



BIRD BATH DRIPPERS, MISTERS, AND WIGGLERS

Birdbaths can be a great addition to your backyard. It's fun and relaxing to watch birds discover the birdbath. But a birdbath usually won't be enough to get birds to come visit your backyard. Adding a dripper will make your bath an attraction in no time!

What's the Difference?

Birdbath wigglers create ripples in the water, which helps prevent mosquitoes. The downside is that birdbath wigglers do not provide constant water flow to your birdbath so you do need to refill the baths as needed. Another option is a recycling rock waterfall, which has a small pump under the rock that pumps the water up to the top of the rock so it can

flow back to the bath. This also has a nice sound effect and is very attractive to the birds. No matter which route you choose, the birds will find your bath much more appealing with moving water.



Birdbath Dripper



Birdbath Mister



Birdbath Wiggler

Birds can hear the dripping of the water and because they need to drink and love to bathe, they come to investigate. A birdbath dripper can bring more birds to your backyard within an hour of installing it. Birdbath drippers are not the only choice you have. Depending on your preferences and what you need, you can choose between bird bath drippers, misters or wigglers.

Birdbath drippers provide constant water flow to your birdbath, attract more birds and keep the water moving. Moving water is also a good protection against mosquitoes.

If you want to attract smaller birds, like hummingbirds, you can get a water mister. A water mister sprays a constant mist instead of bigger drops. Smaller birds love misters, but you have to be careful when buying one. They use up much more water than drippers. When using a mister it is best to put the water on a timer. The hummingbirds learn very quickly when the mist comes on. The mister's work well when aimed into the tree leaves which then get wet and drip. Adding a puddle stone below a mister to catch the drips is a good option also.

New Squirrel rewards card

If you haven't received your new squirrel card, stop in to pick one up! We know how much you all love that bright yellow funny money, but as we updated to a new computer system that can track things better we are changing to our new Squirrel Card. The card will scan and bring up your account, and we can track the bucks there.

Thank you to all of you who have updated your email addresses and your mailing address information. We hope you enjoy our newsletter and information!



BECAUSE YOU



Q: Will birdseed kill my perennial flowers?

Q: Many of us have experienced how nothing seems to grow under the bird feeder that had sunflower seeds in it. All parts of sunflowers contain allelopathic toxins that inhibit seed germination and seedling growth. The sunflower hulls that fall to the ground exhibit allelopathy toward other plants, although allelopathy exhibited by the seed hulls under a feeder should be gone in two months.

Allelopathy, from the Greek words *allelo* (one another or mutual) and *pathy* (suffering), refers to the release of chemicals, by one plant, that have some type of effect on another plant. These chemicals can be given off by different parts of the plant or can be released through natural decomposition. Allelopathy is a survival mechanism that allows certain plants to compete with and often destroy nearby plants, by inhibiting seed sprouting, root development or nutrient uptake. Other organisms, such as bacteria, viruses and fungi, can also be allelopathic.

Don't panic because you have possibly warring plants in your yard. They can peacefully co-exist if they are kept at a distance. And the quality of your soil can be a factor in how long the toxins are held. The heavier the soil, the longer the toxins are trapped. Well-draining soil will move the toxins below the root zone of nearby plants.

Having a healthy soil with plenty of beneficial organisms also seems to help. It's interesting how many amazing things fungi and bacteria can do for your soil. They can breakdown, dissipate or convert the toxins into something more benign. On the other hand, there are micro-organisms that add in the allelopathic process. That's nature.

So the best advice is to keep the seed hulls raked under your bird feeder to lower the allelopathic process. You can also use a hulled seed product such as Sunflower hearts or chips which contain little or no hulls and will be cleaned up quickly by the birds. Or locate your feeding station away from the planting areas.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH Our Late Season

Nesters



American Goldfinches breed later than most North American birds. They wait to nest until June or July when milkweed, thistle, and other plants have produced their fibrous seeds, which goldfinches incorporate into their nests and also feed their young.

Goldfinches are among the strictest vegetarians in the bird world, selecting an entirely vegetable diet and only inadvertently swallowing an occasional insect.

The Goldfinch nest is an open cup of rootlets and plant fibers lined with plant down, often woven so tightly that it can hold water. The female lashes the foundation to supporting branches using spider silk, and makes a downy lining often using the fluffy "pappus" material taken from the same types of seedheads that goldfinches so commonly feed on. It takes the female about 6 days to build the nest. The finished nest is about 3 inches across on the outside and 2-4.5 inches high.

At feeders they mainly eat Nyjer and sunflower, and will be seen in abundance at the feeders in late July and early August.

Here is an interesting fact: American Goldfinches are the only finch that molts its body feathers twice a year, once in late winter and again in late summer. The brightening yellow of male goldfinches each spring is one welcome mark of approaching warmer months.



OUR ANNUAL *Baby Bird* REMINDER



It is the nesting season and every year we receive numerous calls about baby birds that are on the ground. Please be kind, these little fuzz balls are fledgling birds and the parent bird is usually around and will continue to feed the baby on the ground as well as helping it learn to fly. If you think the baby bird is in jeopardy take a basket, fill it with grass, then place the baby in the basket and hang the basket on a tree branch close by but away from danger. The mother bird will find and feed the baby. Don't take it home, to us, or the vet. The baby is usually fine (it just hasn't quite got the hang of flying yet) and the mother bird will be quite upset if her baby goes missing.

Are You Getting The Latest Updates?

If you haven't signed up for our e news you are missing out on the specials, trips, sighting and reminders that are sent by email in between our quarterly newsletters. If you want the most up to date information, specials, and reminders join our mailing list at www.thebirdstoreandmore.com and you can also find us on FACEBOOK

The Bird Barn Seed Cylinders and Ornaments

The Bird Barn is a family owned business located in the heart of New England.

Not only are they in the heart of New England, they are in our own backyard, so to speak. The Bird Barn products are made one town over from us!

According to the owners, their business started as a love of bird feeding combined with a bad economy. In 2011 with the economy tight the family decided that they would exchange hand-made gifts for Christmas. Everyone loved them, and a few months later as money got tighter a business was born! It was a way to bring in extra money for the family. Interestingly enough a trip to our very own Bird Store was the inspiration to start the business. Who knew! The idea was to sell their very own birdseed wreaths, and their 11 year old son named the business The Bird Barn. The business began in the spring of 2012 with a web site, and seed wreaths being made in the kitchen. One day a garden store liked the products and wanted to know if they could buy them wholesale. Little by little the orders came in. In September of 2012 they brought their products to exhibit at the New England Made gift show. Everyone loved the products and they were voted First Place, Best New Product 2012. Now 11 months later The Bird Barn products are sold in 200+ retail stores in 10+ states.

The Bird Barn makes beautiful, solid hanging ornaments and their newest product is a seed cylinder. All of their products are made from high quality seed and "top secret" bird friendly, all natural ingredients to hold them together. They are solid and won't crumble. The Bird Barn also makes seed cakes that fit right in to a square suet feeder. A simple way to feed the birds!

All of the Bird Barn products are professionally packaged and make wonderful gifts for backyard birders, nature lovers, family, and friends. The fill used in the packaging is all natural fiber,



New Product *Spotlight*

which can also be used by wild birds as nesting material. So don't throw it away, give it to the birds! You can find the Bird Barn seed cylinders and ornaments right here at the Bird Store, hand delivered to us by our friends at The Bird Barn!



Brome Standard Feeder

Brome Bird Care, located in Knowlton, Quebec, Canada, is home to the Squirrel Buster™ brand of squirrel proof bird feeders. Lead by its founder, Paul Cote, and supported by an impressive list of patents, Squirrel Buster feeders have come to be recognized as the leaders in the squirrel proof category. All Squirrel Buster feeders work the same way. When a squirrel lands on a Squirrel Buster, its weight automatically closes the seed ports, denying access to the seed but not harming the squirrels in any way.

Squirrel Buster Standard

The newest in the line of Squirrel Buster Feeders is the Squirrel Buster Standard. The Standard is larger than the Mini, holding $\frac{3}{4}$ quart (1.3lbs) of seed, and has a weight adjustable closing mechanism, which shuts out squirrels as well as some heavier undesirable birds. Like all of the squirrel buster line, this feeder completely disassembles and can be placed in the dishwasher for sanitizing. The seed tray is made of RoxResin, 100% chew proof, waterproof, rust proof, dishwasher safe, and UV stabilized.



Pet Memories In Stone Not Just For Pets

It's a sad time when a loved pet member of the family passes. It was that sad moment for us that started the journey to making custom pet memorial stones. The stones can be customized with names, dates and depending on the type of stone can be laser etched with a photo. We have been making stones for a few years now, they are made here and they are reasonably priced.

But the stones are not just to commemorate a sad moment; they can be created for just about anything you can dream up. How about an entry stone for your garden, or a personalized brick for your walkway? Just ask us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sturbridge!

The Town of
Sturbridge
is turning
275 years old
on June 24th!

Save \$10



On your purchase during the
Sturbridge Birthday Weekend with this coupon.

(Valid June 22 – 24, 2013, can not be combined with other discounts)

Check out our NEW

Gift Card

Always a perfect fit!



EYES ON NATURE WALKS

Make sure you check our web site www.thebirdstoreandmore.com

click on events or sign up for our email updates to get the latest trip information. You will also find our bird walks and events listed on our FACEBOOK page. We hope you will join us on one of our events! Exploring nature doesn't cost anything and it's healthy for you too!



FREE DELIVERY within 10 miles!



Bird Store Hours:
10:00-6:00 Monday - Saturday
11:00-5:00 Sunday

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