



# BACKYARD nature center News

December 2020/January 2021 • Issue 61

## The Most Beautiful Time of the Year

Without a doubt, this has been a turbulent year. Many have suffered great loss in health, family, or wealth. I believe there is a light at the end of this tunnel. When I look around my yard and see all the beautiful birds, who have no idea what many have suffered, it grounds me, in a way I never knew was possible. It is easy to take on the weight of the world and let it get us down. Our birds have no way of knowing. They continue to delight us by simply visiting our feeders and picking out a special nut or seed or berry to nourish themselves to get through a cold winters' night. My hope this time of year is that we can all reflect lightly on this year and see the good and simple that is all around us.

Nick and I have really been fortunate this year and we count you in our blessings. Other than a few aches and pains, mostly from being 70 years old and unloading 5,000 lbs. of seed from the weekly seed truck (Nick), life has been good. You, our fine customers have seen us through this pandemic and we have not had to close the door one day, luckily being deemed essential. Not for the lack of disinfecting the store from top to bottom daily and wearing masks that nobody likes, but have become part of our lives. We hope bird feeding has given you a well-deserved diversion from life and sometimes the harsh reality of it all. It's been a beautiful fall and here it is December. We've had a few harsh weather days, just enough to make seeds found in the wild, no longer desirable so that the birds find our feeders a delightful source of winter community and place to find nutrition to get through frigid weather ahead.

As I move some of my feeders closer to the house, for viewing but also for filling and

maintaining every couple days, I make only small adjustments to keep my feathered friends coming consistently to feeders they can depend upon to be filled with the freshest sunflower, millet, nuts and suet. I don't want to make them search too far to find it. I sure don't want to lose them to the neighbors. Still filling finch feeders with fine sunflower hearts to keep goldfinch in my yard, as well as keeping platform feeders full of sunflower for the cardinals and ground feeding juncos, Harris sparrows, white-throated and white-crowned sparrows. Look hard at those little LBJ's, as we call them (hard to identify "little brown jobs"), there are so many native sparrows that come to our mild state to over-winter and they are not all just LBJ's! Pick up a simple field guide and take a closer look. You'll be delighted.

Who knew, when we opened this little bird watching store almost 30 years ago, that so many of you would find the same simple delight in inviting woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, finch, doves, and Cardinals to your yard that we do. Makes one think of something outside our own pains or concerns and help the natural world with its beautiful songbirds survive to lift our spirits on a bleak winter day. I can say, without doubt, it is a most beautiful time of year!

It's with heartfelt thanks that Nick and I thank you for your business and support during 2020.

Happy Holidays  
and happy birding!

Nick & Cathy



.. Merry Christmas ..

# Natural Gifts for the Nature Lover

## The Blue Atlas Cedar!

Festive flair for every style! Designed and fabricated of the finest steel, right here in Wichita. Rust proof, indoor/outdoor use with a beautiful patina finish and standing at 26" high.



## The Copper Gazebo.

Looking for a statement feeder in your yard that attracts lots of great birds and holds up to 10 lbs. of seed, has a beautiful copper roof, center cylinder to hold seed until it's needed and looks wonderful on a cedar 4x4 post.



## Mr. Bird Seed Ornaments

A great small gift for teachers, neighbors, friends to show them you care. A gift of nature that the birds will delight in!



## Special services we can offer:



While we do not have a catalogue of our products, our website: [www.backyardnaturecenter.com](http://www.backyardnaturecenter.com), does present photos of many items that can be found in the store. Do not hesitate to call us about something you have seen that you may want to give as a gift. We are very flexible about suggesting a feeder or taking a photo and sending that suggestion to you. I'd say, in addition, we'd be able to come to the door or your car to show you your options if you don't feel like coming in. While our business inside is steady all day, you can come in and know that we do not have large numbers of shoppers at any given time and we are all wearing masks. You can come in with confidence that our procedures are with safety in mind. Thank you.

## Binoculars make a great gift!

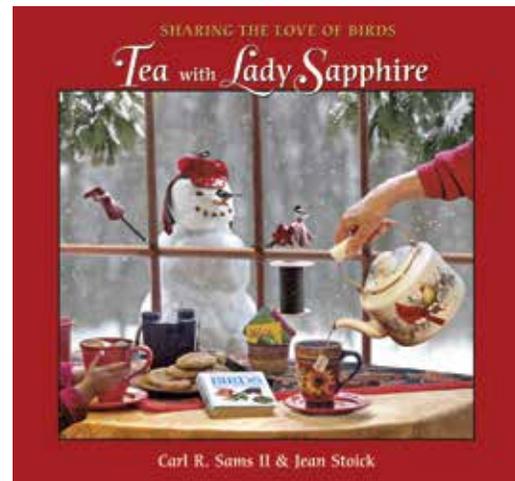
Know of someone who'd like to get a better view of the birds outside their window? We carry a full line of Vortex, a best buy in birding binoculars.



## Tea With Lady Sapphire

Remember "Tea with Lady Sapphire," the book for sharing the love of birds with your grandchildren, the author is retiring and soon, the book will be out of print permanently.

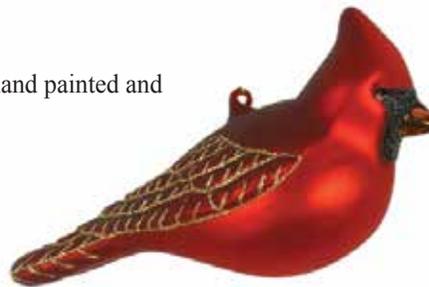
They say that many of today's children are suffering from "nature deficit disorder". Tea with Lady Sapphire is the most beautifully illustrated book about a grandmother sharing her love of birds, along with hot cocoa and a cup of tea, with her grandchildren. There's even a bird watching yellow cat, who sits on a window seat. Share your love of birds with a child. The payback is rich.



## Cobane Ornaments

COBANE hand blown glass bird ornaments, hand painted and dusted with fine glitter.

A single bluebird or radiant cardinal, a lovely gift to adorn any size tree.



## Trouble keeping your goldfinch?

Are you having trouble seeing goldfinches as consistently as you'd like? Are you feeding nyjer thistle in your finch feeder or sunflower hearts? Did you know that the nyjer thistle, available locally, is not top on the list of favorites for the perky little finch. The reason for feeding thistle is that nobody else will eat it except goldfinch and maybe their cousin, the pine siskin. Therefore, they have a private feeder with no competition. Thistle does go rancid quickly whereas fine sunflower hearts, the better choice, gets eaten by goldfinch, siskin, woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, nuthatch, house finch. More birds per fill up!





*For people who feed and care for backyard birds*  
The Shops at Tallgrass  
8336 E. 21st Street, #500 • Wichita, KS 67206  
www.backyardnaturecenter.com  
**316-683-2121**

**STORE HOURS**

Monday–Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:  
[WWW.BACKYARDNATURECENTER.COM](http://WWW.BACKYARDNATURECENTER.COM)



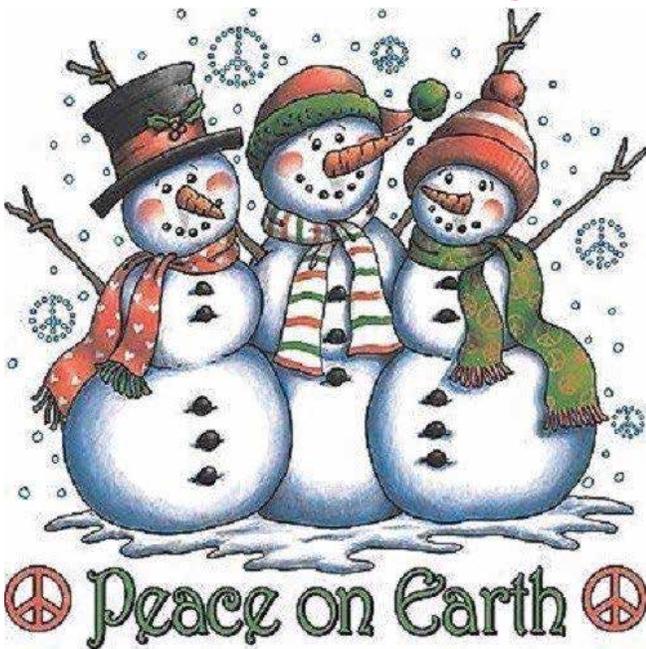
***Merry Christmas!***

from left to right  
Leslie, Tammy, Cathy & Nick

# Get Holiday Shopping Started

## *Winter Wild Card*

20% off one  
item



Offer excludes optics & seed.  
Expires December 31, 2020