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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



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EcoTough: Good for the Birds. Great for the Earth.

Earth Day is April 22. You can make a world of difference by staying close to home and creating a habitat in your yard that allows wildlife to thrive.

Our EcoTough® feeders and houses are environmentally friendly, high quality products that are made from recycled plastic milk jugs. These feeders and houses prevent used milk jugs from making their way into our landfills. They won't crack, fade or rot and each has a lifetime guarantee.



April Bird of the Month - Mountain Bluebird

The Mountain Bluebird is a medium-sized songbird; small thrush. It has a large, round head and a chunky body. Its tail is medium length, with blue on its wings and tail. Males are sky blue overall and females are brown-blue overall.

Fun Facts:

- Bluebirds are found throughout North America including the Eastern, Western and Mountain Bluebirds. All bluebirds are cavity nesters and will use an artificial nest box. Habitat and nest cavities had been disappearing for many years, but bluebirds have made an incredible come back due to thousands of bluebird nest boxes being installed across the country.
- Nesting occurs from March through August. Only the female incubates the four to six eggs which she maintains at a temperature of 98 - 100°F.
- Bluebirds are generally monogamous, staying together throughout the breeding season, and may breed together for more than one season. However, some birds may switch mates during a breeding season to raise a second brood.
- Bluebirds may raise two and sometimes three broods per season. Pairs may build their second nests on top of the first nest or they may nest in an entirely new site. The male continues to take care of the recently fledged young while the female begins to re-nest.

Young of the first brood will occasionally help raise their siblings in the second brood.

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



Goldfinch by Jacque Lowery

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Spring is officially here, even if our surroundings don't show it. My yard has beautiful bits of color with the early daffodils and crocus. Lilacs are pushing forth their leaf buds, willows are looking green and, of course, weeds are already starting to pop up.

In the last few weeks I've heard House Finch and Lesser Goldfinch singing their little hearts out. In many places around town the House Sparrows are busy gathering nesting material. I saw an American Crow at Moana Nursery carrying nesting material. The Great Horned Owls are nesting, along with some of the Red-tailed Hawks. Have you noticed that the male House Finch's red appears to be a little brighter? The American Goldfinch are already molting into breeding plumage which provides more bright spots of yellow and gold.



Yellow Rumped Warbler by Jacque Lowery

Other territorial and courtship rituals are beginning, as well. You may see a male robin pecking at windows because he believes his reflection is a territory competitor. Two Bewick's Wrens are singing for the attention of another (female) wren. Downy Woodpeckers chase through tree branches, chattering along the way. If you are aware of your surroundings you will have the opportunity to witness some amazing and funny bird antics during this season.

Be alert for the signs of Spring in your yard - the most obvious being more bird song, and earlier and later in the day. There will also be changes in the species of birds as the Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrows, Oregon Juncos and others depart for their nesting grounds. Northern Flickers will soon decamp for the summer season.

Watch for migrating songbirds heading north this month, and others who are arriving to nest in our area. This may be your opportunity to see Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanagers and many more. Hone your identification skills by keeping your eyes peeled and keeping these things in mind. Have fun and enjoy this season of new beginnings!

April Hobby Essentials - Click [here](#) for the April Hobby Essentials Flyer



WBU EcoTough Classic

Made from 37 recycled plastic milk jugs, the EcoTough® Classic has curved ends so you can view birds visiting both sides of the feeder at the same time. Perch drains allow seed to drop out for ground-feeding birds to eat, and angled perches let empty shells blow away with the wind.



EcoTough™ Tail Prop Suet Feeder

The EcoTough™ Tail Prop Suet Feeder lets birds eat in a natural way. The paddle simulates a tree trunk and offers birds a place to prop their tail while



they feed. Our feeder holds one suet cake, is easy to fill and hangs anywhere. EcoTough feeders and houses are environmentally friendly, high quality products that are made from recycled plastic milk jugs. EcoTough feeders and houses won't rot, crack, fade or warp like wood can.

Rewards Members Only April Savings!

Are you a member of the Moana Nursery Rewards Program? If so you can save \$5 on any \$50 purchase all month long. Shop as often as you like!

No limit on number of purchases. Excludes Teleflora, gift cards, greeting cards & Moana Rock. Offer good for rewards members only. Ends 4/30/11

April Nature Happenings

- April 1 - 8: Project FeederWatch ends this month
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 29: Arbor Day
- Offer nesting material such as wool yarn, string cut in short lengths, sheep's wool and horse/dog hair.
- Get nectar feeders out and filled by April 15 for early hummingbird migrants.
- Notorious spring blizzards can blanket the region, making it very difficult for early migrants and early nesters to survive. Bird feeding is very important during these times.
- Traditionally, the first sightings of Broad-tailed Hummingbird males were on April 15. In recent years, first reports have seen them during the opening days of April. Female Broad-tails will follow in early May.
- Bald Eagles begin their nesting behaviors.
- Ravens, crows and Canada Geese begin nesting.
- Ground Squirrels begin to emerge from hibernation.
- Osprey and Screech Owls are sitting on their eggs.
- Phoebe's return this month.
- Song Sparrows begin calling.
- South winds bring major waves of migrating birds like thrushes and warblers.
- Flickers establish their territories late in the month.
- Rubber Boa, Western Hog-nosed, Smooth Green, Milksnake, Gophersnake, and Garter snakes emerge from hibernation and begin mating.
- Canada Geese are nesting and their first young hatch.

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Field Trips

- Saturday, April 2, 2011 - Wandering the Carson Valley
- Saturday, April 9, 2011 - Carson Lake
- Saturday, April 16, 2011 - Swan Lake
- Saturday, April 23, 2011 - Virginia Lake, Reno
- Saturday, April 30, 2011 - Damonte Ranch Wetlands

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

Animal Ark Upcoming Events

Welcome Back Weekend!

Saturday, April 2,

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Admission Prices \$9 Adult, \$6 Children/Seniors, Children 2 and under free

Our gates are open after the long winter break and we look forward to welcoming visitors! Come help us celebrate the Animal Ark's 30th year at this location.

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



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