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



### Natural Transitions

June is a month of transitions. It's even official. With the summer solstice on June 20, the transition from spring to summer will be certified, at least according to the calendar.

In the early part of the month, the dawn chorus of bird song is so loud as to wake you up, but it will no longer disturb your slumber as July approaches.

At night, lightening bugs increasingly brighten the darkness as the month progresses and the din of mosquitoes and squabbling juvenile raccoons will become almost inescapable.

Lakes and ponds continue to recede in stature and take on a blush of green as algae, duckweed and other wetland plants cover their surface.

The birds in your yard are making transitions, too. Nesting is in full swing early in the month and not so much by the end. As the weeks go by, more and more young birds make appearances at your feeders as they harass their parents for an easy meal.

The question of, "where are all of my hummingbirds" is finally answered as a new crop of youngsters leave the nest and descend on the feeders.

Even the birds' appearance starts to change. As the molting season begins to take hold, their once brilliant, well-groomed breeding plumage gives way to a messy, disheveled look.

Be sure keep your eyes and ears open during this month of transition, and visit us for the expert advice and quality hobby products you will need to weather all of the changes.

Jacque Lowery, Manager  
Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shops at Moana

## Meeting Dad's Nature Needs This Father's Day

Sons and daughters around the country are looking for gifts for Father's Day. Many are avoiding ties and t-shirts in hope of finding the perfect gift that will bring Dear Old Dad closer to Mother Nature.

Shopping for Father's Day can be difficult. A lot of our customers are focusing on their fathers' birding and nature interests.

Some are looking to bring nature to dad. Bird feeders have also been trendy because many people see them as a gift that can be enjoyed for years to come.

Placing a seed-filled feeder in the backyard will easily attract a variety of birds that can be seen from the comfort of home.

Different people like different birds; that's why we have such a variety of feeders and seed available.

And for the dads who are more advanced bird enthusiasts, sons and daughters have been picking up CDs, DVDs and books that provide an assortment of in-depth bird information, including bird songs.

Everybody wants something new and interesting for their fathers. Stop in the store and let us help you pick a gift your dad will enjoy receiving and will continue to use.



## June Specials - Just in time for Father's Day!

- Free 5lb. bag of Nyjer with purchase of any EcoClean Finch Feeder
- Save \$10 on APS Basic Set-Ups (Superior Feeder Secure Pole System)

Offers end June 17, 2012. Cannot be combined with other offers.

## June High Desert Bird of the Month - Wrens

### The House Wren

A plain brown bird with an effervescent voice, the House Wren is a common backyard bird over nearly the entire Western Hemisphere. Listen for its rush-and-

jumble song in summer and you'll find this species zipping through shrubs and low tree branches, snatching at insects. House Wrens will gladly use nestboxes, or you may find their twig-filled nests in old cans, boots, or boxes lying around in your garage.



House Wren

### Bewick's Wren

If you come across a noisy, hyperactive little bird with bold white eyebrows, flicking its long tail as it hops from branch to branch, you may have spotted a Bewick's Wren.

These master vocalists belt out a string of short whistles, warbles, burrs, and trills to attract mates and defend their territory, or scold visitors with raspy calls. Bewick's Wrens are still fairly common in much of western North America.





Bewick's Wren

If you live within the Bewick's Wren's range, try attracting this bird to your yard with native shrubs such as willow, mesquite, elderberry and chaparral plants or by keeping a brush pile. They will often eat suet.

#### Fun Facts:

- A male House Wren may lay claim to a nesting cavity by filling it with more than 400 small twigs. If the female likes what she sees, she will then take over, adding the nest cup and lining it with grass, inner bark, hair and feathers.
- Bewick's Wrens cock their long tails up over their backs, often flicking their tails from side to side or fanning them as they skulk through tangles of branches and leaves searching for insects.

For more bird of the month information, visit our local WBU website by clicking [here](#)

## How to Transition with the Birds

Here are some ways to keep the birds coming to your yard this month.

### Food to Young - Young to Food

At the beginning of the month, many backyard nesting birds are taking high-protein foods to their chicks on the nest. As the month progresses and nesting finishes, watch for parents bringing their young to your feeders teaching them where to find food and how to eat it. They are looking for fats, proteins and calcium in foods like Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® as well as the fats and proteins of our WBU No-Mess Blend.



### Nesting Ending - Molting Beginning

As nesting is ending, molting is beginning and high-protein and high-fat foods will be in very high demand. Young birds need these for growing into adults. Adult birds need them for changing out their feathers. Offer foods like shelled peanuts or peanuts in the shell, mealworms, No-Mess Blend, sunflower chips, Nyjer® and Bark Butter..

## Wet - Dry

Water is often more plentiful early in the month and begins to become more scarce toward the end as the temperatures rise. Be sure to have a clean, reliable water source, like a bird bath, so birds can bathe and drink. To make water sources even more attractive, get the water moving with a dripper or waterfall.

## Singles - Multiples

Hummingbirds often seem scarce at feeders early in the month. However, as the month progresses, it seems there are more visits or even more birds. Some of these may look a little ragged. These are the young just off the nest. They are still growing their feathers and looking for quick-energy drinks at feeders. This is a great month to add a second (or third) feeder in a different part of your yard to prevent a bully hummingbird from chasing others away.

## Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery



The holiday weekend is behind us and we are facing summer. Only a few more days of school for most children; temperatures are climbing; flowers are blooming; and birds are singing and nesting. The Mountain Chickadees have taken up housekeeping in the nest box they used last year. They noisily announce their residency every afternoon; not sure if it is a warning to others not to come near or squabbling about whose turn it is to sit on the nest. I have been anxiously awaiting the return of House Wrens that nested in another birdhouse last year, but so far have not seen or heard them around the yard.

As per usual, a pair of Mallards hung out at our pond and begged for cracked corn for awhile, but have since moved on to a safer nesting place. I'm sure between raccoons and feral cats a duck's

nest would have no chance in our neighborhood. Have you seen any baby quail yet? There were reports early last month of some hatchlings, but so far none have appeared here. Sometimes we don't see them until they are half grown as the parents do a very good job of ushering them around the yard under cover of low-growing plants and shrubs.

We were camping over Memorial Day in the "wilds" of central Nevada with other family members who sometimes make fun of my obsession with birds. But, thanks to my frequent scanning of the skies, we observed a Cooper's Hawk persistently chasing a smaller bird for at least ten minutes before successfully catching his lunch. Sure, it's a little hard to watch, but still a fascinating glimpse of nature. We also had a Golden Eagle fly up from the road right in front of us; what an absolutely magnificent bird he was! The talon prints in the sand were as wide as a spread human hand! We felt certain he was injured as he flew just a little ways into the desert and landed hard enough to stir dust.



It's important during this month and into July to keep your feeders filled for those nesting birds and for their fledglings. Suet or no-melt doughs are good for wrens, chickadees and woodpeckers.

I have a few tips for you should you find baby birds out of their nest. If the bird is not feathered out, try to find the nest and return him to it. If the nest is too high, you might try putting him into a small basket (think strawberry) lined with soft cloth or tissue and place it as high as you can near where you found him. It's possible the parents will find and feed him from there. If the baby is feathered out, it may be a fledgling (one who has left the nest on his own). In this case it's best to leave him alone, as the parents most likely know where he is and will continue to feed him.

## Nature Happenings

- \* June 2: National Trails Day
- \* June 4: Full Moon, June 19: New Moon
- \* June 20: Summer solstice - the sun is at its highest point in the sky. It's the longest day of the year and the first day of summer.
- \* June 23: National Wildlife Federation's The GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT™
- \* June is Perennial Garden Month & National Rivers Month
- \* Some cavity-dwelling species may attempt to start a second brood, so check your nest boxes to clean out sterile eggs, spiders, wasps or other debris and consider adding fresh cedar shavings.
- \* Listen for the trilling sound of the male Broad-tailed Hummingbird's wings as it darts about in search of insects, nectar and females.
- \* Add suet dough to your bird feeding station during the hot summer.
- \* Bird migration is finished. Birds that are here now are summer residents that nest.
- \* As the month progresses, feeders can become busy with visiting parents and fledglings.
- \* Keep cats inside to help protect fledglings.
- \* House Wrens are nesting.
- \* Luna moths can be seen at night.
- \* Garter snakes are seen in yards.
- \* Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly mating season.
- \* Keep nectar feeders fresh and change sugar solutions every three days as the temperature rises.
- \* Many summer birds are not frequent feeder visitors but will seek out fresh water to beat the summer heat.
- \* In new open space, watch for Say's Phoebes, Western Kingbirds, shrikes and various flycatchers to search for flying insects and water to wash them down.

## Lahontan Audubon Society Field Trips

- [Saturday, June 16, 2012 - Silver Saddle Ranch](#)
- [Friday-Sunday, June 29-July 1, 2012 -Unionville Birding and B&B](#)
- For more information on the Lahontan Audubon Society, [click here](#).

## Birds of the Truckee Meadows 2012

The last bird identification class of the Birds of the Truckee Meadows series. This is an excellent opportunity for new birders to learn from some of the area's experts and a great refresher for seasoned birders.



• June 6, 2012 - Mountain Birds, Jim Eidel

For more information or to register in advance, please contact Jane Burnham, telephone 775-677-4178, email: [jane.burnham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jane.burnham@sbcglobal.net).

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

## Animal Ark Upcoming Events

### Wolf Howl Night

Saturday, June 2

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Prices for this special evening event: Adults \$15; Seniors \$13.50; Children \$12; children 2 years and under are free.

Join us for a howling good time! The park opens at 6:00 p.m. so you may see the other animals of Animal Ark prior to the fun and educational Wolf Howl at 7:00. Hear the wolves and coyotes howl then participate in our contest, with prizes to be awarded to the best human howlers.

### Dash 4 Dads Cheetah Run

Sunday, June 17

6:00 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.

What Dad doesn't enjoy watching cheetahs run at top speeds? Our cheetahs go from zero to 45 MPH in three seconds, with 22-foot strides & and a top speed of 60 MPH! We predict Dad will be impressed! Children must be at least 10 years old to participate

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

## Thank You for 45 Years!

45th Anniversary Celebration Sale Continues...

Great for Home Improvement, Gardening &

Birdscaping ... [Link here to see all our red hot specials.](#)

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