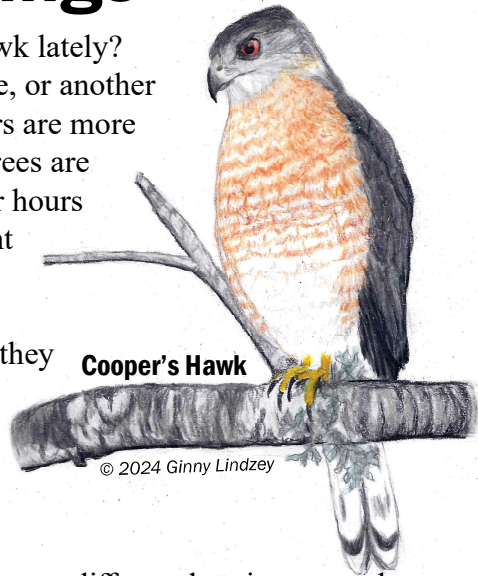


Hawk Sightings

Have you seen a Cooper's Hawk lately? Chances are that you may have, or another type of hawk or falcon. Raptors are more visible in the winter because trees are bare of leaves. Plus with fewer hours of daylight, hawks need to hunt more aggressively for food.

Unfortunately, that may mean they target song birds and doves that visit your bird feeders. If you do have hawks at your feeders, you may need to take your feeders down for a week so that they will move on to different hunting grounds.



Cooper's Hawk

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Count the birds, make a difference.

Join John, Brian and guest Becca Rodomski-Bish, project leader for the Great Backyard Bird Count, as they discuss how watching the birds and sharing what you see benefits the birds and your well-being.

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.



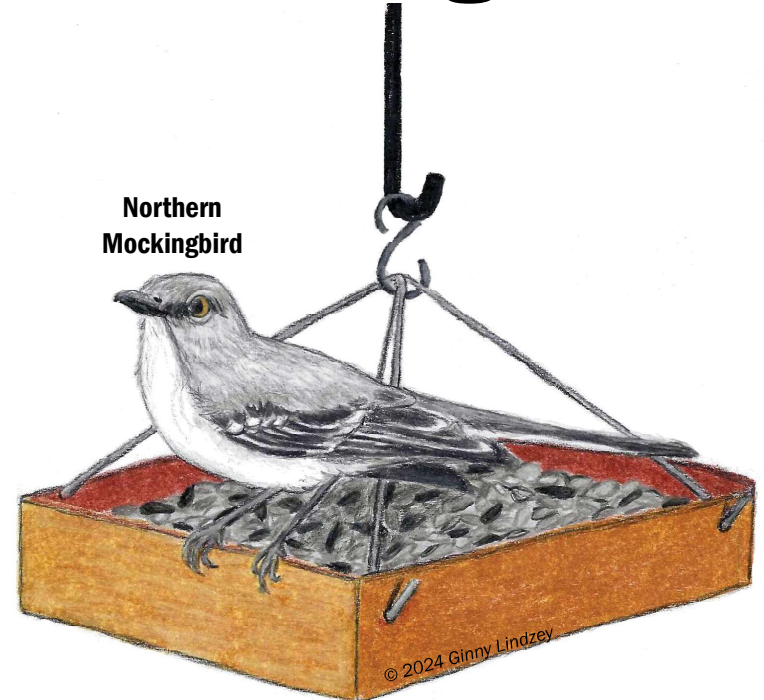
austinsouth.wbu.com/nature-centered-onewbu



February 2024

Don't Mock the Mockingbird

Northern
Mockingbird



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In this issue of Little Flyers:

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- back Nature Centered Podcast: Count the birds, make a difference.

Little Flyers

This is our 11th 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

Join us in store for **Get Ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count: Learn eBird & Merlin** on February 10th at 2 p.m. Learn everything you need to know about these two apps so that you can participate in this global citizen science event. The actual **Great Backyard Bird Count** takes places on February 16-19, 2024.

BeakView Bird Feeder Camera Demo Day is on February 17th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the store. Dave Kerbs will demonstrate the Texas-based BeakView Bird Feeder Camera and answer all of your questions.

Counting Birds

The 27th annual Great Backyard Bird Count will take place on February 16th-19th. Practice counting the birds now. How many of each species can you find on pages 4-5?

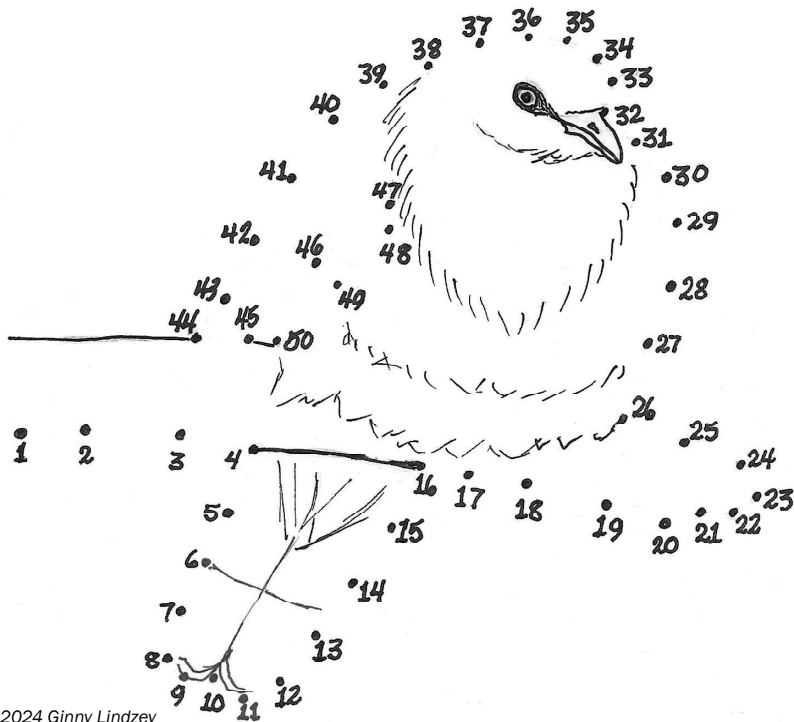
	Black-crested Titmouse	_____
	Blue Jay	_____
	Carolina Wren	_____
	Carolina Chickadee	_____
	Downy Woodpecker	_____
	House Sparrow	_____
	Lesser Goldfinch	_____
	Northern Cardinal	_____
	White-winged Dove	_____

(Did you find them all?) TOTAL: 24

Connect the Dots

When it becomes cold outside, birds will fluff up their feathers and become puff balls. This isn't just a seasonal fashion choice. Fluffing up creates hundreds of little air pockets between their feathers that trap heat.

Can you tell which bird below has fluffed up its feathers? Hint: there are four of these in the picture on pages 4-5.



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BIRD JOKES

How do lovebirds dance?

Chick to chick.

What kinds of books do owls like?

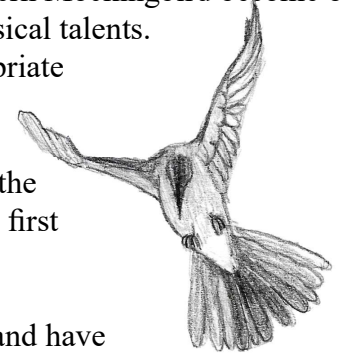
Hoot-dunits.

Mocking Mockingbirds

Our state bird, the Northern Mockingbird, is quite a character. Its scientific name is *Mimus Polyglottos*, Latin for “many-tongued mimic,” aptly describes its ability to imitate the calls of many other birds as well as car alarms, sirens, and even barking dogs. In fact, a Northern Mockingbird may have a repertoire of over 200 different songs.



In 1920 the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs proposed the Northern Mockingbird become our state bird, but not because of its musical talents. They thought it was the most appropriate bird to represent the state because it fiercely fought for the protection of its home. When it was approved by the governor in 1927, Texas became the first state to choose a state bird.

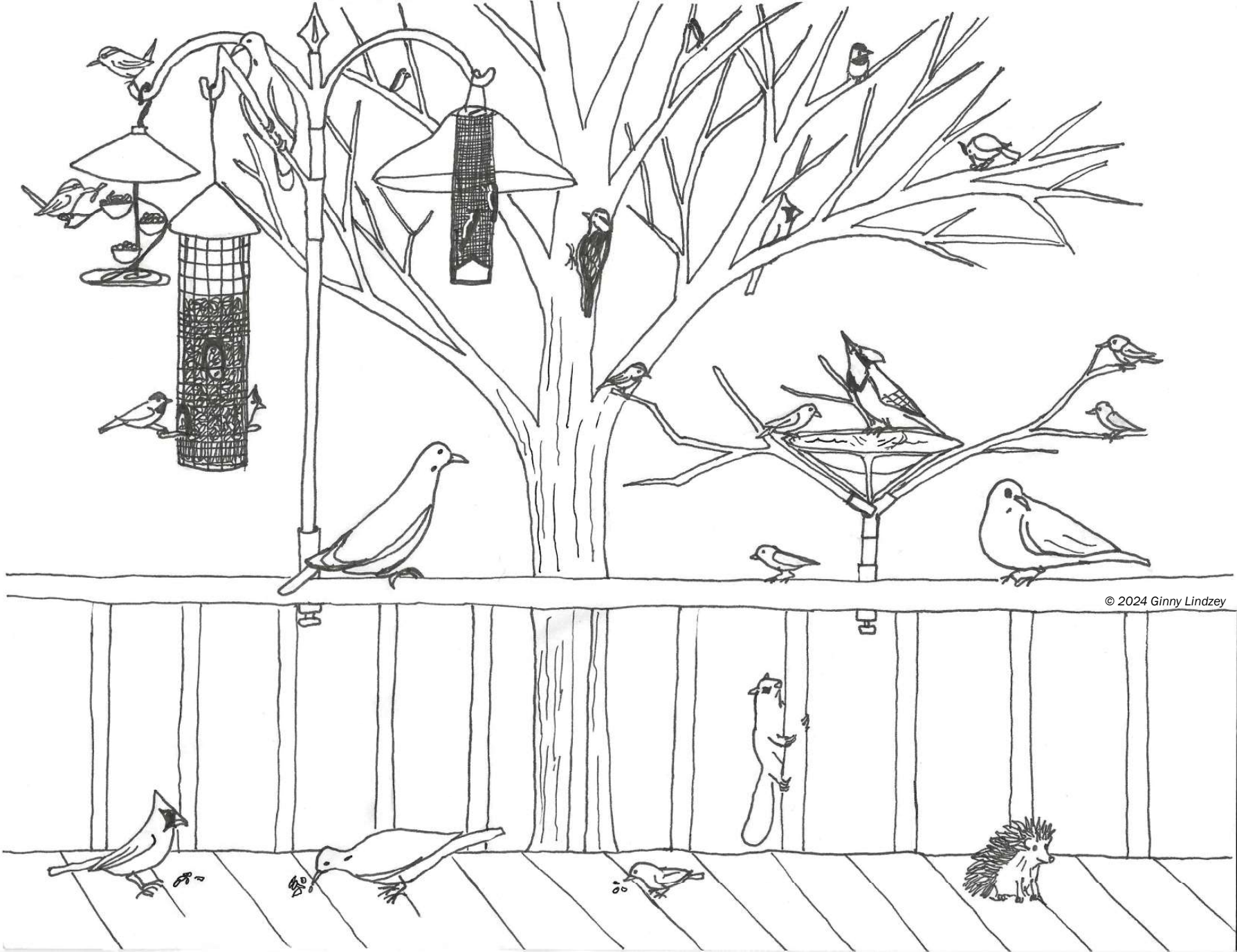


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Mockingbirds are highly territorial and have been known to attack anything that comes near its nest. Mockingbirds will dive-bomb people, cats, dogs, snakes, ravens, and hawks if they come too close.



Mockingbirds frequently display a “wing flash” where they open their wings in jerky steps, showing off their white patches. No one is sure why. One theory is that they do this to startle insects to make them easier to catch. Have you ever seen a Mockingbird do this?



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