



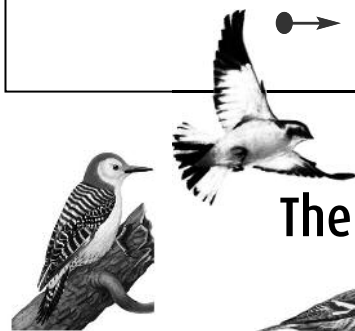
Mid Winter Blahs Sale

Our annual Mid Winter Blahs sale is SUNDAY, February 27, 2011. See inside for details.

COUNT FOR THE BIRDS

The 14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 18 - 21, 2011.

Join the fun!



You can find information at [www.BirdCount.org](http://www.BirdCount.org)

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

We need your help. Make sure the birds from your community are well represented in the count. It doesn't matter whether you report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

Scientists use the counts, along with observations from other citizen-science

Did You Know

That the voice of Woody Woodpecker was a Woman?

And not just any woman, Grace Stafford had local roots. We didn't know this either, but her great niece happened by the Bird Store during the Christmas holidays and told us the story.

Grace Lantz (born Grace Boyle), also known by the stage name Grace Stafford was an American actress and the wife of animation producer Walter Lantz.

Grace was best known for providing the voice of Woody Woodpecker from 1950 until 1972. According to the story, Walter Lantz was looking for a new voice for Woody Woodpecker and Grace persuaded the director to make a recording for her rendition of Woody, without her husband's knowledge. Upon hearing the seven voice actors finished tapes he chose the seventh voice actor, only later to discover that it was his own wife!

The local history to this story is that Grace spent her younger years in Worcester MA, and according to her great niece she took the stage name Stafford from "Stafford Street" in Worcester.

"Ha-ha-ha-HAA-ha!" Is Woody Woodpecker's trademark call. Do you know what kind of woodpecker Woody is?

Some say Woody was a Pileated Woodpecker, others say from his identifying marks; Woody was a Red Headed Woodpecker. Some say he is a cartoon combination of both or a Pileated Woodpecker with some Red Headed Woodpecker characteristics. But according to Walter Lantz biography Woody is an Acorn Woodpecker. (I don't care what Walter says, the bird looks like a Pileated Woodpecker to me!)





## News From The Bird Cage

**Chippy:** Hey Myrh, do you eat worms?

**Myrh:** No, there are no worms in our bird food, why are you asking?

**Chippy:** Lacey told me that there are worms in a package near the suet feeders, and I wondered what they tasted like.

**Myrh:** I don't know. Lacey do you know what the worms taste like?

**Lacey:** No I don't either, but it sounds like the Bluebirds really like them so they must be good. But it sounds like they need to be cooked.

**Myrh:** Who said they need to be cooked?

**Lacey:** I heard a lady who buys lots of meal worms say that she cooks them.

**Chippy:** What does she do to them?

**Lacey:** She puts water and olive oil on them and heats them up. She told Bill and Nancy that her Bluebirds love them!

**Chippy:** I bet I would like them too! Did she give Bill and Nancy the recipe?

**Lacey:** I'll ask... Hey Bill and Nancy do you have the worm recipe.



## The birds asked so here it is

### Deb's Favorite Worm Recipe It works!

½ cup dried meal worms  
1 cup water (Deb uses bottled water)  
½ tsp olive oil

Microwave for 50 seconds  
Let dish cool for 4-5 minutes to allow the worms to absorb water and soften  
Microwave for another 25 seconds  
Add cold water to cool down then pour the dish out on the ground for the Bluebirds.

# MINNY - MYRH AND LACEY ANNUAL



**Sunday Feb. 27, 2011**  
9:00am – 5:00pm

The sale is Sunday - The Bird Store will open at 9:00am  
Parking is also available at Sturbridge Veterinary Clinic next door.  
The Veterinary Clinic is closed on Sundays and they have graciously allowed us use of their parking lot. Please do not park across the street.

# 25% off

## everything in the store

(optics excluded)

It's a great day to get rid of the winter blah's  
and pick up something for spring!

Be an early bird like Minny-Myrh and Lacey, and join us for our annual  
Mid Winter Blah's 25% off everything in the store Sale.

**One day only, Sunday February 27, 2011.**

#### Here's the rules!

- Doors open at exactly 9:00am not earlier
- Save 25% on your purchases (excluding optics)
- No coupons, bucks, or other discounts apply today
- No special orders, rain checks, internet orders, or phone orders
- Sale is on in stock merchandise only; once it's gone it's gone!
  - You have to be here to get the goods!
- Sale is Sunday February 27, 2011 only! Not Friday, Not Saturday... Just Sunday 9:00am till 5:00pm.

**Get rid of the mid winter blah's and think spring!**

# Oliver the Christmas Mouse

As you can see we don't use bait blocks here at the Bird Store. We do use have-a-heart traps and regularly remove shrews and mice from the store when they become a nuisance. But it was just before Christmas, and at the top of the stairway leading to the office was a dehydrated starving baby mouse.

We scooped him into a box and tried to give him water and food because he was so small and obviously not doing well. Then Bill decided that maybe we could give him a "camel back" (a small pocket of saline injected under the skin to rehydrate him. We thought it was a long shot, but it was Christmas and yes we are saps about all creatures.

Bill gave the mouse the fluids and within a half hour he was moving around and eating sunflower seeds and alfalfa sprouts from Nancy's salad. It was very cold out and our miracle mouse (a deer mouse); now named Oliver needed to grow and get healthy.

The next step, we got him a small animal cage with a wheel and Oliver ate and drank and ran on his wheel. In no time he was a full size plump mouse and it was warmer outside and time for him to go back to nature. We filled one of our bird houses at home with wood shavings and plenty of seed and on a warm afternoon we moved Oliver to his new home. We checked on him again a few days later, the seed was gone and so was Oliver...back to nature.



## Deer Mouse Profile

*Peromyscus maniculatus*

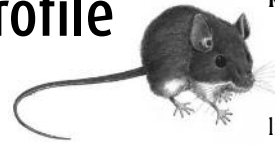
Family: Muridae

**Subfamily: Sigmodontinae** (includes deer mice, harvest mice, grasshopper mice, woodrats, cotton rats)

**Description:** Deer mice are the prototype for "field mice" with large, bulging eyes, big ears, a bicolored pattern and a long tail. The deer mouse is about 148-200 mm (seven in.) long, including the tail. The bicolored tail is less than 90% of the head and body length.

The deer mouse coloration is described as "bicolored", meaning it has a distinctly darker upper body coloration compared to the white undersides. The body color varies from a yellowish or reddish brown to grayish above, with pure white undersides and feet. The bicolored body and distinctive large ears distinguish the deer mouse from the introduced house mouse (*Mus musculus*), which is uniformly gray. The house mouse is found in city and urban areas while the deer mouse prefers natural habitats. You can get either where development pushes against undeveloped lands.

**Behavior:** Deer mice live up to five years, longer than any other species of small rodent (most mice live for only a year). A nocturnal species, they are very energy efficient, reducing their body temperature when in their burrows. Lowering their metabolism means they need less food. Deer mice do not hibernate during the winter.



**Reproduction:** Deer mice breed during the spring, and fall, and to some extent midsummer. Females can have up to four litters per year with an average of three to six young per litter. The gestation period is from 22 to 25 days long. Deer mice do not burrow but build their nest from grasses in protected areas above ground beneath debris, in tree cavities, in rotting logs, or in abandoned burrows.

Young mice may remain with the mother for sometime after they are weaned. Although deer mice establish home ranges, there is not an aggressive defense of a home territory. Home ranges are from three-quarters to ten acres in size and are shared with breeding animals of both sexes and a few immature individuals.

**Diet:** Food selection is dependent on both habitat and season. Deer mice feed heavily on larvae from lepidopterans (includes moths and butterflies) and other insects in the spring. They can eat large volumes and are capable of ridding an area of many insects that may be detrimental to trees. In the fall, seeds become a major food source and are stored in caches for use during the winter.

Because of their abundance, deer mice are a major food source for almost every bird and mammal predator. When the predators are reduced or absent, the mice can become pests.

## A bit of doggerel

by: Bill Byers

I'm off to get some bird seed  
from a place in Massachusetts.  
Its just a little ways up the road.  
It has sun flowers, millet,  
cashews, peanuts and fruit;  
and tea and crumpets.

A heck of a treat to hoist for the birds  
when the temperature is way down below.  
Some suet would be good  
to add to the food.  
But I question the tea and the crumpets.

### Are You Getting The Latest Updates?

If you haven't signed up for our e news you are missing out on the specials, trips, sighting and reminders that are sent by email in between our quarterly newsletters. If you want the most up to date information, specials, and reminders join our mailing list at [www.thebirdstoreandmore.com](http://www.thebirdstoreandmore.com)





## Important Information

This information was received from the Hampshire Bird Club and we feel that it must be passed on.

### Anticoagulant Rodenticide Exposure in Birds of Prey in Massachusetts

*Tufts Wildlife Clinic is sounding an alarm about anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning in birds of prey in New England and presumably, throughout North America.*

Anticoagulant rodenticides are used to control rodent populations in various settings, including, urban, suburban and agricultural areas. These rodenticides disrupt blood clotting pathways, specifically those involving vitamin K, resulting in excessive bleeding and death. These poisons can also cause mortality in non-targeted species of mammals and birds that ingest the bait (primary exposure) or ingest poisoned animals (secondary exposure).

**Brodifacoum** is a second generation anti-coagulant rodenticide that is currently available for household use in a variety of forms, including bait blocks and pellets. This compound presents a high risk for unintended poisoning of wildlife due to its long persistence time in liver tissue, and has been found in numerous birds of prey suffering from anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis that have been treated at Tufts

Wildlife Clinic. These birds are suffering from uncontrolled and persistent bleeding and bruising. Treatment can be effective, but protecting the birds from further exposure is impossible, assuming rodenticides continue to be used.

The most frequent species treated at Tufts Wildlife Clinic for anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis is the Red tailed Hawk, which predominantly feeds on small to medium sized mammals but will also consume birds. Barred, Great horned, and Eastern Screech Owls are also presumably at high risk are included in a long term study being conducted through the clinic. Obviously, the risk of anticoagulant toxicosis is a factor we need to consider when planning rodent control in residential, industrial, and agricultural situations.

**Bottom line, don't use bait blocks and pellets. Thank You!**



## What's in Your Yard?

In the spring when the snow melts have you ever wondered who made those little trails under the snow right where the snow meets the grass. This is a very important area for the survival of a host of small mammals and is referred to as the Subnivean zone. It is used by many small mammals including Voles, Shrews, Red Squirrels, and Oliver our deer mouse friend, just to name a few.

The largest of the animals that use this method of tunneling along the Subnivean zone is the Red Squirrel. In the winter you very rarely see a Red Squirrel in the trees but you often see them at your feeder. It's almost like magic, one minute they eating your seed and then poof they're gone. They have escaped into one of their snow tunnels and made it back to the woods where it's safe.

Voles are among the most popular residents of the tunnels and are prolific tunnel builders. Voles use this zone to feed and to escape from predators. In some climates it can be as much as 80 degrees warmer just 6 inches below the snow. However a mouse or a vole running along the snow tunnel can be a sitting duck. It is estimated that almost 90% of all voles meet their maker while foraging along this zone. They may be warm and it may be dark but it is far from safe. Beware as you never know when there is an owl or a hungry fox lurking above.



**FREE DELIVERY** within 10 miles!



**Bird Store Hours:**  
10:00-6:00 Monday - Saturday  
11:00-5:00 Sunday

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