

# Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds

## Winter Newsletter



### Merry Christmas!

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 2011. To celebrate the festive season our gift to you and your feathered friends is a **free 200g pack of mealworms** with all mail orders over 10kg throughout December 2010. Winter is the most important season to feed our birds and give them all the energy they need to survive the harsh months ahead, with this cold weather we can expect more numbers and more variety of birds, what a great reward for bird feeding!

### On the Farm

Conservation work on Rectory Farm continues throughout the cold winter months, this is the ideal time of year to carry out the age old tradition of hedgelaying. Laying over the hedge creates new growth from the base of the plant creating a dense hedge, an ideal nesting site for farmland birds. In addition to hedgelaying we have established more grass margins around the perimeters of our fields which act as 'wildlife corridors' against hedgerows for the animals here to use as shelter and to glean for food. Our millet was successfully harvested and has gone straight from the field into our mixes, which is great news for the environment. Before the millet was used for mixing we had it cleaned, the best quality seed goes into our mixes and the millet which was left over is spread on our overwintered stubble for the birds to glean through the winter.



*Hedgelaying at Rectory Farm by local craftsmen, overlooking Eyebrook Reservoir*

### Birds at the Farm

The cold frosty mornings and breaking the ice on the sheep's water troughs signal the start of winter on the Farm. It's the time of year when looking skyward we see the birds begin to flock and here at Rectory farm we have seen fieldfare, lapwings and golden plovers flocking in their groups, and of course the twirling and twisting of starlings. Birds of a feather really do flock together, and through flocking they can avoid predators, improve their chances of finding food and socialise at the same time!

We are very pleased to report that we still have our resident Little Owl perching on a post next to the farmyard. Plus there was excitement at the Eyebrook reservoir this month as a Green-Winged Teal drake was spotted. In addition to this a Little Gull and Common Scoter were also observed on and around the water.



*Phil spreading millet on our overwintered stubble adjacent to Eyebrook Reservoir*

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Bird pictures supplied by LROS members

### Garden 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.

### High Energy Suets & Worms

Kick-start your winter feeding with help from Eyebrook Bird Feeds. Suet's and mealworms are fantastic high energy treats for your garden birds as the cold weather starts to creep in – compare our online prices below. Don't forget delivery is free with all mail orders over 10kg!

- 1kg bag Dried Mealworms £15.00
- 10 pack Suet Blocks £10.00 - Variety of flavours
- Bucket 50 Fatballs £10.00 - Available with or without nets
- 1kg bag Suet Pellets £4.99 - Berry, nut or mealworm flavour

Don't miss our special **\*WINTER OFFER\*** Free 200g mealworms with all mail orders over 10kg throughout December 2010

### New Product!

Box of 75 fatballs for the price of a bucket of 50!

Save money and packaging by purchasing a box of 75 fatballs for just £10.00 - with free delivery when you order over 10kg!



### Visiting the Farm

Our Farm walks are getting booked up quickly, call us now to ensure getting a place in 2011! Through the months of May and June we offer guided walks around the farm to schools and interested clubs and organisations. These walks are sponsored by Natural England and their purpose is to get the general public out onto farms and demonstrate how a modern farm works in partnership with the environment. The walks are free of charge and can be tailored to your group's interests, each walk concludes with a well earned cup of tea and homemade scone in the farmyard.



U3A group on a guided walk around Rectory Farm