

Connections

Edition #5 - February 2021

Bird Watching

February can be a cold, and snowy month, especially in Wisconsin. Did you also know it is a month to look and observe certain creatures with wings? You guessed it! February is National Bird Watching Month! Birds are beautiful creatures that people have watched and admired for a long time. This month, three students wrote about three birds that can be found locally. Be sure to keep an eye out for them this year!

Did you know...

- "According to a survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 51 million Americans report that they watch birds."
- "A house wren can feed 500 spiders and caterpillars to its nestlings during a single summer afternoon."
- "Hummingbirds beat their wings as fast as 50 times per second."

Sources: Websites Birdwatching.com and birdwatchersdigest.com



Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are small birds that can be found from Alaska to the Andes in South America. These birds are tiny, with some of the smallest weighing only 1.95 grams and being only 2 inches in length, but they are also quick with some hummingbirds reaching 50 miles per hour. Hummingbirds often use flowers as a food source, but they can sometimes eat some small insects that happen to fly around them. They use their small, thin beak to reach into flowers to drink the nectar from them. They also use their much longer tongues to flick the nectar into their mouths. This flicking movement can be done up to 18 times per second. Unlike some birds, hummingbirds are surprisingly anti-social. They often leave each other alone when in the vicinity of other hummingbirds. Also, females take care of the chicks alone. Hummingbirds are also pollinators, especially because their major food source is flowers. This is done when their beaks are placed in flowers, pollen from other flowers are carried in, and the flower is pollinated. Hummingbirds come in many spectacular colors like red, purple, blue, and green. Make sure to watch for them this spring!

Written by 7th grader Angelo Enderes

Cardinals

The cardinal is one of the most fascinating birds to look at. A fun fact about them is that they are always the first bird to visit the feeders in the morning and last in the evening. They are a very common bird to see in Wisconsin.



Cardinals aren't ones to be picky eaters. They can eat seeds, insects or a selection of fruits. Natural fruits are very attractive to the bird. They like blueberry bushes, mulberry bushes, and other dark colored berries. Their favorite type of seed is sunflower seeds, so if you have those in your bird feeders, they will like you.

You can see cardinals all over the United States, and even in Canada. They live in the woodlands, gardens, shrublands, and wetlands. The nice thing about the bird is they don't necessarily migrate. So you can see the bright red bird all year round.

Have you ever seen a pregnant cardinal? I for sure have never seen one. They do reproduce and they produce four eggs at a time. The female will build her nest and sit in it for eleven to thirteen days. Fun Fact: Sometimes you will see a yellow cardinal. This happens because there is a lack in the red pigment and a bright yellow or orange is produced. They are very pretty birds, yellow, red, and orange.

Written by McDonell Junior Sydney Flanagan

Chickadees

Chickadees live mainly in forests but you can still find them in areas if you have a nest box or feeders then you can attract them mainly in suburban backyards. Chickadees like to eat seeds, berries, insects and invertebrates. They also eat suet and peanut butter that is offered at a feeder but there are some nuts that will kill the chickadees which are peanuts, hazelnuts and walnuts. Even though chickadees do store food they won't stick around at a feeder for very long. Chickadees can lay up to 1-13 eggs at a time.

If a nest is not the right structure then it will not be able to hold the eggs and the chickadees will have to find a new place to live. A normal chickadee has a black cap and bib; white cheeks; gray back, wings, and tail and a whitish underside with buffy sides. Its habit of investigating people and everything else in its home territory, and quickness to discover bird feeders, make it one of the first birds most people learn. Black-capped chickadees are non-migratory. They are found year-round from New England to the West Coast. In the West, their range extends as far south as New Mexico. In the east, they follow the Appalachian Mountains south to Georgia.

Written by 7th grader Kennedy Giza

LOCAL TRIVIA

In 1961:

- More school consolidation took place when Cleveland schools closed and merged into Cornell & Bloomer School Districts.
- St. Jude's Catholic Church in New Auburn was organized.

In 1962:

- Chippewa Woolen Co. ceased operation.
- Public buildings throughout the county were designated and marked as fallout shelters in the event of a nuclear war.



*Love birds drawn
by 7th grader Sarah Moen
(Love birds are originally from Africa.)*

Reflection:

"I have too many flaws to be perfect, but I have too many blessings to be ungrateful."

Author unknown

Wisecracks

- What do you call a bird that is afraid of heights? A chicken.
- How do you catch a unique bird? Unique up on it.
- What kind of bird works on a construction site? A crane.
- What do you give a sick bird? A tweetment.
- What did the ghost say to his valentine? You look so Bootiful.
- What do farmers give for Valentine's Day? Lots of hogs and kisses.
- What do you call two birds in love? Tweethearts.



Kids' Definition of Love:

Source: Website: Froppy

"When someone loves you, the way she says your name is different. You know that your name is safe in her mouth."

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs."

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK."

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday."

The Symbolism of the Dove in Our Faith



From the times of the early Church, the dove is shown bearing an olive branch in its beak. It refers to Noah and the ark, symbolizing the soul of the Catholic who always returns to the Church, the true ark of salvation, as the only place of safety and rest. Most often, however, the dove signifies the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity. As the Gospel tells us, when Our Lord was baptized, as He came forth from the water, "the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him" (Mt 3:16). In fact, all four Evangelists record the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove at the Baptism of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the usual method of representing the Trinity showed Our Lord hanging on the Cross, God the Father sitting crowned and throned behind Him, and the Dove over His Head. A dove of gold was hung up in the baptistery at Reims after the baptism of Clovis, for during that ceremony a dove from Heaven descended carrying in its beak the vial of Holy Oil, which was used thereafter to anoint all the Kings of France until it was destroyed in 1793 by the French revolutionaries. After this miraculous event, a dove frequently appeared suspended over or carved into baptismal fonts in churches and cathedrals. The dove also represented the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Thus, St. Gregory the Great is often represented with a dove on his shoulder, whispering words of divine guidance. So closely is the dove associated with the Holy Spirit that seven doves are used to symbolize Its Seven Gifts, and twelve doves the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. The symbol of Confirmation is a dove surrounded by seven flames. The dove is very entwined and symbolic in our faith.

Written by Kallee LeCloux, McDonell Junior

More of Kids' Definition of Love:

"Love is if you hold hands and sit beside each other in the cafeteria. That means you're in love. Otherwise, you can sit across from each other and be okay."

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

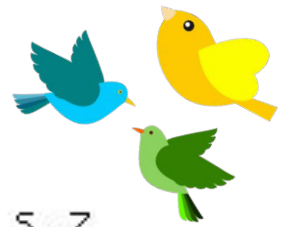
Submitted by Delaney Smiskey, 7th grader





FUN AND GAMES

Bird Word Search



bluebird
cardinal
crane
cuckoo
dove
finch
robin
stork
swallow
toucan

blackbird
hawk
heron
hornbill
hummingbird
kingfisher
owl
parrot
woodpecker
wren
yellowthroat

Answers to January's crossword puzzle:

Across

2. dancing
5. board games
8. photography
10. Writing
12. singing
13. yoga
14. knitting

Down

1. painting
3. cooking
4. exercise
6. hunting
7. walking
8. pottery
9. fishing
11. Reading