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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



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Avoid Shell Shock; Try Tidy Dining

Have you ever experienced shell shock? That feeling of surprise as you survey the copious amount of shells that are left behind by your birds. It's a common occurrence, but it doesn't have to be. That's because tidy dining solutions are one of our specialties.

Sure, we still have our No-Mess Blend, featuring seeds and nuts without their shells, but we now offer more tidy dining options than ever before....

[LEARN MORE](#)



June Bird of the Month - Rufous Hummingbird

The Rufous is the feistiest hummingbird in North America. The brilliant orange male and the green-and-orange female Rufous Hummingbird are relentless attackers at flowers and feeders. Rufous Hummingbirds are wide-ranging, and breed farther north than any other hummingbird.

Fun Facts:

- Rufous is a fairly small hummingbird with a slender, nearly straight bill, a tail that tapers to a point when folded, and fairly short wings that don't reach the end of the tail when the bird is perched.
- They have the hummingbird gift for fast, darting flight and pinpoint maneuverability. Like other hummers, they eat insects as well as nectar, taking them from spider webs or catching them in midair.
- Rufous Hummingbirds breed in open areas, yards, parks, and forests up to treeline. On migration they pass through mountain meadows as high as 12,600 feet where nectar-rich, tubular flowers are blooming.

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



Baby Black-billed Magpie by Jacque Lowery

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Nesting season is in full swing in our area. Hawks, owls and other larger birds have fledged for the most part, but parents are still feeding their offspring. Most songbirds are building nests, hatching eggs or feeding nestlings. Some species, like goldfinch, will begin their breeding season in June.

I'm a volunteer field trip leader for Washoe Lake State Park school children. A casual visitor to this park might not notice all the activity, but as leaders we are on the lookout for things to engage the children's interest. This past week was an absolute delight for most observers there. We watched a Magpie feeding at least two babies. The signature long tail of the magpie is absent in the young ones, but the large beak is very much in evidence. Two different Robin nests had parents sitting on eggs, while a third pair were busy constructing a nest. American Kestrels likely had a nest somewhere in one tree, as both parents noisily chased away a hawk pair that dared to land there. Starlings were busy going in



Western Kingbird by Jacque Lowery

and out of at least two holes in a big willow tree, just a few feet away from the big, messy Magpie nest. Several pairs of Bullock's Orioles were singing, scolding and nest building high up in willow and cottonwood trees. The Oriole nest is the most magnificent nest in the bird world, in my opinion. It is a very intricately woven hanging nest, comprised of various combinations of plant material, horse hair and lovingly lined with soft materials such as weed seeds, etc. In the same tree as an active Robin's nest and the busy construction work of an Oriole, a Western Kingbird was working on her nest. I

watched for several minutes as she repeatedly brought material to the nest, placed it, worked it around with her beak and feet and flew off for another tidbit to add. Down at the water's edge, devoid of normal cattail nesting sites, a female Red-winged Blackbird was busy gathering small twigs and other material for a nest somewhere in the low hanging underbrush.

I was left in true wonderment by the ingenuity and capability of those in the avian world. Would we humans be able to create such amazing, yet useful, structures using only our mouth and feet? I highly doubt it.

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



Fresh Bird Seed Sale - Savings on our most popular blends:

20# WBU No Mess Blend \$27.49 (Reg. \$32.99)

20# WBU Deluxe Blend \$17.99 (Reg. \$21.99)

*Jim's Birdacious Nutty for Nuts \$2.99 (Reg. \$4.99)

*Sale ends June 14, 2011. *While supplies last.*

Don't forget Father's Day this month!

Moana has lots of great gifts for Dad



Give Dad the gift of nature with a Wild Birds Unlimited Advanced Pole System! Other great gifts are outdoor clocks and thermometers that are made in the USA and have a lifetime guarantee. Garden tool sets that include a trowel, garden fork and pruners with 5 year warranty will also be a hit with Dad!

June Nature Happenings

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Field Trips

- Saturday-Sunday, June 11-12, 2011 - Santa Rosa Mountains
- Friday-Sunday, June 17-19, 2011 - Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Workday and Field Trip

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

Animal Ark Upcoming Events

- **Wolf Howl Night Saturday, June 4 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM** (Presentations Begin Promptly at 7PM)
Admission Prices \$15 Adult, \$12 Children/Seniors, Children 2 and under free.
Join us for a howling good time! The park opens at 6:00 p.m. so you may see the other residents of Animal Ark prior to the fun & informative presentation at 7:00. Hear the wolves and coyotes howl then participate in our contest, with prizes to be awarded to the best human howlers.
- **Dash 4 Dads Cheetah Run Sunday, June 19 6:00 PM** (Reservations required due to limited seating 1-775-970-3431)
\$40 Adults, \$25 Children/Seniors.
What a great way to spend time with Dad and what dad doesn't enjoy speed? Our cheetahs go 0 to 45 MPH in three seconds, with 22-foot strides & and a top speed of 70 MPH! We predict Dad will be impressed! Children must be at least 10 years old to participate.

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



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