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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



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Hummingbirds' Migration Marathon

Could you finish a marathon race? How about 38 of them, a distance just under 1,000 miles? Well, as crazy as it sounds, that's what some hummingbirds are doing right now.

The next couple of months are your best opportunity to see hummingbirds. Adult hummingbirds are now joined by a horde of juveniles as they head south to Central America and their winter territories, some traveling thousands of miles

.... [LEARN MORE](#)

Attention: Local Homeowners Association bans bird feeding and ends up in the local paper's "Fact Checker" section with egg (& bird seed) on their face. See the truth in the Reno Gazette Journal by [visiting this link](#).



American Goldfinch

August Bird of the Month - Goldfinch

Both the American and Lesser Goldfinch inhabit our area, though the Lesser is far more commonly seen. The breeding male American Goldfinch has a bright yellow body, black cap, wings, and tail, and a white rump and undertail coverts. The wings have flashy white patches. Bill is pink and conical. The winter American Goldfinch, like the immatures, are either brownish or grayish above. The male may show some black on the forehead. The female American Goldfinch is duller yellow than the male, has olive above and lacks the black cap and yellow shoulder bar.

The Lesser Goldfinch is a small finch with dark green back, black crown, and bright yellow underparts. Wings and tail are black with white markings. Winter male is duller. Female is smaller, duller, and lacks black cap. Juvenile is similar to female but has greener underparts.

Goldfinches prefer nyjer and premium oil sunflower seeds. They will eat from finch tube feeders, mesh tube feeders, seed tube feeders, hopper feeders and tray feeders.

Fun Facts:

- Both American and Lesser Goldfinches will delay breeding until the greatest number of thistle, dandelion and other composite flowers are seeding.
- Due to their almost exclusive diet of seeds, the Lesser Goldfinch drinks frequently and will stay close to reliable sources of water during dry periods.
- Unlike many birds, Goldfinches molt their body feathers twice a year, in the spring before breeding and after nesting in the fall.
- To stay warm on a cold winter's night, American Goldfinches are known to burrow under the snow to form a cozy sleeping cavity. They will also roost together in coniferous trees.

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



Baby Quail by Jacque Lowery

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Summer is almost over. How did the days (and long evenings) fly by so quickly? Summer is relatively quiet bird wise, yet I've seen plenty of bird antics and behavior when I should be pulling weeds and clipping dead stalks. Right now the cutest things are the baby quail. Most families I've seen include from nine to twenty little "cottonballs with legs."

A recent controversial bird-feeding ban by one homeowners' association brings to mind the "responsible bird feeding" philosophy to which we nature lovers should always adhere:

- If there are any diseases that can pass from bird to bird (they don't pass bird to human), warm weather is when they will manifest. Please remember to clean your bird feeders about once a month with a weak (10 to 1) bleach solution, rinse well and dry thoroughly before refilling. If you have a **Wild Birds Unlimited EcoClean** feeder then you don't have to use bleach.
- Scrub your bird baths once every week or two with a weak bleach solution. Although bleach may help keep down algae, do not add bleach or any other chemical to your birdbath water.
- If nuisance birds (think pigeons) are a problem in your neighborhood, keep in mind that bird feeders are probably not what brought them into the area. In most cases it is the design of the homes (lots of little nooks and crannies in the architecture) or features like golf courses that attract them. Nevertheless, if pigeons are around in any numbers, you might want to make some changes to your bird feeding. Eliminate tray feeders or use pigeon guards on them. Tube feeders with small perches will exclude larger birds. Hanging a Seed Saucer under your feeder will eliminate most of the seed on the ground. Most importantly, feed the proper seed blends-don't use cracked corn, millet, wheat or milo. These are not favored by small birds; the seeds will end up on the ground for pigeons, mice or ground squirrels.
- Nectar, suet or fruit feeders will not appeal to pigeons but will attract some great birds to your yard.

Have a great rest of the summer and enjoy your nature sanctuary.

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

Instore Specials

- Mini Woodpecker Picnic - Buy 3, Get 1 FREE - *while supplies last*
- Simply Seed Suet - Buy 3, Get 1 FREE - *while supplies last*
- Jim's Birdacious Bark Butter Bug Berry Blend - \$9.99 (Reg. \$13.49) - *while supplies last*
- 20# Winter Blend - \$19.99 (Reg. \$34.99) - Just as good as Spring Nesting Blend for nesting birds. Don't miss this great deal. Only 4 bags left!
- 20# Spring Nesting Blend - \$23.99 (Reg. \$31.99)



Limited Time Offer

Buy a Hummingbird Feeder; Get a Second for HALF OFF*
 Now thru 8-16-11, buy a hummingbird feeder; get a second for HALF OFF! (Second feeder must be of equal or lesser value than the first.)
**Excludes PAR·A·SOL Filigree feeders. One discount per purchase.
 Offer not valid on previous purchases or sale items.*

WBU High Perch Hummingbird Feeder - \$24.99

Our High Perch™ Hummingbird Feeder allows hummingbirds to comfortably rest, providing you with better, longer views of the birds. This feeder is easy to fill, clean (top shelf dishwasher safe) and hang, and it's backed with a lifetime guarantee.

WBU Decorative Window Hummingbird Feeder - \$29.99

Our Decorative Window Hummingbird Feeder is easily mounted to any window with two suction cups, and its clear bottom allows you to see hummingbirds quickly lap up the nectar solution. This feeder has three feeding stations, is easy to clean and comes with a lifetime warranty (even if it falls to the ground)

August Nature Happenings

- Aug. 12 - 13: Perseids Meteor shower
- Aug. 13: Full Moon, Aug 28: New Moon
- Watch for Common Nighthawks hunting flying insects over open ground in the late afternoon light.
- Many of our summer visitors have finished their nesting cycle and will begin their migration south.
- Male Black-headed Grosbeaks will disappear from the landscape as they begin their southern migration; females and juveniles will follow in the coming weeks.
- Bullock's Orioles, our summer visitors that love to chatter notes high and low, will begin to migrate south.
- Day Lillies are in bloom.
- Young loons learn to fly.
- Yellow jackets make paper-like nests.
- Hummingbirds are active at feeders and at flowers, sourcing protein from spiders and insects and sipping nectar for sugars.
- Male hummingbirds start their southbound migration this month, averaging 20 miles a day to their wintering grounds in Central America and Mexico. Females head south later, with juveniles sticking around until early October.
- Migration begins. Keep feeders full with fresh food for "stopover" migrants.
- Pinon Jays, normally found exclusively in the pinon/juniper areas, gobble lots of seed at bird feeders.
- Geese, ducks, cranes, etc. usually fly in 'V' formation. Theory is that all, but lead bird,

gain lift from wing-tipped vortices produced by lead bird.

- American Goldfinches finish nesting late this month.

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Field Trips and Events

- Sunday, August 20, 2011 - Spooner Lake State Park

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

Animal Ark Upcoming Events

- Ark at Dark Saturday, August 6 - 7:30 PM - 9:45 PM

Limited seating; reserve early as this event sells out! Admission Prices \$15 Adult, \$12 Children/Seniors. Wolves and coyotes howling, big cats growling in the night, it's after dark and the predators are in their element. Docent led tours starting at 8:00 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. for you to enjoy the sunset by bringing your picnic dinner. Goodies and refreshments will be available. *Children must be at least 8 years old to participate. No golf carts are available at this event!*

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



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