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**"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited
at Moana Nursery**

Wild Birds Unlimited Nesting Specials

April 1 - 15 Prepare for Nesting

***20% Savings Nesting Boxes**

*Limited to supply on hand. Offer ends April 15..



**April 16th - 30 -- High Nutrition
Food Sale for Nesting**

- Buy 5 Calcium Care Dough -- get 1 for a penny
- Bark Butter Bits -- \$7.99 Save \$2.00 (reg. \$9.99)
- 20 lb. Black

Oil Sunflower Seed -- \$17.99 Save \$2.00 (reg. \$19.99)

Limited to supply on hand. Offer ends April 30.





The Prop-er Way to Eat

The EcoTough™ Tail Prop Suet Feeder lets birds eat in a natural way. The paddle simulates a tree trunk and offers birds a place to prop their tail while they feed. Our feeder holds one suet cake, is easy to fill and hangs anywhere.

EcoTough feeders and houses are environmentally friendly, high quality products that are made from recycled plastic milk jugs. These feeders and houses prevent used milk jugs from making their way into our landfills. EcoTough feeders and houses won't rot, crack, fade or warp like wood can. They also come with limited lifetime guarantees.

[See the video here plus more on our website.](#)



Wild Bird Courtship Practices are Entertaining and Fascinating

Now is the time of year when male wild birds begin to draw the attention of females, and these courtship practices can be as entertaining as they are complex.

Bird courtship displays are integral to mating and raising young. Female birds often choose suitors based on appearance, the ability to provide food, evidence that the male can build the strongest and safest nest and other characteristics.

This is a fun time to watch the behavior of backyard birds. In some species, birds engage in behaviors that seem to parallel human romance.

With some species, the male simply flies in front of the female to show off his luminous colors or unique markings. In others, songs are more important to impress the female with his musical repertoire. Some birds touch bills or groom each other during courtship. Mourning Doves and mockingbirds fluff up their feathers and "dance."

Originally scientists thought that many birds, such as geese, swans and eagles, mated for life only seeking a new mate when the original partner died. Recent research shows that some species are faithful to their pair-bonding only for a

season, while others actually have multiple mates simultaneously. For example, after hummingbirds mate, the male will court another female. Male House Wrens build multiple nests and let the female choose the one she prefers. Then, the male may try to attract another female to occupy one of his other nests.

Visit us soon. We'll make sure you have all the proper housing and foods to help the nesting birds in your yard thrive and survive, while providing you with visual examples of courtship and nesting - call it bird TV!

Jacque Lowery, Manager
Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



March High Desert Bird-of-the-Month:

**Western Scrub Jay,
Steller's Jay & Pinyon
Jay**

IT'S NOT A BLUE JAY

No matter where you live in northern Nevada, you probably have at least one of three possible

jay species in your neighborhood. And not one of them is a Blue Jay, which only occurs east of the Rocky Mountains.

In most urban areas and desert suburbia, the most likely resident is the Western Scrub Jay. He is a crestless jay with blue head, wings and tail, a gray mask and back and pale gray underneath. His white throat has dark streaks and is bordered by a dark necklace. Scrub Jays will eat grains, seeds, lizards, frogs, and insects as well as, rarely, eggs and young of other birds. Western Scrub Jays have been known to cache (hide) up to 6000 pine seeds or 5000 acorns in a single autumn.

Researchers have studied the ability of Scrub Jays to remember where the seeds were located. They are thought to use landmarks for their seed retrieval. They also will steal food from the cache of other birds or nuts they've watched other jays hide.

Anyone living in forested areas



or along the river corridor is likely to see not only Scrub Jays, but also Steller's Jays. Steller's Jays have large heads, chunky bodies and long, full tails. They have a prominent triangular crest that often stands nearly straight up from their head. The coloring is fairly dark, with no white underparts like other jays. The head is charcoal black and the body is all blue.

Both species readily eat corn, suet, sunflower seeds and peanuts. Moana Nursery carries the foods and feeders such as tube feeders, mesh peanut feeders, hopper feeders, and peanut wreaths that appeal to the jays. Peanuts in the shell are a favorite with both. Watch your feeder to see if you can observe them shaking peanuts to tell if the shell is full or empty.

Besides the Western Scrub Jay and Steller's Jay that many people are familiar with, there is a third species of jay in northern Nevada, the Pinyon Jay. As the name implies, their habitat is the pinyon/juniper forests all over the West. They are a dusty blue, more stout than a scrub jay with a sharp beak designed specifically to extract seeds from the cones of pinyon pines



[Click here to read more of Jacque's complete Jay Bird of the Month article.](#)

April Nature Happenings

- * Project FeederWatch ends this month, www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw
- * Offer nesting material such as wool yarn, string cut in short lengths, sheep's wool and horse/dog hair.
- * Get nectar feeders out and filled by April 15 for early hummingbird migrants.
- * Lyrids meteor shower, late-April.
- * Earth Day, April 22.
- * Turkey Vultures return late.
- * Bald Eagles begin their nesting behaviors.
- * Ravens, crows and Canada Geese begin nesting.
- * Ground Squirrels begin to emerge from hibernation..
- * Song Sparrows begin calling.
- * South winds bring major waves of migrating birds like thrushes and warblers.
- * Flickers establish their territories late in the month

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

March and April are such wonderful transitional months for gardeners and birdwatchers alike.

The crocus are almost finished blooming, the daffodils are in full bloom, the lilacs and willows are leafing out. Some ornamental trees are flowering already. The plum and peach tree will hopefully wait until after the next big freeze (which is sure to come, right?).

Bird life, also, is transitioning from winter behaviors to spring courtship and nesting antics. American Goldfinch are almost molted into their beautiful bright yellow breeding plumage. Some of them that have not molted completely are quite comical looking with partial black crown, some brown and some yellow

body feathers. House Sparrows have already set up housekeeping and are boldly defending their nest from Scrub Jays. House Finch and Lesser Goldfinch are singing loudly and often from treetop branches.

One pair of Scrub Jays has started a nest in the Colorado spruce, where they have nested over the last three years. This year they chose an area higher up in the tree, but they are very good at making it almost invisible from any vantage point I might choose. For the first part of the nest construction they were pulling material from last year's nest right below the new one; who can deny how intelligent these birds are.

[Click here to read more.](#)



How to Attract a Greater Variety of Birds

Each bird species has food preferences, and these may change seasonally. Offering multiple kinds of foods throughout the year will help attract a greater variety of birds to your bird feeding station on a regular basis.

Recommended Foods

Beyond our regionally-formulated seed blends, we recommend offering a broad selection of foods that attracts a greater variety of birds and meets their nutritional needs.



Peanuts

The best single source of protein and fat for birds. Some birds will cache nuts to retrieve later, making repeated trips to feeders to gather food.

Nyjer® (thistle)

Goldfinches' favorite food. Nyjer's high oil content is an excellent energy source for active birds and is best used in our specially.



Mealworms

Attracts common and uncommon insect-eating birds like bluebirds and wrens.

Because mealworms crawl, place them in a smooth-sided feeder where they cannot crawl out.



Nectar Hummingbirds' favorite food. It's important to continue offering nectar in areas where some hummingbirds stay in winter.

favorite. Suet pure-fat birds enjoy particularly

when birds need more calories to



Suet

Woodpeckers' is a high-energy, substance that all year long. It is helpful in winter stay warm.

Seed Cylinders

The quickest, simplest, longest-lasting way to feed your birds. Available, in a variety of flavors, our seed cylinders meet the nutritional needs and feeding behaviors of a number of different birds.

Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter®

The perfect blend of fat and protein, no other single bird food attracts a greater variety of species; over 100 birds and counting.



Lahontan Audubon Society

Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday, August through May, at the Moana Nursery Landscape and Design Center, 1100 West Moana Lane, in Reno. Social hour begins at 6:30 pm; meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Check Audubon Society first as meeting location may change; we're outgrowing our current site.

- April 23, 2013 - Lindsey Dimitri - Ecuadorian Avifauna: Spectacular Diversity From the Cloud Forest to the Amazon
- May 28, 2013 - Jenni Jeffers - Owls of Nevada

Field Trips:

- Saturday, April 6, 2013 - Damonte Ranch Wetlands
- Saturday, April 13, 2013 - Swan Lake

[For information on the Lahontan Audubon Society, click here](#)

Animal Ark

Sponsor's Night!

Saturday, April 20

4:30 - 6:00 pm

Only for members and adoptive parents!

This is an invitation-only event for Members and Adoptive Parents! Bring a treat for your animal; talk to the animal keepers; and hear behind-the-scenes stories. Not yet a member or an adopter? [Become a Member or Adoptive Parent here!](#)

Reservations required.

[For more information about Animal Ark click here.](#)



Spring color has arrived in the high desert.
Maybe some color will enhance your yard?

[Special spring Garden Center savings ... see them here.](#)



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