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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery Breaking News!

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.



Issue No. 12.1

December 2011

WBU Snowman Seed Cylinder* **Available Only for a Limited Time!**

Available exclusively at Wild Birds Unlimited, our Snowman Seed Cylinder is a seasonal mix of safflower, sunflower chips, peanuts, cherries, blueberries and papaya to attract a variety of birds. The Snowman Seed Cylinder is the perfect holiday addition to any yard and a great gift idea for the nature lovers on your list. Hurry though, it's available only for a limited time!

*WBU Seed Cylinder Feeder sold separately.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Do stop by one of our stores this month and share a bit of the holiday season with us. If we don't see you, we wish you and your family a happy holiday season! -Moana Nursery Teammates



Wild Birds Unlimited Coupon

Looking for the perfect gift for the nature lover on your list? Bring this coupon to and receive 20% OFF a bird feeder, bird bath or unique WBU nature gift.

20% OFF One Regularly-Priced Non-Bird Food Item

- Coupon expires December 30, 2011
- Limit one coupon per purchase.
- Excludes bird food, gift cards, and sale items.
- Must present coupon at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offers.

[Click here for a printable PDF version of the coupon.](#)



December Bird of the Month - Mockingbird

A medium-sized songbird, a bit more slender than a thrush and with a longer tail. Mockingbirds have small heads, a long, thin bill with a hint of a downward curve, and long legs. Their wings are short, rounded, and broad, making the tail seem particularly long in flight.

- The Northern Mockingbird enjoys making its presence known. It usually sits conspicuously on high vegetation, fences, eaves, or telephone wires, or runs and hops along the ground. Found alone or in pairs throughout the year, mockingbirds aggressively chase off intruders on their territory.
- Mockingbirds are overall gray-brown, paler on the breast and belly, with two white wingbars on each wing. A white patch in each wing is often visible on perched birds, and in flight these become large white flashes. The white outer tail feathers are also flashy in flight.

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

No-Melt Suet Dough Cake Special



Buy 2, Get 1 Free*

Only available at our Moana Lane location

While supplies last

*Of equal or lesser price. Excludes cylinders.

Save on these great gifts!
Wild Birds Unlimited \$30 Christmas Combos

Meal Worm Combo:

Hanging Platform Tray + Meal Worms

A great way to start feeding meal worms to protein loving birds!

Snowman Combo

WBU Wire Snowman Peanut Feeder + 2 lbs. of Shelled Peanuts

Hang this jolly peanut feeder in your yard to share the seasonal spirit all winter long.

Red Tube Combo:

WBU Red Medium Tube Feeder + 5lb. Bag of Deluxe Blend

A durable feeder that is attractive and holds many seed varieties. Makes a great "starter kit" gift for bird feeding novices.

Hummingbird Combo:

WBU 16oz. Hummingbird Feeder + Nectar + Brush

Attract more hummingbirds with our WBU Hummingbird Feeder, a package of nectar, and a WBU Hummingbird Feeder Brush.

Gift Ideas for the Bird Lovers on Your List



WBU Peanut Wreath Feeder with Peanuts - \$26.99

Our Peanut Wreath Feeder is perfect for the season and great for attracting peanut-loving birds, such as jays and woodpeckers. This



versatile feeder is also great for offering suet balls or nesting material in the spring.



WBU Christmas Cake Suet - \$3.99

Full of peanuts, almonds, pecans, raisins, blueberry, cherries, papaya and cranberries, our Christmas Suet is a great gift for your birds or a bird feeding enthusiast on your list.



Eliminator Squirrel-Proof Feeder - \$113

The Eliminator allows you to stop squirrels from eating your seed. Featuring unique, wight-sensitive technology, the feeder's seed ports close when a squirrel touches the perch ring. You can set the sensitivity level to also exclude large birds. Comes with a lifetime guarantee.

[Click here to see our complete list of unique gift ideas.](#)



Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

December is upon us, and winter weather with it. This is the time to be as consistent as possible with filling bird feeders and keeping water available.

You may have noticed that birds are actively feeding early in the morning - this helps replenish the energy lost during the night. Mid-day there is not as much activity, unless the weather is very inclement. Then you may notice a flurry of activity in later afternoon - this is the "tanking up" to face the cold night ahead.

Putting out a little food in the morning and then again in the afternoon can help discourage some birds from hanging around in your yard all day. If you have issues with nuisance birds like pigeons, this spacing of activity can help you curtail some of the nuisance issues. Caging your tube feeders, hanging a starling-proof suet feeder, and scattering seed for quail and dove only under low growing shrubs can also help nuisance bird issues. And don't forget the water. Having a consistent source of ice-free water at this time of year is very important. This is also a great time to put out some special treats like seed bells, seed wreaths, or some bark butter.

Goldfinches are increasing in numbers in my yard. I am filling three feeders every two-three days! It is so much fun to listen to all the squabbling that goes on with these little guys. You may be seeing American Goldfinch along with your Lesser Goldfinch. You can tell the Americans by their beige winter plumage, where the Lessers maintain their greenish color all year long. I am hearing, more than seeing, White-Crowned Sparrows, Oregon Juncos and Towhees in fairly good numbers. No reports of Pine Siskins yet this

year, but keep an eye out for them as this is supposed to be a year for "winter finch" movement into lower latitudes. If you get a chance to visit any of the wetlands around our area, or even Virginia Lake, winter populations of ducks are increasing and Swan Lake is now hosting around 200 Tundra Swans. Quite a sight to see.

Here's wishing everyone a great Holiday season. Keep feeding those birds!

Looking for something fun to do with the kids? Try making your own bird wreaths!

This wreath is for the birds! It's not just another craft... it's a wreath for your feathered friends!

1. **Go out for a walk** in a park, woods, or field. Look for things that birds might like to eat. Collect seedpods, grass heads, pine cones, berries, and other plant parts
2. **Get a ready-made grapevine wreath** from a craft store. Weave what you've collected into the wreath. Stuff pine cones with a mixture of suet and birdseed and tie them on with string or wire. If you like, you can tie on slices of dried fruit, too.
3. **Hang the wreath outside on your house or on a tree.** Watch for birds to find the feast. If you leave the wreath up until spring, birds may collect what's left to build their nests, too. Enjoy the show!

[Visit Ranger Rick's website for complete instructions and photos!](#)

December Nature Happenings

- * **Dec. 1 - 31: Project FeederWatch continues**
- * **Dec. 13: New Moon, Dec. 28: Full Moon**
- * **Dec. 13-14: Geminid Meteor Shower**
- * **Dec. 14: Christmas Bird Count begins**
- * **Dec. 21: Winter Solstice - the sun is at its lowest point in the sky. It's the shortest day of the year and the beginning of winter.**
- * **Rather than search for worms in the frozen soil, large winter flocks of robins will visit fruit trees for food.**
- * **Cedar Waxwings will visit yards in search of fruit, often staying for hours before moving on.**
- * **Juncos will hunt for fallen seed, often before dawn.**
- * **The smaller the bird, the earlier its hunt for food in the winter darkness.**
- * **In preparation of the earliest nesting period of any bird (late-January through February), Great Horned Owls can be heard hooting at night in courtship.**
- * **Now through late March is a difficult time for birds; providing food and an open source of water is important. A heated birdbath is perfect.**
- * **Winter is a great time to look for birds' nests. Admire the craftsmanship, but leave the nest in place.**
- * **This is a great time to teach chickadees to feed from your hand.**
- * **Decorate a tree for the birds. Pick a tree in the yard and decorate it with edible ornaments**

for your feathered friends.

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Trips and Events

- [Saturday, December 3, 2011 - Crystal Lake, Reno](#)

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



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