Who is Lizzie Mae?
Lizzie Mae is the company who makes our Fat Robin, CT Blend bird seed mix. They are an Amish farm, located in Millersburg, Ohio. Every bag of Lizzie Mae seed starts with the highest quality ingredients. Amish Crafted is our pledge. The finest ingredients prepared with the finest detail. Each bag of seed is filled by skilled Amish workers. The plant is in the heart of Holmes County, OH, home of Ohio’s largest Amish population. It is also one of the top tourist attractions in Ohio. They run the place without electricity power from the lines by creating our own power with a generator run by natural gas.
Photo below is of Amish workers filling bags with Lizzie Mae bird seed, yes, by hand.

Carolina Wren
People often ask us what they can do to help birds during the winter and for the most part the birds are well-adapted to this area and bird-feeding is just a supplement to their diet. But for Carolina Wrens, Connecticut is at the northern end of their range and during severe winters (as we have recently had) they do not always do so well. You can help them by providing “Roosting Houses or Roosting Pockets” that give them a sheltered place to spend the night. Roost Pockets should be placed where there is an overhang because they are not very water-tight and are quite light so they tend to blow around easily. For food they love dried meal-worms, peanuts without the shell, sunflower without the shell and seed cakes.

Project Snowstorm
In 2013-14, 22 snowy owls from Minnesota to Massachusetts were tagged with GPS/GSM transmitters, and DNA, chemical isotope, and toxicology studies were done. The goal of this non-profit project is to take advantage of Snowy Owl irruptions to better understand and conserve this spectacular bird. Check out the website to follow the birds who have been tagged!
Jim and I usually take a week off in the summer to go birding somewhere out west. We love the solitude of areas like Laramie, WY where we can go all day and see only one or two cars. Denver is a non-stop flight out of Bradley so we decided to try somewhere new, this time in Colorado. We headed due west out of Denver to Grand Junction on the Utah border. It was hot, very hot, like 100 degrees hot. It did not deter us, however, from driving to nearby Colorado National Monument. Quite a place, like a mini Grand Canyon. We found “chukars” here, a bird that was introduced from Asia for hunting purposes but has become established in some areas. The birding was not very good, probably due to the excessive heat, but the scenery was truly magnificent. We continued our trip heading back east to the Grand Mesa. According to Wikipedia, it is the largest flat-topped mountain in the world. We were fortunate that the area had gotten a good soaking earlier in the month and the wildflowers were blooming beautifully. We saw fat chipmunks atop “Land’s End” and looked out over the western skies looking for handouts. The weather was much cooler here and we were quite happy. But the Grand Mesa lacks one thing, places to stay, so we headed south toward Gunnison, home of the “Gunnison Sage-Grouse”. If you have a field guide that includes the western states and you look up the Gunnison Sage-Grouse, all you will find is a tiny dot in southern Colorado. The other reason to go to Gunnison is the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Wow, another grand canyon like vista! Unfortunately the city of Gunnison, and the hotels, were about an hour away from the National Park. Before leaving the park, we did see a grouse with a chick, we just weren’t 100% sure what kind of grouse it was. The female Blue Grouse looks virtually identical and also occurs here. Fortunately a friend that is more familiar with the birds told us that it is their habits more than their physical appearance that helps determine the species. We found more grouse the next day and these were in fact the Gunnison Sage-Grouse. The first ones we saw were Blue Grouse.

Another wonderful bird we found on the trip was the Black-throated Gray Warbler. Jim and I had seen one other in the US and it was here in CT of all places many years ago. This bird normally lives west of the Mississippi. It looks and sounds somewhat similar to our Black-throated Green Warbler. Our last full day in Colorado turned out to be one of the best. We headed back toward Denver and just by luck chose to stay in a town called Buena Vista. While eating dinner we saw a few birds in a tree behind the restaurant so after dinner we took a look. Jim saw a bird probably half a mile away and said, get in the car, we need to check this out. Lo-and-behold it was a Lewis’s Woodpecker! Although we had seen them before, we had hoped to find them again on this trip. Find them we did, and with young peeking out of a nest hole! It was a wonderful end to a wonderful birding trip.
These are a few of my favorite things...

**Plant-A-Tree Ornaments**
A gift with a purpose

**Old World Ornaments**
Beautiful glass ornaments including birds & mammals. Cardinal pair pictured below

**Peterson Reference Guide to Owls**
Who doesn't love owls? This new book will make a great gift for the owl lover on your list.

**Eagle Optics Ranger ED Binoculars**
An excellent lower/mid-priced binocular with amazing quality and warranty.

**Oven mitts, place-mats and more - all made in New Hampshire**
Blue Jay design shown to the left

**Note Pads**
Note Pads make great stocking stuffers. From small mathbook notes to lined grocery pads, we have them all.

**Gift Certificates**
available in any amount

**Woodstock Chimes**
Heroic Wind Bell
A deep, wonderful sound. Weighs over 10 pounds!

**Earth Rugs & Trivets**
Many designs available made of jute

**Raven Lunatic Coffee Mugs**
I wonder how many of you are thinking "this would make a perfect gift for..." I can think of a few myself, haha!
Semi-Annual Optics Sale

Saturday December 12th to Sunday December 20th

Binoculars make great gifts for the sports enthusiast, the birder including people who just enjoy watching the birds in their backyards. They are also great for the hiker, the hunter and at the theater. We always sell at competitive prices but during our semi-annual sales you save even more!

We don’t just sell binoculars and spotting scopes, we use them! Jim and I bird almost every single day. We offer expert advice on quality optics at competitive prices.