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Issue No. 11.12

November 1, 2012



"Nature

News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED CLEARANCE SALE!
NOVEMBER 1 - 15, 2012
SAVINGS OF 30% TO 60%

We're making room for new products and Christmas specials and offering huge savings on some of our most popular products. Selection varies at each store. Shop early for best selection! Even the birds are heading our way.



Bring it on, Winter

It's coming. Are you ready?

Of course we're talking about winter and all of the preparation that comes with it.

Sometimes, it seems like there is no winter. The weather doesn't really change and life goes on as normal. Then there are those occasions when winter rears its ugly head and makes life anything but normal.

And that's just how it seems to us. Think about the birds.

Birds usually eat a quantity of food to satisfy their energy needs. Their food intake fluctuates with environmental temperature, their activity level and the energy concentration of the diet.

Furthermore, the average bird in an average environment must forage about five hours per day to meet its energy requirements. In winter, they may have to forage longer for much-needed additional energy.

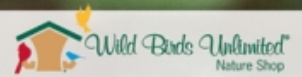
Bird feeders can be an important food source. When severe weather impacts wild food supplies, some species of birds will turn to feeders as a critical food resource. It's during these times that feeders play their most vital role.

However, don't think that helping the birds is actually altering their normal behavior. There is no evidence that birds using feeders will alter their seasonal feeding behavior when switching between seeds, insects and fruit.

So again, are you ready? Do you have what your birds need this winter?

Stop by the store soon and we'll make sure you have your yard ready... no matter which winter shows up.

Jacque Lowery, Manager
Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shops at Moana Nursery



November "High Desert" Bird-of-the Month: Nuthatch

The White-breasted Nuthatch is a large nuthatch with blue-gray upperparts, a black crown and nape and white face and underparts. Its tail is dark with white corners. Legs and feet are black. Female is grayer. It clings to trees, often upside down.



The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a medium-sized nuthatch with blue-gray upperparts and pale rust-brown underparts. Head has black cap, white eyebrow and a black eyestripe; throat is white. Bill is slightly upturned. Female and juvenile have duller heads and paler underparts.



The Pygmy Nuthatch is a small nuthatch, with blue-gray upperparts and pale yellow breast. Its head has a dark gray-brown cap, pale spot on nape and thick black eye-line; throat is white. Legs and feet are gray. Sexes are similar.

Both White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches eat spiders, insects, nuts and seeds. Pygmy Nuthatches eat caterpillars, moths, other insects and conifer seeds. All forage by climbing up and down trunks and branches, often turning upside down and sideways.

In winter, all three species will eat sunflower seeds, suet and Bark Butter.

Fun Facts:

- The name Nuthatch probably results from the corruption of the word "nuthack" which refers to its' habit of hacking away at a seed with its beak until it opens.
- Red-breasted Nuthatches prefer spruce and fir trees while White-breasted Nuthatches favor mature deciduous forests.
- A nuthatch's foot has one big toe (the hallux) that faces backward, while its other three toes face forward. They are able to walk head first down the trunks of trees by moving only one foot at a time while the hallux toe on the other foot holds firmly to the bark.

For lots more bird of the month information and great birding information, visit our local Reno/Sparks Wild Birds Unlimited website by clicking [here](#).



Buttons the Snowman Seed Cylinder . . . the perfect holiday addition to any yard and a great gift for the nature lovers on your list.

Available for a limited time only, our Snowman Seed Cylinder is a seasonal mix of safflower, sunflower chips, peanuts and fruits to attract a variety of birds. Simply slide the Snowman Seed Cylinder onto our WBU Seed Cylinder Feeders or WBU Dinner Bell™ feeder and enjoy the feathered holiday visitors.

Also available is Preston the Penguin made of safflower, sunflower seed and fruit.



Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Our current weather patterns continue to create some unusual activities in the avian world. This winter is poised to be a winter of "finch irruption" because the drought in many areas has lessened natural food crops for these birds. "Irruption" means some species will leave their traditional wintering grounds and search for better food sources. For most of us in the Truckee Meadows that means we are going to be more likely to have Pine Siskins visiting finch feeders. There are also increasing reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches in non-traditional habitats, and we may have increased incidents of Evening Grosbeak and others in our area.



I have heard (not yet seen) a Red-breasted Nuthatch in my suburban backyard for the last several weeks. Some Pine Siskins were here earlier, although I haven't seen any in the last few days. The American Goldfinch have already arrived in their usual winter numbers. Raptor activity has picked up also and I can rely on seeing at least one, if not all three, of Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk or Red-tailed Hawk in the neighborhood on a daily basis. It really keeps the little guys on their toes!

Our winter birds are arriving right on schedule. Unless you are in a true urban setting you should be seeing, or at least

hearing, White-crown Sparrows, Oregon Juncos, Spotted Towhees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, maybe Golden-crowned Sparrows. The gluttonous Goldfinch (both Lesser and American) are cleaning out two feeders about every three days. This is a good time to add another finch feeder and make sure you have a suet feeder for the insect-eating birds; the Downys are still here and have been joined by Northern Flickers for the winter.



Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Birding.

(It is still migration season, so spend some time in your yard with binoculars and your ears attuned to your garden sounds. You might see some great migrating visitors and surely will enjoy the White-crowns' song. To learn more about our local birds and what their songs sound like, visit Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology www.allaboutbirds.org.)

Pre-wrapped Gifts

Need the perfect gift for the nature enthusiast on your list? Or looking for a way to start someone with the bird feeding hobby. We have a variety of pre-wrapped gifts that are easy to buy and ready to go! Stop in today for the best selection.

November Nature Happenings

- * Nov. 4: Daylight Savings Time ends - "fall back"
- * Nov. 10: Project Feeder Watch starts and extends until April.
- * Nov. 13: New Moon, Nov. 28: Full Moon
- * Nov. 17-18: Leonid meteor shower
- * The onset of winter snow and cold in the higher elevations can often bring "irruptions" of mountain species into the valley and plains.
- * The Western Scrub-Jays will squawk their resentment of the Stellers, as they all search for high-energy nuts and oil seeds.
- * Pine Siskins may move in large numbers to lower regions, and will socially join flocks of American Goldfinches to visit finch feeders.
- * Juncos and White-crowned Sparrows become common at feeders.
- * Waterfowl migration peaks this month.
- * Mule Deer bucks go into rut.
- * Open water is important if there's an early freeze. Put out heated bird baths for a winter water source.

Animal Ark

New! Wolf Howl Event

on November 3, 2012 Join us for a howling good time! Arrive at 2:00 p.m. so you may see the other animals of Animal Ark prior to the fun and educational Wolf Howl at 3:00. Hear Maddie and Monty and the coyotes howl then participate in our contest, with prizes to be awarded to the best human howlers. Prices: Adults \$15; Seniors \$13.50; Children \$12; children 2 years and under are free.

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

Lahanton Audubon Society

Next meeting is in January. Check website for current field trips

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

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.](#) Want the nursery newsletter ... [click here.](#)



Announcing Moana Nursery's New Birthday Club - Beginning in 2013

Easy to join - just give us your birthday month and you'll receive a birthday gift from Moana Nursery during your birthday month. Sign up at any location. If you're already a Rewards Member, just ask the cashier to add your birth month to your account.

Did You Know?



Tuesday is a special day at all three Moana Nursery/Wild Birds Unlimited retail locations. We call it Senior and Military Tuesday ... show your appropriate ID and if you are 65 or older, or if you are a current member of any branch of our armed services, we are pleased to take an additional 10% off your total purchase.

Tuesday is the day we honor our seniors and our military volunteers; we appreciate your service to our country.



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