

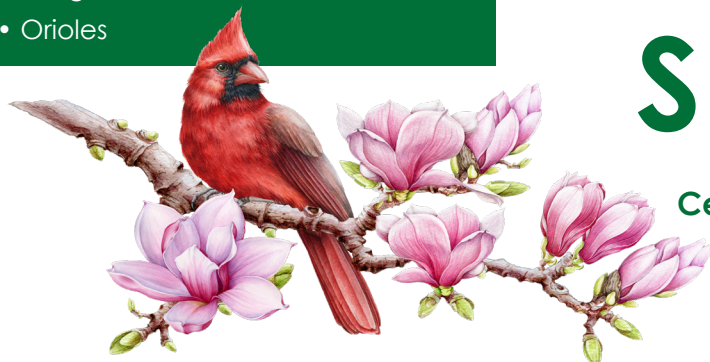
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Songbird Station

NEWS

Spring 2022



Celebrating 26 Years of Helping Families
Enjoy Nature Together

Songbird Station Events

First Friday Bird Walks

Join the Columbia Audubon Society for First Friday Bird Walks! See page 5 for more details.

Seminars

We will have two seminars, one about Hummingbirds and the other about Bluebirds, on March 19th. Sign up in the store or by calling to reserve a spot. Hummingbird seminar is from 10 - 10:45am. Bluebird seminar is from 11 - 11:45am.

Rewards Program

Sign up for our Rewards Program and 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.

2022 Calendar

Pick up a 2022 Songbird Station Photo Calendar for valuable monthly coupons. (Our first run of calendars had the days of October misprinted, stop in to get up a new updated one.)

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.

Create a Spring Bird Haven In Your Yard!

By Erica Kuras

At long last it is Spring! At Songbird Station- we are rolling out the red carpet for Hummingbirds, Bluebirds, Orioles, Gold Finches and all the beautiful birds this season. Some are migrating long distances, some are permanent residents, all are invited! Backyard Birding is what we do! Fun and enriching for every generation in the family, we can't think of a better way to get outdoors together. Kids love to help fill feeders and baths and learn so much from observing the nesting season! We want to help you create an inviting backyard bird haven. It is easy to get started, and so rewarding!

Begin by creating a bird buffet! Feeding stations are the centerpiece of any backyard bird retreat. Take stock of the feeders you may already have and decide which birds you would love to attract. A meal worm feeder will delight Bluebirds. Fruit feeders bring in Orioles, Tanagers and Mockingbirds. Tray and Hopper Feeders with Cardinal Chorus seed mix attract larger birds like Cardinals and Grosbeaks. Nyjer feeders and sunflower kernels are loved by Goldfinches, Suet feeders attract Nuthatches, Chickadees, Woodpeckers and Titmice. Of course, you will absolutely need a nectar feeder to draw hummingbirds!

Locate feeders in different spots around your yard to give birds plenty of personal space. Place feeders close to shrubs or trees which offer protection from predators-like a stealthy neighborhood cat. If one spot isn't drawing visitors- try another! Always feed high quality seed, suet and nectar. We offer a variety of specially formulated Songbird Essentials blends which never contain cheap fillers, reducing waste and stretching your seed dollars.

Add water! Birds need clean water to drink and bathe every season. Providing a fresh water source like a bird bath is key. Locate your bath away from bird feeders, placing in a shady spot near protective shrubs and trees. The shade keeps water cool in the summer and discourages algae.

Adding a solar bath bubbler attracts new visitors with sound, especially migrants who may need help finding a water source. Bubblers keep water moving which helps keep things fresh. Birds prefer a clean bath so keep yours sparkling. Rinse your bath daily with fresh water and fill as needed. Check water often and fill more frequently in very hot weather. Deep clean baths about once weekly using



SE905

Ultimate Oriole Feeder



BE145

Petite Bluebird Feeder



GEHF002

Glass Hummingbird Feeder

Bird Haven Cont.

a weak solution of water and bleach and a good brush, rinsing thoroughly.

Check out all our beautiful, functional Songbird Essentials baths! Our baths have shallow slopes and textured bottoms at the correct depth so even small birds can enjoy freshening up safely. As the season goes on, you may



SE5029, SE5048, SE5071
Glass Birdbaths

see a new generation of young birds splashing about.

Spring is nesting season. While many birds build nests in shrubs or foliage, some species like Bluebirds, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens and Woodpeckers need sturdier shelter. These cavity nesters historically built nests and raised their broods in the cavities of dead and fallen trees.

As development has cleared many wooded areas, access to natural cavities has dwindled. Hanging bird



SERUBUBH
Recycled Plastic Ultimate Bluebird House

houses and nesting boxes invites these birds to move in, spend the season and raise their young.

Nesting boxes can be simple or ornate, but they should always be well constructed. Look for boxes that have the following features:

- An appropriately sized entrance located far enough from the floor that a nest can be built inside.
- A sloped roof and drainage to keep out moisture.
- Plenty of ventilation for air circulation.

- A side or top panel that opens for easy cleaning
- No exterior perches.

Mount boxes in sheltered areas, and make sure to secure the boxes so they will not be knocked down by strong winds or playful squirrels. During spring yard clean-up, don't dispose of natural nesting materials. Lawn clippings, leaves and garden debris can be piled in a corner of your yard and birds will use it to build nests.

Food, water, and shelter are the three keys to creating a backyard bird haven! Incorporate great, functional feeders designed for the specific birds you would like to attract. Fill feeders with high quality food. Offer fresh, clean water and safe secure houses for nesting. It really is that simple to get started! Bring in the right elements this spring and your family will enjoy birds all year long. Read on for more great tips specific to attracting Bluebirds, Hummingbirds and more!

Bird:	Floor Size	Entrance Height (Above Floor)	Hole Diameter	Height (Above Ground)
Chickadee	4" x 4"	4" - 6"	1 1/8"	6' - 10'
Titmouse	4" x 4"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	8' - 15'
Nuthatch	4" x 4"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	12' - 20'
House Wren	4" x 4"	4" - 6"	1 1/8"	6' - 10'
Carolina Wren	4" x 4"	4" - 6"	1 1/2"	6' - 12'
Screech Owl	8" x 8"	9" - 12"	3"	10' - 20'
Wood Duck	12" x 12"	10" - 18"	4"	8' - 20'
Purple Martin	12" x 12"	1"	2 1/2"	15' - 20'
Eastern Bluebird	4" x 4"	6" - 7"	1 1/2"	4' - 6'
Woodpeckers:	Floor Size	Entrance Height (Above Floor)	Hole Diameter	Height (Above Ground)
Flicker	7" x 7"	10" - 20"	2 1/2"	10' - 20'
Red-Headed	6" x 6"	10" - 14"	2 1/4"	10' - 20'
Downy	4" x 4"	8" - 12"	1 1/2"	10' - 20'
Hairy	6" x 6"	10" - 14"	2 1/2"	10' - 20'

Hummingbirds By Erica Kuras

Hummingbirds are on the way! A few scouts may arrive earlier, but Central Missouri typically sees the first arrivals of our tiniest bird mid-April. Hummers are extremely loyal to feeding sites. Once a Hummingbird uses a feeder in your yard, chances are they will return year after year. Now is the time to get nectar feeders up so returning birds will find food ready! Clean existing feeders well, repair or replace any ports or bee guards that may be worse for wear.

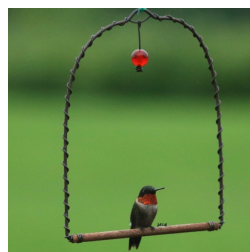
Experienced Hummingbird fans will tell you that the more feeders you place around your yard-the more Hummingbirds you will have. Why? Hummers are very territorial about

their nectar source, and they do not like to share a feeder! Consider adding additional nectar feeders early in the season and be patient! It may take time for a

new arrival to discover your feeders and learn how to use them. Place the feeders a good distance apart, at varied heights, and out of sight of each other if possible.

Hummers like to watch over their chosen feeder and our Hummingbird Swings offer a pretty perch. Hang the swing within sight of a feeder and you may be surprised by how often it is used, and by the variety of birds using it. Swings are perfect additions to any feeding station and should be placed in a protected area. These little perches are great for getting good photos!

Check out our wide range of Hummingbird feeders. The Songbird Essentials Big Red Feeder is Mel's favorite to bring in spring migrants.



SEHHHUMS Copper Hummingbird Swing

This feeder is small, affordable, easy to clean and fill. We also offer Dr. JB's switchable feeders which allow you to increase the jar size to offer more nectar as the season goes on. Don't forget to pick up Nectar Protectors which deterants from getting into feeders, and a Super Shaker Nectar Maker to make filling feeders easy. Change nectar often & clean feeders weekly, more often in very hot weather. Don't forget to pick up some Songbird Essentials cleaning brushes to help you keep your feeders in top notch shape.

Join us March 19th for the Hummingbird Seminar! Seminar will begin at 10 am, and seats are limited! Call or stop in to sign up! Kids that join us for the seminar will receive a free Audubon Hummingbird Feeder!



SE952 Big Red



Hand-Held Hummingbird Feeder



Q&A With Bird Man Mel

Q: Can I put out dryer lint to help nesting birds

A: While your intentions are good, please do not put dryer lint out as an aid to nesting birds as it often contains fabric scraps that are full of chemicals that can harm birds. Can I suggest instead our new Nesting Material Ball (BE400). It's just \$9.95, another suggestions is to fill a suet cage or seed bell with our nesting material mix (SEWF91009).



BE400 Nesting Material Ball



SEWF91010 Birdie Bell with nesting material

Q: I'm trying to attract Hummingbirds, Orioles, Martins and Wrens this year. Remind me the key dates.

A: Martins return NOW with new arrivals until May. Hummingbird feeders up by April 10th, Oriole feeders up by April 20th, and Wren houses up by May 1st. Tips for attracting them are:

- Utilize Purple Martin Decoys and

Chatter CD's to attract them

- Clean feeders attract more hummingbirds



SE607 Best Combo Brush Set (Only brush set to clean every part of an oriole and hummingbird feeder.)

- Put big red Christmas bow by your feeders for hummingbirds
- Jelly holds Orioles in your yard longer, especially Birdberry Jelly (**SE6010**).
- Want more Wrens? Have feeders on different sides of your house!



SE6010 Birdberry Jelly

Q: My wife doesn't like birdseed sprouting in our yards and flower beds. Any solutions?

A: A couple. First, fill your feeders with our Hearty Hearts (**SESEED126GC**) or waste free gourmet seed mixes. They are 100% eatable and do not sprout if any falls to the ground. Second, use



SESEED166GC Shell-Free Deluxe

a seed hoop (**SEIA30034**) under your feeders. This catches the seed that drops. Don't be surprised if Cardinals clean them out of the hoop!



SEIA30034 16" Seed Hoop

Q: Any secrets to attract Goldfinches? I'd love to now that they are turning a brighter gold.

A: Two suggestions. First, feed a mix like our Fantastic Finch 2 (**SESEED171GC**) that will contain fine chopped sunflowers as well as nyjer. Finches prefer! In fact finches also love Hearty Hearts (**SESEED126GC**) sunflower kernels. Second, yellow feeders seem to attract more Goldfinches. Feed Hearty Hearts (**SESEED126GC**) in our Yellow Clingers Only and Fantastic Finch 2 (**SESEED171GC**) in one of our mesh feeders with a yellow top and bottom.



SESEED171GC Fantastic Finch 2



SESEED126GC Hearty Hearts



SE324Y Finches Favorite 3 Tube Feeder

Scan or visit **BirdManMel.com** for more great birding tips



Mel's Spring Savings

10% OFF



Fantastic Finch 2 seed with purchase of any goldfinch feeder

Expires: 5-1-2022

10% OFF



Nesting material with purchase of any nesting box

Expires: 5-1-2022

20% OFF



Bird Bath Protector with purchase of any bird bath

Expires: 5-1-2022

10% OFF



Birdberry Jelly and Oriole Nectar with purchase of Ultimate Oriole Feeder



Expires: 5-1-2022

Brilliant Bluebirds

By Grant Toellner

"Mister Bluebird on my shoulder, it's the truth, it's actch'll, everything is satisfactch'll", is part of the classic Disney song "Zipa-Dee-Doo-Dah" from the movie Song of the South. While it is unlikely a Bluebird would rest on one's shoulder, there is a great chance you can make this delightful bird part of your spring by putting up a bluebird house.

Missouri chose to make the Eastern Bluebird the official state bird, and it's easy to see why! The males possess a stunning royal blue on the back and head, with a brick red chest and white underside. Blue tinges in the wings and tail give the grayer females a chic look that distinguishes them from their male counterparts.

Eastern Bluebirds typically have more than one successful brood per year. Young produced in early nests usually leave their parents in summer, but young from later nests frequently stay with their parents over the winter. They prefer to live in meadows and at the edge of the woods, making it typical to see their nests along the golf course or in parks.

Eastern Bluebirds eat mostly insects, wild fruit & berries, but have been known to nibble on suet pellets and sunflower kernels, especially during the colder months. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, from 1966 to 2010, populations of Eastern Bluebirds steadily increased at about a rate of 2% per year, mainly due to nest box campaigns by different Audubon groups & the North American Bluebird Society.

From housing to food, there are several ways you can help continue to make the numbers grow! The simplest way to start is to provide a bluebird house in your own yard, or in an area suitable for bluebirds. From economical to elite and even to do-it-yourself kits, Songbird Station offers everything a Bluebird advocate could need. If you are on a budget, I suggest picking up a couple cedar bluebird houses by the Town & Country division of Songbird Essentials. Made in Missouri specifically for Bluebirds, it has the appropriate 1.5" entrance hole, drainage holes, and

features a side hinge for easy clean out during the off season.

The premier house on the market, in my opinion, is the Ultimate Bluebird House by Songbird Essentials.

Along with all of the features above, it also features a metal portal protector, longer slanted roof,



SESCS3004
Ultimate Bluebird House

and nest lift. For folks looking for a fun project to do with kids or grandkids, grab one of the Cedar do-it-yourself Bluebird House Kits. Made in Missouri by local craftsmen, all materials are included. This house will hold up for years & provide entertainment for the whole family. Scoop up for a great weekend project!

Also, offer food to entice Bluebirds to eat closer to your residence. Their absolute favorite food is mealworms. Bluebirds prefer live mealworms and Songbird Station offers a variety of sizes. If live bugs in your fridge is not your thing (or your significant other's), try dried mealworms! From small pouches to bulk tubs, we have the best prices around!



SE648 10oz Mealworm Tub

For a limited time save 20% dried mealworms with the purchase of any Songbird Essentials Bluebird Feeder (see offer on pg 8)!

To learn more about our beautiful state bird, register to attend the Songbird Station Bluebird Seminar hosted by Mel Toellner, aka "Bird Man Mel" on March 19th at 11am. Seats are limited so stop in or give us a call to register soon! If you can't make the seminar, come on in to take advantage of the specials and pick up a Bluebird Tip sheet loaded with good information!

Recommended Reading



Midwest Birding Companion
By Stan Tekiela

Part how-to book, part field guide, part journal. Award winning author Stan Tekiela shares everything from identification tips to handling injured birds. Guide includes 150 bird species organized by color, with range maps, habitat preferences and how to entice each to your yard!



Bluebirds
By Stan Tekiela

Learn from acclaimed naturalist Stan Tekiela what foods to provide to keep bluebirds coming back and which feeders they prefer and why. Find out how to make your yard into a habitat they will visit, and enjoy bluebird photographs, trivia, and quick tips.



Hummingbirds
By Stan Tekiela

Hummingbirds are among the most beloved birds in the nation - and for good reason. They're beautiful and active. They're buzzing flashes of action. Almost anyone would welcome these feathered friends to their backyard feeders, and now you can bring them to yours! The book features fascinating facts about the lives of hummingbirds, in-depth information about attracting and feeding hummingbirds, feeding Q&A and more!

Gardening for the Birds!

By Erica Kuras

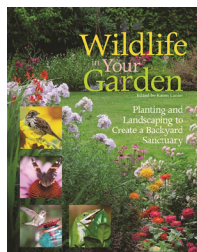
Gardening is often overlooked by novice backyard birders, but a well-designed, diverse garden incorporating plenty of **native** species will attract a wide variety of birds, both permanent residents and migrants! Choose a mix of vegetation including flowering and fruiting plants that bloom throughout the seasons. Plant evergreens and thicket type shrubs, with a mix of heights. Leave some clippings, leaves, and debris beneath shrubs and keep brush piles in corners of your yard. These offer protection, nesting material and host insects-the primary food source for many birds! In fact, birds consume incredible numbers of insects and keep down pest populations, which in turn supports organic gardening methods. To keep your backyard bird friendly, always avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides. Our book section includes several titles to help you create a beautiful, flowering bird habitat in your yard!



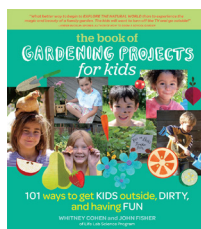
Garden Secrets for Attracting Birds
By Rachael Lanicci



Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife
By David Mizejewski



Wildlife in Your Garden
By Karen Lanier



The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids
By Whitney Cohen and John Fisher

Native Plant Society Sale

Coming 1st part of May located in the Songbird Station Parking lot.
Exact date and details to follow.



First Friday Walks

Led By: Lottie Bushmann

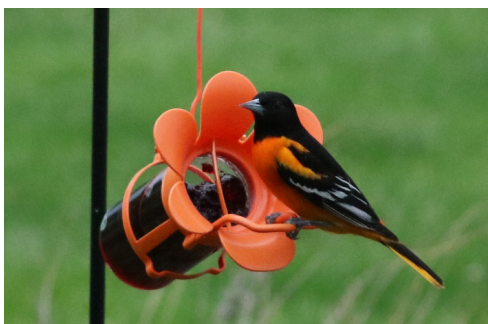
Dates: Mar. 4th and April 1st

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!

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

Arriving Soon! Orioles

Migrating Orioles arrive in Central Missouri by late April. You may hear their flutelike whistle before you spot these gorgeous birds. Timing is everything when it comes to Orioles. You must catch their attention as soon as they arrive-so prepare now! Orioles are "frugivores." They eat bugs, nectar and fruit-especially oranges. Orioles are also attracted to vibrant shades of orange. Choose feeders in bright orange and hang high in your trees, optimally before mid-April. The Ultimate Oriole Feeder allows you to offer orange halves, nectar and Birdberry Jelly! Birdberry Jelly is ideal for Orioles and is loved by other species as well. Orioles are loyal to feeding sites so catch them inbound this spring, and with luck they will return to your yard next year.



SEBCO212
Jelly/Jam Feeder



SE905
Ultimate Oriole Feeder



BE154
Oriole Picnic Table

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!

Garden Decor and Gifts

Stop in and browse our great selection of spring decor and Easter gifts!



Expression Magnets

A magnetic work of art that will brighten your life and hold tight children's artwork!



Rubber Tray Sold Separately



Spring Garden Flags/Mat Mates/Mailwraps

Garden Flags-Vivid 100% All-Weather Polyester for Exceptional Fade Resistance,
Mat Mates-Vivid Printed Indoor/Outdoor Polyester with Durable Non-Skid Low Profile Rubber Backing,
Mailwraps-Meets US Postal Requirements Fade resistant/All-weather vinyl with magnetic strips



Sloggers

Waterproof, All-Day Comfort, Easy to slip on and off, Easy to clean, Made in USA



Mary Lake Thompson Towels

Flour sack towel great for drying dishes and cleaning up!



Carrot Sunny Seed

Chocolate covered sunflower seeds, Great for Easter Baskets



Bird Magnets

Stoneware vase with magnet



Chimes

Innovative designs, Superior quality, and Beautiful sound

NEW TO THE STATION

Holly Seaver, a long time Songbird Station Manager, officially retired 2/11/2022. Holly felt the time was right, as two employees hired last fall, Madison Calvert and Jahnavi Lasseter, quickly learned the correct products and tips to help you attract the songbirds you want to your yard. With Holly's retirement, a new face, Caroline James, has also joined our team. When you come in, you'll love the enthusiasm, passion, and knowledge that our three ladies have as they help you pick out a new feeder or gift!

Pictured Left to Right: Caroline James, Jahnavi Lasseter, and Madison Calvert



Wingman's Fun Feathered Facts

By Grant Toellner



310 Million

Recent estimates state the American Robin population to be 310 million. The population declined enormously due to DDT use in the mid-1900s as Robins were among the first avian species found to be affected by the use of this pesticide. After the 1972 ban on DDT the populations started to increase once again. As Robins don't often eat at feeders in spring months, a great way to help is providing a birdbath as they are frequent visitors and love a good splash.

400-600

While the average human heart beats 70-75 times a minute, a bird's heart rate while resting beats on average 400-600 times per minute. A hummingbird's heart rate can beat up to 1200 times per minute or 20 times every second. Help give them a quick rest by adding a tweet heart swing close by to your feeders this spring.

Two

The number of molts an American Goldfinch has as it changes from winter plumage to breeding plumage by a complete molt of its body feathers. It is the only member of its family to have this second molt in the spring; all the other species have just one molt each year in the fall. The three tube feeders are a great way to see a group of finches eat together as they are known to be social eaters.

Neotropical

Neotropical birds are birds migrating from areas in Central America and South America. Birds that are considered Neotropical migrators include the Baltimore Oriole, the Indigo Bunting, the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. Songbird Station offers a variety of feeders that cater to these spring visitors.

Kids Corner



This easy DIY wooden bird feeder is made from popsicle sticks and twine. It is a simple upcycled craft that kids will enjoy making. And then, the whole family can enjoy bird watching in the back yard! See instructions online at <https://www.turningclockback.com/easy-diy-wooden-bird-feeder/>



Bird Log Kids
By DeAnna Brandt

Bird Log Kids is a journal in which youngsters can record their encounters with birds! There are two full Log pages to write about and draw the birds they see. Also included are pages to paste photos, postcards, feathers found on the ground or do a little artwork! The Bird Parts and Common Words pages teach about and identify individual species. A two-page Life List provides enough space to log in 30 different birds!



Hummer Rings make great Easter basket gifts. Feed Hummingbirds out of your hand by standing still and extending your arm it will invite these wonderful birds to land and take nectar. Get yours in the store today! \$4.99

Bird Man Mel's Favorite Children Items Great for Easter Baskets



Outdoor Bingo
Contains 2 different cards
\$6.95



Little Birder Set
Contains starter binoculars and bird watching guide
\$17.95

1600 Bassford Drive
Mexico, MO 65265
573.446.5941
www.songbirdstation.com



Songbird Station NEWS

"We Help Families Enjoy Nature Together"

2010 Chapel Plaza Court
Suite C
Columbia, MO 65203

SPRING 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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring Savings

10% OFF

Expires: 4-15-2022

Spring Mailbox Cover or Doormat with Purchase of Matching Garden Flag



Songbird Station

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)

20% OFF

Expires: 4-15-2022

7oz Tub Dried Mealworms with purchase of Songbird Essentials Bluebird Feeder



Songbird Station

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)

20% OFF

Expires: 4-15-2022

8oz Nectar or Nectar Protector with Purchase of Songbird or Gift Essentials Hummingbird Feeder



Songbird Station

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)

25% OFF

Expires: 4-15-2022

Milkhouse Candles



Songbird Station

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)

Follow us on social media
for great events and sales
throughout the year.

Scan Me
To Follow

