

## Early Winter Bird Seed, Book & Feeder Sale

December 7, 2019 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Senior Resource Center, 745 Vermont

At the 10/26 seed sale the big question was “where are the birds?” Seems many yards are deserted. Thankfully, with chillier weather our feeders will morph into avian magnets. Soon mixed winter flocks of nut-hatches, titmice, chickadees, and downy woodpeckers will alight, fleetingly adorn our trees, have a go at emptying the feeders, and move on, circling back later to repeat the show.



Don't let this picture happen to you! Stock up on fresh bird seed, replace old feeders, and pick up a few books for entertainment between flocks at the 12/7 JAS sale. **All make excellent screen-free gifts as well.** Be certain to check out our handsome new copper feeder. It has its own small tray that juncos seem to enjoy and attracts a variety of birds. Chickadees, titmice and other species visit repeatedly but the squirrels seem hesitant to even get on it!

Please consider volunteering to help unload the delivery truck and carry seed for customers. We'd be grateful for any amount of time. Thank you for supporting JAS by shopping and volunteering!

**Pre-Orders must be received by December 3rd.**  
**Instructions are on the order form: pages 5 & 6.**

## Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Electronic Birding Apps

Roger Boyd and Len Scotto

Everyone's glued to their phones nowadays, right? Even in the field! But you're supposed to be out there enjoying nature, not avoiding it with music, emails, texts, etc. Our presentation will introduce and demonstrate several of the many birding apps out there. Len Scotto just started birding last spring. He will discuss “Merlin” & “Song Sleuth”, their strengths, weaknesses, and how they help identify birds out in the field.

Roger Boyd is the “old dog” of the two, birding since he was seven. His first checklist was in 1954. Like many “old dogs” Roger has come late to the cell phone scene. He will focus on eBird & the Sibley Field Guide to Birds which is, like the Audubon app, essentially an electronic field guide. Roger will demonstrate Sibley's strengths. Cornell's eBird site has taken the birding world by storm. You can use it to keep your own lists, to help you know what others are seeing, to plan a trip, short or far—so many options with this exciting app. It enables you to contribute to citizen science at its best.

Len taught high school biology for 25 years, then was an administrator at Eudora Virtual School for 5 years, and currently teaches for Kaw Valley Virtual. An avid fly fisherman, birder, and wildlife photographer, Len loves being outdoors, especially at the Wetlands. He also volunteers at the Discovery Center.

Roger taught biology at Baker University for 42 years before retiring last year. He and son Jon worked with KDOT, the county, and the city to develop and implement the mitigation for the impact of the South Lawrence Trafficway on Baker Wetlands. They designed and built the Discovery Center where we are meeting. Please join us Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> for an informative program about the best use of your phone out on the trails. Perhaps you'll have a favorite app to share as well.

### **BYO Dinner with Roger Boyd & Len Scotto:**

5:00 pm. Paisanos. 2112 W. 25th St. off Iowa. RSVP to Joyce Wolf: [jarbwolf39@gmail.com](mailto:jarbwolf39@gmail.com) or 785-887-6019

**Program:** 7:00 pm. **Baker Wetlands Discovery Center.** 1365 N. 1250 Road, Lawrence

**Directions:** <https://www.bakeru.edu/wetlands/>

► **Eagles Day 2020 is January 18th** ◀  
and we're getting our ducks in rows and  
our eagles lined up to put on a show!  
(we'll leave that image up to your imagination.)

Construction is done at Free State High School so we'll be back in the convenient, well-lit Commons area there. Thank you to our Eagles Day partner, USD 497, for providing this space for our gift to the community event. Put Saturday, Jan. 18th on your calendar right now. Jan. 19th is our bad weather fallback date.

**Members—please chime in to help  
us keep Eagles Day fresh:**

1. The Eagles Day Committee wants new ideas and new voices to be part of planning and publicity. Next meeting info below.

Too busy or not a committee type? See # 2.

2. **We need suggestions for new exhibitors.**

The revamped Commons area has more tables available and new exhibitors will change things up and mean more fun for kids and all who come. Do you know of a group that would fit in at Eagles Day? Contact Bunnie Watkins with your ideas: [ranger\\_rabbit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ranger_rabbit@sbcglobal.net) or 785-393-0984.

**Next Eagles Day 2020 Planning Meeting:**

**Friday, November 22nd at 6:30 pm**

**Bunnie and Mike Watkins' home**

**1003 E 1200 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66047**

**Please come. We'd love to have you!**

**2019 ~ 2020 Clip and Save Schedule  
JAS Bird Seed, Book & Feeder Sales**

Senior Resource Center  
745 Vermont St. Lawrence

Saturday, 12/07/2019 10am ~ 1pm

Saturday, 02/01/2020 10am ~ 1pm

Order forms on our website and in the newsletter.

Questions: Text Linda Lips:  
(785) 766-3567



**When you're not climate marching**

Sat. 11/16: Bird Marion County Lake. Topeka Audubon  
Q & A: Debby McKee at 785-220-6515.  
<http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar>

Sat. 11/30: Bird Loess Bluffs NWR. Burroughs Aud.  
Meet 8:30 am at the Refuge Welcome Center.  
Bring lunch, bins, etc. Leader: Mike Stoakes:  
[mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com) or 816-554-1956 .  
<https://burroughs.org/its-free/field-trips-programs/>

Sat. 12/7: JAS Seed Sale. See Page 1.

Sat. 12/7: Bird Lyon, Coffey, Osage Counties.  
Burroughs Aud. Leader Matt Gearheart:  
[gearheart.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gearheart.matt@gmail.com) or 913-568-4678.

Weds.12/18: Nature Book Club. 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Lawrence Public Library. Shirley Braunlich.  
[sbraunlich@lplks.org](mailto:sbraunlich@lplks.org) 785-843-3833

**JAS Officers & Board Members**

President: James Bresnahan.

785-766-9625 [jbresnahan@ku.edu](mailto:jbresnahan@ku.edu)

Vice President: Vanessa Carlos

Recording Secretary: Susan MacNally

Corresponding Secretary: Pam Chaffee

Treasurer: Jennifer Delisle

Board Member: Roger Boyd

Board Member: Lynn Byczynski

Board Member: Jennifer Dropkin

Board Member: Phyllis Fantini

Board Member: Dena Friesen

Board Member: McKay Stangler

Membership Chair: Wayne Kennedy

Newsletter: Susan Iversen: 785-843-1142

[siversen@sunflower.com](mailto:siversen@sunflower.com)

Conservation: Lynn Byczynski

Programs: Joyce Wolf

Education: Sandy Sanders

Field Trips: Lori Hutfles

Publicity: Pam Chaffee

Facebook Page: Jennifer Dropkin,

Administrator: [jendropkin@hotmail.com](mailto:jendropkin@hotmail.com)

Webmaster: Lynn Byczynski

Bird Seed Sales: Linda Lips

Birdathon: McKay Stangler

Christmas Count: Galen Pittman

Eagles Day: Bunnie Watkins

Hospitality: Phyllis Fantini

Historian: Ron Wolf

Books & Feeders: Ron & Joyce Wolf

Audubon of Kansas

Chapter Representative: McKay Stangler

## All About the 2019 Lawrence Christmas Bird Count

**WHEN?** This year's Lawrence CBC is Saturday, December 14th. Plan now to be part of the 76th Audubon Christmas Bird Count held in Lawrence and the 120th National Audubon CBC. Visit [http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/kos\\_projects.html](http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/kos_projects.html) for a list of all Kansas counts. Click on *Kansas CBCs*. 2019 information will be up soon.

**WHAT?** On count day birder parties fan out to their pre-assigned area of the 15-mile diameter count circle and tally *every bird they see or hear all day*. Last year's Lawrence species total of 95 was a great effort. However, we have achieved 100 species seven times in the last nine years and with your help this year perhaps we can do it again!! A day in the field on the Lawrence CBC is a highly anticipated holiday season tradition for many local birders.

**WHERE:** The Lawrence count circle covers most of Clinton Lake, all of the city of Lawrence including Baker Wetlands, the Fitch Natural History Reservation, the towns of Perry and Lecompton, and the Kansas River valley from just west of Lecompton to just east of Lawrence. Each party has its own section.

**WHY?** "Prior to the turn of the 20th century, the Christmas "Side Hunt." was a tradition. Hunters would choose sides and go afield with their guns—whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages, and many observers were concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the nascent Audubon Society proposed a new holiday tradition—a "Christmas Bird Census" to count birds rather than hunt them. 27 birders held 25 Christmas Bird Counts that day from Toronto, Canada to Pacific Grove, California, tallying 90 some species. *The 118th count had almost 77,000 birders on 2,585 counts finding 2,673 species in Canada, the U.S., Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands!* The CBC is now a premier citizen science event collecting data that Audubon and others use to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action." *From NAS.*

**WHO:** All birders, from experts to total beginners, are welcome and are assigned to a party before count day. Going on the CBC with experienced birders is a good bet for new birders—you'll see and learn a lot. **In addition to "in the field participants", feeder watchers are needed.** If you have a bird feeder within the count circle and can watch it for part of the day on December 14th, then you can count and have your birds included in the grand total.

**HOW:** Contact compiler Galen Pittman BEFORE the count so you can be accommodated in a party. Feeder watchers should also contact the compiler before count day. Text Galen at (785)760-3572 or e-mail him: [galenpitt@gmail.com](mailto:galenpitt@gmail.com).

At the end of the day all participants are invited to a chili supper and tally of the day's results. (Jayhawk Audubon is covering the cost of the venue so contributions to help offset that cost would be appreciated.) We'll meet at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center, 1365 N, 1250 Road: <http://www.bakeru.edu/wetlands>. ~ **Galen L. Pittman, Lawrence CBC Compiler**



Golden-crowned Kinglet

### Quick Reference Guide to the CBC

#### **WHEN?**

Saturday, Dec. 14th

#### **WHERE:**

←←← What he said.

#### **WHAT?**

Parties of birders count *every bird they see or hear* in their assigned part of the count circle.

#### **WHY?**

To have a day of birding fun in the field and be a citizen scientist helping conserve birds.

#### **WHO:**

Any birders, old or new, who can go into the field or watch their feeder at least part of the day on the 14th.

#### **HOW:**

To join in the CBC, text Galen at (785)760-3572 or e-mail him:

[galenpitt@gmail.com](mailto:galenpitt@gmail.com).

He'll answer questions & add you to a party. Contact him sooner, not later!



Brown Creeper

### CBCs ~ You Can't Do Just One!

Over 45 CBCs are run in Kansas, so you could travel the state for three weeks counting birds. Or you could stay right here and easily do several after the Lawrence CBC has whet your appetite.

The Beautiful Perry Lake CBC is usually the Sunday after the Lawrence CBC. Bunnie Watkins is the Oskaloosa/Perry Lake compiler. For details contact her at 785-393-0984 or [ranger\\_rabbit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ranger_rabbit@sbcglobal.net).

The Baldwin CBC is often that same Sunday, but sometimes the Monday after. For questions and sign up, get in touch with Roger Boyd: [roger.boyd@bakeru.edu](mailto:roger.boyd@bakeru.edu) or 785.424.0595.

Happy holiday birding!



Belted Kingfishers. Male on the left. Female on right.



## **The JAS Board Has Officially Endorsed HR 763, the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act.**

**Help Birds (& Ourselves):  
Tell Congress to pass HR 763.**

The recent report documenting a disastrous drop in bird numbers affecting almost all species over the last 30 years cites multiple causes including global warming. September's JAS speaker, Tony Schmidt from Citizens' Climate Lobby, made a strong case for **HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA)** currently before Congress. The EICDA will reduce US carbon emissions by 40% over 12 years by placing a fee on carbon at its source, then distributing that money to all Americans as a monthly dividend. The fees will encourage green energy innovation and discourage use of fossil fuels, while the dividend will help Americans manage energy bills. See <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act/> for more information & talking points, then—**and this is the important part— call/write our representatives and senators:**

Representative Steve Watkins  
3550 SW 5th St. Topeka, KS 66606  
Phone: 785-234-5966 DC phone: 202-225-6601

Senator Jerry Moran  
P.O. Box 1154, Olathe KS 66051  
Phone: 913-393-0711 DC phone: 202-224-6521

Senator Pat Roberts  
11900 College Blvd. Suite 203, Overland Park 66210  
Phone: 913-451-9343 DC phone: 202-224-3514

## **Water Rights for Quivira NWR**

Even though the Refuge has senior rights to flow from Rattlesnake Creek most years it does not receive its allotted water because of pumping upstream. Years of efforts to mitigate this have not succeeded. Senator Moran has now intervened with the USFWS, which manages Quivira, asking them not to pursue administrative actions to secure the water Quivira needs to function as a true refuge for wildlife. Audubon of Kansas is trying to remedy this and restore the refuge's water: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rbsq7e>. With technology and planning irrigators can use less water and keep income up. See the LJW article of 10/19/19 <https://tinyurl.com/yyqlqqrn>. Call Senator Moran and tell him that refuge water rights should be honored without delay. The birds thank you!

## **Survival by Degrees: The Audubon Climate Report**

In October, National Audubon released a report on the projected impacts of climate change on birds in North America. Packed with data, yet easy to navigate, it details likely effects on particular species and places: <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>. Interactive maps show species range changes with temperature rises of 1.5, 2.0 or 3.0°C. To pick just two favorite species, American Goldfinches & Brown Thrashers, projections are that with just a 1.5°C rise they will vanish from Kansas. A 3.0°C rise will push them to Canada with only a few areas of the very northern U.S. and the Appalachians still hospitable: <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees/state/us/ks>. The maps for all species make clear that territory in Canada is going to be precious. At least 389(!) species in North America will be at risk of extinction as temperatures rise.

Yet because this is Audubon the report is not all bleak but states "By stabilizing carbon emissions and holding warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, 76 percent of vulnerable species will be better off, and nearly 150 species would no longer be vulnerable to extinction from climate change." The goal is to mobilize the bird-loving public starting with chapter members like us.



American  
Goldfinches  
Bob Hines.  
USFWS

There is a Climate Action Guide with many specific ideas for local & national political activism, energy saving home improvements, renewable energy, greener life style tips, and creating a climate friendly yard (Hint: start by getting rid of as much grass as you can): <https://www.audubon.org/climate-action-guide>.

## **Our Planet Home Is On Fire Time to Start Yelling**

Call legislators now and ask for meaningful action on all climate fronts, especially the doable HR 763 (see article to left). Locally, join the Sunrise Movement or Citizens' Climate Lobby to amplify your voice.

## **Sunrise Movement Events**

- Tues, 11/19: Poster making. 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Creates Makerspace. 512 East 9th St.
- Sun, 12/1: Posters making. 1-5 p.m. Same location.
- Fri, 12/6: National Climate Strike at noon at City Hall and Wescoe Beach.
- Fri, 12/6: Indoor rally. Time/location TBD. Check: <https://www.facebook.com/sunrisemvmtlawrence/>

# Jayhawk Audubon Early Winter Bird Seed, Book & Feeder Sale

**Saturday, December 7, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Senior Resource Center, 745 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS**

This is our second bird seed sale of the bird-feeding season. Stock up on Audubon bird seed and browse through our curated selection of books, bird feeders, and birding field guides—***HINT: holiday gifts.***

All proceeds of our bird seed, feeder and book sales, and our other fund-raising activities, support the educational and conservation projects of JAS.

## Pre-Orders must be received by December 3, 2019

Make check payable to: *Jayhawk Audubon Society*. **Return Pre-Order Form by December 3, 2019**

to Linda Lips, P. O. Box 1285, Lawrence, KS 66044-8285.

Call or Text Linda Lips at (785) 766-3567

**Pick up your seed on Saturday, December 7, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Resource Center located at 745 Vermont Street. We can take check, cash or credit cards at the sale.**

## Wondering who eats what?? Here's a guide to birdy preferences:

**Black Oil Sunflower Seeds** are the favorite of wild birds. Over 40 different bird species are known to eat black oil sunflower seeds. The oil content (over 40%) makes this seed especially good food for birds. They should be the primary component of any bird feeding project, comprising at least 75% of the seeds you offer the birds.

**Premium Blend** is our mixture of 45% black oil sunflower, 45% safflower, and 10% sunflower chips, popular with a large number of bird species. **Economy Blend** is less expensive but still attracts many species. It is our mixture of 20% black oil sunflower seed, 40% cracked corn, and 40% white millet.

**Niger Thistle** and **Sunflower Seed Chips** are both attractive to finches and pine siskins. Both are excellent for finch feeders.

**Finch Mix** is an option for finch feeders consisting of 50% Niger thistle and 50% sunflower seed chips.

**Safflower** has become a popular bird food because it is excellent for cardinals, rose-breasted grosbeaks, mourning doves, chickadees, nuthatches, house finches and white-throated sparrows. House sparrows and starlings don't seem to like it though! Even squirrels usually turn down safflower.

**White and Red Millet** attract wild birds like bobwhites, cardinals, doves, purple finches, juncos, towhees, and native sparrows (i.e. chipping, fox, song, tree, white-throated), turkeys, grackles, blue jays and pheasants. Millet can be scattered on the ground or offered in tray feeders near the ground.

**Suet** is chopped or ground animal fat (generally beef) that may be mixed with birdseed and/or peanut butter. Woodpeckers, chickadees, brown creepers, and nuthatches particularly enjoy suet. Suet is generally only offered during winter because it will melt and quickly turn rancid in temperatures above 70°F.

**Peanuts** are popular with many of the birds that eat black oil sunflower seeds. Special feeders may be required.

**Cracked Corn** is eaten by many birds, including some "undesirables" such as house sparrows, brown-headed cowbirds, and starlings. It can be mixed with white millet and scattered on the ground during fall and spring for feeding migrant sparrows, juncos and other ground-feeding birds.



By Catherine  
Clark.

Birdwatchers General Store

[http://](http://birdwatchersgeneralstore.com/)

[birdwatchersgeneralstore.com/](http://birdwatchersgeneralstore.com/)

# Jayhawk Audubon Society      Pre-order Form

## Early Winter Bird Seed, Book & Feeder Sale

The JAS Early Winter Bird Seed Sale is Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
at the Senior Resource Center, 745 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas

SEED TYPE	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	
<b>Black Oil Sunflower</b>	10 lbs	\$ 8.00			
	25 lbs	\$16.00			
	50 lbs	\$28.00			
<b>Premium Blend</b>	10 lbs	\$11.00			
(45% black oil and 45% safflower	25 lbs	\$22.00			
& 10% sunflower chips)	50 lbs	\$36.00			
<b>Economy Blend</b>	10 lbs	\$ 6.00			
(20% black oil sunflower seed,	25 lbs	\$12.00			
40% cracked corn & 40% millet)	50 lbs	\$19.00			
<b>Sunflower Chips</b>	10 lbs	\$18.00			
	25 lbs	\$37.00			
<b>Niger Thistle</b>	10 lbs	\$21.00			
	25 lbs	\$46.00			
<b>Finch Mix</b> (50% sunflower chips	10 lbs	\$20.00			
& 50% Niger thistle)	25 lbs	\$39.00			
<b>Safflower</b>	10 lbs	\$ 11.00			
	25 lbs	\$23.00			
<b>White Millet</b>	10 lbs	\$ 5.00			<u><b>Name:</b></u>
	25 lbs	\$10.00			
	50 lbs	\$18.00			<u><b>Address:</b></u>
<b>Red Millet</b>	10 lbs	\$ 8.00			
	25 lbs	\$16.00			
	50 lbs	\$28.00			
<b>Shelled Peanuts</b>	10 lbs	\$16.00			
	25 lbs	\$36.00			<u><b>Phone:</b></u>
<b>Ear Corn</b>	Dozen	\$ 6.50			
<b>Cracked Corn</b>	25 lbs	\$ 11.00			<u><b>Email:</b></u>
	50 lbs	\$20.00			
<b>Suet Cake</b>	11 oz	\$ 1.50			

Please consider a donation to *Jayhawk Audubon Society* \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (price includes sales tax)** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form by December 3, 2019 to Linda Lips, P. O. Box 1285, Lawrence, KS 66044-8285  
Delivery is available to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Please call in advance. (785)766-3567

## Brighten the Season with Project FeederWatch

Project FeederWatch is for anyone with any sort of bird feeder. PFW starts this year on November 9 and ends in April. You can join any time, but your data will be more useful the sooner you start. There is a \$18 fee to participate (\$15 if you are already a member of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.) Sign up and get instructions for counting and reporting at <http://feederwatch.org/>.

PFW stresses that *all* data collected from feeder watchers is important to give a true picture of bird populations. So don't decide it's not worth reporting a count if you just have a few common species coming to your feeders or even if you have few or no birds coming for awhile. Those numbers are important to prevent skewing of the data toward unusual sightings or impressive large flocks.

Worried that you won't know the names of all the birds at your feeder? Don't be! You'll get a Research Kit with complete instructions, bird ID poster and more. The PFW website also has an enormous cache of resources for kids and adults to help you figure out any unknown bird. There are maps, labelled photos from feeder watchers, FeederWatch cams and projects for kids. If you're watching as a family, why not make a feeder. Page 8 has 2 ideas or see below and just use one of your yard trees. Seeing birds eating out of "their" feeder will jump start most kid's interest.



## Create a Giant Birdfeeder that Doubles as a Shelter

Birds don't hibernate\* and they burn up a LOT of food keeping their little bodies warm in the cold weather. Help out by giving them food and shelter AND recycling your Christmas tree too!

► Recycle the Xmas tree by propping it up in the yard. Birds will shelter in its branches at night and during storms. If Christmas is not your holiday, ask a neighbor to let you have theirs.

...Whooo's hiding in this tree?

► Or pick a tree in your yard that you can see from a window—an evergreen is best--and hang suet, peanuts in the shell, popcorn, fruit chunks or cranberries threaded on a string. Or tie yarn around the top of a pinecone, spread peanut butter on the pinecone and then roll it in birdseed - small seeds are best for this. Hang it on your tree and watch the birds feasting.

\*Scientists have discovered that there is one bird that hibernates: the Common Poorwill of the western U.S.A. —the only bird known to do so. <http://hibernationstation.weebly.com/the-common-poorwill.html>





## **POPSICLE STICK FEEDER:**

### **Materials:**

- Popsicle or craft sticks
- White glue
- Twine
- Paint or markers if desired



### **What You'll Do:**

For very clear step-by-step photos:

<http://thecreativecubby.blogspot.com/2013/06/popsicle-stick-bird-feeder.html>

1. Build your base: Lay out 12 sticks. Glue a support stick crosswise at each end.
2. Glue two more sticks crosswise in the middle for extra support.
3. Turn the base over and glue sticks along opposite edges perpendicular to the base sticks
4. Put dots of glue on all four corners and add sticks overlapping in log cabin style.  
If you want a perch, you can cut a stick in half and glue the cut ends to the base with the rounded ends sticking out for the perch.
4. Continue gluing sticks at the corners in log cabin style, stacking them 4 or 5 high, gluing as you go.
5. String as shown on right running twine under the bottom of the feeder and up through a side slat.
6. Let everything dry before you hang it out and fill it with bird seed.
7. If you want, show off your art skills by decorating!

Photo from The Creative Cubby blog.

## **COOKIE CUTTER BIRD FEEDERS**



### **WHAT YOU'LL NEED FOR TWO:**

- 1 cup bird seed
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin
- Measuring cup
- Bowl
- Cookie cutters
- Wax paper
- Paper straws, string or yarn
- Scissors

### **WHAT YOU'LL DO:**

1. Mix the unflavored gelatin and 1/3 cup water in a microwave safe bowl.  
Microwave on high for 30 seconds until the gelatin is completely dissolved.
2. Ask a grown-up to remove the bowl from the microwave because it will be hot.
3. Once the gelatin has cooled enough to safely touch, pour in 1 cup of bird seed. Kids can mix the gelatin and the bird seed together with their hands.
4. Lay out a piece of wax paper and place your cookie cutters on top of it.
5. Press the bird seed mixture into the cookie cutters.
6. Cut your straws in half and place half a straw in the bird seed to make a hole.  
Leave the straw in place until the bird seed has hardened.
7. Let the bird seed harden overnight, then remove the cookie cutter and the straw.
8. Cut a piece of string and thread it through the hole, then hang the feeder outside.

From: <http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/991705/easy-bird-feeders-crafts-for-kids>



## *Homing: On Pigeons, Dwellings, and Why We Return*

By Jon Day

Reviewed by McKay Stangler

A few years ago a delightful little book was published by Jon Day, an academic in London, about the networks, social hierarchies, and physical structures of London bicycle couriers and their daily routes and routines. The book, *Cyclegeography*, is one I recommend to almost everyone, regardless of interest in cycling. The book, written just after Day finished his doctorate in literature, is a beautiful meditation on adulthood, meaningful work, and the camaraderie of the frequently invisible underclass.

A father now, Day returns with *Homing*, a book about everyone's favorite overpass-dweller, the rock dove. A book about *pigeons*, you ask with some skepticism? Those irritating urbanites who mar statues and annoy passersby? Well, sure—and why not?

They were first domesticated by the Sumerians. They can fly at 6,000 feet and reach speeds of 90 mph. They are known to fly up to 700 miles in a single day, and the longest journey ever recorded was 7,000 miles over 55 days. Oh, and that latter bird returned perfectly to its home. Small wonder that Day calls them “a rebuke to the known world, with its mapped and recorded limits... [pigeons are] emissaries, mapping the land they flew over on my behalf, beating its bounds with each flap of their wings.”

Seabirds and raptors tend to dominate the category of amazing avian feats, but this book makes a strong case for the bird we've been overlooking all this time. It turns out that London, like many other cities, is full of pigeon subcultures: pigeon-breeders and —keepers, lumped into the catchall category of “fanciers,” who spend time on roofs training these birds to race and to find home. Pigeons are “synanthropes,” meaning they thrive alongside humans, and here is one of many similarities: pigeons remember specific places as home, and do not rely upon seasonal or environmental changes to navigate.

We tend to look askance at synanthropes (coyotes, rats, crows, *et al.*) but Day makes a compelling case that we should not only respect pigeons, but that many of us would benefit from proximity to them. In particular, as a new father struggling with the

sudden burdens of perpetual commitment, Day explores what it means to truly *belong* to a place. In this sense he joins other environmental writers, from Wendell Berry to Annie Dillard, who have explored the power of place.

Our species may be nomadic, but we also develop strong attachments to particular places. This occasionally takes a grim turn; Day spends some time with Martin Heidegger, that brilliant German philosopher who also, in his attachment to this very concept, went down the dark road of National Socialism. Heidegger warned about “homelessness” becoming the central truth of the modern world—a tough position to argue with these days, but I sure prefer Day's solution to Heidegger's.

Indeed, Day wants to keep pigeons in part because it will make his house feel more like a home. The pigeons help him learn his place, as they trace networks of flight and navigation around the neighborhood. I'm often wary of the animal-as-metaphor trope, but in this case it works quite nicely. What better way to learn a place than to follow the example of a map-making machine?

And that's truly what pigeons are: cartographic marvels who learn by gradually extending their “ranging flights” around the neighborhood. At one point Day attaches GPS devices to them, but finds in the end that it diminishes the mystery and enchantment of how they do what they do. “Pigeon flying offers,” after all, “an antidote to the world's knowability.” With instant satellite images of virtually any place on earth we want, it's refreshing to simply be baffled by how the pigeon does what it does.

It is the pigeon that helps Day accept his new role as father, and the birds become “a means of connecting us with each other, tying the knots of our family together.” Pigeons, like all synanthropes and indeed like humans, can make a home virtually anywhere. *Homing* has unmistakable political overtones in our age of mass immigration and its attendant debates. Could it be that we humans could learn quite a few things from this most humble of avian neighbors?

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- ★ 12/7: JAS Seed, Feeder and Book Sale p 1. Order Form pp 5 & 6
- ★ 12/14: Lawrence Christmas Bird Count p 3
- ★ Eagles Day meeting; Field Trips, Seed Sale Calendar p 2
- ★ Audubon Climate Report; HR 763 p 4
- ★ Sunrise Movement Climate Strike; Quivira NWR water rights p 4
- ★ Kids' Page: Project Feeder Watch; Make a Feeder pp 7 & 8
- ★ *Homing*. Book Review by McKay Stangler p 9



Eastern Bluebirds on the Christmas Count? Absolutely. Maybe not the same birds we see in the summer, but there are bluebirds here all winter. See page 3 on how to join the CBC. By Jim Bresnahan. Perry Lake.

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