



Above: Vanessa, left, Paul, and Isabelle Krause at the Tea for All Ages on May 13. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

of knitting.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, June 16 to discuss *Barefoot* by Elin Hilderbrand. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly



Above: Kimberly, left, Marissa and Seth Kraft at the Tea for All Ages on May 13. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

book group.

On Saturday, June 24, from 10 to 11:30, Allison Plute from Colorado Springs Utilities and the nonprofit Greenway Fund will give a presentation on rain barrels

and understanding the local water table.

On the walls of the library during June will be watercolors and oils by Jean Pierre de Vernay. In the display case will be a collection of items related to France.

Palmer Lake Library Events

At the Palmer Lake Library, Toddler Time will be at its usual time of 10:30 each Friday.

On Wednesdays each week at 10:30, there will be special summer programming in place of story time. These programs, recommended for elementary-age children from 5 to 11, include fairy tales, a washboard band, a science and circus arts show, and a program on alpacas.

On Thursday each week will be a program for ages 7 and older. These will include creating a pop-art style self-portrait, drawing, and a construction challenge.

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the latest selection.

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Palmer Lake Historical Society

Hummingbird program, Ice Cream Social on tap for June

By Sigi Walker

On Thursday, June 15, the Palmer Lake Historical Society will present *Hummingbirds—Up Close and Personal* by Palmer Lake resident Jerry DalFerro. Learn about the fascinating world of hummingbirds presented through a slide show of stunning photographs. The free program

will be at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, the Historical Society will continue the tradition of honoring fathers with a free Ice Cream Social. Singer/guitarist Nick Davey provides the entertainment. This year, the event is pre-

ceded by a program, *Charles Goodnight in Colorado*, presented by Pueblo residents Laurel Campbell and Linda Crawford. This program is free and open to all at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the program begins at 1:15. Pie and ice cream will be served at about 2 p.m. ■

Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide

Attracting birds to your yard



This column originally ran in the June 2011 issue of Our Community News

By Elizabeth Hacker

I enjoy hearing from readers, and the month of May was especially rewarding. Sherry Sieg e-mailed a photo of a female western tanager at her feeder and noted that a male had been there a few days earlier, which may indicate that they are nesting in her area. Grant Swango posted a photo of a lazuli bunting at a feeder he made in Boy Scouts this year and mentioned that he saw a Bullock's oriole in his Palmer Lake yard. OCN publisher John Heiser sent a great horned owl photo he took from the deck of his home near Roller Coaster Road. The owl appears to be a male yearling and may be one of the owls hatched last summer at Home Depot. Enthusiastic birders like Sherry, Grant, and John make my day!

Western tanagers, lazuli buntings, and great horned owls all nest on the Palmer Divide at the edge of the forest in ponderosa pine trees or scrub oak shrubs. All are shy and none of these species frequent feeders. Sherry also e-mailed a photo of a rose-breasted grosbeak, which I occasionally see west of I-25. In recent years, sightings of this bird have been infrequent, a serious concern noted by local birders. The location was interesting because she lives east of I-25 in Woodmoor where none have been reported for quite some time.

In the United States, birding is the fastest-growing hobby and attracting backyard birds is a craze that is sweeping the country. My conversations often turn into discussions on how to attract birds, and I enjoy sharing methods Randy and I use.

Feeding and landscaping

Feeding and landscaping are the two methods we employ. For those who seek immediate gratification, providing watering stations, continually stocking feeders and treats, and keeping nesting boxes clean and disease-free work well.

It works for us only because Randy is methodical about stocking feeders and birdbaths. I'm more of an observer than a doer, so I prefer to attract birds to plants in our landscape, and in the long run, I believe this may be a more sustainable approach to attracting birds.

Bird feeders

We use a few types of feeders. My favorite is a hopper-style feeder with two glass sides and a removable top for refilling. As birds consume the seeds, more seeds fall out onto an edged platform where birds perch while eating. An even simpler feeder is a platform mounted on top of a metal pole where seeds are placed on top of it. Both attract birds.

My objection to the platform feeder is that a predator can easily get a little bird, whereas the hopper provides



Above: Rose breasted and evening grosbeaks taking turns at a backyard feeder in Woodmoor. *Photo by Sherry Sieg.*

some protection. Randy's objection to both these feeders is squirrels. He prefers a squirrel-proof variation where the door closes with the weight of a squirrel. Did I say squirrel proof? In truth, we haven't found such a feeder. Many seed mixtures are available, but we only use the black oil and stripped sunflower seeds because we find that millet attract starlings, my least favorite bird.

Another type of feeder is a tube feeder. We use two types: one for liquids to attract hummingbirds and the other we fill with nyjer thistle seed to attract finches and grosbeaks. We locate the thistle feeder under a tall scrub oak in a quiet area of our yard away from the other feeders. Hummingbird feeders are located near our deck because hummingbirds don't seem to mind us watching them. Oddly, we find hummers nesting in the scrub oaks near the thistle feeder!

Bird treats

Randy sets out an assortment of treats, including suet cakes, fruit, nuts, and meal worms (to attract bluebirds) that have been effective in attracting many species. Randy's favorite is the bluebirds that return to the same nesting box every year. If we don't have it out in time for their arrival, they will circle our yard till we put it out.

Water

The sight and sound of water attracts birds, so we have several birdbaths. Our newest one has a mister, and the birds love it. When birds are drinking and bathing, they are more vulnerable to predators, especially cats. So



Above: Lazuli bunting making a rare backyard appearance in Palmer Lake. *Photo by Kathy Swango.*



Above: A great horned owl. *Photo by John Heiser*