

The last backyard bird watching with Harry:

by Harry Johnson

The end is here:

It's been eight years and nearly over 200 articles of writing about birds and the Illinois Valley, but like they all say, "All good things must come to an end." This is the last "Backyard bird watching with Harry" I'm writing. Cheryl and I are planning a move back down to central California. We've shared a lot of events and things over those years. I was trying to think of all the articles I've written and what I had in them and I started to remember the birds and places to go. So, let's go down memory lane for a short while.

What are my favorite birds I've written about?

If I'm talking about here in the I.V., then it is the chickadee. I love the chirping sounds they make when they talk to each other and I love to watch them flying back and forth when they're feeding.

If you're talking about my all-time favorite bird, there's no bird that gets my heart thumping more than a bald eagle. These magnificent birds are, in my view, the most beautiful bird out there. I've had the opportunity to stand some 15-20 feet from one while it sat on a branch in a tree and let me say, it was a "WOW" event. I only wish we had more here in the Valley. I know you can see them at Lake Selmac, but that's not a for sure thing. I've been there on several occasions and I've only seen a bald eagle once. To see more of them, Cheryl and I drive over to Klamath Falls in January or February. During that time of the year you can take part in the Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls. One year we saw over 100 bald eagles in one setting. This is one of the "best" fun things you can do for you and your family.

The other bird both Cheryl and I love to watch and listen to are the hummingbirds. During the summer it's like downtown Grants Pass during rush hour. We usually have four feeders in the front of the house plus one on the side and one in the back. Boy, it gets pretty busy out on the front deck just before sunset.

What are some of the birds I dislike the most?

Let me say, I don't dislike any bird. I love them all, even the blue jays. I've had a number of calls from readers and I've

talked to readers who complained about the blue jay. Yeah, I know, they're very noisy and raid other bird nests. I know all of that, but I just like these birds. When it snows and our trees are covered with snow and the blue jays come to feed, they stop at the trees and it looks like a snow covered tree with blue ornaments. It's very beautiful.

Where are some of the birding places I've gone to during these eight years?

Well, I've already told you about the Winter Wings Festival, if you're asking me it's a must do for all bird lovers and their families. The Ankeny Wildlife Refuge up by Albany is fantastic. They have great walking paths and raised walkways to view all the birds. Of course, I've been to the local parks in and around the I.V. and Grants Pass bird watching, but those two places are the best bird watching with in a few hours drive of Southern Oregon.

Some of the birds that we don't see much, but wish we had more of are the quail. When we first moved to O'Brien, we had several family groups. Over the years they've moved on and it's a rare day when we see them. The other is the turkey. We never saw them for years. You may hear them off in the forest, but you didn't see them. The last two years we've had them all over the place. I had some in the back eating my dog's kibble he or she didn't finish. And no, I don't feed them. That was one of those rare days the dogs didn't finish all of the food. The other bird that seemed to show up more the last couple of years is the owl. I'm hearing them more at night this year than years past.

I love playing with my birds. You may ask, how? I've suggested you download the Audubon birding app to your tablet, kindle or phone. I love playing the different bird calls and wait to see who comes or who answers the call. I've had pileated woodpeckers and northern flickers flying by checking me out and wondering how I can make those sounds. It's pretty cool and lots of fun.

I've also loved all the phone calls I've gotten from readers over the years. We solved lots of problems with identification and left some unsolved. Besides the phone calls, I really loved

meeting readers. Whether it's at Shop Smart or River Valley Restaurant, the senior center or even the parking lot at the O'Brien Store, I've met readers and listened to stories about their favorite birds and about those birds they hate. I guess the most common question I got was what to do about the turkeys in the yard. The first question I had was, "Do you feed them?" When the answer was, "Yes," I just scratched my head and said, "Stop feeding them and they will move on."

This started out as a hobby to share with readers. Little did I know, I was going to learn a lot about the birds in the Illinois Valley? I'm sure everyone's figured out that I'm no expert in birds. I loved learning about them and I hope my readers enjoyed learning along with me. Please continue to enjoy watching your birds. Remember to clean your feeders and keep your birds healthy. Please take your children out to watch birds and teach them about the birds in your backyard.

Cheryl and I will miss this valley and most of all the wonderful people in it. We've made some good friends over the 13 years we've lived in O'Brien. You will be missed.

I guess there's nothing left to say, but, "Goodbye my friends."

Harry Johnson
O'Brien



Church News

Valley Evangelical Free Church

Christmas is coming

Christmas is coming with the traditions we have gained over the years with family and loved ones. It is a joyous time of sharing with people we have come to love and who make our life complete.

But what about those who are facing Christmas and all those traditions of the past who have lost a loved one and this is the first Christmas without them. The holiday may be one of the hardest times of the year. The grief

and loss may seem too much to bear. They may be thinking, "I wish we could just skip Christmas this year."

Maybe you are one of those who are dealing with a loss. It is okay to feel sadness during the time when everyone else is joyful. Don't be afraid to change a tradition, you may not have a choice. The carving knife may need to be passed to another member of the family. Don't feel that you may be betraying your lost loved one by keeping or dropping

a certain tradition. Plan a way to remember your loved one. Light a special candle, share a memory.

Above all, communicate. Let your family and friends know it is okay to talk about your loved one. It is much healthier than trying to remain silent. Remember, others are experiencing the same loss in their own way.

Above all, in the midst of your loss, remember these words found in *Isaiah 43:1-4*. "I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you go through the sea, I am with you. When you go through rivers, they will not sweep you away. Since you are precious to me, you are honored and I love you." (God's Word Translation)

And for those of us who are not experiencing that kind of loss, may we be especially understanding of those who are. May God Bless each of you. Join us for a candle light service on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m.

Pastor Marvin Porter

Community Bible Church

The Christmas story

I wonder how many times I have read this section of scripture – how many times I have heard it read. In and of itself, it is a nice story, but if you consider the ramifications of this event – the entrance of the Son of God into history – and that 2,000 years later we are still reading the story and celebrating the event, it becomes a totally amazing situation. May the Lord bless your heart as you again read the story of the birth of "Immanuel" – God with us. (*Matthew 1:23b*)

Luke 2:1-20 (NKJV) 1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country

shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven that the shepherds said to one another "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things

that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

May the Lord bless you this Christmas season and throughout the coming year. Hope to see you at church! Merry Christmas!

**In Christ,
Pastor Dave**

MINISTRY AT CBC

SUNDAY, Dec. 25
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Merry Christmas
No Praise and Prayer

WEDNESDAY - No A.W.A.N.A.

Senior Exercise Class
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY
9-10 a.m. in 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.bridgeviewcc.org

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

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 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 S. 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



BINGO FOR ALL AGES WEDNESDAYS
EARLY BIRD 6 - 6:30PM
17 GAMES 6:30 - 9:30PM
HAMBURGERS FOR SALE
520 E. RIVER STREET, CJ
IV SENIOR CENTER
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Candle-light Service
Come Worship the Birth of our Savior
6 p.m.
Christmas Eve
Thursday Dec. 24.
Refreshments following
Valley Evangelical Free Church
498 Laurel Rd., Cave Junction