



Birds Love **CHRISTMAS** too!

New Best Sellers

The Wildbird Trading Co., our supplier of top quality bird seed and feeders, has designed their own fantastic line of bird feeders under the brand name of **Wilderness Fred's**.

For their tube-style bird feeders, they combined all the features of the best feeders on the market to produce the perfect design. Here are some reasons why they're the best:

- Easy-remove, twist-out bottom for cleaning.
- Ergonomic, bird-preferred perches.
- Rain peak over ports.
- U.V. protected polycarbonate tubes.
- Seed diverter at bottom holes.
- Designed in Canada for Canadian birds!



The tube feeders are available for nyrjer or mixed seed and come in 3 sizes, 8", 15", and 25". Other **Wilderness Fred** designs available are the lantern feeder, peanut feeders, and a suet feeder. Starting at just...**\$9.99**

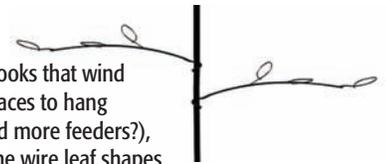
This will get their attention!

Beak Bites expandable mesh feeders are great for serving up the all-time favourite seed at backyard feeders – black oil sunflower seed. Cardinals, chickadees, woodpeckers, and more will flock to this large, red version. It's perfect for Christmas-time gift-giving!



Great Accessories

Coil Branch Arms are clever new hooks that wind around a 1" pole to provide extra places to hang more feeders (and who doesn't need more feeders?), or extra perches for waiting birds. The wire leaf shapes add an attractive, organic appeal to these handy accessories.



This pole-mounted suet cage is a perfect way to keep your suet away from pesky squirrels. Just clamp it on to a 1" pole above your pole-mounted squirrel baffle. Woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees will thank you.



Feed the Squirrels

Squirrels pose many challenges to the enjoyment of feeding your feathered friends. Don't fight them; feed them the sweet corn **Squirrellog**. Just one log replaces 12-24 ears of corn. Ready to hang; or screw a **Squirrellog** on to any of several squirrel feeder designs available at Featherfields – including a cute picnic table and a spinning wheel.

Fresh Water in Winter

The smooth lines and classic look of the **KozyBird Spa** will beautifully accent any yard while offering birds a bathing sanctuary year-round. This heated bird bath supplies ice-free water all winter using 150 watts of thermostatically controlled power. Simply push the socket side of an extension cord onto the plug at the base of the bath to power your bath's heater. The extension cord extends up through the pedestal and remains hidden.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

A native of the southeast, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is now a familiar sight at local bird feeders and in backyards. Like the cardinal, its range has extended north over the last 50 years into Southern Ontario. Yes, its belly is covered in a light red wash; but this woodpecker is easier to spot by the red on the back and top of its head. The female has a red nape only.

The male Red-bellied Woodpecker has a longer bill and a longer, wider tongue tip than the female. These adaptations may allow the male to reach deeper into furrows to extract prey and may allow the sexes to divide up the resources in one area.

To attract these beauties to your yard, offer a variety of suet, peanuts and sunflower seeds.

Holiday Open House

Join us for our annual Candy Cane Draw, In-store Specials, and Home-baked Treats.

HYDE PARK

Saturday, November 24 • 10:00 - 5:00
Sunday, November 25 • 12:00 - 4:00

STANLEY

Saturday, December 1 • 10:00 - 5:00
Sunday, December 2 • 12:00 - 4:00

Merry Makings

We're more than just bird feeding specialists. Featherfields is full of Merry Makings for a great holiday season.

Trim a tree or dress a holiday table with a selection of our festive ornaments. Shimmering hearts, playful cats, and many nature-inspired treasures such as fish, deer, canoes, and little acorn bells. Make sure to stop at our Bird Tree to find cardinals, owls, hummingbird ornaments and more. Any one of these makes a lovely hostess gift.

Remember, presentation creates excitement. Pretty holiday packages are fun for those who give and receive. Featherfields carries a wide selection of festive wrap, cards and embellishments to make your gift-giving experience extra special.

Winter Finches

This may be a good year for winter finch irruptions. The northern finches, such as Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks, are species that nest at higher latitudes. They are well known for their winter irruptions. An irruption is the opposite of an eruption. Birds erupt or leave from one area and irrupt or arrive in a different region. In good irruption years, we in southern Ontario may be thrilled by large numbers of some of these species.

The cause of this irruptive behaviour is food. All of these northern finches are primarily seed-eaters and many feed primarily on the cones of spruces, firs, tamaracks, hemlocks, and even pines. We know that cone or seed production by trees in a local area varies greatly from year to year. For an irruption to occur, the trees on the northern nesting grounds must have a low seed production, forcing the finches to erupt elsewhere in search of sufficient seeds.

After searching the website of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, I've come up with some potential trends for this winter:

- Most Purple Finches (not to be confused with the more common house finch) migrated out of Ontario this fall in response to the low seed crops (I saw one at my feeder last month on his way through).



Common Redpoll

- There will be a big flight of Common Redpolls into southern Ontario. Seed crops on white birch, yellow birch and alder are very poor in most of Ontario. Expect redpolls at bird feeders this winter. **Stock up on nyjer seed and black oil sunflower!**
- Most Pine Siskins departed Ontario this past summer, presumably attracted to big spruce cone crops in other regions of Canada. Some of the few Siskins that remain in Ontario are now wandering south with sightings of usually only ones or twos in southern Ontario. Very few Siskins will visit feeders this winter in southern Ontario. **(They love nyjer and sunflower too!).**
- Another irruptive species is the Red-breasted Nuthatch. They have been moving south since mid-June presumably because of the poor cone crop in central Canada. Almost all Red-Breasted Nuthatches will depart Ontario's boreal forest by late fall. Expect many at feeders in southern Ontario. (I've had 5 or 6 feeding at once lately!). **Make sure to serve up lots of suet and peanuts!**

Chic Treats

For an ultimate hostess gift, pick up **The Cocoa Room's Dragée**. Chic chocolate-and-candy covered sunflower seeds, pistachios, and almonds. They're an Oprah fave!



FEATHERFIELDS

The Bird and Garden Store

Starting December 1st - Extended Shopping Hours
Mon to Fri 10 - 6 • Sat 10 - 5 • Sun 12 - 4

1570 Hyde Park Road, London, ON • 519-474-1165
6 Stanley Street, London, ON • 519-435-1488



GREAT GIFT IDEAS, NATURALLY!

All of the Good Stuff, None of the Bad Stuff

One of our favourite new lines, **The Naked Bee**, is an exceptional natural personal care line with an Orange Blossom Honey scent. Pamper yourself or a loved one with products such as rich hand and body lotion, luxurious body wash, shampoo, soap, lip balm and many more. The delicious fragrance lasts all day! 70% certified organic and paraben-free. Prices range from just...**\$3.99 - \$11.99**



Holiday Stress?

Lavender has long been recognized for its ability to soothe nerves and reduce tension headaches. Its scent has been employed for its sedative effects for centuries. For a perfect antidote to holiday stress, try Canada's premium brand of lavender products. It's the **Lavender Harvest** line of delicious organic teas (my favourite), culinary lavender, dryer sachets and bath salts. The sample sizes make great stocking stuffers!

What's with the Weather?

Men just love **weather instruments**, don't they? At Featherfields, we can satisfy his needs. Choose from a wide variety of thermometers, rain gauges, sundials, weathervanes, and the best-selling Weatherstick – it really works!

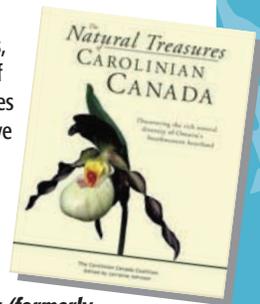


The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada

A new book about discovering the rich natural diversity of Southwestern Ontario's Heartland by the Carolinian Canada Coalition, and edited by Lorraine Johnson.

This book is a labour of love for the many contributors, naturalists and scientists who share their knowledge of the diverse richness and rarity of the species and spaces in Carolinian Canada through engaging and informative text, and who hope that this book will inspire, encourage, and support the work of conserving this unique landscape...**\$34.95**

We invite you to attend a BOOK SIGNING at our Stanley St. location on Dec. 1st between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Jon McCracken from Bird Studies Canada (formerly Long Point Bird Observatory) will be there to personally autograph your special copy of The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada.



Holiday Traditions

The feasting and sharing associated with the holidays was expanded long ago to include special care of birds and animals at Christmas time. Here are some lovely holiday customs that you may wish to adopt as your family tradition.

- In Germany, corn is placed on rooftops for birds on Christmas Eve.
- In Hungary, the last sheaf of grain at harvest is kept, and then given to the wild birds on New Year's morning.
- The people of Scandinavia traditionally feed the birds on Christmas Day to ensure good luck throughout the coming year. Spread birdseed on your doorstep Christmas morning for New Year's good luck!

If you feed the birds at Christmas, the sights and sounds of the outdoor festivity can add greatly to the zest and warmth going on inside during this festive celebration.

