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



## Freshest Bird Seed in Town Sale

February 1 -12, 2012

Save \$2 to \$4.50 on our every day lower prices for 20 lb. bags of our six most popular varieties and 10% on 10 or more suet cakes

Black Oil Sunflower	\$18.99
Nyjer	\$30.99
Dove & Quail	\$13.99
Deluxe Blend	\$17.49
No Mess Blend	\$30.99
Finch Blend	\$32.49

**Exclusive WBU New Product: Bungalow Seed Cake & Feeder Combo - - Just \$9.99!**

Attract woodpeckers, finches, mountain chickadees, warblers and jays to your yard!

Another great way to introduce the whole family to backyard bird watching.



[Get Involved ... here's how.](#)

## Some Food for Thought

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

Squirrels are sure to put a dent in your budget as they devour everything in sight, not to mention the starlings and grackles that can dominate your feeders to the exclusion of the birds you really want to attract.



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

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, blackbirds 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 expert advice about setting up and operating your bird feeding area in the most efficient and economical ways 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!

For the New Year ...

We're thrilled to announce that Jacque Lowery has joined our Moana staff, bringing all of her Wild Birds Unlimited experience and birding knowledge! She's looking forward to getting reacquainted with many of her former customers and helping us grow our birding expertise. (And, she just got a brand new knee.)



February High Desert  
Bird of the Month:  
**Yellow-rumped  
Warbler - - aka  
Butter-Butt**

Picture by Jacque Lowery

It is no surprise that the yellow-rumped warbler is one of the most familiar warblers of North America; this bird is one of the first to arrive in the spring and the last to leave in the fall, and during the winter months it is the most abundant warbler in North America. While yellow-rumped warblers were formerly classified as two distinct species, today the Audubon's and Myrtle warblers are both butter-butts.

Yellow-rumped Warblers are fairly large, full-bodied warblers with a large head, sturdy bill and long, narrow tail. In summer, both sexes are a smart gray with flashes of white in the wings and yellow on the face, sides and rump. Males are very strikingly shaded; females are duller and may show some brown. Winter birds are paler brown with bright yellow rump and usually some yellow on the sides.

Yellow-rumped warblers can be found throughout North America in brushy coniferous and mixed forests, suburban parks and agricultural areas. The Audubon's variation is most common in western regions while the Myrtle plumage is more common in the north and east.

Butter-butts do not come readily to feeders, but they will visit backyards where suitable brush and mixed trees are available to host insects. In winter, yellow-rumped warblers will visit feeders for sunflower seeds, suet, raisins and peanut butter.

For more Fun Facts on Butter-Butt and more "bird" information, visit our local WBU website by [clicking here](#) .

## February is National Bird Feeding Feeding Month

In 1993, the United States Congress proclaimed February to be National Bird Feeding Month. More than 53 million North Americans currently participate in the hobby of backyard bird feeding, and this month offers a variety of activities for them to enjoy, including the Great Backyard Bird Count.

### New Product

Holscher seed bucket now in stock - - airtight, 20# capacity for most seed: has flanged lid for easy access and a handle for carrying.

### **Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery**



Great Backyard Bird Count time is upon us! Every year on President's Day Weekend (February 17-20 this year) Cornell Lab of Ornithology and several partners, including Wild Birds Unlimited, ask all bird lovers and enthusiasts to become citizen scientists.

For as little (at least fifteen minutes) or as long as you wish, tally the highest number of each bird species seen together at any one time in the area you have chosen.

For a fun family outing, take the kids or grandkids to Virginia Lake, Oxbow Nature Study Area, Swan Lake, Damonte wetlands, Davis Creek, Washoe Lake - you get the idea. So if your passion is ducks, pick a river or lake location. If mountain birds are your favorite, head that direction. This is a great opportunity to hone your identification skills; bring along a field guide so you can quickly tell if that was a White-breasted or Red-breasted Nuthatch that was going head first down a tree. These citizen science projects are so important to monitor bird populations and dispersal. For instance, five years ago it was very rare for a yard in the Truckee Meadows to host Mountain Chickadees. Now they are showing up from the foothills into Spanish

Springs and beyond. Researchers study report data submitted by you and me, combine that information with weather patterns or degradation of habitat data to determine why this may have occurred and what the long range effects will be for chickadee populations in general. There are so many species of birds, and so many issues involving climate change, habitat degradation, pollution, pesticides and herbicides that can and do affect numbers and health of birds. There are not enough scientists and researchers out there to gather all the pertinent data, which makes you and me, Citizen Scientists, very important to the future of all our feathered friends.

All the information you need, including checklists, is available at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc). The regional checklist is greatly improved and easy to work with. Be sure to check out the other fun things on the website, including the photo contest and maps showing results from previous years.



Looking for some fun things to do with the kids?

The Great Backyard Bird Count  
It is for kids ... It's as easy as  
1, 2, 3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count each day or just some of the days and you can count in different places. Just be sure to keep a separate list of birds for each day and each location.

2. For each type of bird you see, count the most you see at any one time. For example, maybe you see two chickadees when you start watching, then five chickadees a few minutes later. The number you put on your list for chickadees is five. Do not add two plus five. (This way way you don't accidentally count the same bird twice.)



3. Enter your results on the [Great Backyard Bird Count web site](#)! Then watch the maps as more and more people enter their reports.

That's it! Now get ready to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count because when it comes to watching birds, *kids count!*

For Other Activities visit: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/kids>

- Guess Who's Squawkin!
- Words about Birds
- Color the Birds

## February Nature Happenings

- \* Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 17 - 20, [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)
- \* Feb. 1 - 29: Project FeederWatch continues
- \* Feb. 2: Groundhog Day
- \* Feb. 7: Full Moon, Feb. 21: New Moon
- \* February is National Bird Feeding Month
- \* Unfrozen, fresh water ensures survival; keep heated bird baths plugged in.
- \* Red-shafted Northern Flickers, our largest woodpecker, begin drilling holes for spring nesting.
- \* Put up a "flicker" specific nest box to provide a much-needed nesting habitat and to deter them from entering your attic.
- \* Bluebirds are searching for nesting cavities or nest boxes. Insects and berries can be scarce; offer mealworms, dried fruit, sunflower chips and more.
- \* English House Sparrows and House Finches begin early nesting activity.
- \* Black Bear cubs are born at the beginning of the month.
- \* Time to put up a bird house or clean your existing ones.
- \* Owls are the earliest nesters after beginning courtship in December and January. Listen for their nightly courtship serenades.

## Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Trips and Events

- [Saturday, February 4, 2012 - 11th Annual Riverview Park Winter Bird Trip, Carson City](#)
- [Saturday, February 18, 2012 - Winter Birds of Reno and Sparks](#)
- [Saturday, February 25, 2012 - Winter Waterfowl Tour, Stillwater NWR](#)

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

## Animal Ark Upcoming Events

Animal Ark 2012 Wild Winter Weekends:

Sat-Sun Feb. 18-19: Presidents' holiday weekend

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



One of the main reasons Moana Nursery won this award for the fourth straight year is the unique presence of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shops inside the three Garden Centers ... Thank You!!!



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