

Backyard bird watching with Harry:

by Harry Johnson

I just wanted to follow up on what was printed last week. Please keep and eye out for sick birds. I know it’s hard, but you have to control what’s feeding in your feeders. If you have a sick bird you need to remove it from your backyard.

What does conjunctivitis look like?

Infected birds have red, swollen, runny, or crusty eyes; in extreme cases the eyes become swollen shut or crusted over, and the birds become essentially blind. Birds in this condition obviously have trouble feeding. You might see them staying on the ground, under the feeder, trying to find seeds. If the infected bird dies, it is usually not from the conjunctivitis itself, but rather from starvation, exposure, or predation as a result of not being able to see.

What causes the conjunctivitis? Although infected birds have swollen eyes, the disease is primarily a respiratory infection. It is caused by a unique strain of the bacterium *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, which is a common pathogen in domestic turkeys and chickens. The infection poses no known health threat to humans,

and had not been reported in songbirds prior to this outbreak. Researchers at various institutions are currently trying to learn more about the transmission, genetics, and development of this disease.

What other bird species have been diagnosed with mycoplasmal conjunctivitis?

So far, the disease is most prominent in the eastern population of House Finches. However, a few reports of the disease have been confirmed in American Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Pine Grosbeaks, all members of the family Fringillidae.

Do bird feeders encourage the spread of conjunctivitis?

Whenever birds are concentrated in a small area, the risk of a disease spreading within that population increases. Even so, feeding birds may not necessarily increase the rate of disease spread, and should not have a net negative impact on the House Finch population. House Finch Disease Survey data tell us that the disease has decreased from epidemic proportions and is now restricted to a smaller percentage of the population.

We estimate that 5% to 10% of the eastern House Finch population has this disease and that the dramatic spread that occurred a few years ago has equilibrated. This means that it is still an important and harmful disease, but that House Finch populations are not currently at extreme risk of widespread population declines.

Your continued participation in the House Finch Disease Survey will allow researchers to better understand the risk factors for conjunctivitis. In the meantime, please be responsible and clean your feeders on a regular basis even when there are no signs of disease. Follow the above recommended guidelines as you feed birds.

What should I do if I see a bird with conjunctivitis?

Take down your feeders and clean them with a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach and 9 parts water). Let them dry completely and then rehang them. Also, rake underneath the feeder to remove old seed and bird droppings.

- Bird-Feeding Guidelines:
1. Space your feeders widely to discourage crowding.
 2. Clean your feeders on a regular basis with a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach and 9 parts water).

ular basis with a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach and 9 parts water) and be sure to remove any build-ups of dirt around the food openings. Allow your feeders to dry completely before rehangng them.

3. Rake the area underneath your feeder to remove droppings and old, moldy seed.

4. If you see one or two diseased birds, take your feeder down immediately and clean it with a 10% bleach solution.

Again, thank you Cindy for letting me know this disease it out and about in our Valley.

If you have any questions about this or other things about your birds, you can write me at www.birdwatching@frontiernet.net



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Church News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Soil (*Matthew 13:1-23*)

Matthew 13:1-23 is about the parable of the sower. It describes how a sower was casting out his seeds and how some fell on the path and were eaten. Some fell on rocky soil and didn’t flourish. Some fell among weeds and were choked out. And still others fell on good soil and produced a great harvest.

Now Jesus is telling this story to illustrate how God intended to spread the Gospel across the land and bring people to salvation. But there was something about this story that struck me as odd: The parable seems to give the impression that God isn’t all that concerned about which

soil He allows His seed to take root in.

Just think about that for a minute: The seed is the Word of God and the seed belongs to God. Now, since the Seed belongs to God... don’t you think He’d be a little more selective about which soil even gets to receive this gift?

But that’s not how it plays out. The footpath and the rocky soil and weedy soil... they all get a shot at this seed... WHY?

It’s because of the power of God’s SEED - the Word of God. He scatters it all over the earth, because it has power to take root in the harshest ground. And once it takes root, it can bear fruit. God doesn’t care about the condition

of the soil. Of course, the harsher the soil the harder it becomes to get a crop, but you can still get a crop.

As an example, *Isaiah 53:2* says: “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.” Jesus was a root out of DRY GROUND. The soil shouldn’t have yielded a harvest - but it did. It gave us OUR SAVIOR.

So God doesn’t seem to be concerned about which soil His seed falls on because He’s confident in the power of the seed. The soil

doesn’t matter; it’s the harvest He’s looking for. The best soils were the ones that yielded a harvest of 30 to 100 times more than what was sown.

The question to ask ourselves today is: “What kind of harvest have we been yielding for Jesus? How deeply has the seed taken root in our hearts?”

God trusts us with the Seed of the Word. He believes we are capable of making good use of what He’s given us. He believes in us, and trusts that we’ll be faithful.

So it all comes down to one final thing: What will we do to become good soil?

Community Bible Church

Warfare

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. *11* Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. *12* For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. *13* Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. *Ephesians 6:10-13*

I would wish for a world without warfare, where peace would reign, and the inhabitants of this planet could live in safety. We simply have to take a quick look around the world to see that this is not the case. War, struggle, and strife seem to be everywhere. But I believe there is another realm of warfare

being fought in our world – a spiritual warfare. In our morning messages we have been looking at spiritual warfare as presented in the Scripture. The concept of a devil is mightily mocked in our day and culture. He is characterized as a horned clown in a red suit with a tail and pitchfork. The Bible describes him as an angel of light (*2 Corinthians 11:14*) and powerful, but not God’s equal, as he is a created being (*Ezekiel 28:13*). Satan is the enemy of the born-again believer in Christ, and the author of spiritual warfare.

I personally believe that the conflict against historic Biblical Christianity will grow more intense, but the Bible tells us in *Romans 8:37* that, “We are more than conquerors.” By the way, for me, true peace is not the absence of conflict – it’s a condition of life found in Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

Places of Worship

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200 Watkins St., CJ
Phone 541-592-3876
Pastor Charles Chafe
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m.
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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.

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CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Fr. William Holtzinger, Pastor
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m..
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Holy Days TBA

TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH
10343 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

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.

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

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498 Laurel Road, CJ
P.O. Box 1248
Pastor Marvin Porter
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
evfree@frontiernet.net
541-592-6160

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

ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
25904 Redwood Hwy., CJ
541-592-2006
Rev. Bryant Bechtold
Sunday Worship
Service 10:30 a.m.

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.
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