

# WHIDBEY WILD BIRD



## April/May 2010 Newsletter from Whidbey Wild Bird

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### Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

Whidbey Island Wildlife Habitat  
Project  
Whidbey Audubon Society  
Whidbey Wild Bird For Sale

We are running a bit late with the newsletter this time, as we took a week off to go to Oklahoma and visit Phillip's folks. It



was good to see how well they were doing at 88 and 84. Still at home and enjoying their birds and garden.

We got to watch a Road Runner run up and down their street. Dad was sure that it would come to him when he called. What an interesting bird. Also saw Cardinals, Blue Jays, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

It is good to be home and back at the store. We are busy after just receiving a delivery of some very fun garden items, and lots of new wind spinners and kites. Come take a look.

On a personal note, we would like to share some news, and make sure that rumors you may hear are correct. It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Whidbey Wild Bird is up for sale. We had not anticipated selling quite this soon but health issues have arisen and we feel the need to attend to those. It is so very hard to think about not seeing you all every day and sharing our joy of birding.

We still maintain our lease until 2012, and the store will definitely be here until then, so we will continue to serve you for the next couple of years. We will not be closing the store unless a buyer simply cannot be found. In the meantime, we are hoping to find that right person to take over and care for you and this fun business that we have worked so hard to build. If you or anyone you know is interested, please come and talk with us. This is a good little business for someone who loves nature and sharing it with others.

Basic sales information is listed on our website at [Whidbey Wild Bird](#).



#### **APRIL NEWS**

Well, the Spring Migration is in full force. Our Rufous Hummingbirds are zipping all around and already nesting. We were banding at one of our customer's homes last week, and they had 8 pregnant females already.

And now the Goldfinches have arrived along with the Pine Siskins. Time to get those finch feeders out and put out Nyjer and Fine Sunflower Chips.

For some fun, here is a web cam site for Molly the Barn Owl and her chicks. Thanks to my sister for sending this to us. It is in color during the day and in black and white at night. [Barn Owl Cam](#)



#### **PRODUCT NEWS -**

As I mentioned at the top, we have just received a shipment of fun garden items. New shepards hooks, decorated trellises, and new gnomes. Also some very fun small and large wall art of dragonflies, butterflies, frogs, and turtles. We will soon be getting a small shipment of tall Vietnamese pots. All of these items are limited in quantity, so first-come, first-served.

We also have new wind spinners and kites. The small baby birds and bug spinners are great.

We still have a few californica Mason Bees for pollinating those vegetables and flowers. These mason bees will take over when the early fruit pollinators are done in June.

SALE ... We will be having a sale during Holland Happening, April 24th & 25th, so come on down and see what you can't resist.

## SEED, SEED, SEED

Now is the time for Nyjer and Finch Mix.

Don't forget that Nyjer has a shell on it ... that is not thrown out seed you see on the ground, but the seed hulls. Make sure you keep this cleaned up, as it can produce a mold if left to get damp and pile up. You can also put a tray, or seed catcher under your feeder for easy clean up.



If you don't want to mess with Nyjer, we suggest you use Fine Sunflower Chips in your finch feeder. The Goldfinches seem to like this just as well and there are no shells to look out for.



## EVENTS

[HOLLAND HAPPENING](#) is upon us Saturday and Sunday April 24th and 25th. This is always a fun event from the parade at 11 am on Saturday, to the Wooden Shoe races on Sunday. Lots of vendors to browse, and a Sale at Whidbey Wild Bird.

Then mark your calendars for Saturday, May 8th for the [LIVING GREEN SUSTAINABILITY FAIR](#) at Skagit College. Some great "green" ideas to learn and incorporate.

Thursday, May 13, 2010 Audubon Meeting: **Urban Raptors: Rewilding our Neighborhoods and Lives** Many of us are familiar with the story of Pale Male, a Red-tailed Hawk which chose one of the most urbanized landscapes in the world- New York City- to call home. But is his story unique? Stan Rullman from the University of Washington school of Wildlife Science and Urban Ecology is interested in raptors living in and near cities and has just completed a six-year research project studying both diurnal and nocturnal raptors along Seattle's urban-to-wildland gradient. Along the way, he focuses on how one species in particular, the Cooper's Hawk, interacts with both other

predators and potential prey in one of the wildest places in the world- our own backyards. Coupeville Rec Hall (Map). Doors open at 7 pm, meeting at 7:20, program at 7:30. Please bring a mug for coffee.

Thursday, June 10, 2010 Audubon Meeting: **Bird In the Hand Learning Bird Identification from Expired Birds** with Matt Klope, a biologist with the US Navy, and Robin Llewellyn of Whidbey Audubon Society. Coupeville Rec Hall (Map). Doors open at 7 pm, meeting at 7:20, program at 7:30. Please bring a mug for coffee.



## **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW**

**The Golden-crowned Sparrow**, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*, is a medium-sized sparrow. It is slightly larger than the closely related White-crowned Sparrow. Adults are 18 cm (7 in) long. In the breeding season, it has a distinct gold patch on its head, flanked by two dark black stripes. When not breeding, its plumage is more variable, ranging from a small, dull gold patch and no black, to near-breeding season plumage.

The breeding habitat is across the north part of western Canada and the U.S. state of Alaska. In the winter the Golden-crowned Sparrow migrates to Vancouver Island in Canada and the West Coast of the United States.

The song is a three-note whistle, descending in pitch. It is very distinctive, and often described as "oh-dear-me". However, birds in the mountains of British Columbia have been reported to have trill on the third note, rather than a clear whistle as in other populations. These songs are heard mainly in the breeding season, but also in the wintering grounds just after fall migration as well as just before they take off for spring migration.

Alaskan gold miners along the trails called this bird Weary Willie, because of its call which sounded like I'm so weary, (or 'oh-dear-me' ).



*Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.*

~Lao Tzu

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP: Thanks to those of you who continue to bring in your old useable feeders. We have placed feeders at several locations. We have some feeders ready for nursing homes, hospitals or schools, so let us know of other places that may be interested. For every feeder you bring in you can save 20% on the purchase of a replacement feeder. Please help support this great cause!! Helping educate is one of our main goals, so please use the bird store for a source of information if you have any questions. And if you have special tips of your own, pass them on. Again, thank you for your support over the past 6 years. We hope to continue to help bring enjoyment to your favorite hobby.

Good Birding - Phil & Lydia



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