



The Fat Robin

wild bird & nature shop

Spring 2014 Newsletter

Celebrating
19
Years!



The Rose-breasted Grosbeak

The male Rose-breasted Grosbeak is one of the most striking birds to visit your feeder! They have a beautiful song that is a bit similar to a robin and quite musical. The female looks different (see photo above) but her large, light-colored bill is just like the male. These birds are Neotropical migrants who winter from southern Mexico, through Central America and northern South America. They nest in saplings and readily come to bird feeders stocked with sunflower and/or safflower. We recommend our Orchestra blend because it has many larger sunflower seeds, something these birds are designed to eat!

STORE HOURS:

Mon to Fri 10 - 6

Sat 10 - 5 ~ Sun 12 - 4

Closed Sundays from July 1 - Labor Day

Closed Major Holidays

www.fatrobin.com

Saturday, May 3rd Hummingbird & Oriole Appreciation Day

*Join us for a celebration of the return of
some of our favorite birds!*

We will start the day with a bird walk (see last page for details on when and where to meet). The walk will end around 9:40AM. When the store opens at 10AM we will offer some coffee and snacks.

At 11am Carol will do a short talk on how to attract Hummingbirds & Orioles.

There will be a drawing for a gift basket with hummingbird & oriole products (one ticket per person with any purchase).

May 3rd also starts our spring Optics Sale

We hope you can join us!



**Sign up for our monthly e-mails at
www.fatrobin.com**

We don't share your e-mail and we promise not to overload you with e-mails! If you ever want to unsubscribe you can do so easily.

Painted Lady Butterfly Program

Raise your very own Painted Lady Butterflies!

For more details on this program we recommend signing up for our e-mail list but if that is not possible we can call you when we finalize the plans. This is a wonderful program for children and adults. The price will be between \$10 and \$12. We supply you with two Painted Lady butterfly larvae that you raise until they become butterflies (takes 2-3 weeks) then you release them into your yard. The pick-up dates are usually in late July or early August.

You can make a difference by GOING NATIVE THIS YEAR!

When choosing plants for your gardens there are some great native plants available that thrive in our region. My goal this year is to replace more plants with them, especially ones to attract birds and butterflies.

I recently attended a talk co-sponsored by the Hamden and Bethany Land Conservation Trusts. It was titled "Land Management and Habitat Enhancement for Birds" and was very informative. I picked up a handout that listed 100 of the most invasive plants of Connecticut and found one plant, the Yellow Iris that is on the list and is in my garden (not for long)!

Why should we plant native plants? According to the Audubon Society, native plants are adapted to our environment, they require less water than most non-native plants, they host beneficial insects and non-native species often do not. Many native species that provide food for birds throughout the year are being replaced by non-native species and these invasives offer food of reduced variety, quality, and seasonal availability.

Monarch Butterflies are in steep decline. If you do one thing this year, plant some milkweed for them! There are a number of varieties of butterfly weed and milkweed that can be planted in the garden (look for Asclepias varieties of such as Asclepias tuberosa, incarnata or syriacea). For more information you can go to www.monarchwatch.com or ask for native varieties at your local garden center or at the below event!

Invasive Plants can be difficult to get rid of on your property and often outcompete other plants. Pick up a free copy of "10 Native Plants to Attract Wildlife to your Garden" next time you are in the store. Courtesy of Corrie from Audubon CT!

SUNDAY APRIL 27th AT BROKEN ARROW NUSERY 9:00am - 10:00am (approx)

Since I am no expert, I asked Andy Brand of Broken Arrow nursery if he would do a talk for the store about plants for birds and butterflies right there at their facility. Andy has been at Broken Arrow for 24 years, and is now the manager. He is cofounder of CT Butterfly Association, is an avid butterfly watcher, birder and native plant enthusiast.

Here is what Andy has planned for us (******not at the store, this will be AT Broken Arrow Nursery******): starting at 9:00AM at the nursery, located on Broken Arrow Road which is off of Gaylord Mountain Road in Hamden. The talk will be a show and tell of sorts and focus on native plants to attract birds and butterflies. The talk will last approximately 35-45 minutes, then he will take us on a short walk around the property. *Please let Carol know if you plan to attend so there are enough chairs set up.* Bring a friend for the talk and they have great plants for sale! Rain or shine, there is an indoor area for the talk.

We have a variety of books in stock at The Fat Robin if you want to find out more about gardening for birds and other wildlife. Two very good ones are: Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with native Plants and The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds, Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large & Small.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (female) at Cardinal Flower

Nutty Treat Suet

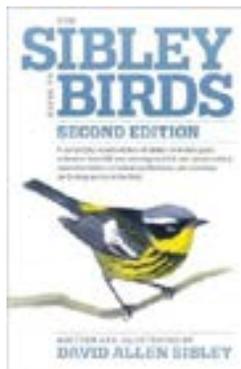
\$12.99/Case of 12

The Fat Robin 203-248-7068
Expires 05/31/2014 **WITH COUPON**

Limit 2 cases, cannot combine with other offers

10% Off Any Book

The Fat Robin 203-248-7068
Expires 05/31/2014 **WITH COUPON**



**Sibley Guide to Birds
(Second Edition)**

This is a completely revised edition of the original Sibley Guide to Birds, the only bird guide ever to be on the NY Times best-seller list! The new guide has 600 new paintings and 111 rare species added plus new information on habitat behavior.

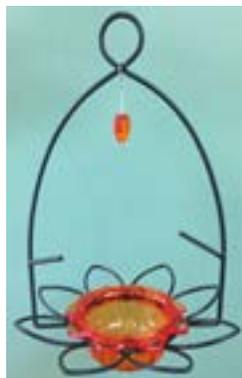
Window Nest Box

Although we have carried these for years, they have become more popular since being advertised on TV! We now have ones made in USA that are of great quality with three quality suction cups.



New Oriole & Bluebird Feeders

Very pretty but functional feeders for orioles and bluebirds!



Bird Baths

We have a great selection of bird baths this year including ceramic, cement, metal and glass. We have some new hanging ceramic baths too!

**Henrietta Glass Mini
Blown Glass Birds**

Beautiful hand-blown glass birds made in Rhode Island Each one is unique and comes gift-boxed. Available in a variety of colors.



Alpaca Nesting Material

Soft and cozy, just the stuff that birds look for to line their nests. These come ready to hang in a ball made from grape vines!

New Books

**A Swift Guide to Butterflies of
North America**

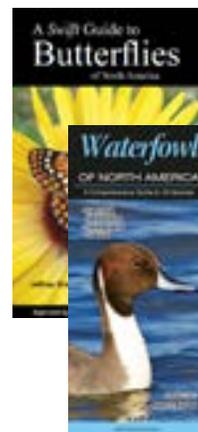
by Jeffrey Glassberg

Gorgeous full color photographs of all the butterflies of North America!

Waterfowl of North America

(waterproof folding guide)

by Kevin Karlson



VORTEX DIAMONDBACK 8X32

When the **Vortex Diamondback 8x32** came out a couple years ago we knew they would be the most popular binocular we've ever had in that price range and that holds true today. Small, light and a great image are the most sought after features and this one has them all. It doesn't hurt that being from Vortex they have a no questions asked warranty and will be repaired or replaced for life, no matter who's at fault. If you are coming on one of our walks and want to try them out please let us know! We keep one of these in our kitchen for watching birds out the side and back yard.

Mother's Day is Sunday May 11th



The Fat Robin

wild bird & nature shop

3000 Whitney Ave. Hamden, CT 06518
203-248-7068 www.fatrobin.com

STD PRESORT
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW HAVEN, CT
PERMIT #415

SPRING BIRD WALKS

Saturday Mornings: April 26th to June 7th

Meet at the store between 7:30am and 7:40, we leave promptly at 7:45! Our walks are geared to helping you see some of the birds that you may hear about but seldom see as well as the regulars. Cost is \$2 per person, walk lasts approximately 1 1/2 hours. Bring binoculars if you have them, or rentals are available. Heavy rain cancels. First Walk is at Brooksvale Park.

NATIVE PLANT TALK **At Broken Arrow Nursery******

Sunday April 27th 9am-10am(approx) See details inside newsletter.

Broken Arrow Nursery is off of Gaylord Mountain Road in Hamden.

Please note change from original date of April 20th

WELCOME BACK! HUMMINGBIRD & ORIOLE DAY!

Saturday, May 3rd- see details inside this newsletter.

SPRING OPTICS SALE

Saturday May 3rd - Sunday May 11th

Lowest prices of the year on all binoculars and spotting scopes!

We have binoculars in all price ranges and always at competitive prices, during the sale you will save even more! If you've been thinking about buying one, now is the time to do it! They make a great Mother's Day Gift, sale ends on May 11th, Mother's Day.