

Backyard bird watching with Harry:

by Harry Johnson

Building your own birdhouse:

So, you want to build a birdhouse? Let’s talk about the dos and don’ts of birdhouse building. First, what will it look like? Second, what is its design? Over the next couple of weeks we’re going to talk about birdhouses.

How elaborate you make your birdhouse depends on your own tastes. In addition to where you place the box, the most important considerations are box height, depth, floor dimensions, diameter of entrance hole and height of the hole above the box floor.

How about ventilation? You should provide air vents in your new birdhouse. There are two ways to provide ventilation. 1) Leave gaps between the roof and sides of the box, or 2) drill ¼ inch holes just below the roof.

You must think about drainage while building your new birdhouse. Water becomes a problem when it sits in the bottom of a bird house. A roof with sufficient slope and overhang offers some protection. Drilling the entrance hole on an upward slant may also help keep the water out. Regardless of design, driving rain will get in through the entrance hole. You can assure proper drainage by cutting away the corners of the box floor or drilling ¼ inch holes in the corners.

Your new birdhouse should be easily accessible so you can see how your birds are doing and for easy cleaning of the house. Monitor your birdhouse every week and evict unwanted creatures such as sparrows or starlings. Be careful when you inspect your bird boxes. You may find something other than a bird inside, don’t be surprised to see squirrels, mice or snakes inside. Look for fleas, mites, larvae and lice in the bottom of the box. If you find insects and parasites, your first reaction may be to grab the nearest can of insect spray. STOP! Use only warm water with a 10-1 bleach mixture. If you must spray, use only insecticides known to be safe around birds. They use 1 percent rotenone powder or pyrethrin spray. If wasps are a problem, coat the inside top of the box with bar soap.

Here’s how you check your nest boxes for unwanted visitors. Watch the nest for 20-30 minutes. If you don’t see or hear any birds near the box, go over and tap the box. If you hear bird sounds, open the top and take a quick peek inside. If you see problems (parasites or predators), remove them and close the box.

How about the entrance hole? The entrance hole should be on the front panel near the top. A rough surface both inside and out makes it easier for the adults to get into the box and when it’s time, for the nestlings to climb out. If your box is made of finished wood, add a couple of grooves, cleats or wire mesh to the inside. Never put up a birdhouse with a perch below the entrance hole. Perches offer starlings, sparrows and other predators a convenient place to wait for lunch. Don’t be tempted by duplexes or houses that have more than one entrance hole. Except for purple

martins, cavity nesting birds prefer not to share a house.

When you build your house think about cleaning and remember that a house with easy access makes the job simple. Most birdhouses should be opened from the top, the side, the front or the bottom. Boxes that open from the top and the front provide the easiest access. Opening the box from the top is less likely to disturb nesting birds. It’s impossible to open a box from the bottom without the nest falling out. While side and front opening boxes are convenient for cleaning and monitoring, they have one drawback, the nestlings may jump out. If this happens, don’t panic. Pick them up and put them back in the nest. Don’t worry that the adults may reject the nestlings if you handle them. That’s a myth; most birds have a terrible sense of smell.

If you clean out your nest boxes after each brood has fledged, several pairs may use the nest throughout the summer. Some cavity nesting birds will not nest again in a box of old nesting material. You will want to clean it out and replace the material with wood chips or sawdust.

In the fall, after you’ve cleaned out your nest box for the last time that year, put it in to storage. You can leave it out, but storing it will make it last longer. Leaving it out will provide winter shelter for some birds and squirrels. Remember to clean it out before spring comes along.

You want to limit predator access with you new box. Proper box depth, and roof and entrance hole design will help reduce access by predators such as raccoons, cats, opossums and squirrels. Sometimes all it takes is an angles roof with a three inch overhang to discourage small mammals. The hole is the only thing between a predator and a birdhouse full of nestlings. By itself the ¾ inch wall is not wide enough to keep out the arm of a raccoon or house cat. Add a predator guard (a ¾ inch thick rectangular wood block with a entrance hole cut in it) to thicken the wall and you’ll discourage the predators.

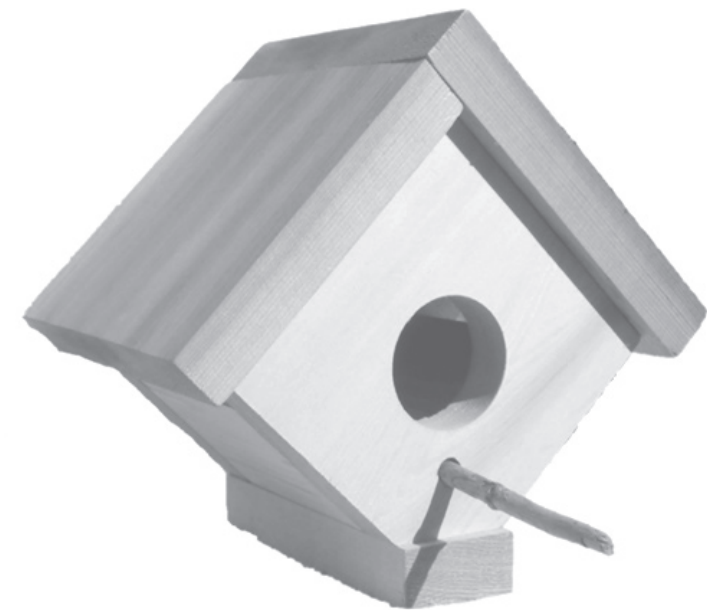
Keep in mind that birds make their own choices, without regard to charts and books. So don’t be surprised if you find tenants you never expected in your new birdhouse you intended for someone else.

Next week we’ll talk about what materials you should use to build your birdhouse.

I wish you luck with your new birdhouse. If you have question or just want to chat you can email me at birdwatching@frontiernet.net.

Remember, I’m at My Place Café each Saturday around 8:30 a.m. until 9:30-10 a.m. Come by and introduce yourself and have a cup of coffee with me.

Harry Johnson
O’Brien, Or.



Cowboy boot (bottom) and a more traditional birdhouse.



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Church News

Community Bible Church

Forgotten

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:16-17

John 3:16 was the memory verse in the children’s church program I was involved in a few years ago. Each child was given an opportunity to recite the verse from memory. One young man came up, and as he was reciting the verses said, “only forgotten Son,” instead of “only begotten Son.” But even as I was correcting his mistake, it occurred to me that maybe forgotten was not so far off. There was that day when the Lord Jesus was nailed to the cross to pay the penalty for the sin of all mankind. As Jesus hung on that cross He cried out, “My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me?”

God turned His back on His only Son as Jesus bore our sin. Maybe forsaken is closer to the truth than forgotten would be. The real question is – how much did God love the world? Enough to send Jesus to pay the penalty for sin and to forsake Him, as Jesus paid the price for us to enter heaven.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

Ministry at CBC

Sunday
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.

Community Christian Academy
Preschool – 12th grade
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Places of Worship

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH 5181 Holland Loop Rd., CJ 541-592-3923 “Come Join the Worship!” Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Sonny Moore www.kbcc.us	COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH Pastor Dave Gordon 113 S. Caves Ave., CJ Office: 541-592-3896 Email: cbccca@gmail.com Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m. Christian Academy Pre-K to 12th grade Awana - Wednesdays - 6 p.m.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH East River Street & Lewis Court, CJ Annemarie Richardson Lay Pastor. Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship - 10 a.m. Church Phone: 541-592-2290 www.goodshepherdlutheraniv.net	ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 25904 Redwood Hwy., CJ 541-592-2006 Rev. James Boston Worship Service - 5 p.m. 1st Sunday of each month ***
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7th DAY ADVENTIST 265 S. Old Stage Rd., CJ Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m. Saturday Worship 11 a.m. Pastor Christian Martin Church (541) 592-3218 Madrone Adventist School 541-592-3330	ST. PATRICK OF THE FOREST CATHOLIC CHURCH 407 W. River St., CJ 541-592-3658 Fr. William Holtzinger, Pastor Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.. Sacrament of Reconciliation Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Days TBA	VALLEY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 498 Laurel Road, CJ P.O. Box 1248 Pastor Marvin Porter Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Evening Service 6 p.m. evfree@frontiernet.net 541-592-6160	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 209 S. Junction Ave., CJ Sacrament Meet - 10 a.m. Sunday School - 11:20 a.m. Priesthood, Relief Soc. - 12:10 p.m. Bishop G. Frank Sybrant 541-245-3394
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ILLINOIS VALLEY PENTECOSTALS 987 Caves Hwy., CJ 541-592-4716 or 541-218-2792 Sunday - 2:30 p.m.	TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH 10300 Takilma Road, Takilma Pastor Dan Robinson Bible Study / Prayer Time 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m	FOUNTAIN OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 451 S. Junction Ave., CJ 541-592-3956 Pastor Mark McLean Morning Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m. Wednesday - 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study	
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IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 200 Watkins St., CJ Phone 541-592-3876 Pastor Charles Chase Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m. Child-care for small children	First Baptist Church of Selma 18285 Redwood Hwy., Selma 541-597-4169 Pastor Monty Pope Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship - 11 a.m.		





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