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"Nature News" from Wild Birds Unlimited at Moana Nursery



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The Future of Bird Feeding Starts Here

Even though life doesn't look like "The Jetsons" or "Star Trek," we at Wild Birds Unlimited have not stopped trying to bring the future of bird feeding to the present.

Many bird feeding advancements have been researched, developed and brought to market by the experts at WBU. Revolutionary products like EcoClean™ feeders and accessories and new foods like Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® and Treats have made the hobby easier and more enjoyable for you and your birds.... [LEARN MORE](#)



California Quail

September Bird of the Month - California Quail

California Quail are plump, short-necked game birds with a small head and bill. They fly on short, very broad wings. The tail is fairly long and square. Both sexes have a comma-shaped topknot of feathers projecting forward from the forehead, longer in males than females. Adult males are rich gray and brown, with a black face outlined with bold white stripes. Females are a plainer brown and lack the facial

markings. Both sexes have a pattern of white, creamy, and chestnut scales on the belly. Young birds look like females but have a shorter topknot.

California Quail spend most of their time on the ground, walking and scratching in search of food. In morning and evening they forage beneath shrubs or on open ground near cover. They forage on the ground for seeds, fruits, berries and insects and will readily eat cracked corn, berries and millet from ground trays.

Fun Facts:

- Multiple California Quail broods may mix after hatching and are attended by all the

parents of those broods.

- The topknot looks like a single feather, but it is actually a cluster of six overlapping plumes.
- They can fly well but prefer walking.
- California Quail live in coveys and enjoy community dust baths. Many quail chicks are precocial, which means relatively mature and mobile from the moment of hatching, so they can leave the nest with their parents.

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

EcoClean Feeder Special



**Buy an EcoClean feeder,
Get the seed for free!**

- Buy a large or extra-large Tube or Finch Feeder, get one 20 lb bag of No-Mess or Nyjer seed for free.
- Buy a medium Tube or Finch Feeder, get two 5lb bags of No-Mess or Nyjer seed for free.
- Buy a small Tube or Finch Feeder, get one 5lb bag of No-Mess or Nyjer seed for free.
- Buy a Mesh Peanut Feeder, get two 5lb bags of Shelled Peanuts free.
- Buy a Dinner Bell Feeder, get one 3.5 oz. bag of Mealworm To Go, two Birdacious Nutty for Nuts Stackables, and one 22 oz. pack of Birdacious Bugberry Blend Nuggets (that's a \$25 value) free!

Sale ends Wednesday, September 14th. Limited to stock on hand.



Wilson Warbler by Jacque Lowery

Local Bird Sightings by Jacque Lowery

September is upon us and already there is a hint of Fall and cooler temperatures in the morning air. I mourn Summer's imminent departure, but also yearn for crisp Fall days and the opportunity to observe the wondrous, fleeting moments of avian migration.

How do birds know *if* they should leave for warmer climate and, more amazingly, when & how to

wend their way southward?

- Many of our local bird species do not migrate at all; we have quail, dove, Canada geese, finches, sparrows, crows, and others with us year round.
- Some species opt for altitudinal migration; they move from higher elevations to warmer foothills or valleys. While others only move a little ways south, into warmer wintering grounds in Arizona or Mexico.
- But some amazing migrations start in the arctic regions of Alaska and end in the extreme southern areas of South America, distances of up to 25,000 miles! Keep in mind that this incredible trip is made not once, but twice a year!

What is the benefit of bird migration for us lowly humans?

- The best one is the opportunity to look for new faces, however briefly, in our backyards and around our town. Waterfowl, including ducks and geese, will settle on ponds and lakes to bulk up for their flight south, or maybe to spend the entire winter here, and lots of shorebirds will move through the area.
- If you are in the right place at the right time you might see raptors such as Swainson's Hawks heading to Central America for the winter.
- Several different types of flycatchers are possible, along with Cedar Waxwings and migrating orioles and tanagers at your bird batch.
- The best opportunities are for seeing warblers and other songbirds as they make brief pit stops for seed, insects or fruit in your yard. Be on the lookout for species such as Wilson's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, and Nashville Warbler.

It's a great time to keep your eyes open for the unusual! Have fun and happy birding.

September Nature Happenings

- Sept. 12: Full Moon, Sept. 27: New Moon
- Sept. 23: Autumnal Equinox - almost equal amounts of day and night
- Bird populations are transitioning in preparation for winter - some birds move out, some birds come back and some become nomadic in their search for food, water and shelter.
- American Goldfinches molt into a dull, nondescript color, even changing the color of the beak from orange to black.
- Jays become nomadic and revisit yards in search of food which they can store through burial. Peanuts in the shell are their favorite.
- Look for nighthawks and swallows to congregate in large numbers prior to migrating south.
- Monarch Butterfly migration peaks mid-month.
- Bats are busy feeding, building fat for hibernation and migration.
- Fall migration peaks for warblers and others.
- Most summer birds, such as orioles and grosbeaks, have departed.
- Most hummingbirds have departed by the end of month.
- Northern Flickers begin arriving.
- Western Meadowlarks migrate.
- Mule Deer are shedding the velvet from their antlers.
- Asters are the last plants to bloom.
- Fall hawk migration begins.
- Bucks and bulls polishing their antlers; look for deer and elk rubs.
- Autumn colors begin - Sumac, dogwood and Virginia Creeper.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks.
- Bears are feeding in preparation for hibernation.

- Switch feeders to high-fat, winter foods.

Lahontan Audubon Society Upcoming Trips and Events

Saturday, September 10, 7:30 AM - Field Trip to Silver Saddle Ranch in Carson City

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

Animal Ark Upcoming Events

Out of Africa Saturday, September 24th, 2-6 PM

The annual "Out of Africa" event brings to Reno a Maasai Warrior from Tanzania, two leading African cheetah conservationists, and the opportunity to meet-n-greet Tango, a cheetah from Project Survival. Food, drinks, and a fabulous raffle are included. The event ends with the spectacle of our three resident cheetahs racing across the hillside at sunset.

For more information or to buy tickets, email info@AnimalArk.org or call 775-970-3431.

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



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