



LCES announces Bucket Fillers for February

Bucket fillers are based from the book *Have you Filled A Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud. Bucket fillers are students who demonstrate good character and aid in filling up buckets through good manners, helping others, and trying their best each and every day. Lincoln County Elementary School February bucket fillers were, front row: Virginia Kate, Smith, Jenna Phillips, Braylen Lockhart, Siya Godinez, Audree Colley, Kristina Phillips, Caroline Smalley; middle row: Kenley Johnson, Stella Ogletree, Easton Rhoden, Aubrey Craig, Shariya Rowell; back row: Jase Romines, Tinley Williford, Will Price, James Rowland, Marleigh Smith, and Brooks Minyard. Not pictured: Sanaa Burton, JaMarcus Norman, Krista Sullivan, Eliana Belangia, Madison Crite, Katilyn Starbuck, Mikel Lockhart, Anslee Scott, Ella Hudson, Paislyn Wells, and Johnathan Starbuck.

DNR offers insight and advice on Finch flocks to sick birds

Surging flocks of finches at backyard feeders coupled with reports of sick birds are raising questions among wildlife lovers across Georgia.

One question is whether the state is seeing an outbreak of salmonellosis, similar to the scourge of salmonella bacteria that is sickening and killing birds in the western U.S.

Dr. Bob Sargent of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources said that scattered flare-ups of salmonella are occurring in some Southeastern states, including Georgia, and mostly in urban areas. However, he does not recommend that people stop feeding birds and remove feeders simply because they hear about problems elsewhere in the state or region.

"Heightened attentiveness to backyard bird behavior and to bird feeder hygiene are always important, and especially so right now," said Sargent, an ornithologist and program manager with DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section. "But you do not necessarily need to shut down your feeders unless you or others in your community are actually seeing sick birds."

The situation is two-fold, he explained. Here's why and what Georgia bird watchers can do.

Finch Irruption
First, this has been an irruption winter for finches, particularly for purple finches and pine siskins. These "invasion movements" occur about every seven to 10 years. They happen when several years of abundant foods boost bird numbers, and are then followed by a downturn in those resources that causes the animals to range farther to find food in winter.

Irruptions often involve some finch and waxwing species because these birds, which breed in the northern U.S., Canada and high-elevation forests such as in the Appalachian Mountains, thrive on food sources that fail every few years. Pine siskins, for example, are

especially dependent on the seeds and fruits of cone-bearing trees. With production of these foods in the boreal forest in a "bust" cycle, pine siskins have swarmed farther south than usual this winter — and are crowding Georgia feeders.

The added number of birds at feeders has, in turn, increased the risk and occurrence of disease. Sargent said that ailing backyard birds reported to DNR usually fall into one of four categories: salmonella (bacterial), aspergillosis (fungal), avian pox (viral) or mycoplasma conjunctivitis (bacterial). Trichomoniasis, a protozoan parasite, is also a potential problem for feeder birds.

All of these diseases and their spread have been associated with congregations of birds at feeders.

Backyard Connection
"Most of the calls about sick birds this winter have come from urban areas," Sargent said. "This suggests the problem isn't a matter of concentrated feeders in a few yards; it might be a matter of the high concentration of feeders in the yards of many homes in close proximity to each other."

Bacterial diseases often are transmitted orally or through the accumulation of fecal matter beneath feeders, according to Sargent. The diseases noted have been detected in house sparrows, finches and many other bird species, and do occasionally appear when large numbers of birds crowd around feeders during winter and other times of the year when natural foods are in short supply. Birds infected with salmonella often act lethargic and are easily approached. Other infected birds may show no symptoms.

Fungal issues such as aspergillosis, which can cause respiratory distress in birds, are often the result of a buildup of wet and moldy seed hulls beneath feeders. Birds suffering from avian pox have wart-like lesions on their face, legs or feet. These lesions can weaken the birds and compromise their ability to breathe and feed. Avian pox can be transmitted from bird to bird by mosquitoes, as well as between sick and healthy birds at feeders.

Birds with conjunctivitis have crusty-looking eyes, may lose their sight and often remain perched on feeders even when approached. Transmission of conjunctivitis could happen between birds crowding at feeders.

Keep Feeders Clean
Illness observed in birds at feeders often can be traced to a lack of hygienic measures on and around the feeders. This is where people who feed birds can make a difference. Sargent recommends the following:

- Clean feeders weekly using a 10 percent bleach solution — one part bleach to nine parts water — and then rinse them thoroughly. After washing, let the feeders dry for one to two days. (Always wear protective gloves while cleaning feeders, feeding areas and bird baths, and wash carefully afterward.)
- Rake up bird seed, hulls and fecal matter beneath feeders two or

more times a week. It is especially important that wet seed and hulls are promptly removed.

- If you have multiple feeders, space them out to help reduce gatherings of birds.
- Empty and clean bird baths every two days when bird visitation is heavy.

But what to do if you or neighbors see sick birds at your feeders?

Sargent said if this occurs you can help prevent the spread of disease by taking down the feeders for a week, which will encourage birds to disperse. If you observe several sick or dead birds, you can also report the situation to DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section office in Forsyth (478-994-1438).

However, if the feeders and feeding areas are being regularly cleaned, and you and your bird-feeding neighbors have not seen any sick birds, Sargent advises leaving feeders up and full to help wintering finches and other backyard birds survive.

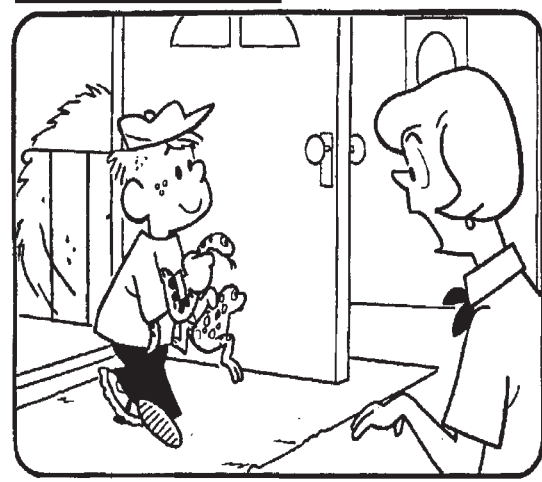
Visit feederwatch.org/learn/sick-birds-and-bird-diseases for more on bird diseases. Homeowners who find a sick bird that is incapacitated can turn to georgiawildlife.com/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife for a list of licensed rehabilitators.

Help conserve Wildlife
DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section works to conserve songbirds and other wildlife not legally fished for or hunted, as well as rare plants and natural habitats. The agency does this largely through public support from fundraisers, grants and contributions.

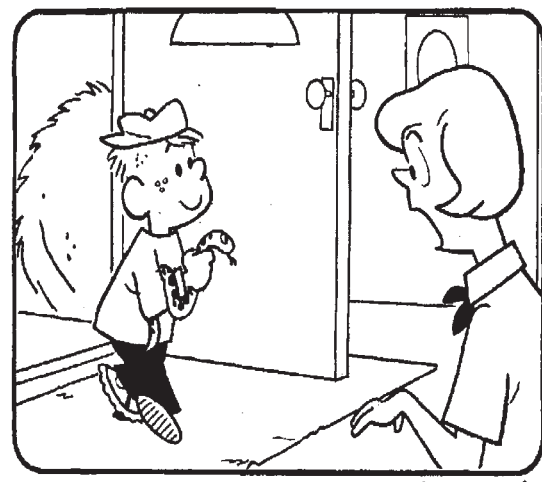
Key fundraisers include sales of the eagle and monarch butterfly license plates, as well as annual renewals of these and the ruby-throated hummingbird tags. These plates cost only \$25 more than a standard plate to buy or renew. Up to \$20 of that fee goes to help wildlife.

Supporters also can donate online at goutdoorsgeorgia.com. Click "Licenses and Permits" and log in. (New customers will need to create an account.) Learn more at georgiawildlife.com/donations. Visit georgiawildlife.com/conservation/annualreport to see how your support is put to work.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



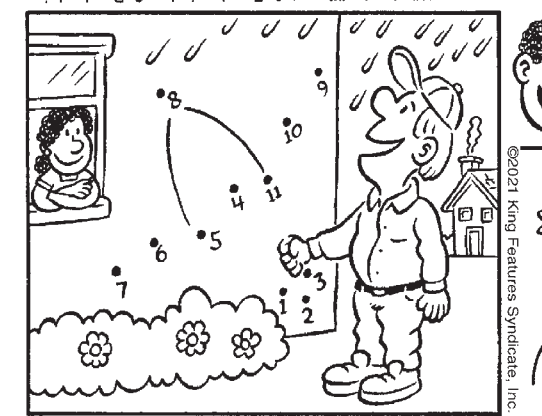
Differences: 1. Window is different; 2. Door knob is higher; 4. Falling is missing; 5. Cap is reversed; 6. Earning is missing.

MAGIC MAZE ● **"IT" WORDS**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: AN ESTABLISHED CUSTOM

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Acquit | Counterfeit | Forfeit | Transmit |
| Bandit | Credit | Inherit | Unit |
| Benefit | Deposit | Profit | Whodunit |
| Circuit | Explicit | Solicit | |



RIDDLE-DOTS! "Hey, Mike! What can go up a chimney down but can't go down a chimney up?" Connect the dots and solve the riddle.

SOMETHING IN COMMON: What do the following two sentences have in common? 1. No lemons, no melon. 2. Was it a car or a cat I saw?

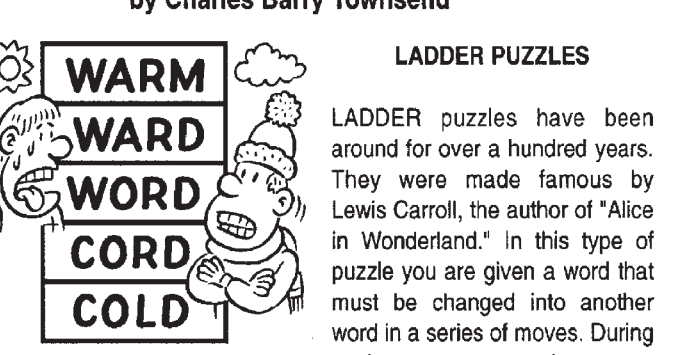
Both can be read the same forwards or backwards.

FIND-A-WORD! On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. Cost per unit.
2. In or near.
3. Spoiled...
4. Long-tailed critter.

1. Rate; 2. At; 3. Brat; 4. Rat. Mystery word: Craie.

Junior Whirl by Charles Barry Townsend



LADDER PUZZLES
LADDER puzzles have been around for over a hundred years. They were made famous by Lewis Carroll, the author of "Alice in Wonderland." In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example we changed WARM into COLD in four moves. See if you can change the following four words:

1. BOAT to CASH.
2. MORE to LESS.
3. FISH to MEAT.
4. SICK to WELL.

1. BOAT; COAT; COST; CAST; CASH. 2. MORE; LORE; LOSE; LOSS. 3. FISH; FISH; FEAT; FEAT; MEAT. 4. SICK; SICK; SILL; SELL; WELL.

Super Crossword STICKY SITUATIONS

- Answers on page 5
- ACROSS**
1 Plectes, e.g.
6 "Star Wars" villain — the Hutt
11 Longtime fashion mag
16 "Got it!"
19 Muslim god
20 Has left the office, say
21 Bilbao locale
22 "Whether — nobler..."
23 Sudden death extra in a golf tournament
25 Supermodel
26 Hi-fi platters
27 Cook gently
28 Behave obsequiously
31 Secretive U.S. org.
32 Redding of song
36 Opp. of horizontal
37 Film preview
38 Sort who's at hand whenever needed
42 Part of a hunting outfit
43 Lucy of "Kung Fu Panda"
44 French painter Rosa
45 Narcissists
48 Bone: Prefix
50 Insult; informally
51 YWCA part
54 Yule, briefly
57 Small Vlasic offering
63 Domestic
67 Explorer
68 Glossy surface
69 "As above," in a footnote
70 Morning joe, maybe
75 Tear to bits
76 Gambols
78 Inventory
79 Board, as a ship
81 One who's distraught with feelings
86 1/16 ounce
87 Perfectly
88 "— aboard!"
90 Baker's unit
94 Pec-building exercises
97 Film preview
98 Tilling tools, to Brits
101 King, in Caen
102 Old Peruvian
103 Connections making
104 Lucy of "Kung Fu Panda"
108 Big name in hygiene products
111 "OED" part
112 Beneficiary
113 Certain PC readout
114 Purplish fruit spread
117 Male ducks
120 — Lingus
121 Rivulet
122 What the last word of 23, 28, 38, 57, 70, 81, 103, or 114-Across is a synonym of
126 Hang behind
127 Giant in life insurance
128 Televised
129 "... and vice —"
130 Hip-hop "Dr."
131 Hide, as loot
132 Old Russian dynast
133 German city
7 Volcano stuff
8 Startling cry
9 Light source in a socket
10 Had dinner at a friend's house, e.g.
11 Note equivalent to 66-Down
12 Not necessarily against
13 Spoke
14 In the — of (during)
15 In readiness
16 Map-filled references
17 Most with it
18 Alleges
24 Ice-cream alternative, for short
29 "Scream" director
30 Starist
33 Weight unit
34 With a sharp picture, briefly
35 Shrek creator
38 "Gigli" co-star, familiarly
39 Certain nuclear weapon, for short
40 "Be silent!"
41 Adolescent in beer brewing
46 Country's soon
82 "Alley —" measure
84 Hall lure
85 Spill clumsily
89 Guitar's kin
91 Con artists
92 Abridge
93 Took cover
94 Patchy horse
95 Vague
96 Plague
97 Fit as a fiddle
98 Sound of falling hail
99 F-J link
100 One of two in "crocodile"
104 Wading birds
105 R&B singer — Badu
106 — Mahal
107 Accuses
109 PLO head
110 Birmingham cap
115 "The Godfather" score composer
116 Some med. scans
118 All-night bash
119 Comic Laurel
123 Eon subunit
124 Bonn article
125 TSA requests

Bible Trivia

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Acts 9, to what city was Saul traveling when suddenly there shined around about him a light from heaven? Jerusalem, Damascus, Anab, Ekron
3. How many days did it take Nehemiah to get the wall around Jerusalem completed? 6, 52, 100, 1,000
4. From Acts 17, at what church was Paul accused of turning the world upside down? Antioch, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Galatia
5. In Genesis 3:15, the snake is supposed to strike at (bruise) what part of man? Throat, Hand, Heel, Eyes
6. From Revelation 12, what angel fights against Satan? Gabriel, Angel of the Lord, Cherubim, Michael

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Damascus; 3) 52; 4) Thessalonica; 5) Heel; 6) Michael

Top Ten Movies

1. The Croods: A New Age (PG) animated
2. The Little Things (R) Denzel Washington, Rami Malek
3. Judas and the Black Messiah (R) Daniel Kaluuya, LaKeith Stanfield
4. Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13) Gal Gadot, Chris Pine
5. The Marksman (PG-13) Kathryn Winnick, Liam Neeson
6. Monster Hunter (PG-13) Milla Jovovich, Tony Jaa
7. Nomadland (R) Frances McDormand, David Strathairn
8. Land (PG-13) Robin Wright, Demian Bichir
9. News of the World (PG-13) Tom Hanks, Steve Boyle
10. The War with Grandpa (PG) Robert De Niro, Uma Thurman

SCRAM...!!

Thomson Twin Cinema

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19

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