

## Vintage goods store opens in Ypsilanti

There's a bird in the Australian rain forest that hunts for an eclectic assortment of objects to build its bower. The habits of this tropical bird and the term mingo, slang for a castoff that becomes someone else's treasure, have been combined for the name of one of the newest storefront businesses on Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti.

**Bowerbird Mongo** opened Aug. 19. Owners Joyce Ramsey and Ward Freeman have turned their personal passion for collecting into a business.

Ramsey said it's the first time they have ventured into the business sector. They were attracted to downtown Ypsilanti because of the renovation that is sweeping through many of the historic buildings. The husband and wife bought the building in 2002 and started improving the exterior before tackling the retail space.

Home accents dominate the shop, including glassware, framed art and wall hangings. Costume and silver jewelry, Pewabic and Motawi tiles and even a replica of Sylvester the "puddy tat" wait expectantly for customers.

"It's all vintage goods; some would say antiques," Ramsey said. "There are some antiques, but not just antiques. These are things we collect or like: paintings, prints, a lot of American art pottery that was made in the

U.S. at the height of pottery production in the early 1900s to late 1940s. We have a variety of things that we like to collect and that others might like, mainly for decorating."

Address: 210 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti.

Phone: (734) 482-4595.

Hours: 5-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; other hours by appointment.

Web site: [www.bowerbird-mongo.com](http://www.bowerbird-mongo.com).