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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



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The Magical World of Bird Feeding

You don't have to be Houdini to know the tricks that will make your bird feeding experience more enjoyable. Wild Birds Unlimited is the largest resource of bird feeding expertise available, and we know all of the tricks and tips you need.

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Wild Birds Unlimited Coupon

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November Bird of the Month: House Finch

Here are some more fun house finch facts...

- House Finches' diets are the most vegetarian of any North American bird. Unlike

most other seed eating birds, finches do not switch to an insect diet during the summer nesting season. They continue to eat mostly seeds, although they will prey on some insects when they are abundant.

- Male House Finches display a wide variety of plumage coloration ranging from gray to bright crimson. The coloration comes from carotenoid pigments found in some wild foods. The more pigment present in the foods eaten when they are molting new feathers ... the redder the male. And Female house finches prefer to mate with the reddest males they can find.
- House Finches roost at night in close proximity to each other, sometimes huddling together for warmth. Favorite roosting spots are used repeatedly.
- A water source can be a strong attractant for House Finches. They can drink up to 40% of their body weight on a hot summer day.
- House Finches are fond of nectar and can become a nuisance at hummingbird feeders. If they do, offer them a dish of nectar for their own use.

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

Featured Products



WBUR EcoTough Classic - \$81

Made of 37 recycled milk jugs, this birdfeeder features great views of visiting birds and holds 3 quarts of seed. This feeder won't crack, fade, or warp. The EcoTough Classic comes with your choice of a red or green roof.



Wire Mesh Snowman Feeder - \$26

Our exclusive Wire Mesh Snowman Feeder is great for offering peanuts. It attracts a variety of birds, is easy to hang and fill, and it makes a wonderful holiday gift.



WBUR Christmas Seed Wreath - \$15.99

Our Christmas Seed Wreath adds cheer to any yard and is a dining delight for birds. It's easy to hang and chock-full of seasonally-appropriate ingredients our local birds will love.

Black Oil Sunflower Seed Special



5lb bag - \$8.99 (Reg. \$10.99)
20lb. bag - \$25.99 (Reg. \$32.99)

Black oil sunflower seeds, whether wild or cultivated, are one of our local birds' favorite foods. These seeds are high in fat and protein and give birds a store of calories to burn to stay healthy and warm. Take advantage of our in-store special on black oil sunflower seed and help to create a "wild scape" in your back yard. Hurry in - this special is limited to supplies on hand.



Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

A Great-horned Owl has camped out in our backyard (see photo) which makes me happy, but also makes me worry about my cats. Do you notice how large his eyes appear? In fact, proportionately, most birds' eyes are larger than humans'. The eyes of eagles and owls are about the same size as yours. Even songbirds have large eyes, approximately the same size as their brains.

This larger eye and pupil allow birds to see well in much dimmer light than we can. Birds also have at least twice, and up to five times, as many cones in their retinas as humans, which gives them greater visual acuity or sharpness. Just as more pixels in a digital camera create sharper images, so do more cones in the retina.

Most birds' eyes are on the side of their head. Birds that feed on the wing (swallows, hawks, hummingbirds) have forward-directed eyes. The eyes are for the most part immovable in the socket. That's why you see Robins cocking their head to the side when searching for worms; they are moving the eyes to better focus on the ground. The immovable eyes give birds more range of motion in their heads; owls can rotate their heads about 270 degrees.

Having the eyes on the side of the head creates greater peripheral vision (think binoculars). With few exceptions, birds rarely blink and close their eyes by raising the lower eyelid. Birds have some amazing attributes and I never tire of learning more about them.

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. Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Birding.

Feeder + 2lbs. Seed for only \$9.99

By popular demand, we are continuing our feeder + seed special. While supplies last, you can choose either the Fundamentals Seed Tube Feeder with 2lbs. of Deluxe Blend or the Finch Feeder with 2lbs. of Nyjer. Introduce a loved one to your favorite hobby for the holidays.

Limited to supplies on hand

November Nature Happenings

- Nov. 6: Daylight Savings Time ends - "fall back"
- Nov. 10: Full Moon, Nov. 25: New Moon
- Nov. 12: Project Feeder Watch starts and extends until April.
- Nov. 17-18: Leonid meteor shower
- The onset of winter snow and cold in the higher elevations can often bring eruptions of mountain species into the valley and plains.
- Steller's Jays, the beautiful black crested jay of the mountain forests, may relocate to lower altitudes.
- The Western Scrub Jays will squawk their resentment of the Stellers, as they all search for high-energy nuts and oil seeds.
- Pinon Jays, normally found exclusively in the southern pinon/juniper lands, may move further north in search of winter food.
- Pine Siskins may move in large numbers to lower regions, and will socially join flocks of American Goldfinches to visit finch feeders.
- Juncos become common at feeders.
- Waterfowl migration peaks this month.
- Pine and Evening Grosbeaks begin to arrive.
- Mule Deer bucks go into rut.
- Red-tailed Hawks replaced with Rough-legged Hawks from the North.
- Open water is important if there's an early freeze. Put out heated bird baths for a winter water source.

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Trips and Events

- [Saturday, November 5, 2011 - Damonte Ranch Wetlands, Reno](#)
- [Saturday, November 12, 2011 - Sierra Valley Expedition](#)
- [Saturday, December 3, 2011 - Crystal Lake, Reno](#)

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



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