

Backyard bird watching with Harry:

by Harry Johnson

Today, we’re going to talk about migrations. It’s winter here in the Illinois Valley and we’re right in the middle of our winter migration. People ask me about migrations all the time. They want to know who goes or where do they go or even why do they go. I guess, before we can talk about migration, we should understand what migration is. Frank Gill wrote in his text book, Ornithology 2007, page 274, “Migration is a seasonal cycle of departures and returns.” It all comes down to the individual when it comes to migration.

Q: How does migration work? What gets birds going?
A: Migration operates at a species level. Animal migration is a genetically controlled behavior that operates at the individual level. Among birds, the sequence of consecutive intervals of daylight and darkness-a concept known as photoperiod. So photoperiod triggers migration, but the pace of migration varies according to species. Some species migrate at the conclusion of their breeding season; some migrate with the lack of food supplies and what the weather is.

Q: Do all birds migrate the same way?
A: We generally regard migration as

a north-south movement, but many Arctic birds move more east or west to reach an ocean. Such movements are called “directional migration”. In the mountains, the chickadee migrates down slope, with no regard for compass bearing. This is referred to as “altitudinal migration” or “elevational migration”. Other components include departure by age, adult first, young last or by sex, females first, males last.

Q: Do some individuals of migratory species not migrate?
A: Bird species with a broad latitudinal distribution north to south may show different migration habits in different geographic areas. For example, the northernmost populations of bald eagles show strong migration behavior, whereas the southernmost populations of bald eagles remain in the same region year round. Migration is on an individual basis. In the Illinois Valley we see some hummingbirds staying here for the winter. They are not migrating with the rest of the flock. If they are finding the resources needed for surviving the winter, they are staying. Now, I’m asked all the time, “should I take my feeders down at wintertime”? The answer is yes, but if you keep one up, it won’t hurt. The pull to migrate is strong, and keeping a feeder up will not keep

birds here.

Q: Do birds always migrate to the same area each year?
A: Yes they do. There’s been a program that bands birds to study the migration route of that bird. What they found is, many of the birds returned to the very same location each year.

Birds do indeed connect with a place, and many species connect according to season. This concept was not clearly associated with birds until well into the 1800s and it was still debated well into the 1900s. We now use satellites, radar, microchips, genetics and soil chemistry to figure out where birds spend their lives and when. When asked about migrations

the answer is always, “Yes, but...” We have to think of the questions and answers as the starting point not as the final word.

I hope you enjoyed learning more about bird migrations. You can contact me at birdwatching@frontiernet.net

The above is from Harry Johnson in O’Brien and *Bird Watching Digest*.



Canadian Geese landing

Hold up two fingers, America falls behind China:

by Glenn Mollette

Many of us heard the news on December 4. America is no longer number 1. We are now number 2. The Chinese economy overtook our economy to become the largest in the world. We’ve been the leading economic power for about 150 years but times have changed. We can now take our number one finger down or instead hold up two fingers.

I remember as a child hearing about our country being number one in everything. We were the number one economic power. We were number one in education. We were number one in the Olympics. We were the best in the space program. We were the best in making cars.

We smirked about our transitor radios made in Hong Kong although they were really good radios. We don’t smirk today. If a television isn’t made in Hong Kong or Japan we figure it’s a piece of junk.

In 1975 I bought a Chevrolet Monza. Suddenly the whole floor was

pulled out from beneath me when I realized General Motors was making garbage to sell to economy conscious consumers. It was like General Motors had thrown something together to sell to us poor young college students who were strapped for cash and wanted to make our gasoline go further. I struggled as this car suffered numerous breakdowns. Finally, I drove a Toyota Celica and felt like I was riding in a new Mercedes.

My father-in-law at the time was an engineer for General Motors and hated Japanese cars. He also served in the military in World War II and had nothing good to say about the Japanese.

Many American cars went through a poor craftsman stage during the early seventies. Our lousy production flooded the country with Toyotas, Nissans, Hondas and Volkswagens. There are now large manufacturing plants scattered throughout America bearing these

names. I realize they hire Americans and that is great but how much money really ends up across the ocean? I think most American cars are very good today. However, we got ourselves behind the eight ball due to a lot of years of poor craftsmanship. Today we are strangled due to the overwhelming retirement packages promised to retirees.

During the same era that we were making substandard cars, our government was cranking out free money and food stamps. This has only increased. We became obese, smoked our lungs out while trying to find entertainment through our four hundred television channels. Our government started paying people just enough so that they did not want to work. One employer recently lamented that his biggest competitor is the federal government.

We allowed lawyers to become crooks by conniving with clients on how to get something for

nothing. Throughout Appalachia and other parts of our nation, lawyers advertise promising their clients disability checks and other welfare compensation.

Too many Americans started buying into something for nothing. Somebody told us we didn’t have to work hard or compete. We were simply entitled to the good life because we had been born. We demanded more wages, more generous retirement packages and gold lined health insurance packages. This was all great but many American corporations, strong-armed by unions, promised to pay what they really could not afford. Today they are struggling to pay retirees and cannot grow their current work force.

We must generate a new America. Fifty percent of the people cannot sit home while the other fifty percent carry the load. We cannot expect to collect wages when we may have contributed little into a system

that is already eighteen trillion dollars in the red and bleeding red ink every day.

We can save America but we have to put our hands to work. Too many Americans have their hands out or are pointing their fingers at others. We need to point our hands and our fingers at ourselves and do something. We need to do what we can for the sake of family, our country and ourselves. It’s not what “they” can do for us. It’s about what we can do to be the best, not number two.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a syndicated American columnist and author. He is read in all 50 states. The views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily representative of any other group, organization or this publication.

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Church News

Community Bible Church

The God Box

“20Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Most of the world believes in a small god – one that is fashioned after the physical and mental characteristics of man. This is a god that can do very little but watch the world travel along to whatever destination man brings it to. The Bible tells us about the God of the universe – a God who is all powerful, all knowing, just, and yet a God who loves

His creation. This is a God who is present everywhere, who in a massive display of power and wisdom created not just this planet and this galaxy but the whole universe. This Almighty God also is so intimately acquainted with His creation that He knows the number of hairs on our heads and notices even when the sparrow falls. *Matthew 10:29-30*: “29Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

I have a box – it’s a nice box with a yellow flower painted on it – I call it my God box. Sometimes in my life I look at things and think, “This is impossible, it can’t be

done,” and there’s my God box. I just put God in a box that fits my limited thinking and knowledge. God is greater than any box or for that matter, greater than anything. Our problem is that we fail to acknowledge His greatness; we even fail to comprehend it. The Bible tells us in *Luke 1:37* that “with God nothing will be impossible,” but it also tells us in *Hebrews 11:6* that “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Maybe in 2015 we should seek Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

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A.W.A.N.A.
6:15-8:00 p.m.
Preschool to Grade 6

Sunday, Jan. 11
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.
Community Christian Academy
Preschool – 12th grade

Free Senior Exercise Class
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9:00-10:00 a.m. Dining Room

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Email: cbccca@gmail.com
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Christian Academy
Pre-K to 12th grade
Awana - Wednesdays - 6 p.m.
- GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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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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Sunday School - 11:20 a.m.
Priesthood, Relief Soc. - 12:10 p.m.
Bishop
Larry Hammersmith
541-592-3919
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265 S. Old Stage Rd., CJ
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Saturday Worship 11 a.m.
Pastor Christian Martin
Church (541) 592-3218
Madrone Adventist School
541-592-3330
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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.
evfree@frontiernet.net
541-592-6160
- Illinois Valley Baptist Church**
541-592-6149
102 South Redwood Hwy (in the County Building)
Pastor Steve Root
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study, Prayer & Youth Program 7:00 PM
Friday Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM
- 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
- TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH**
10343 Takilma Road, Takilma
Pastor Dan Robinson
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451 S. Junction Ave., CJ
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Pastor Mark McLean
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Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
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Bible-believing Church
Sunday school – 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service – 10:30 a.m.
Thursday Seekers Meeting – 7 p.m.
Youth Group Thursday – 7 p.m.
www.ivpraisecenter.com
- 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.
- ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
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