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



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### Making Time (and Birds) Stand Still

Time.

Though the Rolling Stones sang that it was on our side, when it comes to bird feeding, time seems to come up short, especially the amount of time birds stay at our feeders. Or at least that's how it used to be....

Made of different combinations of tightly packed ingredients, our exclusively-formulated Bird Food Cylinders tend to keep birds at the feeders longer because they have to work to remove seeds. So instead of birds swooping in, grabbing a bite and taking off, Bird Food Cylinders give you a few extra moments of enjoyment.... [LEARN MORE](#)



Evening Grosbeak

### July Bird of the Month - Grosbeak

#### Evening Grosbeak - Male Description

Brownish black head with black crown. Yellow forehead and eyestripe (supercillium). Wing, tail, and upper tail coverts black. Dark brown nape fading to yellow on back. Secondaries and coverts white, creating large square white patch on back of wing in flight. Dark brownish throat fades to brownish-yellow underparts, becoming brightest under tail. Legs pink.

#### Evening Grosbeak - Female Description

Head and upperparts mostly grayish brown. Weak dark malar stripe. Yellowish wash on sides of neck. Uppertail coverts black with white spotting. Wings and tail black with white and gray patches in wing. Throat and underparts pale grayish brown. White under tail.



Black-headed Grosbeak

### Black-headed Grosbeak - Male Description

Breeding (Alternate) Plumage: Head black (sometimes broken by partial or complete eyestripe of bright cinnamon); wings and tail black with sharply contrasting white spots; breast, rump, nape, and flanks brilliant cinnamon; and a patch of lemon-yellow on belly.

Nonbreeding (Basic) Plumage: similar, but dark feathers tipped with buff, hiding much of plumage pattern.

### Black-headed Grosbeak - Female Description

Head brown with buffy to white (occasionally lemon-yellow) crown and eyestripe, a pale chin, brown wings and tail with indistinct buffy spots, and heavily streaked body plumage that is dull cinnamon to buff with variable amounts of yellow.

### Fun facts:

- The Black-headed Grosbeak males share equally in incubating eggs and feeding young, despite having a much showier plumage than their respective females.
- The Black-headed Grosbeak has an unusual diet for a bird with such a big seed-eating beak. Throughout most of the year, over half of their diet is made up of insects. Their huge beak allows them to eat large grasshoppers, crickets and other insects that have tough exoskeletons.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks are one of the few birds capable of eating toxic monarch butterflies. They discard the wings before eating the butterfly in an apparent attempt to reduce the amount of toxins they ingest.
- Evening Grosbeaks like to eat wild cherries, but unlike other birds, they only eat the pits. They manipulate cherries in their beak to remove the outer skin and flesh. The remaining slippery seeds are held firmly with special pads on the "gross beak" and are simply cracked open and then swallowed.
- The Evening Grosbeak is an irruptive migrant that makes irregular appearances at winter feeding stations throughout much of United States.
- The Evening Grosbeak was named in 1825 based on erroneous accounts that they became vocal and active only "at the approach of night." This erroneous belief persisted for years, and the name is still a misnomer.

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



Baby birds

### Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

You have to love Nevada weather. One week it is too cold to transplant, and the next it is too hot. For the second consecutive year my flowering crabapple trees won't produce any fruit for robins and cedar waxwings this fall and winter! I will really miss the busy flock of waxwings gobbling the little apples while the robins sit and scold these interlopers in *their* trees.

I am happy to report the Mountain Chickadees successfully fledged young in my yard; how many, I don't know as I missed the event. The House Wrens also managed to bring three babies to fledge status. Or I should say wren singular. On the weekend of our big garage sale, both parents kept us entertained with constant coming and going from the birdhouse. The next week there was only one parent feeding the young, so something happened to the other parent in the interval. The major suspect would be Scrub Jays, who were also busy taking care of their little ones at this time. Both the wrens and the chickadees

appeared to take their fledglings away from the yard almost immediately, maybe to escape possible predation from the jays. In a word, my yard is very quiet right now with not much singing, calling and flying about going on.

We have been lucky enough to watch the annual feeding of baby robins; I just love their adorable speckled breasts and very vocal demands for food. I observed daddy trying to teach the young one how to obtain his own worm, repeatedly thumping the worm on the ground and breaking it into smaller pieces. As is typical of most children, the baby paid no attention, just kept standing there and loudly chirping "feed me, feed me". It's no wonder I get very little yard work done; I'm easily distracted by antics like this! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and keep observing the wonders of nature!

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



### Instore Specials

- Simply Seed Suet - Buy 4, get 1 Free - *while supplies last*
- Jim's Birdacious Nutty for Nuts - \$2.49 (Reg. \$4.99) - *while supplies last*
- Jim's Birdacious Bark Butter Bug Blend - \$9.99 (Reg. \$13.49) - *while supplies last*
- 20# Winter Blend - \$19.99 (Reg. \$34.99) -- Moana Ln. only - 8 bags left!



### Limited Time Offer - FREE Bird Food Cylinder

When You Buy a Bird Food Cylinder and Feeder\*

Now thru 7/12/11, when you buy a Bird Food Cylinder and a Decorative Bird Food Cylinder Feeder or Dinner Bell Feeder, you'll get an additional

FREE Bird Food Cylinder of equal or lesser value.

*\*Not valid with other offers or previous purchases.*

### July Nature Happenings

- July 1 & 30: New Moon, July 15: Full Moon
- July 28 - 29: Delta Aquarids Meteor shower peaks.
- July 29 - 30: Capricornids Meteor shower
- July: NABA National Butterfly count
- Our longest days bring our highest average temperatures, and all those afternoon thunderstorms can make for a wet month.
- Rufous Hummingbirds visit mid-month on their southbound leg of the longest migration distance of any bird for its size.
- Calliope Hummingbirds, our smallest bird in North America, also visit on their southern migration.

- Black-chinned Hummingbirds spill over from the mountains and visit feeders.
- American and Lesser Goldfinches are our last birds to nest, waiting for mature thistle plants to provide nesting material and food for their young.
- Robins have finished nesting but will readily visit yards in search of worms and berries.
- Look for Monarch caterpillars on milkweed foliage.
- Keep finch feeders full of fresh Nyjer® (commonly referred to as thistle) seed.
- Plant berry-producing shrubs or offer cherries, cranberries, raisins, grapes, or blueberries to help robins feed their young.
- Look for hummingbirds feeding on Trumpet Creeper, Columbine and Penstemon.
- Mallards molt into their "eclipse" plumage and are unable to fly for several weeks.
- First brood of immature hummingbirds begin to show up at nectar feeders later in the month.

### Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Field Trips and Events

- Sunday, July 3, 2011 - Page Meadows, Tahoe City, CA
- Saturday, July 9, 2011 - Sunset stroll along the Truckee River
- Saturday, July 16, 2011 - Wings & Willows Festival (visit <http://www.nevadaaudubon.org> for more information)
- Sunday, July 24, 2011 - Birds, Views, and Falls

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

### Animal Ark Upcoming Events

- **Happy Birthday Monday!** Monday, July 4 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM Admission Prices \$12 Adult, \$10 Children/Seniors, Children 2 and under free. Guests are invited to help celebrate 30 years of sheltering non-releasable wildlife and educating visitors of all ages about wild animals and their habitats. Goodies and refreshments will be available for you to enjoy as you wander our facility.
- **July is Military Month at the Animal Ark.** We offer free admission for all active and reserve personnel. Military family members will receive 50% regular admission prices. We're grateful for your service!
- **Lure of the Cheetah** - Saturday, July 9 7:00 PM Reservations required due to limited seating 1-775- 970-3431 \$40 Adults, \$25 Children/Seniors. Enjoy a very special high speed cheetah run. Off leash and ready to catch their prey, our cheetahs purr in anticipation of chasing the lure! Children must be at least 10 years old to participate.

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



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