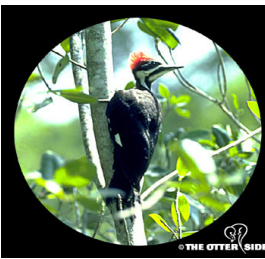


Nifty Tidbits

By CHUCK RIGBY



The population of birds in Illinois Valley during winter is not the same as summer.

There are some birds, such as vultures, that migrate south during the winter. Another group, which includes white-crowned sparrows, are more northern residents and only spend the winter in our area. A third group contains vertical migrators and spend the winter in valleys and at the beginning of the summer move back into the mountains. This group would include Oregon Juncos, which are small and gray, but have black heads. In the last category are the permanent residents living in the area year-round.

Woodpeckers, as a group, do little migrating. Some vertical movement takes place seasonally, and woodpeckers in the eastern states do move north and south some.

Western woodpeckers are usually year-round residents. The woodpecker family, Picadae, is based on "pici," which is Latin for woodpecker. They are unique among birds in many ways. They all have chisel-shaped beaks for pecking wood and stiff tail feathers used as props while on trees.

They also have two toes in front and two in the back of each foot for hanging onto trees, and an extremely long tongue for probing in insect tunnels for food. Another characteristic is their method of communicating by drumming on trees with their beaks. A final trait similar in all woodpeckers is their undulating flight pattern, which is an up-and-down motion that looks like an ocean wave.

The largest woodpecker in North America, by a large margin, is the Red-Headed Pileated woodpecker. They are about the size of crows, and dig oblong holes in dead trees in search of food, but their nest holes are always round.

The next largest woodpecker is the Northern Flicker. They are about the size of jays, and have a bright white patch at the base of their tail, which is very visible while they are in flight. The variety of flicker in the western United States has a red-to-pink color on the underside of their wings. The eastern form has yellow. The flicker of our area also has a black bib under its neck, and the male has a red moustache on each side of its mouth.

Flickers spend more time on the ground than any other woodpecker. The reason is that their primary food source is ants. Their long tongues probe into anthills for ants, and their digestive system has special enzymes to counteract the acid contained in ants. They also eat beetles, and other insects, and even fruits and berries at times. In the winter they will on occasion visit bird feeders when the insect population is hard to find.

Like most woodpeckers, flickers excavate nest holes in dead and decaying trees, but they have been found in fence posts, haystacks, and even in holes in the ground. Squirrels, starlings, and screech owls will occasionally take over their hole, usually during the construction phase. After an incubation period of 11 to 14 days, the eggs hatch and the baby birds are cared for by both parents. Unlike most birds however, the female gradually becomes less attentive and more care needs to be provided by the male.

Flickers, considered permanent residents, do not always stay in the same area, but move around the forest in order to find new food sources and nesting trees. This behavior is not seasonal and occurs all year-round so it is not considered migration. They are beautiful birds and add a nice variety of color during the winter.

Lovejoy gets grant to hold bereavement for youths

Josephine County Lovejoy Hospice was recently awarded several grants to establish a bereavement program for children.

Hospice offers programs which provide holistic end-of-life care for people and their families in Josephine County.

The two grants awarded were from the Gordon Elwood Foundation, \$10,000; and Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, \$4,000.

Hospice will conduct an appeal to raise additional funds to complete the project.

"The grants give Lovejoy Hospice the opportunity to provide a bereavement support program specifically for children for the first time in Cave Junction," said Christina Snell, executive director.

"This program will include assessments, group support, counseling, and referrals for children by professional Lovejoy staff members and trained volunteers," said Snell.

To help, contact Barbara Knox or the Lovejoy Hospice bereavement coordinator at (541) 474-1193 or (888) 758-8569.

TOP MOVIES

1. Win a Date with Tad Hamilton starring Josh Duhamel Rated: PG-13
 2. Big Fish, Ewan McGregor PG-13
 3. The Big Bounce, Owen Wilson PG-13
 4. The Butterfly Effect, Ashton Kutcher R
 5. Cold Mountain, Jude Law R
 6. Monster, Charlize Theron R
 7. Along Came, Polly Ben Stiller PG-13
 8. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, Elijah Wood PG-13
 9. Cheaper by the Dozen, Steve Martin PG
 10. Something's Gotta Give, Jack Nicholson PG-13
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OMSI FUN SATURDAY - Many children attended the seventh annual OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science & Industry) event at Dome School on Feb. 14. Participants explored forensics, geology, physics and noise pollution. (Photos by Dome School)

Special filings deadline set

Josephine County Assessor's office released deadlines to file for property to qualify under special Assessment Programs for the current tax year.

- April 1:
 *Real and Personal Property Tax Exemptions for Specific Organizations.
 *Farm Special Assessment.
 *Forest Special Assessment.
 *Veterans' Property Tax Exemption.
- April 15:
 *Senior and Disabled Citizens' Property Tax Deferral.

Farmer's Land Maintenance

- *Pruning
- *Lawn Care
- *Brush Removal
- *Spraying
- *General Maintenance
- *Hauling

Phone for FREE estimate

Arrin Farmer
 597-2777
 or
 415-1979
 (local cell)



HEARTFELT VALENTINE MESSAGE - Deede Tausaga (right), a waitress at Junction Inn Restaurant, received a 'Valentine' courtesy of her loving husband, Lefi, on Valentine's Day morning, much to the delight of patrons. The I.V. High School Swing Choir, directed by T. Lund, delivered 'Valentines' around the valley during its annual fund-raiser. Blue Marlin Inn was among other establishments visited by the choir.

You're invited to meet and greet

CHERRYL WALKER

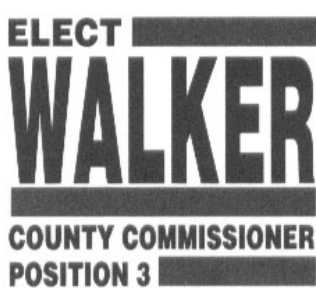
for County Commissioner
 Cave Junction County Building
 102 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction

Monday, Feb. 23 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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