



# BACKYARD nature center News

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



### All I needed to know... I learned from a Chickadee!

As we start into the holiday season, do we sometimes find it difficult to step back from the hustle and bustle and really appreciate all we have? I say, take a look at a chickadee and learn from his positive attitude. On the coldest of days, he flits around happy at being

equipped with built in down underwear! After weeks without fresh water and a throat that is so dry, he celebrates the trickle of melted snow and drinks it as though it were champagne! A chickadee seems to find good fortune in the very act of looking, perhaps knowing that a cheerful eye sees more clearly than one clouded with despair. A few frozen insects wedged in the crevices of tree bark



constitute a Thanksgiving feast. Sunflower seed feeders and suet cakes packed with peanuts provide dining for a king. Every minute he sucks in more than sixty-five breaths of fresh air. A chickadee weighs a mere ten grams...you could mail three of

them with a single postage stamp...but the energy and enthusiasm within its tiny frame would dwarf Santa Clause.

As the rush of the holiday season approaches, let us all be cherry and thankful like a chickadee.





# “Cardinal Candy”

Introducing our new seed blend, “**Cardinal Candy**”. With Black Oil Sunflower, Safflower and Striped Sunflower, your cardinals will love it. Starlings will not love it. They can’t roll and crack a seed! Too bad.

## Up Close & Personal With A Window Feeder...

Every thought of a window feeder? A great way to bring the birds right up close and personal! No need to wade in the snow, a window feeder has large suction cups to attach with a good stick.

Enjoy a cup of coffee and watch grateful songbirds feasting on high calorie foods to keep them warm on a cold winters’ night.





# THEY'RE BACK! Our Beloved Goldfinch!

Here they are now! Drab dark yellow-gold, males with nearly no black cap. They now blend more with their winter surroundings. Many think the goldfinch are migratory but they are not! They are seed eaters that stay year-round and make this their home. Goldfinch nest very late in summer when thistle and many other native plants have gone to seed. They move out into the wild areas and we think they've gone from us for winter. Not so. They are not like Cardinals who spend most of their time in one neighborhood, where they eat, sleep, and nest. Goldfinch are somewhat "nomadic", moving from house to house, staying a few days thrilling us with their tiny little chirp, but almost always in a group.

Now in their winter drab attire, (junco to the bottom right). Forget feeding nyjer thistle, instead feed straight fine sunflower chips in a feeder made of steel mesh, and you'll have as many finch as the feeder can hold. It's a true winner!



Goldfinch in summer plumage. Bright yellow like daffodils. The males sporting a black cap over their brow and the females with no cap and a little drab in comparison.



**BACKYARD**  
nature center

*For people who feed and care for backyard birds*  
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## STORE HOURS

Mon-Sat: 9AM-5PM | Christmas Eve: 9AM-Noon  
Sun: Closed | Christmas Day: Closed

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

**[www.BackyardNatureCenter.com](http://www.BackyardNatureCenter.com)**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS & MANY  
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

– Steve, Tammy, Nick, Cathy & Trudy

**WILD CARD COUPON**

**20% Off One Item**

*Excludes seed/binoculars*

*Expires 12/31/2025*