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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



More Foods, More Birds! (February 1st thru 15th, 2013)

Whether you're preparing for the Great Backyard Bird Count or just want to see more birds, we have a variety of the best seed blends and suet in town!

Our seed blends:

- are chosen by your local expert.
- are formulated to care for your birds.
- contain no cereal fillers - just seeds your birds love.

Our suets and no-melt suet doughs contain high-quality ingredients and make every trip to the feeder count.

SAVE NOW on 20# Bags of Bird Seed & Cases of Suet Cakes

20# Black Oil Sunflower	Save \$2
20# Deluxe Blend	Save \$2
20# Finch Blend	Save \$4
20# No Mess	Save \$3

20# Nyjer

Save \$3

10% off Case of Suet or No-Melt Dough, Mix & Match

Limited to supply on hand

Some Food for Thought:

Let's face it ... there are a lot of ways your bird feeding dollars can be wasted.

Squirrels are sure to put a dent in your budget as they devour everything in sight, not to mention the starlings and grackles that can dominate your feeders to the exclusion of the birds you really want to attract.

Feeding a poor quality blend of bird seed from the grocery or hardware store can also be a waste of money as most of the undesirable filler seeds just end up rotting on the ground under the bird feeder.

We deal with these scenarios all the time and we have the right bird foods, feeders and expert advice that will help you get the biggest bang for your bird feeding buck!

Our quality bird foods target the specific birds you want to attract and discourage the birds you don't. We have exclusionary feeders and accessories that can prevent those domineering squirrels, blackbirds and other nuisance critters from eating you out of house and home.

And you will not find a better value in bird seed than our quality WBU Seed Blends. With our regionally selected formulas, fresh quality ingredients and no filler seeds, you can rest assured that you will not be wasting any of your money on worthless, uneaten seed.

We will also share lots of expert advice about setting up and operating your bird feeding area in the most efficient and economical ways possible.

Give it some thought... if you are ready to take action, we are here to help you get more birds for your bird feeding buck! Best of all, they are on sale through February 15th!

Jacque Lowery, Manager

Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shops at Moana Nursery



Your Backyard Counts! Bird Count

February 15 - 18, 2013

When you feed the birds in your backyard, it shows that you value having a daily relationship with nature and that you are willing to take action to foster it.

Like many of us, if you have been feeding birds for a while...you probably have a reputation. Your friends, neighbors and relatives likely see you as a person who loves nature, and they value your willingness to share the joy of "your" backyard birds at a moment's notice.

Your hobby and your backyard truly count as things that are important to you.

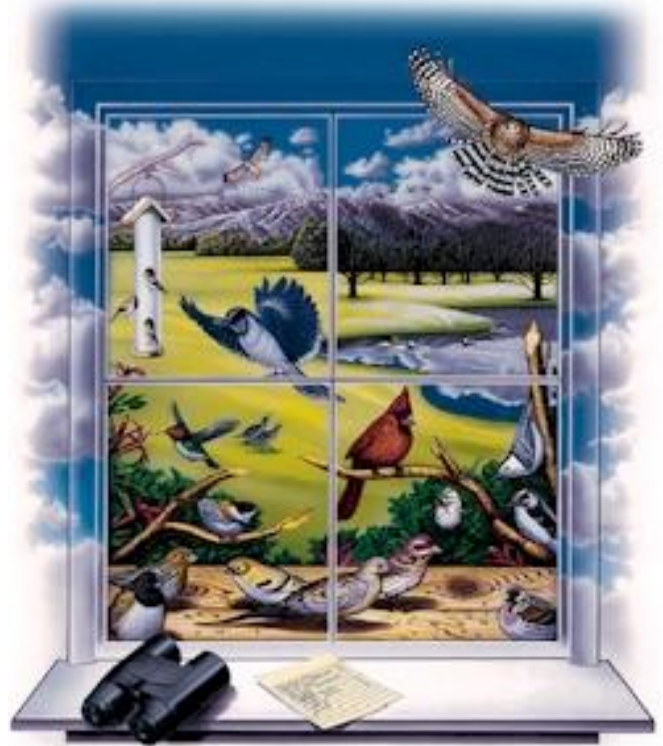
The Great Backyard Bird Count gives you the opportunity to make them count even more than ever by participating in this annual event which links citizens with scientists in an effort to collect important data about backyard birds.

The GBBC is a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society and is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited. It takes place each February. Count the birds in your backyard, and then simply report the information online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. We can provide a local checklist and help in reporting your data.

This extensive information data base is analyzed by scientists to better understand important trends in bird populations, range expansions, habitat changes and shifts in migration patterns.

Make your backyard count even more for the birds when you participate in this year's GBBC. And to ensure the birds all show up to be counted, visit our store for the widest variety of great bird food products!

Take Part in the Great Backyard



Take Part in the Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15 - 18, 2013 and Moana Nursery's GBBC Photo Contest

In honor of the GBBC, Moana Nursery is holding a bird watching photo contest. E-mail (or bring in) photos of your bird watching experiences through February 28th to Jamie Leonard at jamiel@moananursery.com with "GBBC Photo Contest" in the subject line; include your full name, contact phone number and your favorite Moana Nursery location so we can display your photo where you shop! A winner will be selected for each location and notified on March 1st. Winners will receive an EcoClean bird feeder and a 5lb bag of black oil sunflower seed.

How To Better Identify Birds for GBBC?

As a Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) participant, you may see birds you don't know. To identify lesser-known birds, practice answering the following questions, looking at a bird from the top down.



1. Silhouette

Look at the bird's overall size, shape and posture. Is it the size of something familiar like a sparrow, robin or crow? How does it sit, perch or fly?

2. Head Markings

Does the bird have a colorful or striped cap, also known as a crown? Is there a stripe above or through the eye, or does it have an eye ring or "spectacles?" Look for cheek patches or a mustache. Is there a white throat patch?

3. Body Markings

What are the overall back, breast and belly colors? What's on the chest: a patch, spots, streaks or is it clear? Are the flanks (sides of body) clear or streaked? Is there a white or yellow rump patch?

4. Wing Markings

Are the wings a different color than the body? Are there wing bars or spots?

5. Tail Shape and Markings

Is the tail long or short compared to the body? Is it forked, squared, pointed or another shape? Are there certain colors or vertical or horizontal stripes?

With practice, you will quickly gather all the clues you need to positively identify birds.

For more tips on how to better identify birds, visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc.



February High Desert Bird-of-the-Month: Oregon Junco

Winter is for Oregon Juncos

Oregon Juncos, members of the sparrow family, are one of six recognizable populations of Dark-Eyed Junco, and normally occur only west of the Rockies. The dark gray to black hood, along with an almost pink bill, makes them pretty

easy to identify. In flight they show flashy white outer tail feathers. They are such a beautiful little bird and I look forward to their return each winter.

Juncos nest and spend the breeding season in forested areas as far north as Canada and Alaska and spend winters all across the United States. They are often called "Snowbirds," possibly because their return from northern breeding grounds foretells the return of cold and snowy weather. They tend to return to the same area each winter, so you may have some of the same birds at your feeder as you had in previous years. Juncos are flocking birds with a distinct social hierarchy - adult males at the top, then juvenile males, adult females and young females at the bottom. Juncos are one of the most numerous birds in the country (with estimated populations of 630 million) and are reported at 80% of winter feeders by participants in Project Feeder Watch.

Oregon Juncos are primarily seed-eaters year round. When they are foraging, they typically hop (rather than walk) on the ground, pecking or scratching at leaf litter or for seed under feeders. Juncos, along with some other members of the sparrow family, practice a foraging technique called "riding." They fly up to a seed cluster on top of a grass stem and ride it to the ground where they pick off the seeds while standing on it.



One more reason not to be too neat of a gardener; leaving weed seeds of crabgrass, lamb's quarters, and others provides Juncos and other sparrows a much needed seed source in winter.

Juncos prefer to roost in evergreens at night, but will take advantage of tall grass and brush piles. They return to the same roost area each night and will share with their flock, but they don't huddle together. They spend over 65% of their time on the ground, almost never being observed in the canopy of large trees.

You can attract Oregon Juncos to your yard by feeding a seed blend containing millet and hulled sunflower seeds. It is best to offer your food in a ground tray feeder which keeps the seed from spoiling from moisture on the ground. I also often find the juncos beneath the finch feeders, gleaning what is being pulled or dropped from those feeders. Tray feeders and seed blends to attract these and other wintering species can be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited in Moana Nursery locations.

February Nature Happenings

- * Great Backyard Bird Count, mid-month, www.birdsource.org/gbbc
- * Project FeederWatch continues, www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw
- * February is National Bird Feeding Month
- * Unfrozen, fresh water ensures survival; keep heated bird baths plugged in.
- * Red-shafted Northern Flickers, our largest woodpecker, begin drilling holes for spring nesting.
- * Put up a "flicker" specific nest box to provide a much-needed nesting habitat and to deter them from entering your attic.
- * Black Bear cubs are born at the beginning of the month.
- * Time to put up a bird house or clean your existing ones.
- * Squirrel mating season.
- * Owls are the earliest nesters after beginning courtship in December and January. Listen for their nightly courtship serenades.

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

This morning, sitting on the front porch in the fog, I was contemplating what tidbits to include in this article. I haven't been on a field trip or bird walk in awhile. And, although there have been a lot of rare bird sightings in our area over the last few weeks, most of those didn't occur in anyone's back yard. So what is new and exciting? And I realized it doesn't have to be new and exciting to be enjoyable.



I was content to listen to a few Cedar Waxwings searching for that stray bit of fruit or berry that the Robins might have left them. There was a small flock of either Brewer's or Red-winged Blackbirds (I was too lazy to search out which one) flying around the yard.

The White-crowned Sparrows were singing away as they always do in early morning and soft calls of Oregon Juncos could be heard. The Yellow-rumped Warblers were scolding the Downy Woodpecker at the suet feeder. The always reliable California Quail were starting their daily foraging and calling. And American and Lesser Goldfinch were busy jockeying for a spot on one of the finch feeders.

House Finch and Sparrows were taking turns at the seed tube feeder; the Mountain Chickadees entertained with their calls and songs. The birdbath was full and ice-free for anyone brave enough for a bath and all seemed right with the world.



It really is important in our hectic world, with the next project or crisis just around the corner, to take time to just sit and enjoy what is being brought your way. Listen carefully to the morning noises and songs, see if you can determine who they belong to, and just enjoy these few minutes communing with the nature in your backyard.

And get ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count; scientists need your input!

Lahanton 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.

- [February 26, 2013 - David Jickling - Whose Whoos In Nevada? Owls of the Truckee Meadows and Northeastern Sierra Nevada](#)
- [March 26, 2013 - Peggy Robinson - Birds, Mammals, and Hunter Gatherers of Tanzania and Botswana](#)

[Click here for more information on the Lahanton Audubon Society](#)



[Learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count here.](#)

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