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Songbird Station NEWS

Holiday 2021



Celebrating 26 Years of Helping Families Enjoy Nature Together



Songbird Station Events

Small Business Saturday

Shop with us on November 27th and receive a free gift with purchase of \$20 or more. Specials throughout the store with no shortages of products.

Not Quite Perfect Window Feeder Sale!

Each year, our Mid-Missouri wood shop builds thousands of window feeders. Some have very slight imperfections. We bet you can't even find what's wrong! Normally a \$10-\$40 retail, on Small Business Saturday pick these up for \$2, \$5 & \$10! A great way to introduce children to nature, and provide entertainment for seniors this winter.

Rewards Program

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

2022 Calendar

Pick up a 2022 Songbird Station Photo Calendar for valuable monthly coupons.

2023 Photo Contest

Enter your photographs of Native Backyard Missouri Birds for an opportunity to be featured in our 2023 Songbird Station Calendar. See store for details.

Visit SongbirdStation.com frequently to see more events throughout the year.

Bring Winter Birds to Your Yard!

By Andy Impastato

As the winter holidays approach, you have probably made your list. Checked it twice. And you still don't know what to get slightly-off-her-rocker Aunt Minerva who has everything she needs already? Well, maybe we can help you there, and, at the same time, we can guide you on how to keep those beautiful songbirds coming to your backyard and hers all winter long.

Our feathered friends have very simple needs during the 110 days of the year when Missouri temperatures dip below freezing. Their uncomplicated goal is to feed and survive. You can help in three straightforward ways: feed energy-laden seed and suet, provide shelter and supply water.

Your feed selection should focus on diverse foods heavy in fat and protein. Suet, like Pine Tree Farms' Fruit Berry & Nut blend, is derived from energizing beef fat and also attracts birds who like a variety of breakfast treats. Peanuts and black oil sunflower provide more energy per ounce consumed than grains like milo or millet. Safflower is also heavy in fat and is not liked by pesky starlings and grackles. Mealworms are a good protein source. Peanut butter spread or **PTF9001** Tree Icing on pinecones provides great fat for birds and great fun for grandkids. Leftover bread, however, has almost no nutritional value and should not be fed.



PTF9001 Tree Icing



SERUBHF55 Small Hopper Feeder

Different songbirds prefer different styles of feeders. Hoppers and tube feeders keep seed dryer while out in the winter elements, work great with hulled peanuts and sunflower seed, and attract cardinals. Tube feeders also attract finches. Platform or tray feeders, like the **SERUBLHPF105**, will attract the widest variety of seed-eating birds, including grosbeaks, chickadees and cardinals. Suet and suet feeders are rugged, designed for all year use and draw woodpeckers and other clinging birds. For Aunt Minerva, or any other aunt, we would recommend our **SERUBHF55** Small Hopper Feeder made from recycled poly, and the Aspects 395 Tube Feeder. Both are solidly constructed and popular.

Remember to keep seed in a cool, safe, and accessible place. Put your feeder or feeders in locations where they can be observed from your favorite chair inside the warmth of your home. And if ice and snow prevent you from getting to your feeder for a day or two, no worries. Toss a handful or two of black oil sunflower across the snow-covered yard until you can get to your feeders.

Several Missouri songbirds like bluebirds and chickadees often sleep in groups on frigid nights to share body heat. It is not uncommon to see

Bring Winter Birds to Your Yard Cont.

several bluebirds emerge from a roosting pocket in the early a.m. By providing roosting pockets and nesting boxes, you provide gathering places when natural cavities are not abundant. Place nesting boxes away from the winter winds. Some experts recommend adding nesting material, like our **SE907** Alpaca Wool, to nesting boxes and roosting pockets, kind of like adding a blanket layer. Our **SEWF91009** nesting material mix and dry wood shavings also work well.

Roosting pockets are basically a small bird house made from dried reed grass which is resistant to decay. The rough surface of reed grass gives birds great surface for easy entrance and exit. Nesting Boxes look more like a typical bird house and are usually made of wood and have a larger capacity. The **SE935** Hanging Roosting Pocket with a cedar roof is in stock



SE935 Hanging Roosting Pocket

with more roosting pocket styles arriving soon. Our Convertible Nesting Box, **SE600**, is in stock, too.

When ponds, creeks and streams freeze over and puddles evaporate, a clean water source

is necessary during our mid-Missouri winter months. A bird bath, whether made of glass, concrete, plastic, or clay, is an ideal way to supply winter water. Birdbath water can be kept from freezing by utilizing a specifically designed birdbath heater that stays warm enough to keep the water liquid, but does not melt plastic, or more importantly, burn our feathered friends. There are also birdbaths with thermostatically controlled heaters already installed, like our **SE501** Deck Bird Bath or our **SE509** Bird Bath on a cedar stand. If your aunt, or uncle, already has a bird bath, consider the **ALLIEDPRBDT250** De-Icer as a gift for them and the birds.



SE905 Heated Birdbath

In addition to quenching thirst, a clean water supply also aids songbirds in their quest for warmth. Birds fluff out their feathers to trap a layer of air between the feathers that acts as insulation to help keep them warm. This effect helps them survive sub-zero temperatures. Matted, dirty feathers don't fluff out fully, so birds do need a

way to clean up even in cold weather. They do seem to instinctively know when, or if, it is too cold to bathe.

Like your feeders, install your birdbath where it can be observed. Running an extension cord to power the heater from a safe, functional outlet is easy, but we suggest using a cord lock to weather-proof the extension cord – heater cord connection. If an electrical source is a challenge, you can use a water wiggler to create motion in the birdbath water. This will keep it from freezing until about 30 degrees. Some customers have had success by placing a small ball in the birdbath reservoir. A slight wind will keep it moving and keep a small amount of water ice-free. A final idea for those who like to brave the elements: place hot water in the birdbath in the morning, let the birds drink and bathe before it freezes.

As you can see, keeping your backyard friends healthy this winter is simple. Feed them energy-packed suet and seed. Provide shelter. And supply adequate clean water. At Songbird Station, we have products that will assist you in all three of these areas. Stop in and see us. Who knows? You might find something for Aunt Minerva.

Window Feeding

By Kevin Alferman

When old man winter leaves us with limited daylight and long blustery days, it is easy to feel disconnected from nature's beauty. Many of us at Songbird Station have come to love window feeders and we encourage you to try one! Window feeders make wonderful gifts for all ages, from small children to seniors. These clear plexiglass feeders are convenient and ideal for homes with limited or no yard space, like condos, apartments, and many senior living communities.

Most types of birds will use window feeders and when they do they feel so close you can almost reach out and touch them! Allowing for an up close and personal



SE536 Mini Green Window Feeder

view of all your backyard birds without the need for binoculars, it is easy to identify which species make your yard their home. Observe their feeding patterns, and particular seed preferences. To switch it up, offer treats throughout the season!

For novices, try the Mini Green Window Feeder (**SE536**) which holds 1 cup of seed. More experienced birders will enjoy the Clear View Deluxe Hopper Feeder (**SE976**) with an easy to fill hopper that holds 4 cups of seed and a covered roof to keep seed dry. Pick a nutrient dense, low mess food to provide visitors with the rich



SE976 Clear View Deluxe Hopper Feeder

fats so important in the winter. Mel regularly feeds Hearty Hearts with excellent results.

If you already have a hanging feeder that you would like to window mount, pick up our Songbird Essentials Suction Cup Hanger (**SE077**). Durable and strong, this hook holds up to 5 lbs., swivels from side to side and will hold most hanging feeders. When spring arrives swap your seed feeder to a Dr. JB's Nectar Feeder to start bringing in the hummingbirds! April is a great time to make the switch to catch the early arrivals coming north.

Whether you are shopping for yourself or gifts for

everyone on your list, we are happy to help you find the perfect feeder and seed. You can feel great about gifting our Songbird Essentials window feeders because they are made right here in our Mid Missouri community! All our window feeders and hooks are easy to mount and designed to last. Window feeders are a wonderful way to reconnect with nature and share the joy this winter. Enjoying a cozy cup of coffee while enjoying the birds, without ever going out into the snow and cold...priceless.



SE077 Hanger





Q&A With Bird Man Mel

Q: I feed my Backyard Birds-will they become too dependent on me?

A: No -As I mention in our seminars, the typical bird will stop at 20- 25 spots each day to feed. A study of 348 color-banded Black Capped Chickadees in Wisconsin found that birds obtained only about 21 % of their energy needs from feeders. The same researchers found that Black Capped Chickadees with available feeders were more likely to survive very harsh winters.



SE7013 Red Clinger Only feeder (Mel's Favorite)

Q: Are you sure it's good to feed suet to the birds? Won't they get unhealthy high cholesterol levels?

A: Actually songbirds are healthiest on a diet high in fats and protein. Unlike humans birds metabolize fat very well.

That gives birds the calories they need to maintain body temperature. To make sure your songbirds (not starlings) get the suet you pay for try one of our suet saver feeders for both small suet cakes and larger suet seed cakes. By exposing the shortest side of suet, this feeder is the absolute most starling resistant feeder on the market!



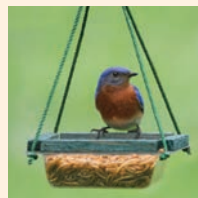
SE902 (Pictured)
Standard Suet
Saver Feeder SE932
Large Suet Saver

Q: Bluebirds have been flying around my yard. Will they stay this winter? What's the best feed to attract and help them?

A: Yes, Bluebirds will stay here this winter. You'll often see 6 or more coming out of one house. To help them choose your yard, take a moment to seal top vents with winter window seal strips and put a clean pile of dry grass in the bottom of your Bluebird houses. As to offering them food, live mealworms are their favorite and most beneficial food. We offer the healthiest and best priced



SE516 Multi-Purpose
Chalet on a Stick



SE517 Hanging
Mealworm Dish

mealworms in Columbia. In my yard their favorite feeder is the Multi-Purpose Chalet on a stick we build here in the Midwest, USA!!! Looking for inexpensive version, try our hanging meal worm dish.

Q: I've been seeing a small dark gray bird and a couple different brown birds hopping around on the ground by my feeders. What can I do to keep them in my yard?

A: You've probably seen the Dark Eyed Junco, White Sparrow and American Tree Sparrow. All are mainly winter visitors-sorry-they will leave for warmer weather! These birds are the main reason we stock white millet and our songbird Essentials Special Blend Mix contains it. All 3 love millet. Put it on a ground tray or just throw on the ground and they will visit often! I recommend the Birds of Missouri Field Guide by Stan Tekiela to help you identify al your visitors.



SESE1012C Small
Ground Feeder

Scan or visit
BirdManMel.com
for more great
birding tips



Mel's Holiday Savings

10% OFF
Recommended
Reading Books



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Expires:12-20-2021

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Can not be combined with any other promotions. One time use. Can't be exchanged for cash. (Except to the extent required by law)

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and Carson
Home Chimes



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Snowman
Mesh Feeder



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10% OFF
Doormat with
purchase of
matching
holiday flag



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10% OFF
Seed Hoops
with purchase
of feeder



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**Buy 3
Ornaments
& Save 10%**



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The Redbirds of Christmas - Cardinals

By Erica Kuras

Known as the Christmas bird, Cardinals have long been symbols of love, hope and new beginnings. Native American lore tells that Cardinals appear as matchmakers, and harbingers of good luck. Female cardinals are thought to be messengers sent by passed loved ones. For many Christians, Cardinals symbolize the constancy of divine love, even in the darkest of seasons. For all, a bright crimson visitor perched among branches is a welcome sight in the deepest parts of winter. Invite these beautiful birds to your yard this Christmas so you can enjoy them all winter long.

Cardinals are non-migratory and become expert foragers as temperatures turn cold. Feeding on wild berries, nuts and seeds, their resources become very limited during harsh weather, especially as winter progresses. Offer a consistent supply of nutrient rich food preferred by cardinals and they will become loyal guests at your feeders. Our Songbird Essentials Cardinal Chorus blend contains three of Cardinals favorite foods- black oil sunflower, safflower, and sunflower meats. Consumer testing has proven our blends are favored by birds over



SESEED101GC Cardinal Chorus 20 lbs.

provide the most nutrient dense seed available. Treat cardinals to peanuts, cracked corn and berries as well! While these foods don't provide the nutritional punch of black oil sunflower cardinals do enjoy them.

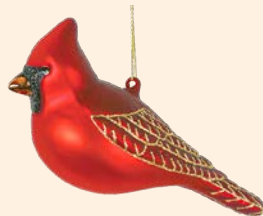
Cardinals can be territorial about their food sources in other seasons. However, in winter it is not uncommon to see large gatherings of Cardinals

feeding together. Cardinals like to perch while eating and prefer to eat from tray or platform feeders. We offer a variety of hanging tray and platform feeders in several sizes. We recommend the 12x12 Super Tray which includes a weather cover to help keep seed dry. Locate feeders in sheltered spots beneath or near evergreens, trees, or bushes, which offer Cardinals cover from predators and the elements. Make sure to also maintain a fresh, unfrozen source of water near your feeders. Water is critical to all birds in winter, and Cardinals will appreciate convenient access. Read more about the importance of water in winter on page 7.



SE535 Super Tray Feeder with cover

Undeniably stunning in color and rich with symbolism, share the beauty of Cardinals with friends and loved ones this holiday! Enjoying Cardinals More is a fantastic book to gift to anyone who would like to learn more about attracting Cardinals. We offer a variety of Christmas décor featuring Cardinals, including gorgeous ornaments



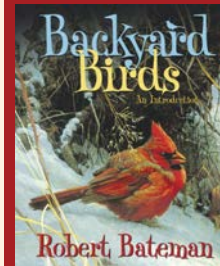
COBANEC399 Northern Cardinal

designed by Michigan artist Margaret Cobane, as well as beautiful puzzles and toys. Bring the Christmas Bird into your yard and home and let it remind you to spread messages of hope and love this Christmas, and all year long.



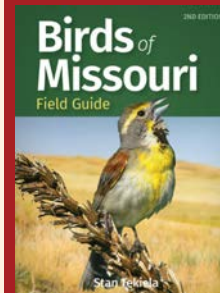
GEP102 Nature's Jewels Puzzle

Recommended Reading



Backyard Birds: An Introduction
By Robert Bateman

Internationally acclaimed wildlife artist and naturalist Robert Bateman has painted, sketched and enjoyed birds since he was a young boy. He shares his passion for birds and his unique talents as artist and storyteller in this informative introduction to birds for young readers and beginners at bird watching.



Birds of Missouri Field Guide 2nd Edition
By Stan Tekiela

Mel Highly recommends Stan Tekiela's Birds of Missouri fields guide! Authored by Stan Tekiela this state guides feature incomparable full page, color photos with insets of winter plumage, color morphs and more! With the easy to use format, you don't need to know a bird's name or classification in order to easily find it in the book.



Natures Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard!
By Douglas W. Tallamy

A New York Times Best Seller! If you're concerned about doing something good for the environment, Nature's Best Hope is the blueprint you need. By acting now, you can help preserve our precious wildlife.





First Friday Walks

Led By: Lottie Bushmann

Dates: Dec. 3rd, Jan. 3rd, Feb. 4th,
Mar. 4th and April 1st

Join the Columbia Audubon Society for First Friday Bird Walks! Walks are open to anyone who enjoys birds and beginners are encouraged to attend. We walk at the 3M Wetlands trail, just off the MKT trail near Forum Blvd. Meet at the Songbird Station Parking lot at 8 a.m. sharp and then we will drive down the hill to park near

the wetlands, less than a 5 minute drive. We'll enjoy all the Missouri resident birds in this natural, lush landscape. It is a moderate walk. Waterproof shoes are recommended, but not required. After our walk we'll return to Songbird Station by 11:00 and enjoy refreshments and the good company!

Columbia's Christmas Bird Count

Saturday Dec. 18th

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count began on Christmas Day 1900! The nation's longest-running community science bird project fuels Audubon's work throughout the year, informing their work to protect birds and their habitat. You can add to a century of community science by joining the Columbia Count! If you would like to participate and are not already part of a team, or would like more information, please contact Lottie Bushman at lottie.bushman@gmail.com

Visit www.columbia-audubon.org for more info and other great local events.

Closer Look



Don't forget, we carry high quality optics carefully selected just for birders! Be sure to check out our binoculars from Vortex, Carson Optical and Opticron. From young beginner to advanced pro, we have the perfect pair to meet your needs!

10% OFF
Vortex Optics



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Choose The Correct Seed

Bluebird																
Blue Jay																
Bunting																
Cardinal																
Chickadee																
Dove																
Goldfinch																
House Finch																
Junco																
Nuthatch																
Pine Siskin																
Purple Finch																
Sparrow																
Tanager																
Titmouse																
Towhee																
Woodpecker																
Wren																

All seed bags are nitrogen-flushed to half insect infestation. NO BUGS!

Songbird Station Gift Giving Ideas

We have something for everyone this holiday! Stop in to see our great selection. We are fully stocked and decorated to inspire your Christmas shopping!

Central Missouri's largest selection of ornaments!



Special People
and Events



Your Favorite
Dog and Cat



Birds of Missouri
and More



We offer beautiful hand
towels, candles, stockings,
wind chimes and more!



Large selection of
stocking stuffers young
and old will love!



Largest selection of puzzles
in mid Missouri!



Beautiful gifts wrapped and ready to give! Just grab and go.



Large selection of kids gifts to
help spark a love of nature!



Add elegance to your tree
with tree picks



Tilley Sun Hats SPF 50

NOW HIRING

Part Time Retail Sales Associate

Songbird Station is seeking an amazing employee to join our workforce. We are fortunate to serve market segments that are strong and growing, even during these tough times. For more information on the position and to apply scan the QR code to the right or visit online at:

https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?t=part+time+sales+associate&jk=7025c2d338684351&_ga=2.77119573.1123584266.1636412045-1855212897.1622048123



Wingman's Fun Feathered Facts

By Grant Toellner



50%

Beef fat used for suet cakes, has seen the cost rise over 50% since February and is more than double what it was in March 2020. A favorite and best seller at Songbird Station is the High-Energy from Pine Tree Farms as it contains more beef fat the clingers love and need compared to other suet on the market with fillers like corn and grains.

Egyptian Tombs

Safflower has been found in Egyptian tombs dating to about 3500 B.C. and in the winter makes a great seed to offer as it has the reputation for being the favorite food of the northern cardinal and some say is not as readily eaten by squirrels and blackbirds. I offer my safflower using a ground platform feeder as doves and jays enjoy it as well.

-20 Degrees

Some heated birdbaths such as the Cedar Heated Birdbath from Songbird Essentials, keeps water heated in -20 degrees temperatures. Heated baths are vital for birds as they provide a water source in the coldest months, with the additional benefit of giving birdwatchers a way to observe the birds up close.

Roost Box

They may look like bird houses but a "roosting box" is a great way to help your feathered friends survive the cold winter months. A good roost box is designed to prevent the birds' body heat from escaping, so, unlike a nest box, it has fewer ventilation holes. Also, its entrance hole is near the bottom of the box so the rising warmth doesn't escape. The Convertible Roosting House from Songbird Essentials is the best as it has all of the above features as well as perches inside which allow the birds to roost easily.



SE600 Convertible Roosting House

Offer Fresh Water all Winter!

By Erica Kuras

Birds Need Water in Winter! We cannot emphasize it enough! Fresh water is critically important for the survival of our wild birds year-round, but never more so than in the winter! Cold temperatures, lack of food and frozen water are challenging for birds. With usual water sources buried beneath ice and snow, your bird bath may be the only unfrozen water source your back yard birds have, so keep maintaining your bath all winter long! If you have an existing bath, add a deicer. Deicers are an economical way to keep water liquid during freezing temps. We carry several styles and can help you select the best model for your needs. For added convenience in the winter, invest in a heated bath. These baths are thermostatically controlled and prevent water from freezing over

with minimal hassle. We offer several heated baths at Songbird Station, including two Cedar Bird Baths, our SE501 Deck Mount Bath & SE509 Post Mounted Bath. Locate the bath in a spot near shrubs or trees, so birds can easily take shelter if predators like cats are an issue. And of course, place your bath near a window where you can observe your birds from the warmth of your home. Keep an eye on the water level and fill your bath regularly. Keep baths

clean, scrubbing with baking soda and lemon juice or white vinegar and rinsing well. Your back yard birds will appreciate your efforts to keep water accessible, and you will enjoy seeing them at your bath throughout the winter season.



ALLIEDPRBDT250 Birdbath De-Icer



SE501 Cedar Heated Deck BirdBath



2010 Chapel Plaza Court
Suite C
Columbia, MO 65203
573.446.5941
www.songbirdstation.com

1600 Bassford Drive
Mexico, MO 65265
and

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Songbird Station NEWS

"We Help Families Enjoy Nature Together"

WINTER STORE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. : 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. : 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.

Holiday Savings

10% OFF

Gift Essential Puzzles



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20% OFF

Select Glass Birdbaths



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\$5

Select Glass Trees



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Handmade Copper Hummingbird & Oriole Feeders



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Holiday Nightlights



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and sales
throughout the
year.



SCAN ME