



# Finest quality birdseed blended on our conservation farm

**November 2018 Newsletter**

**Wychwood Project**



Eyebrook Bird Feeds are very proud to supply supplementary bird seed to the Wychwood Project in West Oxfordshire. The Wychwood Project is a registered charity that uses the focus of the Royal hunting Forest of Wychwood to encourage local people to understand, conserve and restore its rich mosaic of landscapes and wildlife habitats.

One conservation group under the Wychwood project is Bird Aid – a group who are passionate about feeding overwintering farmland birds. The group targets three key species – Tree Sparrows, Yellowhammers and Corn Buntings. We supply Eyebrook seeds by the tonne to the project for their fantastic volunteers to distribute at these sites throughout the winter from October to early May, and of course many other birds also take advantage of the winter food during this hungry gap. For more information on this excellent community project please visit <http://www.wychwoodproject.org>.

For more details on our supplementary feeds please contact Abigail or Fay

## South Leicester Bird Watchers

Our thanks go to the wonderful members and volunteers at SLBW who erected and monitor the bird boxes at Rectory Farm. They conducted their annual assessment and clean out of the boxes this month and the findings were most heartening. We had a good take up of boxes with species including Tree Sparrows all breeding successfully. We shall supplementary feed around the spinneys where the nest boxes are located throughout the winter to encourage birds to stay, and keep them fit and healthy to enter the breeding season next Spring.



## National Birdfair 2018

We had a fantastic three days at the National Birdfair, and were extremely pleased to win 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the best stand awards for the second year running!! Congratulations also to our competition winner Pete Roseveare who won 100kg of our nutritious mixes! It was great to catch up with customers new and old at the show.

In 2018, Birdfair's theme was 'Mar Chiquita: a haven for Argentina's flamingos'. The proceeds of this year's Birdfair will support the creation of Argentina's largest national park, in the process providing a refuge for nearly a million flamingos and shorebirds.

We are now looking forward to the 2019 Fair which takes place from 16th to 18th August at Rutland Water.

## Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds

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## Supporting AgeUK at Christmas

We are very proud to support staff and students at Melton Vale Sixth Form Centre who are donating 60 Christmas food hampers to AgeUK members in Melton Mowbray. This annual event is a great way to re-use our old fatball boxes which are filled by the students with a host of helpful foods and festive treats for the elderly. These boxes are then delivered from the college to AgeUK in the Eyebrook Van, a wonderful sense of recycling and giving at Christmas – thank you to MV16 for your hard work, kindness and support of your community.

## 2018 Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all our customers who purchased the ceramic poppy dishes from us over the period of remembrance in November. 50p from the sale of each bird feeder dish is donated to The Royal British Legion and Poppyscotland. If you would like to support the appeal by purchasing a poppy, they are available from us all year round and come individually boxed if buying for a gift. The poppies are decoratively hand-painted bird feeders made from cast iron, and bring a dash of colour to any garden. The feeder is suitable for bird food such as seed, suet treats and mealworms. Its dish shape also makes it ideal for providing birds with a refreshing drink of water.



To mark the close of the WW1 centenary celebrations, Rectory Farm joined more than 830 councils across the country and lit a beacon at the top of the hill overlooking Eyebrook. The beacons symbolised the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war. The beacon lighting was a well supported event attended by over 160 villagers, a most poignant occasion.



## Logs for Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

Don't forget that we stock logs all winter, locally sourced, with all proceeds donated direct to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, our local nature conservation charity. The logs are from the Trust's Launde Park Wood nature reserve in east Leicestershire, and this ancient woodland is being restored to a native broadleaved woodland. The trees are felled by Trust staff and volunteers who then log them up. They are left to season for between one and three years and are then split and bagged by hand by Trust volunteers and stored under cover until sold. The proceeds are used to help fund the Trust's management work. Support the Wildlife Trust by purchasing logs at the farm for £4/bag or 3 bags for £10.



**Leicestershire  
& Rutland  
Wildlife Trust**

## Introducing a new member to the Eyebrook team...

We are very pleased to welcome our new beautiful border collie pup Nell into the workforce at Rectory Farm! Nell is the youngest and newest member of staff. Being so young she resides mostly by the aga in the farmhouse kitchen, chases her mum Dora around the farmyard and heads up to the mixing shed each day for product inspection! We will keep you updated on Nells progress from playful pup to talented sheep dog over the months, life as a puppy on the farm is a great adventure!



## Birds at Rectory Farm

Over sowing time we have seen the usual flocks of lapwings, starlings and gulls following the cultivators around the farm. Look higher and the Red Kites and Buzzards are now common place as well as yellowhammers, reed buntings, tree sparrows and fieldfare which we now take for granted on the farm. The hedge trimmer at Rectory Farm is kept in the shed until after Christmas to ensure the birds have gleaned all they can from the hedgerows before we trim them. Some hedges we trim tight to provide safe nesting sites, others we leave long to provide a range of feeding and nesting habitats to try and keep all the birds happy. We look forward to the 2019 Big Farmland BirdCount where we hope the birds will all come out on display!

## Conservation on the farm

Phil started a new project this Autumn – traditional flower meadows back at the farm. Growing up on the farm through the 50's and 60's Phil can remember the traditional flower meadows, and the insects attracted to these flowers fed the birds and mammals on the farm. With this vision Phil has cultivated two pieces of rough grassland – one near a spinney and one which meanders alongside the Eye brook. The soil will weather down over the winter and be in good heart for sowing with a wild flower mix in the spring. The locations for these meadows have been chosen to encourage the birds in areas where they can feed and nest safely. We will keep you updated on the progress of our meadows as we sow the seeds, and with mother natures help can watch them flourish.



## Down on the Farm

It has been a season of extremes from the 'beast from the East' back in March, to the droughts we have experienced over the summer. The weather certainly has brought its challenges to the farm this year, but as winter draws in, mother nature, as usual, brought everything into order, and we will see what challenges she has in store for us and the farm this winter! As the cold weather and dark nights draw in, the farm quiets down for a spell. All the winter crops are sown, and at going to print the first green shots of wheat are just poking through the soil. These crops all enter a period of dormancy over winter as the field work draws to a close, and we turn to machinery maintenance, sheep work and of course birdseed mixing!



## Special offer on our newest mixes

**10% off our new Rutland mixes throughout December!**

This year Eyebrook Bird Feeds teamed up with Birdfair founder and conservation expert Tim Appleton to develop two fantastic new mixes to our birdseed range.

The Rutland Mix and Rutland Deluxe are two new nutritious mixes created by Tim with selected ingredients and the perfect blend of seeds to bring a range of bird species to your feeders. We are delighted to work with Tim and his team to create these unique new mixes, order throughout December to take advantage of 10% off and let the birds try these tasty mixes for themselves!



## Winter Feeding

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 when natural shortages occur is a great advantage to our feathered friends.

Birds have to feed at an accelerated rate to conserve enough energy through the winter, they need to consume 30% of their body weight in the daylight hours to survive the cold nights. By providing a regular supply of food you should see an increase in numbers and activity as the weather gets colder, and as well as helping the birds, it gives us a great opportunity to watch them close up for a prolonged period - what great entertainment! You can help the birds survive this winter by providing a supply of food and water on a regular basis, with plenty of high energy (fat) foods to help the birds to maintain their fat reserves. We have a range of fantastic high energy suet's including suet blocks, balls, pellets, rolls and flutter butter to keep them going! All our suet products are made on an environmentally friendly farm in Bedfordshire to ensure we know exactly what goes into them. The suet's are made incorporating seeds grown on the farm and recipes with the highest nutritional value for your birds



## 150 fatballs VAT free!

Make great savings when purchasing our quality fatballs by buying our boxes of 150. These netless fatballs are the same great quality tasty fatballs as our buckets and bags, but come in recyclable cardboard boxes and are VAT free.

Purchase from the farm or online to make great savings and help your garden birds through this winter.



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