

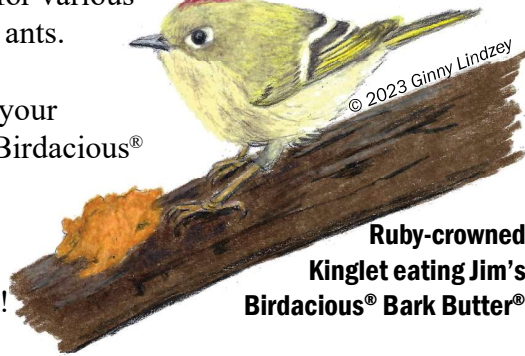
Ruby-Crowned Visitor

Ruby-crowned Kinglets will be arriving this October from their summer breeding grounds up north in Canada and Alaska. They are one of North America's smallest and liveliest songbirds.

Males and females are both olive green-gray with two white wing bars and a broken, white eye-ring. Only the males have a scarlet crown patch, which is usually hidden unless agitated.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are active, energetic little birds who flick their wings as they search for various insects such as spiders and ants.

If you want to see them in your backyard, they love Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® and Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter® Bits. Offering these treats is just the trick to see them!



Ruby-crowned Kinglet eating Jim's Birdacious® Bark Butter®

Treats for Birds – No Tricks

Join our entertaining and informative hosts, John Schaust and Brian Cunningham, as they discuss the best ways to treat your birds. This episode will go live on October 5th.



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-ownbu



October 2023

Just Go Nuts



Do you feed peanuts to Blue Jays in your yard?



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Little Flyers & the Little Flyers Passport

This is our 7th 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 program at 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 wbuaustinsouth@gmail.com.

Bird Feeder Cleaning Event

Assistant Manager Heidi Williams will be teaching a Bird Feeder Cleaning class. Come learn how to take apart your Squirrel Buster feeders and get them super clean.

Date: Saturday, October 21st

Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Place: Wild Birds Unlimited at 3535 Bee Caves Road

October Big Day

Open up your eBird app and join the count on October 14, 2023! For more information go to <https://ebird.org/octoberbigday>

Cached Treasure Hunt

The Blue Jays, Black-Crested Titmice, and Chickadees have been so busy hiding food for the winter. There are 7 peanuts, 7 sunflower (seeds), and 7 acorns. Can you find them all?

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S U A N B A S X S S R R R W O
U C C R C S U U U E W E E F E
N C O O H G N N W S A W W Y F
F T R C Z F F O B E P O O K D
L N N A L L L Y O V E L L X P
O N V O O F O V E N A F F S E
W J W W N P W S Z O N N N T A
E E E U E W E W T T U U U K N
R R S A C O R N M U T S S C U
T W N K T U N A E P N Q O T T
O U U P Y M O J A T G A X S N
T P E A N U T C M S L R E V R
A C O R N K O P E A N U T P O
V P Q O C R E E J K P T R S C
S X I M N A C C J W J J C R A
    
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PEANUT (7)

SUNFLOWER (7)

ACORN (7)

ANSWERS to Caching Logic Problem

BIRD	FOOD CACHED	LOCATION
Blue Jay	Whole peanut	Under small log in nearby park
Black-crested Titmouse	1 sunflower seed	Under bark on tree near feeder
Carolina Chickadee	1/2 sunflower seed	Under small branch in neighbor's tree

Caching Logic Puzzle

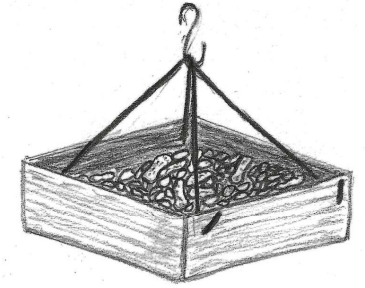
Three songbirds—a Carolina Chickadee, a Black-crested Titmouse, and a Blue Jay—visit a tray feeder to gather some food to cache for the winter. Each bird flies off with their food of choice to different locations. Which bird took which food and where did it hide it? Use the grid to help you figure it out. Put a check for true relationships and an X for false relationships.

		Food Cashed			Location		
		Whole Peanut	Half a sunflower seed	Whole sunflower seed	Under small log	Under bark on tree	Under a small branch
Bird	Carolina Chickadee						
	Black-crested Titmouse						
	Blue Jay						
Location	Under small log						
	Under bark on tree						
	Under a small branch						

- 🔍 The bird that hides its seed in a crevice under a small branch in the neighbor’s yard eats half of it first.
- 🔍 The Carolina Chickadee’s cache is closer to the feeder than that of the bird whose cache is under the log in a park down the street.
- 🔍 The bird which caches its food under the log does not have a sunflower seed.
- 🔍 The Black-crested Titmouse caches a whole sunflower seed.
- 🔍 The bird which caches its food under the bark of the tree near the feeder was not the Blue Jay.

Why Go Nuts?

Peanuts are a great food to feed the birds, especially as the weather turns cooler. Because peanuts are high in fat, they are an excellent source of energy and calories. Chickadees, titmice, blue jays, wrens and woodpeckers love them.



With the exception of the wrens, all of these birds will begin hiding food to eat later in the season. This behavior is called “caching.” Caching helps birds survive during bad weather when food sources are low.

Blue jays love to take whole peanuts and fly away with them. You might even observe them shaking the shell first to see if it’s full or empty. They will bury peanuts and other seeds in the ground up to 2.5 miles from their original source.

Chickadees and titmice prefer to cache sunflower seeds, often tucking them away under loose bark on a tree, in knotholes, or even in crevices of a woodpile.

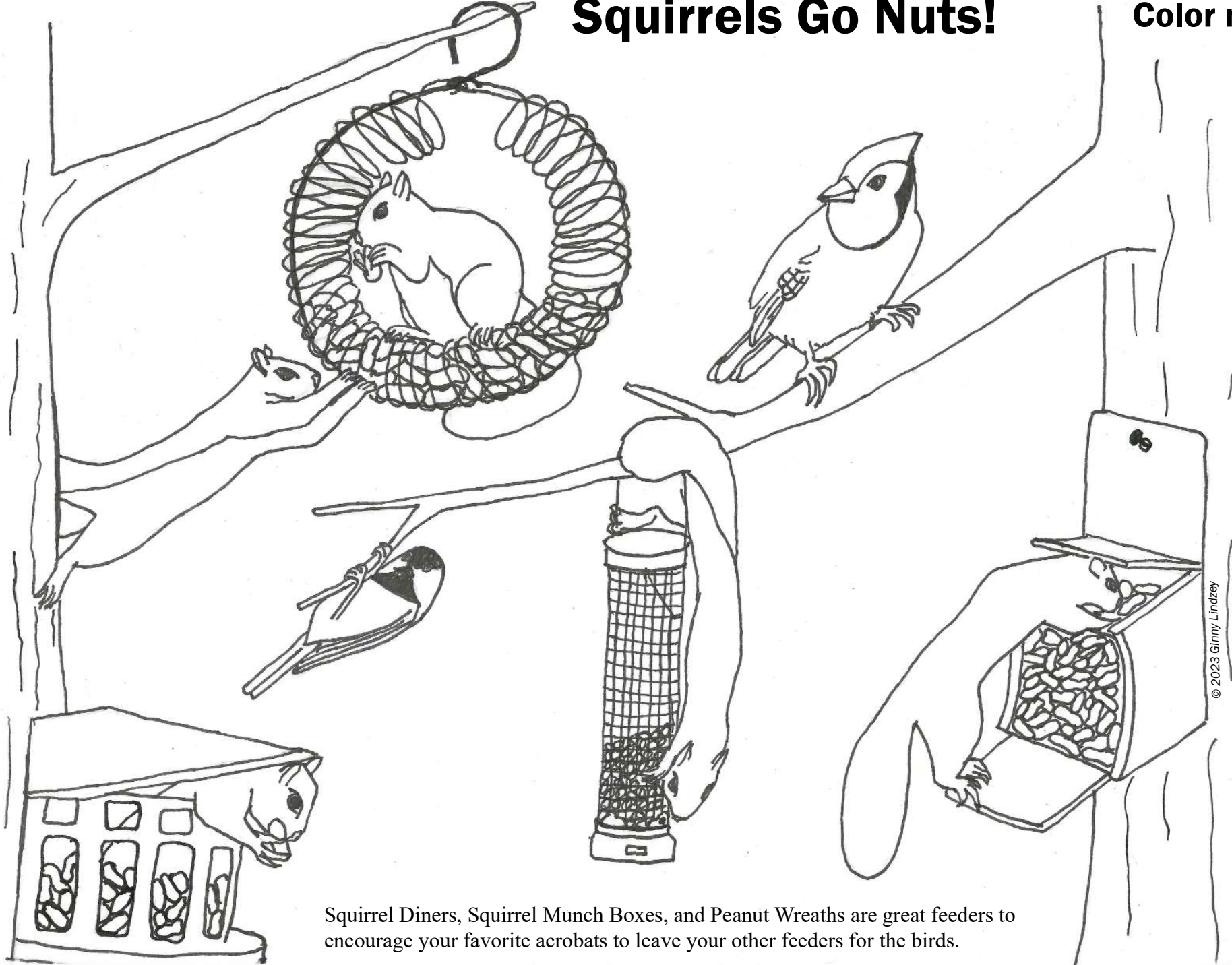


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Scientists have discovered that chickadees in particular can accurately remember the location of each and every one of the seeds they hide. It all has to do with their *hippocampus*, the region of the brain that stores locational memories. In chickadees, it is proportionately larger when compared to birds that do not cache food. Not only is it larger, it even increases in size each fall and shrinks back down to its original size by spring.

Squirrels Go Nuts!

Color me!



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Squirrel Diners, Squirrel Munch Boxes, and Peanut Wreaths are great feeders to encourage your favorite acrobats to leave your other feeders for the birds.