

[MUSIC] Hey, Wyoming, welcome to the Lawn and Garden Podcast with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck originally aired on KGOS and KERM in Torrington. Join Jeff, Jerry and all their special guests as they talk all things gardening in the great State of Wyoming. From plant variants, to weather events, to pesticides, and pollinators. Our Lawn and Garden Podcast helps you improve your home garden as well as your small acreage. So let's welcome Jeff Edwards, Jerry Erschabeck.

Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program. Good morning, Jerry. How are you?

Good morning, Jeff. I'm doing quite well. Thanks.

It is October 1st. Can you believe that.

Hey, haven't we had some weather.

Uh, interesting stuff. I'm- I'm really glad that it didn't freeze or frost today.

Oh, amen. Yeah- yeah.

Amen.

We still have a cantaloupe. Glad that we're still going. Yes er. [LAUGHTER] Our guest today is Jacqueline Downey from Audubon of the Rockies. Today's program will be bird-based. So uh, good morning, Jacqueline. How are you?

Good morning. I'm doing well. Thanks.

Good to see a good to have you on the program.

Thanks for having me.

Hey, before we get going, let's take a few moments and listen to our sponsors and we'll be right back after this.

[MUSIC] Wyoming First lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative. This [inaudible 00:01:34] nutrition program and the University of Wyoming Extension are partnering to launch a program called Grow A Little Extra. We invite you to join us in growing a little extra to donate fresh produce to local anti-hunger organizations that support our neighbors facing food insecurity. Stop by your local extension office to pick up your free seeds, or donate extra from your garden harvest. For more information, visit www.nohungerwyo.org/grow- www.nohungerwyo.org/grow

All right. Good morning everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM, our Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Jacqueline Downey from the Audubon of the Rockies. You know, Jacqueline, we- we kinda- we kinda turn the program over to you to get to-to kick things off. So how would you- how would you like to start? What do you want to talk about today?

Well, we can talk about uh, any number of things. There's a lot of birds in the world [LAUGHTER] literally in every corner and uh, [LAUGHTER] right now it's migration season, so there's a lot of migration. Uh, but one of the things that uh bird related that came up in the news that some of you may have heard about was the penguin attack in South Africa by swarm of bees, said unfortunately killed a number of them. So that was kind of uh-

That- that is-

- that's pressing.

-interesting and weird news, but uh, odd- d. I don't know [LAUGHTER] How do you think or why do you think the bees attacked them?

I didn't think it was on purpose. I think the bees were- uh, were probably migrating through, but they also migrate some species of bees, some don't I think, but I'm not the expert on bees, but I don't think it was on purpose. I think they happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. And uh, the penguins were not protected uh, in some areas of their bodies by the feathers. They normally would be protected by feathers. Uh, but uh, the places where uh, the-the penguins had died, they were found to have been stung in their eyes and in their non feathered parts of their bodies. So that's kinda why that happened.

How unfortunate and weird.

Yeah. Yes.

So uh, earlier this year I was complaining to some friends of ours that the bird book that I have was kind of inadequate. And lo and behold, a couple of weeks later, a Sibley guide to birds book showed up. And I thank them for that. It was just one of those things and- and my mother was looking at it the other day and she said, "There's a lot of birds in North America." [LAUGHTER]

They are. That's- that's a kind of a tricky thing. It's overwhelming, I think for people when they first started bird watching as they get this big book and they're like, "Oh my God, I have to memorize all of these birds and I want to know what I'm looking at or seeing." And uh-

Characteristics and how to speak to somebody about the marking here or there that they saw. And, you know, instead of telling everybody, it's just a little brown bird [LAUGHTER]

Well yeah- yeah

Well, now that's- that's gonna be one of my comments because I've seen a- a bird that is coming around just like a little yellow one, pretty yellow and just small and he goes beep, beep, beep, beep, and [LAUGHTER] he reminds.

It does narrow down right there.

That does narrow it down. And, you know, uh, he looks just like one of the red or the yellow ventures that we see in the- the spring and- but he's perfectly yellow.

Yeah. So are perfectly yellow birds, especially if they're little, you're probably looking at a yellow warbler, uh potentially it could be uh, American gold finch but this time a year, they're not bright yellow. Uh, and the males are the ones who are- are typically um, the brightest yellow and they have little black cat, but that's generally in the middle of summer. So this time of year they're starting to get old drab colored. I imagine you're looking at a yellow warp.

I'll look in my bird book and- and look at it.

Yeah. So-

Thank you.

-uh, there's this uh, app which is free, which is called the Merlin. I don't know if you can see this, but it's the Merlin Bird app right here.

Yes, we- we can see it, but our listeners can't.

Yeah.

That's okay.

[LAUGHTER]

It's free, you can download it on uh, all your different phone devices and it's called Merlin, it's by Cornell. So it does have this- this bird ID where you can- you can ask you like what size was this bird? What was it doing? What colors was it? When was it that you saw it? Uh, which is when you- when you're studying the bird those are really the questions that you need to be asking yourself when you see a bird. Before you run to your- your- your guide, you know you need to like identify what that bird looks like because it's gonna be gone before you can actually like pull the book up and start going through it. So, you know, it was asking you things like, you know, how- how big is this bird? What color? What time a year? Where's it at? What is it doing? And it asks you this on this app, and then it narrows down a variety of different birds. It could be based on your- your- um, your description. So that's really.

Whether they might be correct or not? [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. They're pretty cool- pretty close. I've- I've found is to be really close. But then the new thing that it has, which I really think is kinda cool and it really feels like cheating. It feels like you're cheating on the test. But there is a sound one as well where you can- you press the "Sound" button. And it'll literally, you could just kinda hold it near the bird you're trying to figure out and it will tell you what it is, pretty reliably.

Oh that's- that's pretty.

So it's pretty cool. It like again, it definitely feels like cheating. But-

Yeah, I couldn't use that this spring I had one come through that I had difficulty seeing. But it was a new call that I had not ever heard before, it was here around about 10 days and then gone and like still didn't know what it was so [LAUGHTER].

You know, especially when it's so distinctive and if it's- it's- it's kind of frustrating coz you're like, if I only knew what that bird was, that be so obvious, that's what- that what- it's like here in the middle arc, it's so distinctive.

Yeah.

And you can get over a 100 birds. You know some of those, you know, Jerry, like you were saying that chirp, chirp mean that's some marks with their call is so generic that it's really hard, I think unless you're professional grade to- to like get out. Uh, but uh yeah- yeah. So this is kinda cool and what's also neat is that it can work offli- it works when you don't have the internet. Um, if you download the path for where you're at, you know, like North America or I think it does like Eastern or whatever, so just so you know, you have it. And it doesn't full your entire phone if you're not burning in the South, it's not gonna upload those types of birds. It's only gonna do where your apps. So that's nice because it doesn't you know bog down your phone. Like yeah, so it's-that's there you go. I highly recommend it.

Jacqueline, you mentioned early on in the program that ah, birds are migrating right now. What are some of the things other than Jerry's little yellow chirp, chirp, chirp bird passing through. Well, what do you think uh-what are people most commonly going to see now?

Well, so far for us here in the Northeast part of the state, it's pretty reliable that the first week of April and the first week of October, we're gonna start to see the migrating sand hill cranes or hear them. So that's really exciting. I love- love to hear them. I love to be outside and you know you can kinda hear that sound in the background. So that's coming up. That should be- that should be upon us, at least for me. Um, but you know, we're getting a lot at right now, a lot of waterfalls coming in. So you know if you're near a body of water, you're probably going to see some unusual crit- critters. You're probably already hearing the geese it's overhead. Uh, but, uh, yeah, all of our- all of our- a lot of the birds that eat insects exclusively like swallows. You know starting here in the Northern part of the state and working your way down- down South, but they're gone already. I don't know if you have swallows in your area, but for us, they're gone and they've been gone for a while. And that's because, you know, there are insect eaters and then as the insects starts to wane, they- they start heading South. So that's kinda one of the things that's happening. Um, most of our hummingbirds are probably already- have already started heading South again, they are interested in flowering um, plants and nothing's flowering as much anymore, so especially not the types that they like.

Yeah.

Well, they're leaving um, yeah. So it's- it's a- it's a mass exodus sort of starting to happen right now.

Now, the Sandhills are pretty impressive once you figure out and understand what they are. Uh, if you're outside working in your yard. Do we much need to do-winterize things. Um, uh, it's interesting they can be really high and you might not see them, but you can kind of pinpoint where they're at just based on their call. And it's a very unique- very unique call.

It is, and it is fun to try- and especially if they're really high, to try and iden-try and find where they're at in the sky.

Yeah. And it usually when you find that group they are more evolving.

Yeah- yeah.

Well, I tried to mimic-I tried to mimic their call and see if they'll alter course. [LAUGHTER] And I've had a few alter course for me.

Yeah.

Jerry are you- are you doing that chirp chirp thing, out of?

Uh, no [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] Thank you guys. Um, this is Tom John. And if you want to see the cranes in the uh, sp- spring or- or the fall, drop the Table Mountain unit South of Torrington. First you'll see them go- going over your house and there are thousands of them out there. I mean, unbelievable and way fun to watch. You thing that Nebraska is Sandhill crane country but we've got a ton of them here. So it's- it's fascinating.

Well, I'm in- in Fremont County it must be in the middle of a flight zone too because the ride around Riverton, they always have a lot of Sandhill cranes on the ground out there.

Yeah. We've keep on landing right in- in our- our pastures from time to time. I always like to tease my father-in-law because he calls me one time and it's just like, you know, "Those dancing geese are here again." [LAUGHTER] Sandhill cranes. So.

They are- they are interesting birds.

Yeah.

Um, so Tom John, uh, for those of you on the, uh, radio listening to us, Tom John McCurry joined us. Good morning, Tom John. How are you?

Good morning. How are you Jeff?

Good. Good to see you.

Welcome and-and of course, my friend, Dr. Erschabeck.

Hey, Tom John.

Oh, that's nice to know that the rest of us are just acquaintances [LAUGHTER].
[OVERLAPPING].

The actual him a lot. Always good. [LAUGHTER].

Just go ahead Jerry.

Hey Tom, you are talking about a Cornell University study you wanted to ask Jacqueline about?

Yes, Jacqueline, Cornell University, the Department of Ornithology, talked about the number of birds that have died and continue to die. There are, they said 3 billion, not million, in the US and Canada. They indicated that the ecosystem is unraveling in the US and Canada. And, um, I think we all know that because of the fires and the droughts and all that stuff so it's- it's way easier to see. Would you'd like to comment on that Jacqueline?

Yeah. I mean, there's just so many- first off birds are everywhere, so they're going to be exposed to all of the calamities, right? So it's- it's hard enough when you've got just, you know, a very unique population in one location only and, you know, of course, they could be fine and not touched if there- everything else is around them is going bad but they're never in one little spot. But because birds are everywhere, they really are going to face all the different issues. Yeah, the wildfires, I don't think we're- we'll know for a long time the full effects of- of what's going to happen with that. As far as the drought, yeah, definitely I've noticed a lot, I mean, I have, uh, we have a lot of ponds on the ranch here and I- it's always been a favorite thing for me to just watch all the different, um, you know, waterfall that comes in. It just brings in all of these different species. Last year was probably the most diversity of species. Our pond was as high as it's ever been, at least the one that I get to watch most of the time here. And, uh, this year it is almost dry and we hardly seen anything, didn't even hear the frogs, the spring like we normally do. It completely just like, was- broke my heart, stressed me out and then I had to kind of remember that when I first moved to the ranch, uh, the year after that, we had really bad droughts that year too and all the ponds kind of went dry then. So I have to remind myself that it did get back to the point where it was like this amazing diversity, the spectacle of all these different birds that came in- in wildlife. Um, so I always have to try and remind myself that, um, you know, habitats to build back, um, and when they do, um, animals come back. Is it going to be the same ones? I don't know. Will be in the same number? M-most likely not. But, um, things- you know, nature as a way of building itself back. That's what I have to tell myself as- as a glass half full kind of a person. But, um, yeah, I mean, it's- it's things like right now we're migrating, um, so now we're dealing with all of the issues that come with migration. How's the flood that- tha, um, you know, like right now I said my pond's dry, that a lot of ponds in the West right now are dry. So all of these migrating waterfowl that were spending this wonderful time in Alaska and the tundra were trying to make their way down to, uh, um, to the Southern parts of- of, um, Central America and- and South America.

They're going to have a really hard time here in this migration period or they may. Hopefully they'll figure to find different locations to stop at. Um, many won't. Um.

Jacqueline?

Yeah?

I've kind of interesting thing when I was with the Game and Fish Department in Laramie, we studied and I know that they're big herbivores elk, that anytime you overcrowd any species, birds of your feeder or elk, like they did on their, uh, feeding grounds, Jackson Hole and other feeding grounds up, um, in the Northwest Wyoming, they get diseases from one another. And the US Specie Allies Services indicated that we should take our feeder down because, uh, or spread them out and make sure you keep them clean because they're getting salmonella and there's other bird diseases that cause lots of problems. It's the same way with any species. It doesn't make any difference if it's elk or birds.

Sometimes I am going to harass you a little bit. Are you talking about-

That's okay.

Taking down your elk feeder or taken down your-

[LAUGHTER] Once out in front of my house. No, I don't. I'm just kidding.

[LAUGHTER] But it's here- you're talking about taking down your bird feeder.

I already did.

Yeah.

Okay. All right.

Because- all I'm doing is spreading disease and that's not- or bird feeding for and it's- it's- and- so maybe Jacqueline, maybe you can help me with this. In the wintertime, I- is there any chance I should put them back up or what do you think?

Right. Well, so the- the beginning of all of this was definitely only on the East Coast. There was all these salmo- salmonella outbreaks and I think people just get a little lax, you know, feed- failure feeders, they empty out, you fill them again, and you don't really think about it. But the truth is you really should be washing your feeders out. You know, so every single time is you're going to go back to refill them, you need to just- you need to wash them. If there has been a recorded outbreak in your area, you absolutely need to take them down. I know in the Jackson area there were some issues up there this summer. But for the most part, Wyoming sort of escaped that for awhile. And then it sort of slowly started creeping in. But yes, I think that what did they say, you know, it's just like if you have these birds that are mobbing your feeders, always a solution is if there's an issue with your feeders, just take it down. You're not going to- you're not going to harm the bird species that are coming through. They're fine. They have their own. The reason why they're- where there are

is because there is food for them or they'd be moving on their way. So- so it's okay to take them down, it's okay to remove them and you should always be washing them as often as possible.

And so when you're washing them Jacqueline, is it just simply a soapy water mix like you would wash dishes or should you include a rinse with bleach or what- what are you thinking to recommend to have people wash these things?

Yeah, I think that for the most part of a soapy water, hot soapy water mix is fine. If you suspect or if there is been a contamination in the area, then you should definitely bleach it and again, take it- take it- take it down for a while. I think there are recommending, I don't know if it's two weeks or two months. That's big difference but [LAUGHTER] one of the two. Just to kind of let things kind of clear through. And initially if you're question might be, how do I know if there's been an outbreak or if there's been nobody else. First off, if you do find [BACKGROUND] feathers. But it's also things like, um, the birds will just visibly look sick. They'll might have crusty eyes, crusty, um, you know, nears on around their beaks. There's been reports even of like almost looks like a drool, like liquid by their- by their beak. And just kind of, you know, you know when something looks sick. So if you see even just one bird that looks like that. And even if they're not, if they're near your home, then if they're near your home, you know, say in your park and you happen to find one, it's probably a good indication that something's going up. It's nothing wrong with taking your feeder down for a little while.

Okay.

Jeff and Jacqueline, um, what's really interesting, a Cornell study talked about when to take your bird feeders dominance is in the warm weather because diseases proliferate during the times of- or when it's really warm. So as hot as it had gotten where we are in Wyoming, probably it's a good idea that when it gets up to 90 to a 100, you should take your bird feeders down.

Yeah, you know, it's-that can be a good idea. Um, I don't know of any specific studies showing that. Always if when you've got things that are crowding together, it's going to be, um, an issue for disease. But I will say that with Hummingbird feeders, that when it's hot and it had those have not been cleaned in because they have all that sugar mixture, the bacteria can really, in hot weather, can really, really start to, ah, multiply and can be a real big issue. So definitely the Hummingbird feeders are one of those ones that are kind of heat sensitive.

Yeah, you get a lot of fermentation with the sugars, don't you?

Yeah.

Yeah. And are birds susceptible to alcohol poisoning as well?

Yeah, they can, especially, um, in the su- in the wintertime when we have things like chukar cherry or crab apples or any of your fruits that have that situation where they can start with a little- little ferment a little bit, they can- they can have an issue with

that.

I've seen a lot of drunk birds around. [LAUGHTER] No, I haven't. Just teasing.

Well, okay, so there's also a situation with birds, social ants have, when they bite birds, they can have sort of an effect on them that's kind of gives- it's kind of like a drug like or you know, some sort of an effect on them that makes them a little bit off the wall and they will sometimes on purpose let ants bite them. This is a- an actual thing. It's not really studied. So, you know-

Just so they can feel that effect?

Yeah.

That's- that is another bizarre behavior. [LAUGHTER].

Well, humans do the same thing. They pay pretty good money to feel odd. [LAUGHTER].

What type of answer it is or do you know the relationship between the birds and the ants? What- what do you know?

I- I don't know I'll- I'll have to- I actually had to res- I had to research this because of a- a, um, a call that I got one time about a bird that was- looked like it was kept on- looked like it was dying. And anyway, I did some research on it and it was that the ants can do this to certain birds and they knew.

It was- it was dancing in the anthill. [LAUGHTER]. Wow, interesting.

[inaudible 00:23:14] which kind of birdy things like that? [LAUGHTER]

Hey- hey Jacqueline, when- uh, now that we're into full harvest of hay, and all of our beans and all that stuff- the ground is being cleared of any cover. Uh, is that a good thing or a bad thing for the birds? I know that birds prey, they seem to uh, be able to see better and to find the little rats and mice and what not.

Uh-huh.

Should- should people leave a little strip of grass on the- on the side of their- their harvest or- what do you think about that?

Yeah, definitely you know, it's more- it's more important in the- in the summertime when you've got really young, you know, you've got- all the birds are nesting. At this point, most of the birds are done nesting. Uh, you know they- you may still see some- some young birds, but for the most part they're ready to go. They're ready to actually already go migrate, or they're ready to deal with- and this is just a weird year. We've got this wonderful weather. But I know you all know that this could also- it also be like 40 degrees right now.

Yeah.

So most of our birds are ready and prepared for that type of a thing. If they're the type of birds that live in Wyoming throughout the winter. And if not, then they're probably are- are already ready to go or already have left. But in the- in the summertime- yeah, definitely. Especially if you have your- your ground-nesting birds, um, that can be important for them to have some areas to hide in. So strips can be nice.

There's an area out near where Jeff lives North of Henry. I like to drive out that way because I always often see a lot of birds in the- in the electrical lines sitting on the poles looking- looking for something to- to move. I had the opportunity to see a great horned owl sitting on something along side of the road and he just watched me go on by. [LAUGHTER] Of course I went by slow, but uh, he just watched me go on by. And uh, I think he was going to eat something that- a little later.

Was that scenario during the day?

Yeah, it was. I think it was a great horned owl. He was the one that had the tiny ears.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah. So I mean, those guys because they- they think they can hunt at night. They definitely rely more on their sense of hearing than sight. So, you know, a field that's open or field that's- that's got grass cover is not as big of a deal for those types of- of- of birds. But you have your visual predators that are looking for something, then things like that will be more helpful to them to have a cleared spot than- than not.

And Jacqueline one more- uh, one other thing. I just got to see this again. Uh, just last week. Yeah, I think it might have been some sort of hawk. I don't know if it was red-tailed hawk, but in behind him were these little birds pecking at his tail and, you know, screaming at him, and- and he just looks around and just keeps on flying maybe. [LAUGHTER] But it's so funny to see small birds attacking or- or at least harassing-

Uh-huh

What appears to be a pretty vicious hawk.

Yeah. Well, so not all birds are skilled at catching prey in the air. So, you know, like if- especially if it's a red tail hawk, that's not one of their great skill sets. They are more like see it on the ground and then come zooming down feet first. That's their method. If you have one of these, like falcons that are used to catching birds in the air at- you know, you're less likely to have some of these brave little birds attacking that guy I imagine. But and- you know, moms of all types do not like it if you come near their babies. So um, they'll bring out a pretty fierce warrior and- in any type of species.

Yeah. And my brother has a lot of osprey around him in Guernsey. And uh, someone

has erected- well put a platform on a large pole and they build a huge nest. And he said that, yeah- oh yeah, they're already migrated. Where do the osprey go?

Well they- you know, sometime they'll go to definitely bigger bodies of water. And I'm trying to think- I feel like they're one of our very early returners. So I'll have to think about that. But yeah, ours are gone as well. Um, definitely they want an open-source of water. So if you've got closed waters, you know [NOISE] water that gets um, frozen over, they're probably going to go to the closest place that's um, doesn't have that going on.

Now they'll dive for a fish, won't they?

Yeah.

The Osprey.

Yeah.

And an eagle will- will do that- like you said with the red tail. They'll- they'll [NOISE] see the fish and grab it with their talents.

Yes, but eagles are bald. Bald eagles are more likely to steal their food than catch it themselves.

[LAUGHTER] They're-they're an opportunistic bird.

Yes- yes. There are so many different documentation of bald eagles stealing from, you know, osprey or other- and- or- you know, and they're- they're also called scavengers as well.

So um, yes. Thank you, Jacqueline, for that information. And I think we're about halfway through our program. So let's take a break and listen to our sponsors.

[MUSIC] Looking for the best way to keep up with all the news from University of Wyoming Extension, the College of Agriculture, and Wyoming Ag Experiment Stations. The uwagnews.com website features real-time education, research, and extension events, and feature stories from across the state and subscribe to our monthly e-mail newsletter, Bookmark, uwagnews.com today. uwagnews.com, growing people, knowledge, and communities.

Everybody, This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERN Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Jacqueline Downey from Audobon of the Rockies. And we have an interlope or with Tom John McCreery [LAUGHTER] who's a- a- providing insight and bird information. Tom John during the break you brought up a comment about buzzards. So if you would like to continue on that vein and ask Jerry your question again, that would be fantastic.

Well, the thing is, when we mountain-bike depth at currency uh, on those cliffs above the lake, the turkey buzzards were all over up there and they write those currents and you- they float up from below, it was fantastic. The only thing about

buzzards is they eat carrion and they smell, I mean, they wish they had a dead tree up there and my God- we ride through those canyons. And- you know, it wasn't a pleasant experience. [LAUGHTER]

So uh, previously the- the turkey vultures used to hang out on the, uh, I believe is one of the towers in Downtown Torrington.

And they still do.

Do they still? Okay. All right. Uh, I don't know what that tower is for, but if you're- if you're interested in vultures/buzzards, they are here. They do show up. Um, I think they do provide a necessary service, correct, Jacqueline?

Yeah, they do. You know, they definitely take care of all the things that die and- and cleaning things up.

So I was- I recently read a thing about um, turkey buzzards. Are they vult- vultures or buzzards? What's the correct term?

Well, I think they're- turkey vultures is what they're called by me on that. But I think that we all know what you're talking about when you say vultures [OVERLAPPING] so [LAUGHTER] it's not a problem.

I- I read a thing that also commented about black buzzards, black vultures.

Uh-huh.

And they are- they're actually uh, predators. They will- is that correct? That they will consume live animals. Is that correct?

I have- I'm not sure, but you know, there's- as they start moving towards condors which are relative you know, from one thing to the next.

Sure.

As- they all do different things. So, I mean, are- the extinct version used to hunt and kill monkeys. So um,

Uh, do we have black buzzards in North America?

No. I believe those are like a Texas species.

Okay. So no.

But there's- there's quite a few varieties of vultures and buzzards. Um, and like I said, they kind of even vol- contours are included into- into that sort of- of- of- of um, line.

Are they considered- are they considered raptors? Or they are different.

They are newer raptors, but it's kind of like we let them in. So [NOISE] raptor mean-

anti- um, um, it actually means- refers to the fact that they kill and hunt with their feet.

Okay.

So let- so typically since they don't kill and hunt with their feet, they aren't technically- should not technically be, but the other- they have all the other um, uh, [NOISE] parts of- of being a raptor which are- is very sharp vision, um, sharp talons, and then a sharp beak.

Okay, so it's kind of like the- it's the same type of debate whether Pluto is a planet or not.

[LAUGHTER] [inaudible 00:32:31] be a lumber or a- a.

Exploder.

Exploder. Yeah- yeah

Okay, Excellent. Jerry, go ahead and I can see that you have a comment or a question.

I've also been- uh, I've also- my brother [NOISE] likes those uh, turkey buzzards and uh, he read that they're very social and social towards humans. And that uh, if you don't fire shotguns or anything around them, and uh, if you happen to live on a ranch or farm and you have butchered critter and- and their intestines. We used to do that with some of our animals, the cows, pigs, that sort of thing, and put their intestines out. Make pies with them, but also turkey buzzards would come and you know, get rid of your stuff for you?

Yeah. Yep. Absolutely.

But that is their job [LAUGHTER].

That's not their job.

I know they'll take them out too. They'll come, you know, if you're out doing something again, like you said, if you're not you know, shouting or making loud noises or you know, a formula or something, they'll come check you out. You know, they'll just kind of soar by um,

Making sure you're still alive. [LAUGHTER].

Checking on my well-being. If something is there

Tom- Tom John. They were just check on you in yadda Guernsey. They [LAUGHTER].

No, checking on you.

Maybe you could have bated one to follow you home and you could have had him as a pet.

Jeff, I've tried that- that thing when I was about eight years old, as bear creek. And I laid down on one of the beauties, I laid real- really still well, although my eyesight got lost when they were passing it because [LAUGHTER] I never having me like drawing them in for sure [LAUGHTER]

Well, actually, you should be still, you know, sort of flatter because they- they hunt by scent. They could smell something rotten over 200 feet away. So the fact that they didn't come into you is you know, an indicator that you were not horribly smelling. [LAUGHTER].

That you have not rotten yet.

[OVERLAPPING] I'm not rotten yet. [LAUGHTER]

Wait to go Tom [LAUGHTER]

That's interesting. [LAUGHTER]

Okay, and we've traveled down several rabbit holes. Jacqueline, are there other things that we should know as we go into fall? You know, things that we might be seeing, things [NOISE] specifically that we should talk about are let our listeners know about before we let you go?

No. Well, I mean, as I said, it was- it is migration season. So some of the things you can do to help birds right now is they have a lot of- they have a lot of windows strikes, you know, birds. They can't really tell that just like anybody who's walked into a screen door knows- don't always see see the glass before they hit it. So if you find you have a lot of issues with that, there's a variety of things you want us just to keep your windows really dirty. That's- that's so fewer than procrastinating.

Hey that- hey I like that idea. [LAUGHTER].

It's for the birds, honey.

Yeah.

But you can also do things like hang up, you know, beautiful stained-glass things. You can put little stickers. There are some- these tape they have now that you can't really see. So if you're kinda particular and you wanna make sure you can still see out your windows perfectly don't want anything in your way. Then they have this really great and really inexpensive tape that you can put on your windows that kinda helps with that. People get real creative. Sometimes they hang up fishing line with different things on- on the fishing line hanging. So like feathers or -

CDs- old CDs.

Yeah exactly. [LAUGHTER] You know, whatever you're- whatever you're into. So those are just something you can do that- this time a year, if you've noticed that that's happening a lot, you've got one of these big picture windows or even just sometimes if you have your- if you have your feeders and it's like you want your

feeder close enough to the window will now stop and be able to get onto the feeder before they hurt themselves. But you also don't want it so far away that-, you know, in-between the zone where they might even just kinda hit the window when they're trying to get to it. So it's kinda one of these magical spots, but they found to be actually have it pretty close to the window. That stops it because they will see that feeder first before they start flying further- further in.

Okay. So here's a question. If you have a bird strike, do you attempt to go help the bird. Do you ignore the bird? What- what's the best course of action? I know there's a lot of tender hearted people out there and feel that they might need to go help the bird. Is that- is that the best thing to do?

Well, we do- we- we do have a network of bird rehab folks. And you can- you can have one and it's hard those as not- and there's not every- they're not in every location. So you might be in like a desert rehab speaking where you live, but there is a network that people were and just calling the game and fish, they'll kinda lead you to where you are. You can do some Internet searching and figure out who's closest to you. But there is a network where if you were saying Torrington and there's nobody nearby. So people will take that bird and take it to a location that they could be rehabbed. Now that typically just is- is going to be your raptors. There's not a lot of rehab folks that can take care of, say, a robin or anything kinda smaller than that. So you can do things like you're gonna get a box that's lined with something soft like a towel or some paper towel. You can put your- the bird in there with the loose fitting lid. That's definitely that can get air and sometimes just not being stressed outside where something can come in kill it filling like they're in a dark location can kinda calm them enough to recuperate and then might be fine, open the box outside, not inside. [LAUGHTER] But, you know, that's- that's really the only thing that can be done for some of these smaller migrating birds unless you happen to be near a place that will take a bird like that.

So Jacqueline, it's mostly a neck injury isn't or a concussion because they're flying with her head first and hitting that glass it I don't know how fast that-, you know, probably fast enough to fly. And I've seen- my- my ideas, just leave them alone and check on them every once in a while and make sure the cats don't get them in that sort of thing. Even when the birds- young birds fall out of the trees, I hesitate to handle on and try to put them back in to the tree.

Absolutely. Yeah. And then thank you but I do- you do want to just kinda like step back and watch and see what's going to happen with the bird strike. Because oftentimes, if they are healthy enough, they're going to fly away in a matter of minutes. So it's almost like anything else do you have to do? They're not gonna- they're not- they're just not going to survive. Um, yes. And especially during fledgling time, that's when the bird start trying to practice being adults and practice flying. They're always- they're going to fly fall onto the ground and you're rushing in to help them, is not going to help them. So you just need to kind of let birds do their thing. Maybe you- maybe you have a case where it's a bird that doesn't have feathers yet, in which case, and that bird is too young to be out of- out of its nest.

You can see the nest and usually put it back up. Great, you can do that. But for the most part, you just kinda got let nature be.

Should keep cat away from, Jerry.

Amen. Well, we keep our cats in and we feed- we're feeding now. We haven't been filling our feeders, but we've been just putting our bird feed on the cement pad and making them all of a- making them be a platform feeder. The ones we have now a blue jays, doves, little birds-

Wait- wait a minute.

You enjoy that.

You're social distancing your bird feeder.

Well, yeah. [LAUGHTER] I wanna- wanna puts a bunch of feed on the- on the- in a pile on the summit slab. So, you know, every so often we clear that away and put out fresh.

Drop it down.

We haven't been but-.

So there you go.

We maybe should be.

You might need to.

Yeah.

Jacqueline.

Yeah.

Can you spray Clorox on your feeders to get rid of the-.

Thumb down- thumb down that product would be called bleach.

What did I call it? [LAUGHTER].

Oh, sorry. Yeah bleach.

We try to- we try to avoid trade names.

Yeah okay. Sorry about that.

Please continue.

Yeah. You can absolutely especially if you are concerned, you should absolutely do that. But you want to, you know, um, dilute it and you want to make sure that you

rinse it really well afterwards. We shouldn't smell any of that smell afterwards.

Okay

And here's- here's one more thing. What is your favorite thing to feed birds around our area?

Me?

You.

She probably doesn't feed birds. [LAUGHTER]

Wait a minute.

No, no- I do- I do. So I always tell you what I don't feed my birds, which is millet because I don't have any of the bird species that really like it. And they just- so in most of the time, if you buy a bird seed mix, it'll be in the mix. And none of the birds, so we have like it and they just throw it out. And they create a mess. And then we have, you know, well, we've got- we have chickens and- and pigs. And so they- they're fine with that but I don't like that. But I love black oil, sunflower seed. And I really like Niger thistle seed, which I guess is actually they're saying is not now at thistle, wherever. It's the teeny tiny little Niger thistle. I love those two. I think it feeds on most every single thing. We don't get a lot of hummingbirds, so I don't do that, but I do plant a lot of the native plants that are necessary for things like hummingbirds because we do get them occasionally. Yeah. So I think- I think it's lucky when you live rurally and you have just habitat that's naturally there for them. And you can provide some things. I think when you live in town, you really have to create this little oasis if you want a variety of birds to come out and you've gotta kinda make an effort for them and that they will show up. So that's kind of nice.

Yeah.

Sure- excuse me go ahead.

They will show up and bring you little packets of fertilized seed that they leave behind. [LAUGHTER].

Yeah [inaudible 00:43:40]

Go ahead Tom John.

But Jacqueline on the smoke, we had a ton of smoked this year of Torrington. And has there been any research as far as what that does to their lungs? Because they're outside all the time and I think we get away from it.

What- what's it do to your lungs when you're outside in this smoke? [LAUGHTER].

I cough a lot.

Yeah, there was- there was- so the last year when we had all the fires. There was a report that was done to see what's happening to the birds and to tell the truth. I haven't looked at that, but I can't imagine it's good. Whether it's the smoke, whether it's the habitat loss, and none of it can be good. But like we said, hoping that everyone will be resilient and habitat will flourish again.

Eventually.

Eventually.

It all changes.

Yeah.

Go ahead Jerry.

Do you- Tom and Jeff, do you provide water for the birds?

Yes.

Yeah.

Yeah, I do. I try to- I try to aerate it because I think it's- it keeps the bacteria from growing and so- and I changed the water every other day.

Yeah. Alright. We have I'm sorry. I do have water out, but it's for my dog. And if birds happened to drink out of it, then so be it. I'm not- I don't particularly provide things for birds [LAUGHTER] other than habitat. Okay. [LAUGHTER]

So we have a kidney-shaped [OVERLAPPING]. Oh no. [LAUGHTER] So I have tried to feed hummingbirds. My mother has bought me hummingbird feeders. Uh, every single one of them I have broken. [LAUGHTER] Not- not intentionally, you- you might think that that's an intentional behavior, but it's not. Uh, it's just one of those things that, uh, you know, they're going to- they're going to make it. They're always out there looking for food. They're going to be okay. So I- I don't need to provide them food or-

What hummingbirds- um, I- I honestly feel that having flow- you know, the native flowers that they need when they need it. That's the thing about the native flowers is that they're blooming exactly when the pollinators are coming through. So it's so important to have those there for them. And um, you know, feeders are just a little bonus if you happened to have quite a few just so you can see them where you want to see them, but-

Get them closer to your house and be able to watch Bird TV.

[LAUGHTER] Exactly.

That's- that's what I'm talking about. [LAUGHTER]. We have a small kidney-shaped pond that we keep going yearly- uh, going throughout the year. And I have a bubbler

and maybe just a little bit of motion in the water to keep it open and I'm amazed at how many birds stop by and take a drink. I know the deer like to- deer like to get it. The- the neighborhood dogs come by for a drink. Uh, yeah. [LAUGHTER] I haven't submitted myself for a drink yet, but [LAUGHTER], uh, just never know if you get too thirsty. [OVERLAPPING] So we'd like- we like the birds- we like the birds for the Bird TV. That's- that's where we're at.

Yeah. Bird TV is nice.

Yeah [LAUGHTER].

All right. Any other questions for Jacqueline, Tom John?

No, I'm good. Thank you.

Okay. Jerry, do you have any other thing?

Well, I do, but, it's- it's not about Jacqueline. But Jacqueline, Thank you so much for joining us. Perhaps you would join us again next year we- we'd love to have you.

Of course, yeah. Always enjoy it.

Well, we'll try to get on the schedule for next year.

Okay. Sounds good.

All right.

Thank you Jacqueline.

When you don't have to go away, you know, you can, you can stay till the end. But as we're wrapping up here, I'd like to remind everybody and Jerry that this is our last program of the season. We're going to make a small little break.

Yeah. Well, I wake up next- next time or- for the radio program and I overslept. I'll- I'll go up oh my gosh, I've overslept.

[LAUGHTER] And Marina can tell you that it's alright, your bus settle down [LAUGHTER].

I hope you take this time, Jerry, to learn how to knit those penguin sweaters.

Oh, you know what?

And so I don't think- I don't think we said that on the air, Jacqueline so-

Oh.

So that's okay. We can do it now. After your comment or your information about the penguins being stung by bees, you said, well, on the other flip side of that is, go ahead.

There's this, this story that was documented about this Australian man who was the oldest man in Australia, who, while he was doing in his retirement, was knitting these very beautiful penguins sweaters for the penguins who are trying to recover from an oil spill. [NOISE] So for everything we do or that we see that's bad news, you know, you have those positive things. So, I was thinking about all these poor penguins and on South Africa who have been stung to death, there is a 100 year-old man, knitting penguins sweaters.

In Australia [LAUGHTER].

In Australia.

But Jacqueline encouraged Jerry to start knitting or learning how to knit so he could make penguins sweaters.

Penguin sweaters, yeah.

Help the gentleman from Australia make penguin sweaters.

And maybe that's the secret to growing old is learning how to knit.

It could be. [OVERLAPPING] Because I lived a long time, I think.

So, I have some pumpkin news.

Oh, good. Yes, please share.

Well, the uh, Ohio had way off and it broke the record for Ohio at 2195 pounds. [OVERLAPPING] The winner was- yeah, the winner was paid \$2 a pound. He won \$4,390.

Well, that's just might pay for the fertilizer.

Just about breaking even, breaking even. But in- in for us, October 7th, City Park farmers market, 46 will be the tale of the tape. Now, we've had kind of a hard growing season for pumpkins. And we find that there's going to be a few, but we're going to put it in with a farmer's market. And again is October 7th at the City Park. It's put on by the Goshen County Master Gardeners, and there'll be prizes in two categories, adults, chickens, no entry fee. I'm so sorry. Adults and children.

Chickens. [OVERLAPPING] I felt like you said, an adult, you had to bring a chicken. [LAUGHTER].

Let me say that one more time. Prizes in two categories, adults and children. There'll be a pumpkin coloring contest. Anyone can enter, materials provided. So that-

It will be Thursday at the farmers market.

Thursday, October 7th, farmer's market. So that's my news about the Goshen County Master Gardeners pumpkin way off.

Perfect.

Jerry, I have one more thing.

Okay.

Our tomatoes during- our we're talking about our tomatoes not ripening and we concurred that it's smoke in the air and I don't know if that's correct. But it's- I've heard a whole of that.

I don't have an answer for that. I really don't [LAUGHTER]. Uh, our garden this year has been the best garden ever. I mean, now all of our tomatoes are maturing and I think they're a little bit behind, but I- I can't complain about my garden this year. Everything has been awesome.

We have one tomato plant now that is producing red tomatoes. And I think there's like, well, I'll five, seven, eight tomatoes on the vine and we're just hoping for a good BLT.

Well, you could start with a fried green tomato and make it a bright green tomato BLT.

Yes, we could [LAUGHTER]. Our neighbor did some- I didn't get an opportunity to- to test it but she made some fried green tomatoes. And [inaudible 00:52:32] said they were delicious.

Just last weekend and I had fried green tomato and crab eggs benedict. It was- it was yummy. [LAUGHTER] Yeah. Okay. We've digressed. We moved on to food. Sorry everybody. [LAUGHTER] They- I think we probably need to wrap up the show, Jerry, once again, thank you for excellent season of Lawn and Garden topics and we look forward to having you and being back again next year, probably.

My pleasure,.

Probably the latter part of April. We'll see how it goes. Tom John, thanks for joining us today.

Anytime, Jeff.

That's fantastic. It's good when you can substitute for me if I have issues getting here.

Alright.

Once again, all of you who listen to us, we- Jerry and I came back and forth that there's only four people out there, but I think I've talked to more than four people who've said, Hey, I heard two programs last week. So I don't know [OVERLAPPING]. Yeah. I don't know if it's all four people at one time, but, you know, we appreciate all of you who listen to us and put up with our antics and maybe not so funny humor. But anyhow, we appreciate it and we'll be back next spring.

You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Listen each week for details on new events and how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening.