

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

The sharp-shinned hawk [Accipiter stiauis] is America's smallest hawk. Their diet consists mostly small birds up to the robin's size, although doves and quail are occasionally captured. Common in our forests, the "sharpie" hunts down prey by hiding in trees and surprising the birds and catching them in mid-flight or guiding them into trees or houses and simply picking up the stunned birds.

Nests are built mostly by the female, although the male does bring some nesting materials. High in a conifer tree's canopy, the inch-to-two-inch-wide nest contains three to eight whitish-brown or blue splotched eggs that hatch in 30-35 days.

The nestlings are provided food by the male for 16-23 days and then begin to attempt simple flight to other branches, and in 3-4 weeks are often fed on the wing with mid-air exchanges of food from the parents.

Unique to the sharp-shinned hawk is the removal of the head before presenting the food to their young in the nest. After the young hawks learn to fend for themselves they move on to create their own venary territories.

A large migration from Canada is observed with up to 11,000 sharpies seen in one autumn day at Cape May Point, New Jersey. A group of hawks is called a "knot," "boil," "spiraling," or a "tower."

For more sharp-shinned hawk images visit <http://abirdsingsbecauseithas.com/recent-journeys>.



Sharp-shinned hawk.

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

Singing Valentine...



PHOTO PROVIDED

On Valentine's Day, the Jazz Choir performed their annual Valentine Singing Grams at over 60 locations around Sisters.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Takes a nap
 - 6 Slightly open
 - 10 Jacuzzis
 - 14 Win by ___; eke out a victory
 - 15 Actor Wilder
 - 16 Movement of the waves
 - 17 Tango or twist
 - 18 Ruby & scarlet
 - 19 ___ against; criticize harshly
 - 20 More cunning
 - 22 ___ No. 5; classic perfume
 - 24 Forest tree
 - 25 Devastating
 - 26 Go higher
 - 29 Actress Sally
 - 30 Scrooge's word
 - 31 ___ up; quits
 - 33 Hose problems
 - 37 USC or BYU
 - 39 Went public with
 - 41 Sand mound
 - 42 Lukewarm
 - 44 Xenon & argon
 - 46 Barbie's beau
 - 47 Burnett or Channing
 - 49 Prejudiced
 - 51 Overindulgent parent, often
 - 54 Canisters
 - 55 Like pantry foods, often
 - 56 Sickness that comes from contaminated food
 - 60 Prefix for social or biotics
 - 61 Persuade
 - 63 Yuletide visitor
 - 64 Moss type
 - 65 Singer and actress Lane
 - 66 Word of welcome
 - 67 Catch sight of
 - 68 Baked desserts
 - 69 Ceases

- 2 ___ even keel
- 3 TV's "The Twilight ___"
- 4 Get away
- 5 Looking for
- 6 Concur
- 7 Yell derisively
- 8 Salt ___ pepper
- 9 Save from peril
- 10 Deserted
- 11 Liberace's instrument
- 12 French farewell
- 13 ___ out; betrays
- 21 Neighbor of Pakistan
- 23 Over-the-___; no longer young
- 25 Gets up
- 26 Border on
- 27 Of sound mind
- 28 Chocolate ___ cookies
- 29 Wild
- 32 Energy
- 34 Diving birds
- 35 Leg joint
- 36 "___ in the Clowns"
- 38 Neighborhood

- DOWN**
- 1 Fathers
 - 2 ___ even keel

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/22/17

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —

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2/16/17

- 40 Left-hand ledger entry
- 43 Valley
- 45 Nasal cavity passages
- 48 Baggage porter
- 50 On an incline
- 51 Ending for land or sea
- 52 Window pieces
- 53 Ready to be poured
- 54 Crates
- 56 Baseball's Ruth
- 57 Bump ___; meet
- 58 Ladder rung
- 59 "Red planet"
- 62 Wide sash

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