid, to get a whole peanut



**Q:** I'd like to encourage my grandchildren to feed and enjoy the birds but they don't have a bird feeder. Any inexpensive ways to get them started?

**A:** That's great news. I'd recommend you give them one of our Christmas birdseed wreaths or a birdie seed bell. Unlike the junk products that are in mass stores, ours are Both 100% edible and a great way to get someone started feeding the birds. Better yet why not also bring the children in your life into the store, and ask us for one of our **free bird feeders** for young beginners.



PTF1340





# Watch Closely for Visitors from the North!

The conifers in their Canadian forest habitat had a low seed crop this year, so lots of birds we don't often see are showing up in Central Missouri this fall and winter. We've had multiple sightings of Pine Siskins and Red Breasted Nuthatches showing up at feeders across Central Missouri. In addition, many Redpolls are showing up (as they have the last couple of winters). If you have friends or relatives in the North Central or Eastern U.S. areas, tell them to keep their eyes out for these. In their areas they may also see Crossbills or Evening Grosbeaks. We are experiencing across the Central-Eastern U.S. the largest irruption migration from the North in over 20 years!



## How Do You Attract These New Visitors to Your Yard?

Like American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins are easily attracted by feeders filled with fresh Nyjer seed or better yet, our [Fantastic Finch 2](#), a special nutritious Nyjer blend that combines high quality Nyjer seed with finely chopped sunflower kernels. Redpolls and Pine Siskins also love it!



While you can enjoy Pine Siskins on any feeder that holds Nyjer thistle, you can see how acrobatic they are by feeding with our [Songbird Essentials Spiral Finch feeder](#) or a Droll Yankee Bottoms Up Feeder.

Red Breasted Nuthatches, like their White Breasted cousins we often see, are attracted to suet feeders and they love [our split peanuts](#) and [Shell Free Deluxe Mix](#) in one of our peanut mesh feeders.

I personally have a lot of luck attracting all the above to [tray feeders](#) and [mesh feeders](#) full of our [Hearty Hearts](#). We have fun new mesh feeders which make great gifts. Give a bag of Hearty Hearts with one of these feeders and the recipient will attract our visitors from the North and many other birds they will love, including Woodpeckers, Titmice, and Chickadees. I gave my mom a snowman feeder full of Hearty Hearts for an early gift at Thanksgiving!



## New & Fun Mesh Feeders

Attract Lots of Birds when Filled with our Hearty Hearts!



GEF1013

Seed & Suet Feeders



[GEF1016](#)



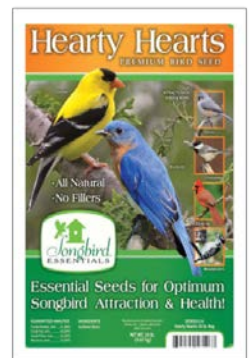
[GEF1000](#)

Mesh Feeders



GEF1019

[GEF1018](#)



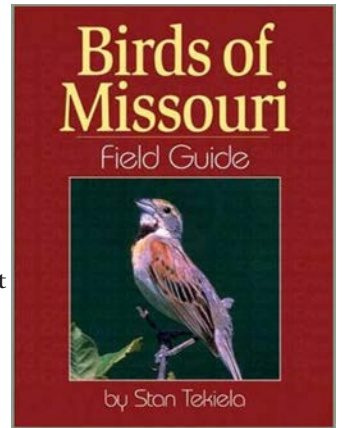




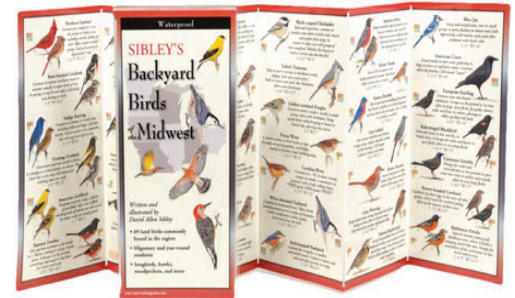
# Nuthatches-The Upside-Down Bird



As we have a rare visitor to Central Missouri visiting from the North (see page 4), we thought it would be great to discuss him (Red Breasted) and his cousins (White Breasted) Nuthatches in this issue. The name “Nuthatch” may have come from these bird’s habit of caching or lodging seeds into crevices of trees and then “hatching” the seeds by pecking them open. In Central Missouri we are blessed to have the White Breasted Nuthatch here year round. This is the first time I and many others have had the Red Breasted come to visit, due to conifer seed shortages in the forests to the north of us. The White Breasted Nuthatches are believed to mate for life.



All Nuthatches share one unique ability. This ability is to climb down trees headfirst as well as up. They do this despite not having the help of a stiff tail like Woodpeckers and Creepers. The Nuthatch alone is the only species of bird that has learned a special way to place their feet when climbing – one foot above, one below. This ability is enhanced due to one large backward-facing toe, which they use to hold on to bark tightly as the other foot is moved forward. They hold that back toe at a sideways angle to the tree they are going down.



They have what is often called a “Dapper Dandy Look”. Their short legs and the fact they are more long

than tall gives them their dapper look. You will know a Nuthatch is around as their “ank-ank-ank” call is very distinctive, although it will not make a top 100 list of most beautiful bird songs!

You won’t see large numbers of Nuthatches in your yard as a pair will generally defend an area of approximately 10-30 acres. The pair stays together as they stop at various feeding sites. Often thought they stay a bit apart, but they are always within ear shot of each other. Even when you cannot see them, you often hear their “anking”. Want to attract them? Offer our [Clingers Candy Mix](#) in a mesh feeder or on a tray and you will be rewarded with a daily Nuthatch visit. They also love our suet logs filled with our [Songbird Essentials Peanut Suet Plugs!](#) At night, each roosts alone in its own tree cavity. Come Spring, the female finds a cavity to build a nest in and lays her eggs. If natural cavities are scarce, a White Breasted Nuthatch will occasionally use a nest box with a 1 ¼ inch opening.

## How Do You Identify a Nuthatch?

Look closely at these two photos.



Red Breasted Nut Hatch



White Breasted Nut Hatch



# Great Prices on Perfect Gifts for Everyone!



~Our Handmade Table Top Glass LED & Ornaments Trees are Perfect for Seniors~  
If you cant visit Songbird Station, shop online at our site [GiftEssentials.com](http://GiftEssentials.com)!



[LED Lanterns](#) & [Candle Sets](#)



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# Wingman's

## Feathered Facts

By: Grant Toellner



### 500

A female mealworm beetle can lay as many as 500 eggs which is a ton of great protein for your backyard bird visitors. Don't forget Songbird Station carries both live and dried mealworms which are not only a great treat for Bluebirds, but loved by other songbirds such as chickadees, titmice, and others as well. The [Copper Multi-Purpose Feeder from Songbird Essentials](#) is a great way to feed mealworms and can also be used for a seed or stacker feeder as well.

### Dozens

Dozens-the number of suet flavors on the market that is also available at Songbird Station. From fruit flavored to nut flavored, Songbird Station has the largest variety of [suet](#) flavors available in town. My go-to suet flavor is the hot pepper from Pine Tree Farms in both the cakes and plugs, as it works wonders keeping the pesky squirrels off my feeders.

### Bermuda

Pine Siskins who migrate south in fall and winter months, are in full force this year so there is a good chance you could attract this visitor to your backyard. A flock of 20 even showed up in Bermuda, where this bird is only rarely spotted. Pine Siskins enjoy [Nyjer seed or a Nyjer seed mix](#) and Songbird Station has both so come check out the selection. A great feeder to try is one of the spiral thistle feeders or just hang a thistle sack

### Anting

Some birds encourage ants to crawl on them as ants release the chemical formic acid which can help get rid of pests that harm feathers. Cardinals, Blue Jays, and others have been known to do anting to help with the pests



## Provide a Winter Spa to Draw a Crowd!



As winter approaches and temperatures get colder, finding a source of water becomes a difficult critical task for the birds. Birds can expend valuable calories needed to keep warm on a cold winter night by flying to a distant water source, or they can eat to snow which lowers their body's temperature, and that requires calories to raise it back to needed levels to survive a cold winter night. Here you'll find photos of my [favorite heated birdbaths](#) and a heater you can put in a bath[don't use concrete or Glass baths in the winter – even with the heater as they can break.] All the items I recommend only cost pennies a day of electricity as they contain thermostats that only turn them on when needed to keep water from freezing.



Speaking of pennies, did you realize a chickadee which weighs only an average of 3/4 of an ounce, is equivalent to having three pennies in your hand. Has developed a unique method of surviving a cold winter night. Chickadees have a rare ability in avian creations, to go into what's called a torpor. This is the ability to reduce their body temperature by as much as 18 to 22° in order to conserve energy. You can make it easier for chickadees and others to survive winter night by utilizing one of the recommended heated items below this winter.



All three of these bird baths are great for year round use as the cords clip out of sight underneath the easy clean polypropylene dish for spring and summer. My favorite baths are the [two cedar models](#), as I think the birds prefer the natural looking wooden cedar landing area holding a dish, and I like the look. The Songbird Spa gives you great versatility as it contains legs to use it as a ground bath, a clamp and bracket to allow you to either use post mounted, or clamped on a deck railing. The [SE994](#) is by far the sturdiest heater on the market providing years of use, and has a cord longer than other bird bath heaters, which makes it safe to use and easier to plug-in. Use any of these we recommend, and you will help the birds have a safe source of warm water to help them conserve energy to survive cold winter nights. 7

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and  
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## Songbird Station NEWS

"We Help Families Enjoy Nature Together"

WINTER STORE HOURS  
Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email and help our environment in the process, please email [edkuras@songbirdstation.com](mailto:edkuras@songbirdstation.com).

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## Largest Selection of Puzzles in Mid-Missouri!



10% off



Suet Feeder

10% OFF Squirrel Buster Suet Feeder

10% OFF SQUIRREL BUSTER SUET FEEDER BY BROME BIRD CARE. COUPON EXPIRES 12/25/20. VALID IN STORE ONLY. MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. CAN NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONS. VALID ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRODUCT ONLY. ONE TIME USE. CANNOT BE EXCHANGED FOR CASH (EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY LAW).

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