Backyard bird watching with Harry: by Harry Johnson

I hope you all had a great Christmas. Did Santa bring you everything you wished for or did you get a bag of coal? Please remember your birds want a Christmas present too. You need to continue to feed your birds during these cold winter days. It may not be raining or it may not be snowing, but it's still cold at night. You want to give them a nice birdie present? You may want to add nuts or suet to your feed. That will give your birds more protein for those cold nights and days. Just watch them eat it and you'll see them smiling.

January Bird of the Month: Spotted Towhee

Description:

Size: 8"-81/2"

Markings:

The Spotted Towhee is the largest of the sparrow family. It has a dark hood, back and wings contrasting with bright Rufous (red-brown) sides and white belly, multiple white spots on wings and sides, long dark tail with white tip, rich red eyes, dark bill, pinkish legs and long claws.

Male: Upper parts and tail are black.

Female: Upper parts and tail are dark brown.

Please don't get the Western Spotted Towhee confused with the Great Plains Spotted Towhee. The Pacific Towhee has the dark black head and the Plains Towhee has a lighter almost gray head.

Nesting:

Nest is a cup of leaves, strips of bark, grasses and twigs, lined with fine grass and hair placed low in a shrub or more often in a scratched depression on the ground under brush. The females incubate 3-5 eggs which are creamy with brown spots. During egg laying and incubation the male rarely comes near the nest and the female is quite secretive. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Feeding:

They hop backward with both feet, raking up leaf litter in search of food. They eat insects, spiders, lizards, snakes, weed and grass seeds and wild berries. They will come to ground feeders for their seed and the seed found on the ground, primarily white proso millet or cracked corn. Their favorite food is sunflower seed, cracked corn, shelled peanuts, cracked acorns, insects, spiders and other creepy crawlies.

Habitat:

The Spotted Towhee is a common year round resident west of the Cascades and locally common breeding summer resident and locally uncommon migrant and winter resident east of the Cascades. It can be found in a variety of brushy habitats, including open woods with a shrub understory, thick brush and suburban backyards.

Other interesting facts:

The distinctive "chewink" or "Chweee" call note of both sexes is a good clue to their presence. Scratching for food in the underbrush, hopping backwards with both feet can make such a ruckus that most people hearing it expect to find a squirrel instead of the Spotted Towhee. Sometimes it can be confused with the American Robin which is larger, with gray upper parts, reddish orange under parts and no spots on its wings. Spotted Towhees and Field Sparrows have been known to work cooperatively in feeding one another's young.

The above information came from "The Peterson Field Guide", Grange Stores, "Sibley Field Guide", "Kaufman Field Guide" and Harry Johnson in O'Brien.

You can contact me at birdwatching@frontiernet.net.

Backyard Bird Watching by Harry Johnson is brought to you by

Young Master Gardeners

To join contact us at kimberlielehman@yahoo.com

World Terrorism Serpents - Be wary: By Glenn Mollette

My wife and I were walking an Appalachian path a few months back when a poisonous copperhead snake struck at my wife. The snake was big. My wife was carrying pepper spray and amazingly with one quick move sprayed that deadly serpent. The snake was stunned as we lunged forward to safety. We were so very lucky. Either one of us could have died or lost a limb if that poisonous serpent had been successful. Journalists and cartoonists in a French newsroom were not so lucky this week. They were totally caught off guard by striking terrorists that ended their unsuspecting lives.

The attack on a Paris, France magazine killing twelve people is chilling. We must not allow such a heinous event to freeze us and keep us from practicing freedom and eliminating terrorism.

Christians, Muslims, Jews, white people, black people, Americans, French and all must be freedom united.

ISIS, militant Islamists, Taliban and others are working to destroy our freedom of speech, religious freedom and equality. Sometimes we think we have problems in America. If we want to understand problems look at Syria and parts of Iraq or any other region that is ruled by militant religious extremism. Ten journalists and two police officers sacrificed their lives for freedom of speech in Paris.

The French magazine Charlie Hebdo was internationally known for its satirical cartoons that outraged many Muslims. Some of those militant Muslims retaliated by enacting a bloodbath.

On September 11, 2001 we watched thousands die horrifically in New York City at the hands of terrorists. We have watched or heard of the hundreds killed in Mumbai through various attacks. We have seen parts of videos of journalists and humanitarians beheaded by terrorists. In France we saw a helpless police officer executed by terrorists after they had executed an entire newsroom. The accounts go on and on. Evil exists in the world and is alive and well.

People across the planet must unite. Good people must stop fighting each other. We have problems in our country and it could be a lot worse if we do not work together. We have no problems like what we could have if we lost our freedom.

Americans must be strong. We must practice our faith boldly. Speech and freedom to express ourselves must not get quieter but louder. Police officers and the military need our full support. They have tough jobs. We need them to be as effective as possible.

Our job each day should be to do our part to keep our freedom. Treat each other kindly. Help each other. Practice the Golden Rule. Keep each other safe. Yet, unfortunately we have to live warily. Evil is a slithering serpent that might strike anyplace and anytime. Being caught off guard could be fatal. Visit www.glennmollette.com.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Changed by the Spirit: The Great Gift of Baptism

God has placed His Spirit inside us through Baptism to say to everybody: we belong to Him now. His Spirit inside us is His assurance that He's coming back for us. *Ephesians 1:14* says God's Spirit "is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession— to the praise of His glory."

His Spirit is His Guarantee that when He comes back, He's coming back for us. By giving us His Spirit God is saying, "I'll never leave, I'll never forsake you. You're mine. I WILL come back for you."

So obviously, this placing of His Spirit inside of us is a big deal to God. But I got to wondering, why do it this way? God could have marked us any way He wanted, so why put Himself inside us?

I thought about that for a while and I came up with three reasons that made sense to me.

1st – He wants us always to be with Him. If our Faith isn't on the inside of us - if our relationship with Jesus is something that is only on the outside – it might get misplaced or mislaid, or even just … rubbed off.

God doesn't want our faith to get worn away through the cares of everyday life.

He wants His Spirit INSIDE of us so that our bond with Him doesn't become some casual thing. He wants our relationship with Him to be intense and personal.

2nd - He sent us His Holy Spirit through Baptism because He wants to be with us all the time because He knows we need Him. This is a hard world. And too often we feel like we're alone in the decisions and challenges we face. God never wants us to feel that we're alone and abandoned.

3rd – He sent us His Holy Spirit through Baptism so he could be inside us so that we'd realize our faith is more than just a "religion"; it's a life empowering relationship.

Almost all other religions are based on the idea that the more rules we follow the more righteous we become. In other words: Rules change us. Rules make us better people. To some degree that's true; I mean it does work… kind of. As long as we agree with the rules, as long as we're in the mood, as long as we WANT to obey the rules, rules can make us better people.

But, by contrast, when God placed His Spirit within us, He did it so His Spirit could change us on the inside.

As God promises us through Ezekiel "…I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." *Ezekiel 36:26b-27*

Community Bible Church

Conformed?

"1I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." *Romans 12:1-2*

Some years ago I knew a man who owned an injection plastics business. He would create molds of various products and inject plastic into that mold so that it would become conformed to the shape of the mold. One of his main products was a Frisbee. This plate shaped disc was designed to be thrown through the air to play a game of catch. Wherever the one throwing it would send it, there it would go. That molding process is the key to the verse above. Are we going to allow ourselves to be conformed to the "mold" created by this world – squeezed into a form that is foreign and unpleasing to God? Or will we be transformed by the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives? What conforms us to this world? External input has impact upon us – what we watch, who our friends are, what we read and listen to, and where we go. These all have impact upon what we are conformed to or the "mold" our life is shaped after. But the greatest earthly molding influences are "the thoughts and intents of the heart." *Hebrews 4:12*

"As a man thinks, so is he." (*Proverbs 23:7*) What molds us is what we meditate on, where we direct our thinking and how we view ourselves. If our mind is fixed on Christ, we will be conformed to His image. It will be the transforming of our minds that will occur – changed from the inside out!

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

Ministry at CBC

Wednesday, Jan. 14
A.W.A.N.A.
6:15-8 p.m.
Preschool to Grade 6

Sunday, Jan. 18
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Praise and Prayer 6 p.m.

Community Christian Academy
Preschool – 12th grade

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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Illinois Valley Praise Center
28569 Redwood Hwy. CJ
Non-denominational
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

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.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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.
Priesthood, Relief Soc. - 12:10 p.m.
Bishop
Larry Hammersmith
541-592-3919

* * *

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

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