



The Fat Robin

wild bird & nature shop

Winter 2011 Newsletter



Eastern Bluebird



Happy
Holidays!

2011 has Been Quite A Year!

From record snowfalls and record heat, to a tropical storm and an October snowfall that wreaked havoc all over the state, we are hoping for a calm and uneventful winter and holiday season for 2011-2012!

If you haven't put all of your fallen branches out to the curb, they make a great haven for the birds! Stack some as a make-shift shelter and the birds will flock to it. And when you decide to replant some of those ornamental trees and bushes that got clobbered with the heavy snow, think of ones that have fruits or berries like crab-apples, hollies, cedar trees and dogwoods (native trees and shrubs are always better and many of the above come in both varieties so ask when you buy them).

Thank you to those customers who have dropped off feeders they no longer use, Shepherd Glen School and East Rock Park are two of the most recent recipients!

STORE HOURS:

Mon to Fri 10 - 6 ~ Sat 10 - 5 ~ Sun 12 - 4

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Closing at 3pm on Christmas Eve

Closed Christmas Day & New Years Day

www.fatrobin.com

www.jimzipp.com

Fat Robin E-mail Newsletter

Sign up at www.fatrobin.com and enjoy monthly e-mails plus our full twice a year newsletter, all FREE!

You asked (for) it!

I lost all my birds after Hurricane Irene, did the storm cause them all to leave?

No, the storm just came at the same time many of the plants went to seed. When there is a large amount of natural food available the birds just don't come to the feeders as often. It was also transition time when some birds head south.

Where do our hummingbirds go? Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, CT's only native hummingbird, leaves around mid-September and heads to Mexico and Central America. Some of them even cross 600 miles of the Gulf of Mexico, hard to believe for such a small bird! A few winter along the southern border of the US but the vast majority head further south.

We always say, if you see a hummer after Oct 15th, look very closely as it might be a rare visitor to CT, a Rufous Hummingbird. On Oct 16, a customer of ours that lives less than a mile from the shop had this one show up and it stayed for a couple of weeks!



Rufous Hummingbird (immature male)

Winter Birds in CT

There are birds everyone knows like the cardinal, blue jay, dove, chickadee, titmouse, but what about the "other" birds, ones that may not come to feeders but visit the state? Some are pretty rare while others might even visit your yard unnoticed unless you specifically look for them. So get out your field guide and check out the possibilities!

Here are a few...

- Hermit Thrush** - watch for them eating berries
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - occasional on suet, look for their sap wells on your trees!
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** - irruption years are good
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** - I love these little guys!
- White-throated Sparrow** - striped head like a "Chipmunk", feeds on the ground.
- Dark-eyed Junco** - "Snow Bird", common.
- Northern Shrike** - Mockingbird look-a-like.
- Fox Sparrow** - Large reddish sparrow with spots.
- Pine Siskin** - had tons of them about 3 years ago, an "irruptive" species, not likely this year.
- Common Redpoll** - another irruptive species (moves if food is unavailable, not likely)
- Evening Grosbeak** - used to be more common, species is in decline so not seen as often.
- Rusty Blackbird** - another species in decline.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** - one of the few warblers that can be seen in CT in the winter.
- Snow Bunting** - grassy areas often in flocks.
- American Tree Sparrow** - usually shows up for a few days each winter in our backyard feeders.
- Saw-whet Owl** - If the jays are causing a racket in a and evergreen in your yard, take a good look!

Other winter CT visitors not likely in your yard.

- Common Loon** - large lakes and along coast
- Snowy Owl** - tundra bird, good places to look are at Milford Coastal Center or Long Beach in Stratford, already one seen this month in E Haven!



Northern Shrike



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
(this image is on the cover of the current issue of WildBird Magazine!)



Snowy Owl



Golden-crowned Kinglet



Evening Grosbeak

The above photos are a few selections from those listed to the left. Most of the other birds listed plus thousands of other images can be found on Jim's web site at www.jimzipp.com

Seed or Nutty Treat Suet

\$12.99/Case of 12

The Fat Robin 203-248-7068
Expires 12/24/2011 **WITH COUPON**

Limit 2 cases, cannot combine with other offers

10% OFF any one item of your choice!

The Fat Robin 203-248-7068
Expires 12/24/2011 **WITH COUPON**

(Some optics excluded, cannot combine with other offers or use on prior purchases)

Holiday Gift Ideas



Mad Bluebird T-shirts

Need I say more?
\$19.95 each

National Geographic Field Guide to Birds (new edition) The most up to date field guide on the market. We love the "geo" guides as we affectionately refer to them.



Chippy Chipmunk Babies in the Garden We currently have signed copies of both this and last year's book called "Chippy Chipmunk Parties in the Garden" which won over 15



Panoramic Birds Puzzle

Summer shown above, also available in a winter scene for hours of fun on a cold winters night. \$14.95 each (other boxed puzzles available)



Cardinal Mug

What a cheerful table this little fella makes!
Only \$8.95 each

The same image is also on dessert plates and wine glasses!



New T-shirts from The Mountain - Tiger & Owls shown here but we also have one of a wolf, well sort of, it's his eyes only!
All sizes \$19.95 each



Wondermugs

These mugs are really cool! They change colors right in front of you when you pour in your hot coffee, tea or chocolate! Assorted designs all \$14.95 each



Swarovski Companion Binoculars - Finally an Under \$1,000 top of the line optic. It may sound like a lot of money, but if you compare it to the EL model, it's less than half the price! Great size for travel and will last you a lifetime



From our home to yours, our best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season, and we thank you for your continued support. Jim, Carol, Ryan & Gary



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OPTICS SALE

Saturday December 10th - Saturday December 24th

Give a gift that will last a lifetime! Binoculars make great presents for a loved one or for yourself! We have binoculars in all price ranges and always at the lowest prices around. If you've been thinking about buying one, this may be just the time to do it!



The brand new Swarovski 8x30
Companion Binocular

Optics by the numbers

Not sure what the numbers mean? We'd be happy to go over them with you, they can be confusing! Magnification isn't everything, buying a binocular that has higher power does not necessarily make it better, in fact most people are more comfortable with lower magnification. Our best selling binoculars are usually 8x, with the second number being 42 (8x42), the 42 is the size of the front objective in millimeters. The combination of these two numbers tells you how big and how bright the image is but does not tell you the overall quality or how good the coatings are.

www.fatrobin.com