



# Finest quality garden birdseed from our conservation farm

2019 Winter Newsletter

## Season's Greetings to all our Customers!

All of the team here at Eyebrook Bird Feeds and Rectory Farm would like to wish our customers and friends a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2020. To celebrate the festive season, our gift to our valued customers and friends is an Eyebrook 2020 Calendar of beautiful bird images to brighten up your wall. All purchases made throughout December 2020 will come with our free calendar (whilst stocks last).

**Date for your diary...** Do pop into the farm on Friday 6th December and join us for a sherry and mince pie whilst you shop! A new feeder, bird sounds clock, robin doorstop and festive seed treats – just a few of the exciting Christmas gifts we have to offer. Birdseed is a wonderful gift for friends young and old to bring people closer to nature, and for the birds to enjoy too. For a selection of our exciting Christmas gifts view our Christmas gift guide, visit us online or pop down to Rectory Farm.



## Eyebrook Bird Feeds 2020 Calendar



## Around the Farm

As the days shorten and the nights draw in the farm slows down for the winter months. The winter wheat and oilseed rape crops have been planted – rather a challenge this year with the wet weather. There has been a shift in farming methods over the past few years from all autumn sown crops to spring sown crops coming back into fashion, you may have noticed fields of ploughed land staying put over winter.

Here is Phil ploughing fields that will stay ploughed until sown with barley in the Spring. The tractor and plough is a great moving bird hide, the birds soon flock over to see what seeds, worms and insects they can glean from the freshly turned soil. With so many to watch it's a wonder Phil manages to keep the furrows so straight!

Birds are on the move from their feeding grounds in Northern Europe and Scandinavia, where food has become buried under snow and ice, to Britain on the hunt for fruits, berries and seeds. On the farm we have seen fieldfare, bramblings, lapwings and redwings in the fields, along with increasing numbers of red kites and buzzards seeking out prey in the hedgerows.

The sheep will come into the barns at Christmas to give the grassland a rest, and will all be scanned to see how many lambs each sheep is expecting in March. Of course, our busiest activity over the winter months is birdseed mixing!





## Jimmy's Big Bee Campaign

We are so excited to be involved in a project highlighting the plight of the humble bee, and to help Jimmy Doherty encourage the Nation to grow food and provide habitat for such an important species.

We have sown wildflower mixes on the farm with Jimmy, and he and the crew will be back to film in late Spring to see how the plots have helped the bee populations. Hopefully this Channel 4 series will encourage more farmers, communities & individuals to do the same.

Despite a dry start and a horrendously wet Autumn we have had some flowers germinate and have a nice green cover on our wild flower plots. Look out for Rectory Farm on Channel 4's Jimmy's Big Bee Campaign next year!

## Robin & Friends Mix

Winter feeding is essential for the survival of our garden birds. Finding food can be a challenge in mild weather let alone when the temperature plummets below freezing, therefore providing seed in our gardens is a great advantage to our feathered friends. Try our Robin & Friends Mix this month to encourage the most iconic garden bird at Christmas time. Our nutritious winter mix is packed full of high energy ingredients to warm our feathered friends through the winter days.

In addition to large quantities of sunflower hearts, chopped peanuts and small seeds, this mix includes good quantities of berry suet pellets, soft fruit and of course mealworms for the robins, making it a firm favourite in your garden through the winter months.



## Helping Birds through the 'Hungry-Gap'

Winter is the most important season to feed our birds and we need to give them all the energy they require to survive the harsh months ahead. With this cold weather we can expect more numbers and more variety of birds looking out for food for survival, supplementary feeding at this time is vital and can provide a lifeline to our feathered friends. In addition to feeding the birds on our own farm, we also provide seed mixes to farms, estates, charities and community projects throughout the country, with bespoke mixes to feed through the 'hungry gap'. Feeding in this period from late Autumn to early Spring can provide a life line to birds in times of natural food shortage, and put them in good stead for moving into the breeding season.

**Keep in Touch...** to receive our quarterly newsletter about the farm, birdseed and special offers on our bird feeding products, send an email with your contact details to [sales@eyebrookwildbirdfeeds.co.uk](mailto:sales@eyebrookwildbirdfeeds.co.uk). Keep up to date with us at Eyebrook on Facebook (@eyebrookwildbirdfeeds), Instagram (@eyebrookwildbird) & Twitter (@Eyebrook\_Birds)

## Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds

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