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1100 W. Moana Lane, Reno, NV 775-825-0602
11301 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 775-853-1319
7655 Pyramid Hwy., Sparks, NV 775-425-4300

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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery

Feed 'Em or Defeat 'Em

Though they may have a reputation for making bird feeding less enjoyable, squirrels aren't going away any time soon. Perhaps by looking at them from a different perspective, you can begin to appreciate, if not enjoy, squirrels and their behaviors.

Squirrels are one of the most curious and adaptable animals to be found anywhere and they are unmatched in their problem-solving ability to defeat many so-called "squirrel proof" feeders!

Squirrels can jump up to five feet vertically and ten feet between trees or structures. They have the ability to cling from objects with their back foot toes (with support from their tail) which allows them to hang upside-down and eat.



They certainly keep our Certified Bird Feeding Specialists on their toes in order to provide you with the latest and greatest advice on how to keep your bird food and feeders safe from these rascally rodents!

So, if you want to keep squirrels from bothering your bird feeding setup, we have the foods, feeders and accessories to confuse and confound even the most

brilliant squirrel in your neighborhood.

And if you decide to raise the white flag and enjoy their amazing antics, we have fun and functional squirrel feeders that will brighten up both their day and yours, too.

Visit us soon, and we'll help you feed the squirrels if that's your thing, or we'll help you defeat 'em.

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

Get a Flying Start on Backyard Bird Feeding

Purchase one of our featured Cylinder Feeders and save 40% on a Seed or Dough Cylinder!

Featured Feeders: Dinner Bells, Holscher Seed Cylinder Feeder or Tidy Cylinder

Food Cylinders: Deluxe, Supreme, Cranberry, PB&J Dough & Naturally Nuts Dough



Prevent Squirrels at your Feeders

There are many ways to keep squirrels from eating all of your bird food.

The Right Food - Safflower

Safflower is a small, white seed that is high in protein and fat. Many of your favorite birds, including jays, chickadees, house finches, doves and nuthatches, readily eat safflower, but squirrels typically do not



On-Guard Cages

Try an On-Guard™ wire mesh cage around your existing feeders. Our On-Guard solutions are designed to allow smaller birds access but prevent squirrels (and larger birds) from reaching the food in a feeder.



Distance

Place your bird feeding setup at least 10' away from any tree or building. This keeps squirrels from jumping on top of, or onto, your feeders.

Baffles

Try a pole baffle (middle picture) on your bird feeding setup to prevent squirrels from reaching your feeders from below. Mount the baffle 5' from the ground. You can also use a hanging baffle with your feeder tucked below it to deter squirrels from reaching your feeders from above.

Solution Feeders

.We offer a variety of feeders that help you feed the birds, not squirrels.

The Dinner Bell™ feeder

has an adjustable dome that can be raised and lowered to only allow access for smaller birds.

The Eliminator™ and Fundamentals Squirrel-proof Feeders are weight-sensitive and will close off access to the food when heavier visitors sit on a perch



September High Desert Birds of the Month:

Great Horned and Barn Owls

The adaptive Great Horned Owl can be found virtually anywhere in North America. Its habitat includes forest, field, tundra, desert and highly-developed suburban areas. When fully spread out, its talon can span up to eight inches wide. It nests earlier than any other bird of prey in North America; however, it doesn't build a nest, but instead uses existing nests of other large birds such as hawks. The Great Horned Owl is the only animal that regularly eats skunks.



Ghostly pale and strictly nocturnal, Barn Owls are silent predators of the night world.; they roost in hidden, quiet places during the day. By night, they hunt on buoyant wingbeats in open fields and meadows. You can find them by listening for their eerie, raspy calls, quite unlike the hoots of other owls. Despite a worldwide distribution, Barn Owls are declining in parts of their range due to habitat loss. Barn Owls nest and roost in cavities, abandoned barns and other buildings, and dense trees. At night, Barn Owls hunt by flying low, back and forth over open habitats, searching for small rodents primarily by sound.

Fun Facts:

- Owls' eyes are unique among birds as they are located on the front of the head instead of on the side. This not only gives them a very human appearance but also enables them to match our level of depth perception that is created by the overlapping vision from each eye.
- Owls can fly and hunt during the daytime as well as at night. However, most of them are best adapted for nocturnal hunting.



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

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Feel that nip in the air in the early morning? Yep, it's almost time to start protecting your tomatoes from old Jack Frost! Hard to believe we have reached the end of another summer, but I know our plants and lawn are breathing a sigh of relief that the 100+ degree days are behind us for another year.

This has been a banner year for hummingbirds for many of us in the Truckee Meadows. Customers are

reporting many more than usual visiting, and fighting over, the nectar feeders. At this point most reports are of Black-chinned or Rufous; the Rufous are the earliest to migrate south and the Black-chinned are summer residents here. September is the month to be on the lookout for Annas in addition to the others.



If you are feeding hummingbirds, please take some time to sit and observe their behaviors and antics. I have had a resident male & female Black-chinned all summer, which have recently been joined by a small wave of Rufous which are here one day and gone the next. The male & female Black-chinned take turns dominating the feeder; one day she is in charge and runs him off if he even thinks about touching the feeder OR any of the flowers near it. The next day, it might be he who aggressively chases her away. But if a Rufous shows up, he or she will dominate every time. They will not only chase the others from the feeder, but completely out of the yard and down the street! A Rufous will run off both Black-chinned. But if two Rufous hit the feeder at the same time, the battle is on; neither one wants to back down.

The male Black-chinned is the most skittish, refusing to come to the feeder if he can see me anywhere from his vantage point in the birch tree. The female Black-chinned is the most curious, and unafraid. On several occasions she has hovered right in front of my face; a very wonderful experience!

Remember, it is a myth that keeping nectar feeders out will discourage migration. Please keep your feeders up as long as possible, even into October if weather permits. With the drought conditions lessening natural nectar sources, hummingbirds will be more dependent on nectar provided by feeders. Let's help them make a safe migration to points south.

September Nature Happenings

- * Sept. 15: New Moon, Sept. 29: Full Moon
- * Sept. 22: Autumnal Equinox - almost equal amounts of day and night
- * The annual elk rut begins in the high country.
- * Aspen leaves begin to change to a beautiful shade of gold which dot the mountainsides.
- * Without question, September is our most settled and beautiful month, with North American weather systems taking a breather to offer glorious warm days and cool nights as we settle into autumn's arrival.
- * Bird populations are transitioning in preparation for winter - some birds move out, some birds come back and some become nomadic in their search for food, water and shelter.
- * American Goldfinches molt into a dull, nondescript color, even changing the color of the beak from orange to black.
- * Look for nighthawks and swallows to congregate in large numbers prior to migrating south.
- * Monarch Butterfly migration peaks mid-month.
- * Bats are busy feeding, building fat for hibernation and migration.
- * Fall migration of shorebirds is in full force.
- * Fall migration peaks for warblers and others.
- * Most summer birds, such as orioles and grosbeaks, have departed.
- * Most hummingbirds have departed by the end of month.
- * Northern Flickers begin arriving.

Animal Ark Upcoming Events

On the Wind Cheetah Run Sunday, September 9 - - 5:00 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.

"Out of Africa" Gala

Saturday, September 22 - - 2:00 pm

Reservations required. This event sold out in 2011! RSVP: 1-775- 970-3431

Enjoy great food and drink. Meet Tango, the famous cheetah ambassador from Project Survival's Cat Haven. Watch the Ark cheetahs run at top-speeds, and chat with leading African cheetah conservationists! The money raised during this event will support cheetah conservation in Africa, as well as Animal Ark. Individual tickets are \$125; "Game Drive" tickets can be purchased for \$200 each and will include a personal tour with Ark founders, Diana and Aaron Hiibel. Tables seating 10 people can be purchased for \$1000. Click below for more information.

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

Lahanton Audubon Society Upcoming Events

Meetings

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

- September 25, 2012 - Bob Goodman - A Closer Look At "STAY AWAY!"
- October 23, 2012 - Gary Blomquist - Attack of the Pine Bark Beetles

Field Trips

- Saturday, September 15, 2012 - Swan Lake/Lemmon Valley Marsh, North Reno
- Saturday, October 6, 2012 - Oxbow Park, Reno

[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.](#)



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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Moana Nursery | 1100 W. Moana Lane | 11301 S. Virginia St. | Reno | NV | 89509