

Fun Stuff at WBU

Please RSVP to 925-798-0303 for each event.

Sat., March 6: Birdwalk to Grizzly Island: On this local walk by the Delta we will be looking for owls, ducks, hawks and more. We leave WBU at 8 am. Returns by noon. \$2.00 donation for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. RSVP (925) 798-0303



Sat., Feb. 13: Meet a Rough-legged Hawk
From 11-3, Native Bird Connections will present an on-going educational program about Rough-legged Hawks. Learn about this very unusual Hawk and how it survives in the wild. This non-releasable male was born in the artic and was injured in Wyoming.

Sat., Feb. 20: 10 am Workshop Unusual Birdfood Sources = Unusual Birds

Bark Butter, suet pellets, seed cylinders, suet balls, suet dough versus suet, peanuts, mealworms...so many possibilities...so much fun! In this workshop, learn how you can invite a wider variety of birds to your garden's feeding station by adding food sources beyond a good seed mix. Demystify the options! Learn tips on the correct placement of your feeders, maximizing your ability to attract birds to the habitat. **FREE** feeder for each household present. RSVP (925) 798-0303



Sat., Feb. 27: 10 am Workshop Rise and Shine! Your Garden is Awakening!

Our trees are already beginning to bloom. It is time to start planning for a bird & butterfly friendly garden this year. Join WBU's own Plant Lady Yvonne Breukers first workshop this year on wildlife and native gardening. We'll also have a hands on demonstration of seed planting and seedling propagation. RSVP (925) 798-0303



Bird Name Jumble

Can you unscramble the letters to make the name of a native bird?

WHRDGTNLROOAAEE

Bring in your answer to receive a free birdseed gift!



LOCAL EXPERTS ADVICE

We are pleased to bring you these two local experts who will be contributing articles for your enjoyment and education. Yvonne will write about gardening to attract birds, bees and butterflies and Georgette about Bluebirds. Look for their ideas and thoughts in future flyers.

“Valentine’s Day for Western Bluebirds !”

by **Georgette Howington**

Contra Costa Coordinator, California Bluebird Recovery Program

February is one my favorite months because soon Western Bluebirds will be building nests in my nest boxes. After finding nesting sites in his territory, the male Western bluebird will court his sweetheart and she will choose the right home for them. Sound familiar? Now is the time to set out your NABS approved (North American Bluebird Society) nest boxes in the appropriate habitat if you want to attract Western bluebirds. Remember, nest boxes are suitable for other secondary cavity nesters, too! The most important factor in placement of your nest box is location, location, location. Each cavity nester has its own preference: the Western Bluebird likes short grasses in open areas, ideally no less than 100 yards from a grove of trees. I like securing the boxes on metal poles, high enough to keep predators at bay and facing the entry hole northeast. For more information about Western Bluebirds and monitoring, check out www.cbrp.org or email Georgette@theharvestbag.com Happy Bluebirding!!



Get Ready for Spring! by Yvonne Breukers

Although Spring isn't here yet, there are a number of things we can do to prepare for it's arrival. By going through the motions, we can sooth our souls imagining what our gardens will look like a few months from now and when we will reap the final rewards along with the Birds, Bees and Butterflies! Speaking of butterflies, one of the best things you can do to attract Monarch Butterflies is to plant native milkweed. Directly or indirectly, milkweed also nurtures bees, birds, beetles and other insects. Now is the time to purchase and prepare milkweed seeds for planting by stratifying them. Our order of California Native Milkweed Seeds will be in the store soon. Sounds complicated, but it isn't. Simply take your seeds, put them in a plastic sandwich bag with ¼ cup horticultural sand and ¼ teaspoon hot water, swoosh around to mix, seal the bag and place it in the refrigerator. After 6 weeks, if no more frost is expected, they are ready to be planted. Since most native milkweeds are perennial, once they are established that first year, they will sprout on their own after that. Other seeds you can start to entice butterflies (and you) into your garden: Parsley, Lovage, Oregano, Thyme, Lavender, Marjoram, Coneflowers (Echinacea), Borage, Hops, Sweet Violet, Nasturtium, Sage, Mints, Rosemary.....too many to mention, but I can almost sense the gentle wind, the warmth of the sun and the wonderful smells wafting in from y(our) gardens. What plants attract butterflies the most in your garden? Let us know by sending a note and/or picture to yvonnplants@hotmail.com



Feb 27: 10 am Workshop
Rise and Shine! Your Garden is Awakening!
(more information on “Fun Stuff at WBU” page)



Wild Birds Unlimited®
Nature Shop

How to Attract Birds by Feeding at Different Levels



Quick-Clean Seed Tube Feeder
with WBU Supreme Blend



EcoTough Ground Tray with
WBU Deluxe Blend



EcoTough Classic hopper
feeder with WBU Deluxe Blend

Birds tend to choose feeders that are at the same height where they would find food in the wild. Imitating these natural feeding levels will help you attract the most birds to your backyard.

There are two common backyard bird feeding levels: elevated and ground.

1. Feeding at the Elevated Level - Elevated-feeding birds live in forests and forage for food in trees. These birds prefer sunflower seeds, safflower, sunflower chips and peanuts.

To attract elevated-feeding birds, offer WBU Supreme, Choice or No-Mess Blend in a Quick-Clean® Seed Tube Feeder or hopper-style feeder on an Advanced Pole System® bird feeding station.

Typical Elevated-feeding Birds

- chickadees
- jays
- titmice
- nuthatches
- finches
- woodpeckers

2. Feeding at the Ground Level - These birds often live in meadows and/or fields where fallen plant seeds are a food source. Though millet is the preferred seed of most ground-feeding birds, they will eat other grains and seeds, such as sunflower.

To attract ground-feeding birds, offer WBU Deluxe Blend, No-Mess Blend or other appropriate blends in a ground feeder like our EcoTough™ Ground Tray.

Typical Ground-feeding Birds

- juncos
- doves
- towhees
- sparrows
- quail

3. Feeding at Both Levels with One Feeder -

To attract birds at both levels using one feeder, offer WBU Deluxe or No-Mess Blend in an EcoTough™ Classic hopper feeder. This feeder was designed to accommodate both feeding levels. Elevated-feeding birds will eat the larger seeds at the feeder and knock out the millet and other seeds for ground-feeding birds.

Our WBU Deluxe Blend is full of sunflower seeds, millet and other seeds. Sunflower lovers will eat at the feeder, and ground-feeding birds will eat the fallen millet.

Mike’s Ramblings

For those of you that read our emails, you will be familiar with “Mike’s Ramblings” which is a section where I touch on various topics, usually associated with bird feeding, bird watching and nature. Mike’s Ramblings has become very popular, so we decided to include it in our flyers.



The rest of the country is still in deep winter, but in Northern California it is spring (a.k.a. nesting) season for some species. Owls and Anna’s Hummingbirds have already nested. Chickadees and Titmice are singing and in courtship. You should have your nesting houses up NOW! (It seems odd to be writing this as we are currently in Arizona where there is snow on the ground).

We had some damage a few years ago on our Arizona house by Northern Flickers trying to open a roosting cavity under the eaves. We solved the problem by putting up 2 Flicker houses for them to roost in during winter months. One day I heard a lot of noise and went to look at the house. Out came 2 male Flickers. Turf wars? We now have an American Kestrel roosting in one box. This is the smallest falcon and it is a really cool bird.

Last week we learned that we were again the largest store in our industry for 2009. (See below). It is an incredible honor both to us and to you. We have met so many interesting people since we opened in 1991 and it is a lot of fun bringing people and nature together!

Congratulations to You!

Yes, to you, because you have made us the largest bird feeding and bird watching store in the U.S. for the 9th consecutive year. If it wasn’t for you, we would not be Number 1 again.
We thank you and so do your birds. Mike, Cecil & Staff

February Nature Happenings

- Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 12 – 15: www.birdsource.org/gbbc
- Visit the store with your online submission to the GBBC and receive FREE 2 lbs. of bird seed.

- Feb. 1 – 28: Project FeederWatch continues
- Feb. 2: Groundhog Day
- Feb. 13: New Moon, Feb. 28: Full Moon
- February is National Bird Feeding Month
- Indian Paintbrush, Giant Coreopsis and Iris start blooming early this month.
- Queen bees emerge from over-wintering underground and search for this year’s new nest sites.
- Watch for hawks carrying sticks to refurbish an old nesting site.
- Tree and Violet-green Swallows return this month.
- Look for hummingbirds visiting the cream-colored flowers of the California Bay Laurel Tree.
- Chickadees and Titmice begin courtship and nesting.
- Sandhill Cranes are migrating north.
- Peak of American Goldfinch population

For more educational information, check out www.wbu.com/city.

For fun activities for kids, visit our Pathways To Nature for Kids site: www.pathwaysforkids.com.



Dee Dee



Visit Our Website at
www.wbupleasanthill.com
NEW INTERNET STORE
Store Coupons Bird Puzzles
Educational Material and More

BIRDFOOD SALE

All Birdseed, Seed Blends and Suet
NOW ON SALE through 2/28/2010

White Deluxe Blend - Very little mess or growth. Loved by most birds, especially titmice, chickadees, and doves. **20 lb. \$32.92***

No Mess Blend - No shells. No mess. 100% edible seed all birds love to eat. Also includes peanut pieces for extra protein source for woodpeckers and chickadees. **20 lb. \$32.92***

Sunflower Chips - All seed eaters love them. No seed hulls or growth. **20 lb. \$37.37***

All other birdseed, suet & peanuts are also on sale.

***Daily Savings Club Members
Receive Extra 5% Discount**





Suet Sale 15% OFF*
**All Suet Cakes, Blocks, Cylinders
and Other Suet Products***

*** Daily Savings Club Members
Receive Extra 5% Discount**

*Offer expires 2/28/10. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.



**Save 15%
on Birdfood
Every Day!**

Join the Club; Save on Bird Food Everyday
With our Daily Savings Club® (DSC), you get the best bird food for the best prices every day. Club members receive:

- 15% OFF regular, every day bird and wildlife food prices
- \$10 Bird Buck for every \$200 you spend in the store
- 5% OFF the sale prices of bird and wildlife food

Annual DSC Membership \$25.00

Save More on Bird Food With DSC

15% OFF COUPON ONE NON-FOOD ITEM*

*Coupon expires 2/21/10. Excludes all food products, sale items, optics, gifts cards, Daily Savings Club Membership, and selected items. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.

Bird Food & Feeders ON SALE thru 2/21

Peanut Feeders 20% OFF*

Peanuts are the single best source of protein and fat for birds and are particularly helpful during winter months when the extra calories help keep them warm. Peanuts are a great addition to the choices you offer and are enjoyed by birds such as woodpeckers, titmice, nuthatches, chickadees and more. We offer a wide selection of peanut feeders that are easy to fill and hang.



Save 15% on Bark Butter and Feeders*

Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® has attracted more than 75 bird species, including thrushes, kinglets, wrens and more. Bark Butter is a high-fat, peanut butter-based, spreadable suet that is especially attractive in winter when birds have a hard time finding the insects they normally eat. Our exclusive line of Bark Butter Feeders allow you to add this delicious treat to your existing bird feeding station.



Bird Food Cylinders and Feeders 15% OFF*

Our bird food cylinders, including our Seed Cylinders, Suet Cylinders and our Stackables (smaller cylinders that you can mix and match), are long-lasting and easy-to-use. Also, birds tend to stay at these feeders longer, providing a better view. All Cylinders and Stackables can be offered in our Decorative Seed Cylinder Feeder. The Dinner Bell feeder is also useful for cylinder feeding. Both feeders have a roof to help protect your food from inclement weather.



*Sale ends Feb. 21. Offers cannot be combined with other offers or discounts



**Nesting season
starts in February.
Are you ready?**



Visit Wild Birds Unlimited today.

692 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill CA 94523
(925) 798-0303
wbuphca@sbcglobal.net

Store Hours
Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm
Sat: 9:30am-5pm
Sun: 11am-5pm

Continue your nature shopping online.
Visit our online store:
www.wbupleasanthill.com

BIRD FOOD & FEEDER SALE

Select Bird Food & Feeders
ON SALE, Now thru 2/28/10

We have the widest variety of bird food and quality feeders.
Visit us soon for the Best Prices
on the Best Bird Food and Feeders in Town.

FREE Seed Sample!*

*See Nature Happenings inside for details.



692 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill CA 94523

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Discover a Refuge In Your Own Backyard.™

BIRD FOOD & FEEDER SALE



Show Your Birds Some Love

So what does a month filled with Cupid, hearts, candy and roses have to do with your birds? Everything.

Our Bird Food and Feeder Sale takes place February 9 - 28, and the 13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) occurs February 12 - 15.

Wild Birds Unlimited is a proud, major sponsor of this joint project between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. The GBBC links people like you with scientists to collect important data about birds.

Participating in the GBBC is simple. Just count the birds in your yard, and report that information online at:

www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

The site gives instant feedback through graphics, animated maps and other regularly-updated information. This extensive information helps scientists better understand trends in bird populations, range expansions, habitat changes and migration patterns.

Ultimately, that helps with bird conservation efforts and the birds visiting your backyard.

This is a fun, educational opportunity for you and your family.

Not only do you get to feed and enjoy your birds as you normally do, but you also get to be a part of a scientific study that makes your birds and your backyard count.

So show your birds some love this month. Visit us during our Bird Food and Feeder Sale, and be sure to participate in the GBBC. Bring in a copy of your online submission to the GBBC, and receive 2 lbs. of FREE seed.

Mike and Cecil Williams and Staff



Bark Butter Is Our Favorite!