

Chic-a-dee-dee-dee

A favorite bird to see at your feeder in the winter is the Carolina Chickadee. Be careful not to blink because these fast fliers don't stay in one place for long. They prefer to quickly grab a seed and fly back to a tree to eat it or even to cache (hide) the seed for later.



Carolina Chickadee

A chickadee's wing beats are about 27 times per second. (In comparison a hummingbird's wing beats are about 80 beats per second.) It's no wonder that they disappear so quickly from view!

Besides caching food to help survive in the winter, chickadees can also drop their body temperature about 12-15°F lower than their normal daytime temperature. This allows them to conserve about 25% of their energy every hour at freezing temperatures.

Bird Gifts and Gift Birds

Join our entertaining and informative hosts, John Schaut and Brian Cunningham, as they discuss how birds truly are gifts and how you can share the joy of birds with others long after the gift-giving season. This episode will drop December 14th.



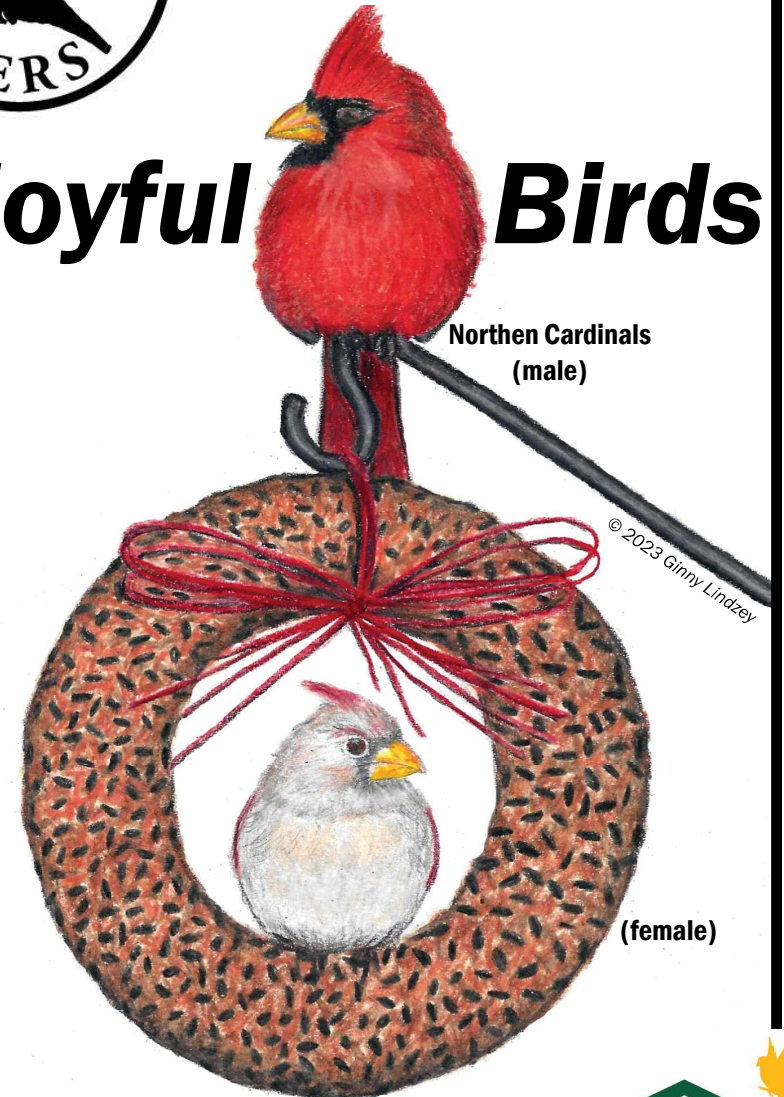
Nature Centered is a podcast from **Wild Birds Unlimited** about feeding the birds and enjoying nature right in your own backyard. Relax, enjoy the birds, and stay Nature Centered.

austinsouth.wbu.com/nature-centered-onewbu



December 2023

Joyful Birds



Northern Cardinals (male)

(female)

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Little Flyers

This is our 9th issue of *Little Flyers*, a zine designed for kids and their families. We provide fun information and activities on a monthly basis tailored to our seasonal focus.

Little Flyers is a unique publication for the **Wild Birds Unlimited** South Austin located at 3535 Bee Caves Road in Westlake Hills. Come visit us in person or online at austinsouth.wbu.com for upcoming events, birding news, feeders, bird seed, nesting boxes, and more.

The *Little Flyers* zine is created and edited by Ginny Lindzey. If you are enjoying *Little Flyers*, let us know! You can contact us at wbuastinsouth@gmail.com.

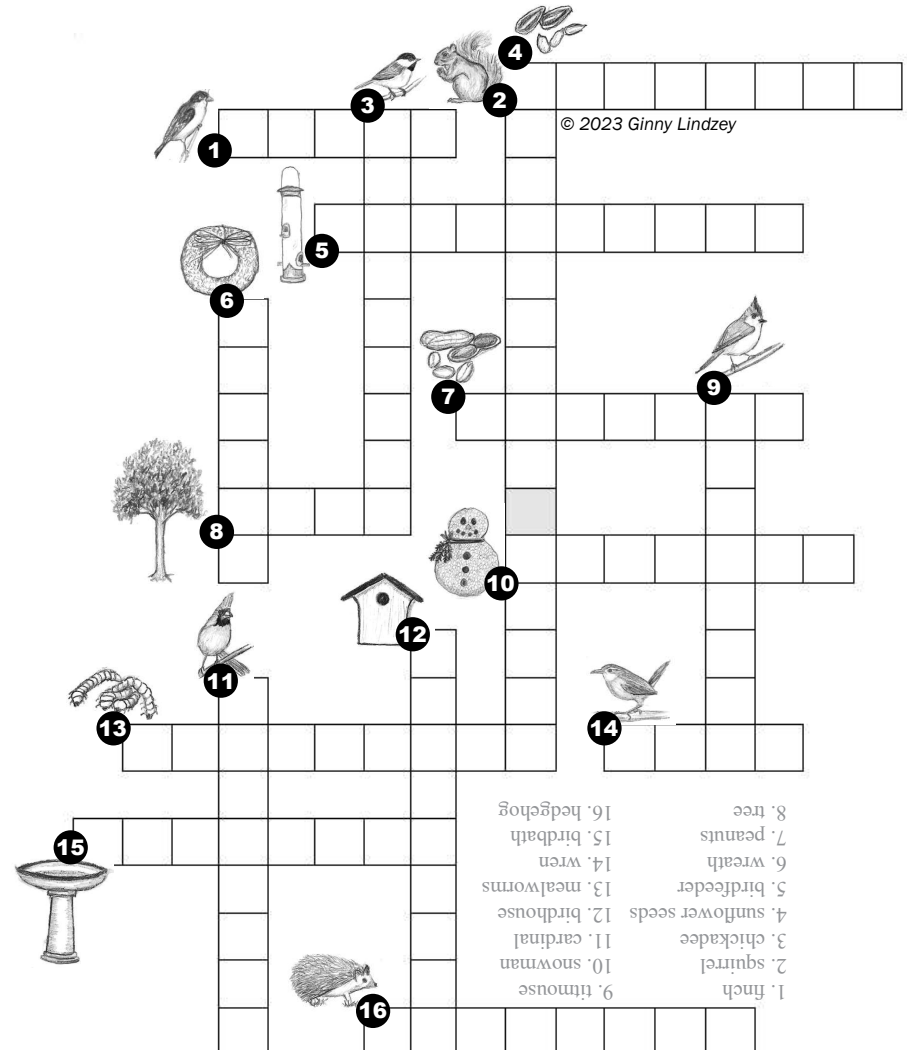
Upcoming Events

This year's **Austin Christmas Bird Count** will be held on Saturday, **December 16th**. If you are interested in participating, you can email austincbc@gmail.com to preregister (if you are not already on a team).

Travis Audubon has a **Young Birders Club!** This club is recommended for ages 8 and older who can demonstrate appropriate birding etiquette. A parent or guardian must accompany their child(ren) at all Travis Audubon Young Birders Club events. If you would like to learn more, head to their website at <https://travisaudubon.org/ybc>.

Picture Crossword

Use the picture clues to solve this birdie-filled crossword.



CARDINAL JOKES

Why couldn't anyone recognize the cardinal?

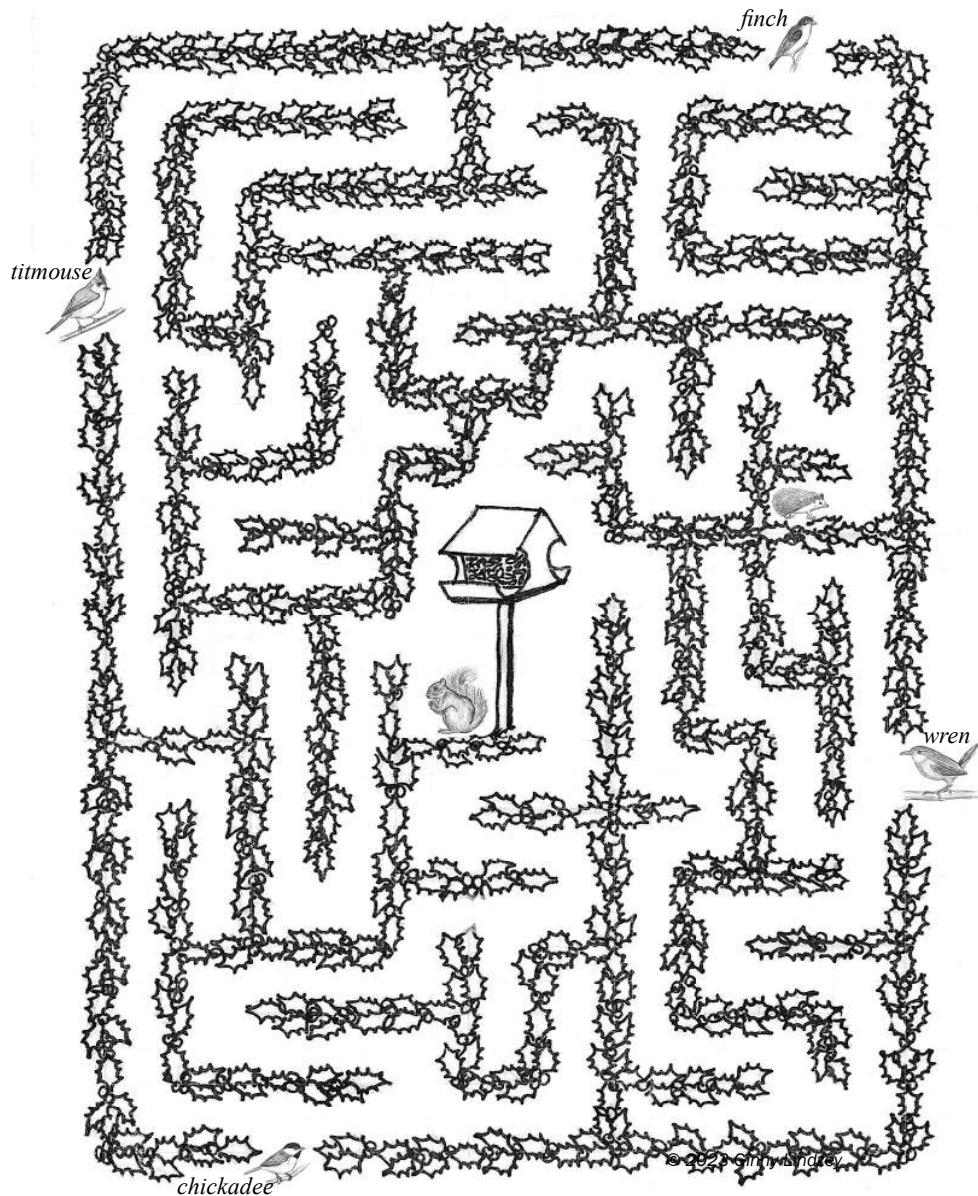
It was wearing a mask and in da skies (disguise).

Did you hear about the pope catching the bird flu?

He caught it from a cardinal.

Holly Maze

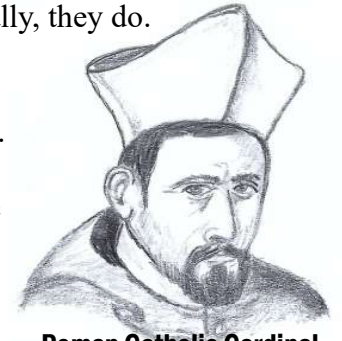
Help the finch, the titmouse, the wren, and the chickadee find their way to the birdfeeder! Don't mind the squirrel and the hedgehog—they just like hanging out in the holly bushes.



Cardinals for Christmas

If there are birds on your Christmas card, one of them is probably a bright red Northern Cardinal. Because cardinals are sometimes associated with lost loved ones or angels, they are imagined to have a religious connection—and, actually, they do.

European settlers admired this bird's vibrant red plumage with its perky crest. It reminded them of the distinctive red robes and hats worn by Roman Catholic cardinals. Even the collective name for a group of cardinals has a connection to the church, specifically where the pope lives: a *Vatican* of cardinals.



Roman Catholic Cardinal
17th Century

Cardinals mate in the spring and early summer. Unlike most other bird species, both male and female cardinals can sing. Mated pairs will often sing duets together. During the breeding season, male cardinals may sing 200 or more songs per hour early in the morning.

During courtship in the spring you may think you see male and female cardinals kissing. This is actually the male cardinal showing his affection for the female by feeding her seeds “beak to beak.”

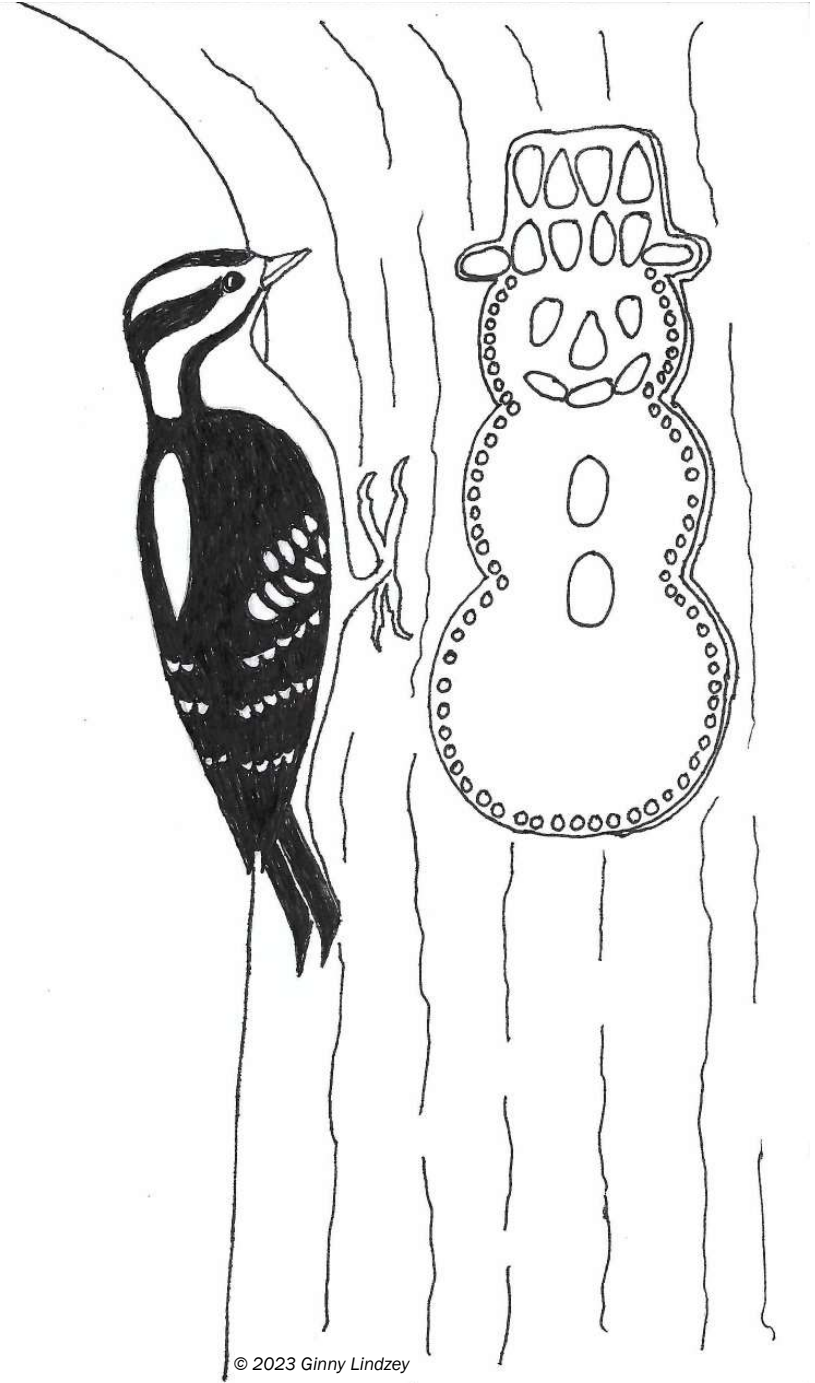
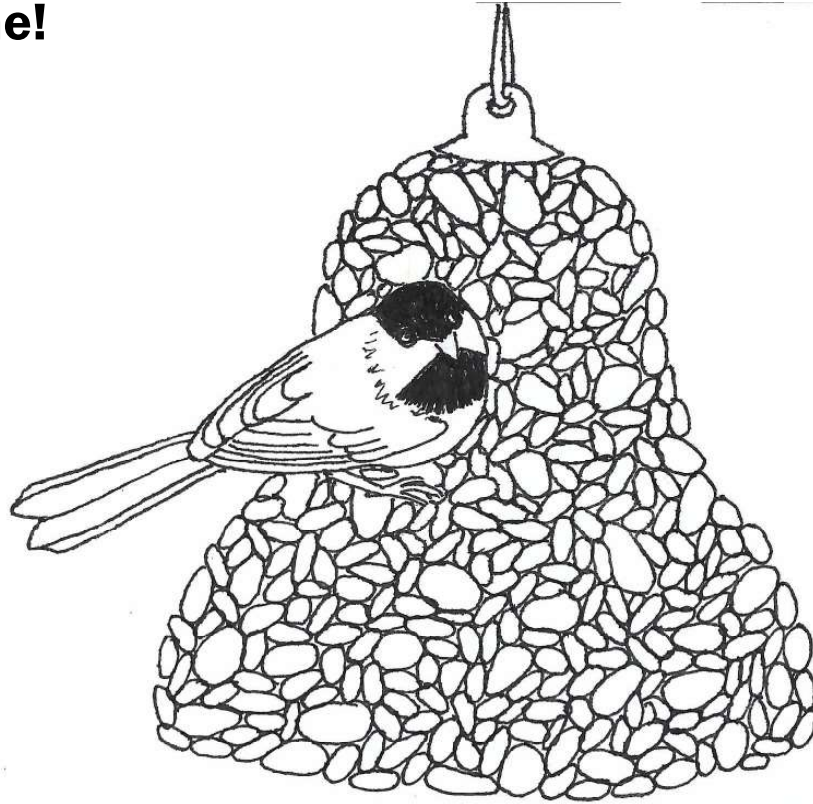
If you are watching for cardinals at your feeders, the best time of day to look is at dusk or dawn because they are often the first and last birds at the feeders.

Beak to Beak Feeding



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Color me!



Holiday Bark Butter Treats

Do you have a holiday-themed cookie cutter, like a Christmas tree or a snowman? Do you have some of Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter®? Then you can create a decorative treat for your birds.

1. Hold your cookie cutter against the bark of the tree.
2. Press Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® into the cookie cutter.
3. Carefully remove the cookie cutter.
4. Decorate with bird seed.

If you post a picture of your bird treat to FaceBook, tag us! We would love to see it! You can find us at www.facebook.com/wbuaustinsouthtx.

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