



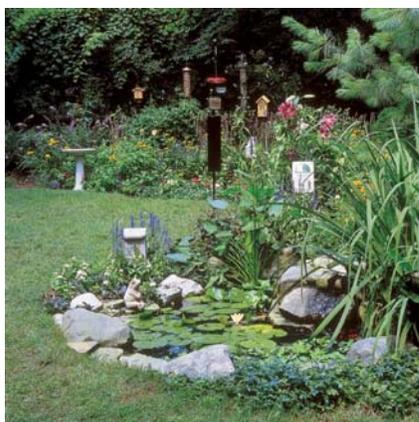
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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



Issue No. 5.1

May, 2011



Create a Backyard Bird Habitat - *we'll show you how!*

Substitute birds for jets, and your yard seems very similar to a lively airport. Arrivals and departures, some visitors travel alone while others are in groups - there are numerous similarities.

However, there is one major difference. Unlike an airport, your yard doesn't have to be just a stop-over; it can be the destination. Creating a backyard habitat is a fun family activity that will help your birds and increase the number and variety that visit your yard.

A Proper Bird Habitat Has:

- A wide variety of food, including bird feeders and natural plantings.
- A reliable source of clean water.
- Safe nesting areas.
- Secure cover/shelter.

[LEARN MORE](#)



May Bird of the Month - Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawk is a medium-sized hawk with the classic accipiter shape: broad, rounded wings and a very long tail. In Cooper's Hawks, the head often appears large, the shoulders broad, and the tail rounded. Adults are steely blue-gray above with warm reddish bars on the underparts and thick dark bands on the tail. Juveniles are brown above and crisply streaked with brown on the upper breast, giving them a somewhat hooded look.

Look for Cooper's Hawks to fly with a flap-flap-glide pattern typical of accipiters. Even when crossing large open areas they rarely flap

continuously. Another attack maneuver is to fly fast and low to the ground, then up and over an obstruction to surprise prey on the other side.

The Cooper's Hawk is often confused with its lookalike counterpart, the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Separating Sharp-shinned Hawks from Cooper's Hawks is one of the classic birding challenges. Cooper's Hawks have a larger head that juts farther out ahead of the wings compared with Sharp-shinned's pinhead. Cooper's have "hackles" that are sometimes raised, giving them a fierce look versus Sharp-shinned's more timid, round head. When perched, look for Cooper's Hawk's thicker legs and big feet.

Fun Facts:

- Female Cooper's Hawks are about 30% larger than their male counterparts.
- Cooper's Hawks have short, powerful wings and a long tail; these adaptations give them the ability to be highly maneuverable in dense forest habitats. But even with their incredible agility, a recent study showed that 23% of all of the Cooper's Hawks examined had healed fractures in the bones of their chest.
- About a third of all attempts by Cooper's Hawks to capture food are successful.
- After capturing its prey, Cooper's Hawks have been occasionally observed to drown their victim by holding it under water.
- While Cooper's Hawks will prey on a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, some of their most common quarry include Mourning Doves, American Robins, Jays, Northern Flicker, European Starling and chipmunks.
- One study in New York documented that each Cooper's Hawk nestling consumed 11 items of prey per week.
- Cooper's Hawks have been known to cache uneaten prey in trees for later use.

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



American Robin feeding its young by
Jacque Lowery

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

Great entertainment is just outside, waiting in your backyard. All you need is a little observation time. From migratory birds, evolving bright breeding plumages, singing and chasing courtship antics to wondrous nest building, this is an awe inspiring time of year. Add to all this the fragrant, delicate and beautiful tree and shrub blossoms and you have magic.

Some of our winter residents are departing for their breeding grounds. I haven't heard a Junco or a Flicker for a week or two. White-crowned Sparrows are still around, evidenced mostly by their wonderful song. Yellow-rumped Warblers are in full breeding plumage and will soon depart. Cassin's Finch and Evening Grosbeak have been reported in numerous places around the area. The Cassin's are a normal spring visitor, but the widespread reports and numbers of Grosbeaks are truly remarkable. If you live in the west foothills they might visit if you offer black oil sunflower seeds (their favorite).



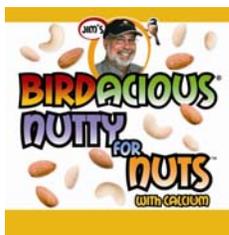
A newly built Scrub Jay nest is in a backyard spruce tree, and Robins are working on one in a front yard birch tree. Mama robin is working so hard on the nest; the latest wind storm almost destroyed her work in progress. But she came right back and repaired it and moved on to the next stage. She worked the rain gutters on the house for leaves and small twigs; very comical to see her emerge from the gutter with a huge beak full of plant matter. In the meantime the Jays are

Evening Grosbeak by Jacque Lowery flying over the roof from the back and trying to steal material from her nest. The Robins then would attack the Jays to drive them off. I am hoping that the Jays' aggressiveness doesn't completely drive the Robins away as it is so much fun to observe the feeding and caring of the nestlings each year.

Here's hoping that your yard is full of bird activity during this wonderful season.

May Savings - \$10 OFF one \$50.00+ Bird Feeder, Bird House, or Advanced Pole System Basic Setup. Limited to stock on hand. Offer expires May 24, 2011.

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



Jim's Birdacious Nutty for Nuts - Now on Sale for \$2.99

It's great for the breeding season and is full of calcium, which builds strong eggs! *While supplies last. Available at all three WBU Moana Nursery locations.*

May Nature Happenings

- May 3: New Moon, May 17: Full Moon
- May 5 - 6: Eta Aquarids meteor shower
- May 14: International Migratory Bird Day
- Average temperature is 54.6° F and it's our third wettest month at 2.39 inches of precipitation.
- Dawn Chorus - it's a most delightful avian chorus as males sing their finest to start the nesting cycle.
- Orioles arrive to build beautiful woven grass nests in colonies in deciduous trees.
- Male Western Tanagers arrive and are often seen traveling in pairs.
- Warblers, Kingbirds and Mockingbirds delay their arrival until abundant flying insects are available.
- Spotted Towhees will sing from dawn to dusk in search of a mate.
- Green-tailed Towhees share the same habitat as Spotted Towhees.
- Hummingbirds arrive. Be sure to have their feeders up early in the month.
- Chokecherry, serviceberry, rocky mountain juniper, cottonwood are in bloom early in the month.
- Peak of Warbler migration happens early in month.
- Hermit Thrush and Black-headed Grosbeaks return.
- Peak of bird courtship. Listen for the morning chorus.
- Nesting materials are being collected.
- Orioles return and begin nesting. Be sure to have their feeders, nectar, fruit and jelly out early.
- Beaver kits and skunk litters are born.
- Mosquitoes can begin to be a problem. Refresh bird bath water often to deter them from breeding.
- Be on the lookout for tadpoles in ponds.

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Field Trips

- Annual Swan Lake Nature Study Area/IBA cleanup - Saturday, May 7, Time: 8:00 a.m. until noon. Here is a chance to contribute to the beauty of Nevada and Swan Lake. We'll help our birds and other animals by cleaning up their home at the Swan Lake Nature Study Area/Important Bird Area.
- Saturday/Sunday, May 28-29, 2011 - Owling & The Dawn Chorus

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

Animal Ark Upcoming Events

- Piñatas & Predators Saturday, May 7 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Admission Prices \$15 Adult, \$12 Children/Seniors, Children 2 and under free.
Come watch the fun as our predators break open their treat-filled piñatas! Great photo opportunities!
- Cheetah "500" Sunday, May 29 5:00 PM
Reservations required due to limited seating 1-775- 970-3431
\$40 Adults, \$25 Children/Seniors.
In the theme of the "Indianapolis 500" come see the world's fastest land mammal in action as our cheetahs speed around the Animal Ark oval! *Children must be at least 10 years old.*

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



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