



Back Cover: **New Product**
Brome Legacy Feeder

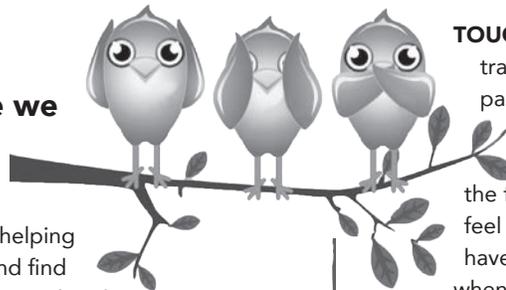
News
from the bird store

Bird Sense

Birds have 5 senses just like we humans do Sight, Hearing, Touch, Taste, and Smell.

EYESIGHT is a bird's most critical sense, helping them negotiate flight, avoid predators, and find food. A bird's eye is larger in proportion to its head with thicker retinas than humans do, and the configuration of their eyes gives them better vision in both black and white and color. Birds can see small motions or tiny details 2-3 times better than humans, which can help them find food more easily, and birds with eyes on the sides of their head, such as most songbirds, can nearly see directly behind themselves, which can be useful for detecting predators and evading attacks. Birds have a keen sense of color that is vital for foraging, breeding and more. Birds see more colors than humans in several ways. Not only are birds able to perceive familiar colors as well as parts of the ultraviolet spectrum that are invisible to human eyes, but they also have better visual acuity to determine subtle differences between similar shades of color, gradations that humans are not able to discern.

HEARING is the second most important bird sense. Bird's ears are funnel shaped to focus sound, and the ears are located slightly below and behind the eyes. Birds hear a smaller frequency range than we do, but they have much more acute sound recognition skills. Birds are sensitive to pitch, tone and rhythm changes and use those variations to recognize other individual birds, even in a noisy flock.



TOUCH is also important but not in the way we would traditionally think of touch. Touch is a vital sense, particularly for flight. Birds are incredibly sensitive to changes in air temperature, pressure and wind speed, and those changes are transferred down the feathers to extensive nerves in the skin. The feathers feel the touch of the weather conditions. Some birds have special feathers around the bill, which help them when feeding by providing extra sensitivity around the bill.

Birds do not have a refined sense of **TASTE**. They have anywhere from less than 50 to around 500 taste buds compared to us humans that have 10,000 taste buds. A bird may choose one food over another not because of taste, but because it is easier to acquire, there is less competition, their bills are better equipped for eating it or it has better nutrition. This is why birds are not affected by Hot Pepper suet, and will readily eat it for its nutritional value.

INTERESTING FACT

Raptors use UV light to track prey, since the urine splashes and trails that voles, mice and other rodents use to mark their territory are brilliantly visible in ultraviolet light. This allows raptors to determine exactly where prey is located for more efficient hunting, even when the prey may not be visible itself.

SMELL is the least developed sense in birds. They don't use sense of smell extensively. Many people are worried about the "human scent" on a baby bird if they pick it up and put the bird back in the nest, it is a myth that the parents will reject the bird because of the scent, as they can't smell human scent.

There are some bird species, however, that have much better-developed senses of smell. Vultures use their keen sense of smell to locate food sources. These birds can often smell food from great distances, even when the odor may not be noticeable to humans.



Did you know that the dawn chorus can start as early as 4:00 a.m. and last several hours. Birds can sing at any time of day, but during the dawn chorus their songs are often louder, livelier, and more frequent.



Because you **Asked**



Q: Can Hummingbirds Walk?

A: Hummingbird legs and feet are very weak and not designed for walking. The best they can do is shuffle sideways along a perch for short distances.

Q: Why are there so many Orioles this year?

A: We have a couple of theories, we had a huge gypsy moth infestation last year and Orioles are one of the birds that eats gypsy moth caterpillars, so it is possible that it provided the Orioles with a great food supply and they had successful nesting last year. The other theory is that it was such a cold spring that the birds arrived and the flowers were not out yet, and they didn't move farther north. Both are just theories, but there you have it, so enjoy those Orioles!



A Bluebird Love Story

They were both 19 when they met, over 60 years ago.

They always remained friends although they married others and raised families. Both families were military, and in the years gone by the spouses have passed, but the friendship stayed alive.

Richard settled in the States and Audrey, who was originally from Ireland, had settled in Australia.

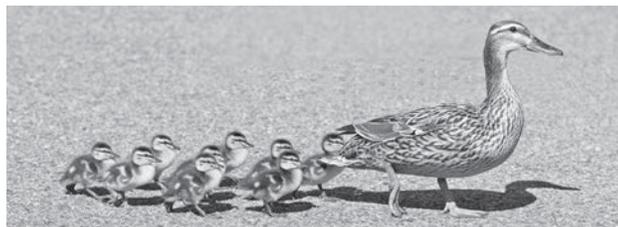
Now in their 80's they just got married, and the wedding cake was a traditional English Fruit Cake that took weeks to make. Two beautiful bluebird ornaments that came from The Bird Store adorned the cake. The cake maker Georgia was in about a month ago looking for the perfect cake topper for these two wonderful people and we found just the right bluebird ornaments for her, vintage looking and simple, and the bride and groom loved them.

Now that's the **MORE** in the **Bird Store and More!**

**Congratulations to Richard and Audrey,
may you have many happy years.**

Duck Facts

There are species of ducks found worldwide on every continent except Antarctica.



A baby duck is called a duckling, and an adult male is a drake. An adult female duck is called a hen or a duck, and a group of ducks is called a raft.

Ducks are highly waterproof. A duck's feathers are so waterproof that even when the duck dives underwater, its downy feathers right next to the skin will stay completely dry.

Ducks are precocial, which means that ducklings are covered with down and able to walk and leave the nest just a few hours after hatching.

A hen will lead her ducklings up to a half-mile or more over land after hatching in order to find a suitable water source for swimming and feeding.

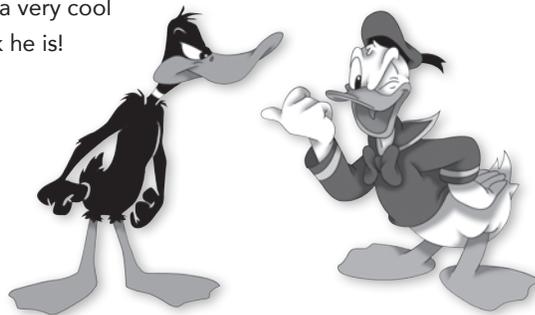
As soon as a baby duck's down is dry after hatching, they will be able to swim.

Male ducks have an eclipse plumage similar to females after the breeding season. During that month, they are completely flightless and more vulnerable to predators. At this time, many male ducks stay in isolated, remote areas or flock together for protection in numbers.

A duck's bill is specialized to help it forage in mud and to strain food from the water. A hard nail at the tip of the bill helps with foraging, and the lamellae a comb-like structure on the sides of the bill, strains small insects and crustaceans from water.

The two most famous fictional ducks are Disney's Donald Duck, who premiered in 1934, and Warner Bros.' Daffy Duck, who premiered in 1937.

Daffy Duck is most likely an American Black Duck, and a very cool duck he is!



Ticks and Tricks

Tick activity in our area has been especially high in spring 2018 due to greater than normal precipitation. Tick populations grow when it is wet, because of the higher ambient humidity, it's not the rain that matters it's the humidity. Ticks are moisture-seekers and thus can stay out for longer periods of time hunting for dinner in damp or rainy weather. On the other hand, when it is dry, they bury deeper into leaf litter in search of moisture.

Like they say, you're best defense is a good offence. There are lots of products that repel ticks. Some contain Deet, some don't. If you are concerned about using a chemical compound like Deet, we also carry a product called REPEL. It is a plant based lemon eucalyptus that is effective against mosquitos, but also works well as a tick repellent. Eucalyptus oil is one of the essential oils that repel insects. Weather you choose deet or essential oils, the delivery system is through evaporation. Evaporation creates a shield a few inches above the area of application. The presence of the repellent vapor confuses insects so they can't locate a target host. In most cases it usually requires less than 1% of the repellent to form this protective barrier. It is the combination of this "evaporation delivery system", and the base repellent you choose that determines how much repellent you must apply.



If you find a tick that has attached to you or your pet Tick Keys are a safe effective way of removing the tick. If you want to get the tick tested for Lyme place the tick in a sealed plastic bag. **Go online to tickreport.com and complete the information to send the tick for testing.**



The testing is done at **UMass Amherst College of Natural Sciences Lab of Medical Zoology.**

Customer Tip: Use a lint roller over your clothing after being outside, if there are any ticks on your clothing they will stick to the roller. You may miss seeing them but the lint roller will pick them up.



Interesting Fact
Cornell Labs Bird Cams gives you an up close view.
cams.allaboutbirds.org

Conjunctivitis in Birds

We have had reports recently of goldfinch with eye problems. If you see a goldfinch or house finch that can't see it may have conjunctivitis. You should take down your feeders and baths and thoroughly clean them. The following is information on conjunctivitis in birds

House Finch Eye Disease, also known as Mycoplasmal Conjunctivitis

Originally this disease affected mainly domestic turkeys and chickens, but this disease has been observed in House Finches since the 1990s and also affects several other species, including - but not limited to - American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, and Purple Finch, to a lesser degree.

Often observed in birds at bird feeders or bird baths - both of which are implicated in the spread of this disease. Once this disease is observed in your garden, any bird feeder and bird bath should be removed for at least a couple of weeks and thoroughly sanitized before reusing.

You can help monitor the spread of this disease by contributing to the **House Finch Disease Survey**.

www.feederwatch.org/learn/house-finch-eye-disease



Symptoms: Infected birds may have red, swollen, runny or crusty eyes. In severe cases, the eyes become swollen shut and the bird becomes blind and unable to fend for itself. You might observe an infected bird sitting quietly in your yard, clumsily scratching an eye against its foot or a perch. While some infected birds recover, many die from starvation, exposure, or predation.

Did You Know?

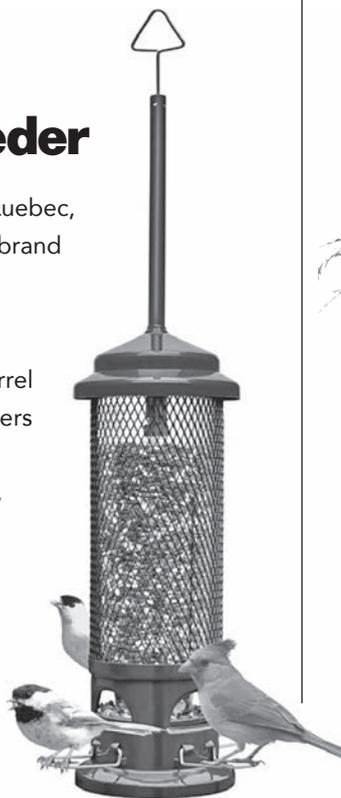
That the Stellar's Jay and the Stellar's Eider were named for Georg Wilhelm Stellar.

New Product Brome Legacy Feeder

Brome Bird Care, located in Knowlton, Quebec, Canada, is home to the Squirrel Buster™ brand of squirrel proof bird feeders.

The Brome Legacy Feeder is one of the newer "Busters" in our selection of Squirrel Buster Feeders. The Legacy feeder delivers all the features proven to maximize your bird feeding experience. It's chew proof, squirrel proof, lifetime limited warranty, UV stabilized, ventilated, and weight adjustable. The Legacy's overall length is shorter than the Classic and holds as much seed. The Legacy holds 2.6 pounds of seed, and is 16 inches long.

A good choice!





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.

Bird Store Hours:
1:00am-6:00pm Monday - Saturday
11:00am-5:00pm Sunday

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