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**"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery ...  
 Wishing you a happy & safe  
 Independence Day!**

**Bird Baths Galore**

Check out our new shipment of  
 unique birdbaths - many styles and  
 colors. Available at all three

location  
 s.



**Avoid Shell Shock; Try Tidy Dining**

Have you ever experienced shell shock? That feeling of surprise as you survey the copious amount of shells that are left behind by your birds. It's a common occurrence, but it doesn't have to be.

That's because tidy dining solutions are one of our specialties. Sure, we still have our No-Mess Blend, featuring seeds and nuts without their shells, but we now offer more tidy dining options than ever before.

### **Additional Tidy Dining Foods**

- \* Peanuts - the best single source of protein and fat, peanuts attract most birds.
- \* Suet - high in fat and energy, suet is always a tidy dining option.
- \* WBU Bird Food Cylinders - long lasting and easy to use, Bird Food Cylinders allow you to refill your feeders less often.



Wild Birds Unlimited - Tidy Cylinder Feeder

- \* Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® and Treats - 100% edible, these dining delights are gobbled up too fast to leave a mess.
- \* Mealworms - a tidy, protein-rich food for attracting common and uncommon birds.
- \* Nectar - hummingbirds' favorite. Just keep it fresh, and there's no mess!

### **Tidy Dining Accessories**

Offering the right food doesn't always solve the problem. Sometimes, you need some additional help. We offer a large selection of trays that catch the shells and keep your feeding station nice and tidy.

Tidy dining allows you to spend more time watching your birds and less time cleaning up after them. See article below which recommends feeder and food combinations for tidy dining.

Visit us soon, and we'll help you find a tidying dining solution that is good for your

birds and great for avoiding any unnecessary shell shock.

Jacque Lowery, Manager  
Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



## July's High Desert Bird-of-the-Month:

### Black-chinned Hummingbird

Black-chinned Hummingbird is named for the dark chin and throat of the male. When the light hits just right, the male shows a band of iridescent purple below the chin. Black-

chinned is usually the only hummingbird to nest in our area, with the exception of Calliope hummingbird in nearby mountains.

As with many hummingbird species, the female Black-chinned is dull metallic green on the back and flanks and grayish-white below. It is really difficult to pin down a female identification to a particular species, as most female hummingbirds look very similar.

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

## Identifying New Birds & Bird Behaviors

Right now new birds and strange new behaviors are being seen in backyards. No, they are not new bird species; they are young hungry birds.

Many bird parents show their fledglings where to find food and how to eat from feeders. But how do you know if it is an adult or this year's offspring? Here are some clues to look and listen for at your feeders.

### Having a Shadow

Watch for one or more birds closely following or outright chasing a parent. This often occurs in the first two weeks after leaving the nest.

### **Incessant Chatter**

When hungry, many fledglings harass their parents with an incessant "feed me." These can be single or double noted calls that sound like squeaks or chip notes. Chickadees and goldfinches are notorious for incessant feeding chatter.

### **Body Positioning**

A fledgling may beg with its mouth open toward the parent. A juvenile may also move its head side to side and flutter its wings to get its parents' attention.

### **A Motley Crew**

Fledglings are still growing out their feathers so they can appear very mottled or slightly fuzzy. There are often spots or streaks on the head, back, breast and/or flanks until the feathers are fully grown.

### **No "End" in Sight**

Tail feathers are usually the last to fully grow. Young birds' tail feathers can appear very short or it can look like a bird has no tail.

Keep your feeders full and watch for new birds and new behaviors this season.

## **July Nature Happenings**

- \* NABA National Butterfly count.
- \* Rufous Hummingbirds visit mid-month on their southbound leg of the longest migration distance of any bird for its size.
- \* Calliope Hummingbirds, our smallest bird in North America, also visit on their southern migration.
- \* American and Lesser Goldfinches are our last birds to nest, waiting for mature thistle plants to provide nesting material and food for their young.
- \* Robins have finished nesting but will readily visit yards in search of worms and berries. Plant berry-producing shrubs or offer cherries, cranberries, raisins, grapes or blueberries to help robins feed their young.
- \* Look for Monarch caterpillars on milkweed foliage.
- \* Queen Anne's Lace blooming.
- \* Keep finch feeders full of fresh Nyjer® (commonly referred to as thistle) seed.
- \* Look for hummingbirds feeding on trumpet vine, columbine and penstemon.
- \* Mallards and Wood Ducks molt into their "eclipse" plumage and are unable to fly for several weeks.
- \* First brood of immature hummingbirds begin to show up at nectar feeders later in the month.

\* Delta Aquarids Meteor shower peaks in late-July.

## Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

June was a quiet time in terms of bird variety and unusual visitors, but noisy in terms of fledgling birds begging to be fed. Starlings in the neighborhood must have had several babies as I could detect numerous begging calls at any one time. Our resident jays fledged from the spruce tree nest and could be heard on the ground near the aspens and in other trees in the backyard. The juvenile calls of both these species are raspy, not entirely pleasant. On the other hand, the call of the adorable baby robins is much sweeter to the ear, even when heard repeatedly.



[Click here to read the rest of Jacque's article.](#)

## How to Have a Tidier Feeding Station

We recommended the following combinations of food, feeders and accessories so you can enjoy feeding your birds and have a tidy backyard, too.

### Recommended Combinations

1. Mounted on an Advanced Pole System® setup, the WBU EcoTough™ Classic hopper feeder with the EcoTough Catch-A-Seed Tray and featuring WBU No-Mess Blend is a tidy feeding combination that will attract an incredible variety of birds.

Our unique No-Mess Blend features seeds that have had their shells removed so only the meat of the seed is left. No hulls make for much tidier bird feeding.

Our EcoTough feeders are made of recycled milk jugs. They won't crack, fade or rot and have a lifetime guarantee. The Catch-a-Seed Tray prevents seed from falling to the ground and serves as a second feeder.

2. For a compact, yet versatile tidy feeding station, we recommend offering WBU No-Mess Blend in our WBU Quick-Clean™ Seed Tube Feeder with a WBU Weather Guard and WBU Seed Tray. All of these come with a lifetime guarantee.

Our Quick-Clean feeders have removable bases that make cleaning a breeze. They're also easy to fill and hang. Simply add our Weather Guard dome to your feeder to help protect the seed and birds from inclement weather. The Seed Tray prevents seed from falling to the ground and serves as an additional feeding area.

3. The WBU Dinner Bell™ feeder is a versatile feeder that can provide a tidy dining experience. The feeder's built-in dome provides protection from the weather, and the built-in tray prevents food from falling to the ground.

Simply fill the WBU Dinner Bell with any of our seed, WBU Seed Cylinders, mealworms or other food and enjoy the birds as well as a tidier feeding station. The WBU Dinner Bell is also backed by a lifetime guarantee.



**Independence Day:** Here are a few little-known facts about our national holiday. Feel free to use them as conversation-starters at your annual barbeque or just as a way to impress your friends and family with your patriotic knowledge!

**The Flag:**

\*Betsy Ross actually sewed the first American flag in May or June, 1776.

\*On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the national flag as a way to promote national pride and unity.

\*So far, there have been 28 versions of the U.S. flag to date. The most recent version was designed in 1958--after Alaska and Hawaii joined the union--by high school student Robert Heft as a school project. Robert received a "B-" on his project. He then submitted it in the national competition to select the next flag and his design won! Subsequently, his teacher raised his grade to an "A" (oops!).

**Presidential Deaths:**

\*Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, who were life-long rivals, died on July 4th, 1826. Adams' last words "Thomas Jefferson lives!" proved to be untrue: Jefferson had died five hours earlier, but Adams had not received the message.

\*James Monroe also died on July 4th in 1831.

**Fireworks:**

\*We probably have John Adams to thank for our modern-day fireworks displays. He wrote that the day (he thought it should be celebrated on July 2nd) "Ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

\*During the days of horse and carriage, before cars became the popular mode of transportation, July 4th was the most miserable day of the year for horses due to the loud noise.

\*Since static electricity in synthetic clothing can unleash sparks that can detonate fireworks, people who manufacture the shells are required to wear cotton clothing (including their underwear).

\*To date, the largest fireworks display on record took place in Madeira, Portugal in December 2006, during which 66,326 fireworks were detonated.

### **Declaration of Independence:**

\*July 2, 1776 was the actual day that the Continental Congress voted on and declared independence from Britain.

\*The Declaration of Independence was actually signed on August 2, 1776, by 50 of the 56 signers.

\*Only one of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence recanted. This man was Richard Stockton, who was taken captive by the British in the middle of the night. After harsh treatment at the hands of the British, he declared his allegiance to the crown before being released. Before his death, Stockton re-affirmed his belief in the document and the country it created. Four other signers were also captured and treated harshly by the British, but did not recant.

### **Uncle Sam:**

\*It's thought that the name "Uncle Sam" came from Samuel Wilson, who was a meat packer who provided meat to the U.S. Army. The meat shipments were stamped with the initials "U.S.", and someone jokingly said that they stood for "Uncle Sam." Somehow, around 1813, this joke eventually led to that name symbolizing the United States government.

\*The traditional Uncle Sam depiction was the creation of political cartoonist Thomas Nast in the late 1800's. Nast was also responsible for the still-used images of Santa Claus, the Republican Elephant and the Democratic Donkey.

### **Save the Date:**

\*July 4th was declared a federal legal holiday by Congress in 1941. Unlike most other federal holidays, its date is "sacred" and has not been moved to the nearest Friday or Monday.

(Courtesy of the Blue Hills Nursery Newsletter)

**Happy 4th of July!**

## **Upcoming Meetings & Events:**

### **Lahanton Audubon Society**

#### **Lahanton Audubon Society Field Trips**

Field Trip Coordinator: Jasmine Vittori, [jasmine.vittori@gmail.com](mailto:jasmine.vittori@gmail.com), 775-224-3282  
LAS field trips are free and open to the public. Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Please reserve your space with field trip leaders

- Saturday, July 6th, 2013 - Summer Birding in the Meadow - Page Meadows Bird Walk, Tahoe City, CA
- Saturday, July 27th, 2013 - McCarran Bridge Chiroptera-cruise (Bats)

- Sunday, August 3rd, 2013 - Birds, Views, and Falls - Galena Falls, Mount Rose Trailhead, Reno, NV

The nearby Plumas Audubon Society also has field trips scheduled that area birders may find of interest. For more details please visit

<http://www.plumasaudubon.org/>

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

## Animal Ark

### July is Military Month at Animal Ark.

**We offer free admission for all active and reserve personnel.**

Military family members will receive 50% regular admission prices. We're grateful for your service!

### Lure of the Cheetah

**Saturday, July 6**

**7:00 pm**

**Reservations required due to limited seating. RSVP: 1-775- 970-3431**

Prices for this special evening event: Adults \$40; Seniors \$35; Children (10-16 years old) \$30.

Come see the world's fastest land mammal in action as our cheetahs run at top speeds - completely off-leash - around the Animal Ark cheetah field! Children must be at least 10 years old to participate.

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



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