

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Happy New Year! And, until next month, happy reading.

The Covered Treasures Bookstore staff can be reached at books@ocn.me.

January Library Events

Volunteer for the Teen Advisory Board or enjoy a craft scrap exchange

By Harriet Halbig

Try something new or enhance your experiences at the library in January.

Family programs

Enjoy the Snow Show with Denise Gard and her dog Sienna on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 2:30 to 4. Joey gets lost during a snowstorm and can't find his way home. Will Sienna rescue him? Participate in some snowy tales and discover a snow troll in this fun show.

Lego Build will take place from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, Jan 20. Build with Legos to your heart's content with other enthusiasts.

Teen and tween programs

Join an intergenerational knitting group on Wednesday, Jan. 10 and 17 from 3 to 4:30. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own projects. Some instruction is provided for those new to the craft.

Teens and tweens are welcome to kick off the new year from 3:30 to 5 on Friday, Jan. 19 at a Teen Gaming Night. We will bring in the Wii U console and reprise our video game program from June. You will get to choose from games like Super Smash Brothers, Mario Kart, and Tatsunoko vs. Capcom Ultimate All Stars. There will be snacks! Open to ages 9 to 18.

Are you challenged by math? Come to the library each Monday from 3:30 to 7 to take advantage of free tutoring by experienced adult tutors. All ages and all math levels are welcome. No appointment is necessary. AfterMath follows the D-38 schedule.

Are you interested in participating in planning at

the library? Come to an information meeting about the Teen Advisory Board and learn how you can get volunteer hours while you help plan teen events and book displays. Drop by the Study Room from 4:30 to 5 on Tuesday, Jan. 25 to learn about this opportunity.

Join the Monumental Library Anime Club on Thursday, Jan. 25 from 5 to 6:30 and enjoy a chance to share anime with others. Snacks will be provided and a movie will be shown (nothing rated above TV-14). You can help decide the next movie title. This program is recommended for ages 13/14 and up.

Come to the community room from 4 to 5:30 on Wednesday, Jan. 31 to do some (anti-) Valentine's Day crafts as we gear up for the holiday (plus enjoy some tasty snacks). No registration is necessary.

Adult programs

See the above section for information about intergenerational knitting.

The Monumental Bookworms Book Club will meet from 7 to 8:30 on Tuesday, Jan. 9 to discuss *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. This group, sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library, is open to all.

The Second Thursday Craft on Jan. 11 from 2 to 4 is embossing powder. We will work with embossing powder to create gold designs on paper. Registration is required and opens one week before craft day.

Calling all crafters: On Saturday, Jan. 13 from 10:30 to 1:30 the library, in collaboration with Old Colorado City's Who Gives a SCRAP, will host a free craft material exchange. Bring your unused and un-

wanted craft materials and exchange them for "tickets" to "purchase" new-to-you craft supplies! No registration required.

Achieving your healthiest weight is not about dieting or even pure will power, but rather about understanding how certain foods affect blood sugar levels and appetite. Hear a nutritionist speak about cravings and weight gain and the blood sugar rollercoaster on Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 5 to 6. No registration required.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon Friday, Jan. 19 to discuss *Faithful Place* by Tana French. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

Are you interested in learning to spin? The library's spinning group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 25 from 1:30 to 3:45. Bring your own materials or come to observe experienced spinners.

The artwork on the walls of the library and in the display case in January will be provided by artists from Palmer Ridge High School.

Palmer Lake Library Events

The Palmer Lake Library Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly group. Please call 481-2587 for the latest selection.

Story Times are on Wednesday at 10:30. Toddler Time is on Friday at 10:30.

All branches will close Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide

Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

By Elizabeth Hacker

The northern goshawk is a medium-size hawk. It is a secretive bird that typically lives on large tracks of forests across the Northern Hemisphere. It's also a fierce predator that stays well concealed and is difficult to find, which is why it is highly sought after by birders who want to add it to their life-list.

The northern goshawk is the largest of the North American Accipiters, a family of medium-size hawks that include the sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and northern goshawk, all of which can be found from time to time in the Tri-Lakes area. Accipiters differ from their high soaring and bulkier cousins the Buteos, a hawk family that includes the red-tailed hawk. Buteos are like the buzzard and will eat carrion and steal prey. Accipiters grab their prey with their talons and eat only fresh prey they have killed.

Size

The goshawk body length ranges from 18 to 26 inches with a wing span of 38 to 46 inches. As with most raptors, the female is larger than the male. Judging by the size of the bird in the accompanying photos, taken in South Woodmoor by Beth Courrau, I would venture to guess that it is a second-year female that will soon be looking for a mate.

Plumage

Plumage is remarkably different between the age classes of juvenile and adult. The goshawk in these photos have a blue-gray upper body, the streaking on the lighter underbelly is fading, the white eye stripe is distinct, and its eyes are orange, transitioning from pale yellow to intense red. These traits are indicative of a bird nearing adulthood.

A juvenile goshawk is similar in size and has the same bold posture as the adult, but the feathers on its back are dark brown rather than gray-blue, its upper wing covert and white underbelly have dark streaks, its eye stripe is not yet distinctive, and its eyes are pale yellow. To me, the juvenile and adult goshawk look like different species.

Feeding behavior

The northern goshawk stays hidden by moving between mid-level branches of conifer trees. Less often, it will fly through the forest, maneuvering its body between the trees. It moves effortlessly with agility and speed through heavily treed forests. Its long tail



acts like the rudder on a small plane, directing its movement. The goshawk's rounded wings contract in and out so it can avoid running into trees. When a target is chosen, the bird flies to the ground in a powerful short burst of speed, surprising its prey.

Did I mention that the goshawk is fierce hunter? Most raptors kill their prey before consuming it. The goshawk is the only bird that I've seen eat its prey while it is still alive trying desperately to escape the

talons of its captor.

Diet

According to Hawk Watch International, the northern goshawk is the only accipiter that hunts for mammals and is valuable in keeping the rodent population in check. When Beth Courrau sent these photos, my first thought was that it was a Cooper's hawk. But the size, longer legs, bold posture, as well as the fact that it was eating a squirrel, was a red flag.

Even though goshawks are known to nest here, they are secretive and difficult to find, and even getting a glimpse is good because it's gone in a flash. These photos provide insight into the life of this remarkable bird. Beth said that she would be happy to have it stay in her yard and hunt for more pesky squirrels, a sentiment that may be shared by many residents.

Nesting

Goshawks form a life-long pair bond and will choose another mate only when the first mate dies. Unlike other hawks where the male courts the female, goshawk females perform aerial dances to attract males. The goshawk is a solitary bird and only joins its partner during spring and summer to mate and nest.

Once a bond is established, the pair works together to build a platform-type nest in a crotch of a tree. Two months later, the female begins laying a clutch of up to four eggs in two-day intervals. The female sits on the eggs, but the male will give her breaks so she can stretch her wings and hunt for food. Thirty-six days after the last egg is laid, the first egg hatches.

The female stays at the nest while the chicks are small and helpless. The male brings food to the nestlings and the female. Both parents protect their nest and viciously attack any bird, animal, or person that ventures too close.

A little more than a month after hatching, the chicks are big enough to venture from the nest along branches of the tree. Within three months, the chicks will grow into full-size birds and at this point, the juveniles will be completely independent.

Interesting facts

The name "goshawk" is derived from the European term for "goose hawk," although they are not known to hunt geese.

The bird was featured on the PBS series *Nature*,

