



“from our farm...
...to your feeders”

Working in partnership with The Wildlife Trusts



Buy your birdfood
direct from the farm

Newsletter May 2009 - Number 45

YOUR REGULAR UPDATE TO ISSUES AFFECTING WILD BIRDS & VINE HOUSE FARM BIRD FOODS

Live Mealworms - a real life saver!



Mealworms are a favourite of many species

Feeding live food comes into its own at this time of the year. Adult birds cannot take water to their young in the nest, so water has to be included in the food. This is in the form of insects or unripe seeds.

Our insect populations have fallen over recent years making rearing young a bigger task. A drop in temperature can also cause insect populations to crash and alter on a daily basis. Regularly feeding live mealworms can really make the difference between the success and failure of a brood of chicks. Here at Vine House Farm we also find that watching birds feeding on live mealworms is very entertaining, especially when you use a feeder that excludes some of the bigger birds reaching the prized food. We offer live mealworms in our shop and through our mail order service, which all come with their own supply of food.

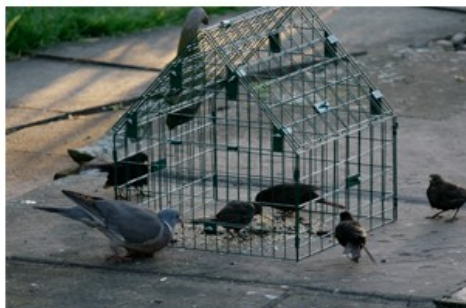
Live Mealworms:

- 3 x 40g tubs £5.75 (approx 1400 worms)
- 6 x 40g tubs £9.25
- 500g bag £11.75
- 1kg bag £19.75

For more information visit: <http://www.vinehousefarm.co.uk/acatalog/livefood.html>

Our mealworms are dispatched directly from our live food supplier and usually take 2-3 working days to arrive.

In My Garden



Our adjustable ground guard helps keep out larger visitors

My garden is very busy at the moment, Blackbirds, Starlings, Robins, Blue and Great tits, Chaffinches, Dunnocks, Greenfinches, Goldfinches and of course the Wood Pigeons all taking food. I feed the Starlings and Blackbirds in a cage so that the Wood Pigeons are excluded. However they do keep walking round and round the cage and are able to pick bits up from under the feeders. They are obviously picking enough up to be able to breed as I found a pigeons nest recently with two young in it. Pigeons can only feed their young when there is grain or seeds available to them and at this time of year there is no grain available to them yet so those pigeons that have found their way to bird feeders are able to start their breeding season earlier than normal and rear an extra brood. We have a range of different cages available to exclude Pigeons and other larger birds.

For more information visit: http://www.vinehousefarm.co.uk/acatalog/Ground_Feeding.html

Wood Pigeons and Collared Doves are the lucky ones, they don't need insects to rear their young. The Tit family can only rear their young when there are caterpillars feeding on the fresh new leaves on the deciduous trees. They may be able to adapt themselves to feed their young on other things but that will take thousands of years.

Farm Walks

Saturday 13th June and Saturday 4th July, 10 AM at Vine House Farm.

Tickets are £9 each which includes a barbeque of local food. They really are fascinating walks, led by Nicholas Watts. The walks topics include organic farming, farm wildlife and our wind turbines.

Please book your tickets in advance through the farm shop or telephone the office.

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See our website at www.vinehousefarm.co.uk
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