

Living on a Lake in the Country: Birds

By Gayle Rich-Boxman

One of the best benefits of living on a lake in the country is the chance to view many different bird species. Spring is a great time to get your camera out, jump in your canoe or kayak or even sit outside near your bird feeder and watch the wildlife enjoy the warmer temperatures and whatever goodies you can provide for them.

The early morning birdcalls are so inviting when you leave your window open and get greeted by their musings at sunrise. I recall taking a brisk walk one morning around Fishhawk Lake and counted nine different birdcalls in less than a mile!



so that some of the local smaller birds like Dark-eyed Juncos and Chickadees get the chance to partake as well.

Hummingbirds are plentiful and once they know that you will provide a sugary/water mix in red feeders (they are attracted to the color), they will find you and you can enjoy evening visits from them—but they can get aggressive with one another as they zing past your head! We see the Rufus variety of hummingbirds up here. And if they are used to you, they will not be offended if you are nearby having dinner on your deck. But, be prepared to fill up your containers OFTEN once the word gets out!

On the lake and in the trees we see Bald Eagles, blue and green Herons, Fishhawks (otherwise known as Ospreys) and I even saw a huge white owl in the high tree limbs across from my lake home earlier this spring. This year about 20 Canada Geese have been staying put on Fishhawk Lake and recently, I saw new additions to the clan... something I've not seen before—seven large babies.

The Mallard Ducks are breeding and many ducklings are

prevalent around the lake. You can even engage them near the shoreline or at your dock with food. I have used torn up bread and old tortilla chips—they loved both!

A suet recipe that is good for many bird species and an excellent source of energy and fat for them is this:

1. Mix 2 cups peanut butter with 1 cup lard and melt in a saucepan over low heat.
2. Mix in 5 cups of cornmeal and you can substitute some uncooked oatmeal. Add small nuts, like sunflower seeds or



birdseed and dried fruit. I use cranberries or dried apricot, but it needs to be small. Stir until completely blended.

3. Put in a low rectangular container and spread it out like bar cookies and then refrigerate. Use a container that you can cut with a knife and not scratch it. Once solidified, you're good to go! (I use recycled plastic containers that roasted chicken comes in).

Enjoy our feathered friends, keep them warm and satiated and you will have hours of entertainment right out your back door!

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REALTOR® Vernonia Realty



After learning what types of bird food and suet to buy or make, I've gotten some beautiful visitors. You will find that certain birds can be food hogs, like stellar jays, starlings and crows. You may have to ward them off with a wave

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Tues. July 8th 10:30 a.m.

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Wed. July 9th 3:00 p.m.

Snack and educational dvd about carnivorous plants.

Tues. July 15th 10:30 a.m.

Award winning storyteller Christopher Leebrick will share his multicultural repertoire including world folk tales, original stories, narrative poetry, whoppers and jump tales.

Wed. July 16th 3:00 p.m.

Snack and science dvd.

Tues. July 22nd 10:30 a.m.

Mad Science! Learn about and build a volcano.

Wed. July 23rd 3:00 p.m.

Snack and dvd about volcanos.

* There will be programming for youth K-6th and for youth age 1-PreK**.

All programs are free. 701 Weed Avenue, Vernonia (503) 429-1818

** Parent/guardian/adult caregiver is required to stay with child during program.

The July WOEK Board Meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, July 22nd at 7:00 PM

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