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**"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery (Local Grosbeak)**  
House Sparrow Bird-of-the Month

Seed & Suet **SALE\*** Your Birds and Budget Will Love It.

A close-up photograph of a pile of bird seed and suet, including sunflower seeds and other types of seeds, against a red background.

Save on a Bounty of Bird Foods!  
Now thru 10/15/2013

Shop now and save on the season's best bird food including our 20 lb. bags of WBU

## Seed Blends and Cases of Suet Cakes. Our seed blends:

- are chosen by your local expert.
- 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. Visit stores for details.

### Some Food for Thought

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

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

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, pigeons, starlings 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 good advice about setting up and operating your bird feeding area in the most efficient and economical way 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.

Jacque Lowery

Manager, Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery





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

### House Sparrow

House Sparrows can be found just about anywhere there are people - in urban areas, suburban settings, farms and fields - except for Alaska and far northern Canada. Many people refer to them (and other small nondescript song birds) as LBJ's (little brown jobs). House Sparrows are not members of the sparrow family and

a close look will show the difference in body size and shape from White-crowned Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Spotted Towhee and others. They were brought to America and first released in Brooklyn in 1851. There were two other releases in the western United States in the 1870's, which aided the bird's spread in the West.



The males are brightly colored with gray heads, white cheeks, a black bib and rufous neck. Females are a plain buff-brown overall with gray-brown underparts. House Sparrows are chunkier with a larger head and shorter tail than other American sparrows.

House Sparrows tend to hang in very noisy flocks, although they do appear to have a pecking order. If you watch them you may notice that males with larger black bibs seem to have dominance over males with less black and over females.

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

## Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Folks, it is definitely time to stock up on bird food (seed sale now through the 15<sup>th</sup>); the winter residents are starting to arrive! White-crowned Sparrows have been reported for the last two weeks, and this morning they were singing in my yard. Christie, the owner of Moana Nursery, has had a Spotted Towhee hopping around for a week or more and my "first of the season (FOS)" Spotted Towhee arrived this morning.



Goldfinch, Waxwing & Robin

The Virginia creepers really put on a crop of berries this year and right on schedule, a raucous flock of about 50 starlings showed up for a week or so and ate every one of them. It was amusing to watch them hover, flutter and squawk in their attempts to grab a berry from the dangling vines. American Robins are hanging around in larger numbers right now; the pond and creek are the biggest attraction. They are also scolding other birds over the pyracantha berries and crabapples. This morning a small group of Cedar Waxwings flew in, looked over the food situation and flew off (probably to tell their buddies that there are loads of berries this year).

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

### October Nature Happenings

- \* October is the best month to start watching for rare northern ducks and loons on the Front Range..

- \* In the past, Mourning Doves were fall migrants. But due to an ever warmer climate, increased winter cover in suburban backyards and availability of wider range of food, they are seen in communal flocks through out the winter.

- \* All members of the dove family favor ground feeders, seed blocks and flat trays of millet and cracked corn.

- \* The first storms of winter usher in winter migrants which often seek shelter in the cover of backyards.

- \* Many members of the sparrow family (White-crowned, Golden Crowned, Song and Lincoln's) join the ubiquitous House Sparrow at ground feeders.
- \* Sparrows can be seen scratching for fallen seeds in fading gardens.
- \* Leave spent perennials standing to provide cover and much needed food for our winter visitors.
- \* Orionids meteor shower is late-October.
- \* This is the month to install and repair nest boxes for use next year.
- \* Waterfowl migration continues to build throughout month.
- \* Peak of raptor and hawk migration.
- \* Nest boxes need to be cleaned out this month to prepare for winter roosting.
- \* First juncos can appear late in the month.
- \* Sandhill Cranes migrate.
- \* Remaining hummingbirds will depart this month.
- \* Beavers are very active in the evenings while caching a winter supply of food.
- \* Autumn colors peak in October.
- \* Brown and Brook Trout spawn.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events:

### Lahanton Audubon Society

#### Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held every fourth Tuesday, August through May, 6:30 p.m. (social) 7:00 p.m. - meeting begins. Monthly meetings are held at the Moana Nursery Landscape and Design Center, 1100 West Moana Lane, in Reno.

- October 22, 2013 - Carol Grenier - Deep In The Heart of Texas: Subtropical Birds and More

#### Field Trips

- Saturday, October 12, 2013 - Taylor Creek, South Lake Tahoe
- Saturday, October 19, 2013 - Swan Lake/Lemmon Valley Marsh, North Reno
- Saturday, October 26, 2013 or Saturday, November 2, 2013, TBD - Damonte Ranch Wetlands, Reno

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

Saturday October 5, 2013: 10:15 am to 2:30 pm - Harvest Festival

As part of our behavioral enrichment program, most of the animals will receive pumpkins filled with their favorite treats. Watch our predators respond when presented with these unique and delicious meals. Throughout the day, pumpkins will be delivered to different animals. Come spend the day; bring a camera - this is animal viewing at its finest!

Sunday October 13, 2013: 4:30 to 6:00 pm - Last Chance Cheetah Dash

This is the last Cheetah Run of the season! Reward yourself with an incredible experience: Watch these magnificent cats running with extraordinary speed, off-leash, across the desert in pursuit of an enticing lure.

Saturday October 19, 2013: 10:15 am to 2:30 pm - Harvest Festival

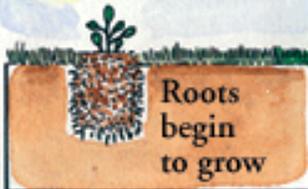
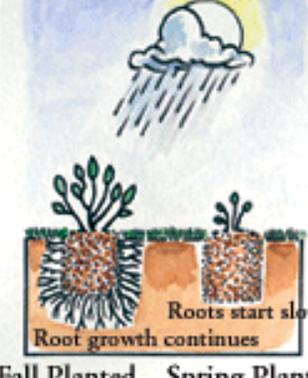
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[For more information about Animal Ark click here.](#)



High Desert plants from our farm ... Moana-Grown for quality. Hardy for the high desert! Bird Approved!

Special "Fall is the Best Time to Plant" Savings ... see them all here.

<p><b>FALL</b></p> <p>Soil still warm from summer.</p>  <p>Roots begin to grow</p>	<p><b>WINTER</b></p> <p>Root growth continues slowly until soil freezes. In mild winter areas roots grow all winter</p>  <p>Soil stores winter moisture</p>	<p><b>EARLY SPRING</b></p>  <p>Root growth continues</p> <p>Roots start slowly</p> <p>Fall Planted    Spring Planted</p>	<p><b>LATE SPRING</b></p> <p>This plant was ready for vigorous spring top growth. Not as much top growth and flowering.</p>  <p>Larger root system    Smaller root system</p> <p>Fall Planted    Spring Planted</p>
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We are proud of our 46+ year record ...



BBB Rating: A+

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