

Birds

Tin Can Bird Feeder



Items needed: Tin Can, Dowel (strong enough to support a bird), Ribbon, Paint, Paint Brushes, Hammer, Nails, Hot Glue Gun/extremely strong glue

Steps: 1. Remove labels from the tin can and clean it. 2. Using the hammer and nails, poke a hole in the base of the can close to one of the edges. The can close to one of the edges. Thread the ribbon through the hole in the can and pull the ribbon through the open side of the can. You should have ribbon inside the can that runs up the length of the can. The two ends can be tied together and used to hang the birdfeeder. 5. Glue the dowel to the side of the can opposite your ribbon. 6. Put birdseed in the can and hang it outside!

Craft taken from: turningclockback.com/2013/04/earth-day-craft-idea-tin-can-bird-feeder.html

Bird of Paradise Paper Strips:

Try this happy and colorful Bird of Paradise Art project to brighten your fall day! Cut long construction paper in 1-inch strips. Children may choose 6 - 7 colors. Place together and staple at one end (1/2-inch in). Move the paper strips so they curve up for the head then staple about 3 inches in from the end. Curve the paper strips down for the body and staple about halfway down. Take a pencil and twirl each paper strip end around the pencil. Make 3 - 4 curls down and 3 curls up. Clip an angle at the end of the head for the beak. Mark the eyes with black Sharpie or use "google eyes." Display these beautiful birds in your home to illuminate your day! (Brought to you by Elementary School Enrichment Activities Okscribbler:Blogspot.Com)



Birds and Ornithology Teen Booklists

Fiction

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
DOER

Dipper of Copper Creek by Jean Craighead George
GEOR

The Ever-After Bird by Ann Rinaldi RINA

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt SCHM

Owls in the Family by Farley Mowat MOWA

Nonfiction

Birds of the Rocky Mountains by Todd Telander
598.0978 TELA

The Original Water-color Paintings by John James Audubon for The Birds of America
by John James Audubon
598.297 A916O V.1 (Jumbo- Large Books)

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird
by Phillip M. Hoose
598.72 H789R

The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition
by David Sibley
598.097 S564N 2014

Wesley the Owl by Stacy O'Brien
598.97 O13W

Web Picks for Birders

Bird watching is a great activity for the fall months! With birds migrating at this time of year, you can see species that normally don't stick around our area. PPLD's librarians have chosen some wonderful websites about birds and bird watching. Start at ppld.org and click on **Recommended Websites** on the left side of the screen. Click on "Animals" to find several sites devoted to birds. Be sure to check out the Colorado-specific links to the **Aiken Audubon Society** (the Colorado Springs chapter of the American Audubon Society), the **Colorado Birding Society** (a listserv discussion group you might consider joining) and the **Colorado Birding Trail** (links outdoor recreation sites, both public and private, into a network through a designated driving route). Also, look for the field trip opportunities listed in all three. Beginning (and advanced) birders will appreciate **WhatBird.com** as it helps you identify North American birds by various attributes. Be sure to check **Macaulay Library** for bird sounds and videos, and the **Map of Life** to see what birds you'll find in any location worldwide. Happy birding!

High Flying Books for Kids

J-Easy (picture books)

I Hatched! by Jill Esbaum ESBA

Little Bird Takes a Bath by Matisabina Russo RUSS

Arrowhawk by Lola M. Schaefer SCHA

You Nest Here With Me by Jane Yolen YOLE

J-Fiction (chapter books)

Falcon in the Glass: a Novel by Susan Fletcher FLET

Charlie's Raven by Jean Craighead George GEOR

Julie and the Eagles by Megan McDonald MCDO

The Aviary by Kathleen O'Dell ODEL

J-Nonfiction

Is This Panama? a Migration Story by Jan Thornhill
591.568 T512I

Wild About Rocky Mountain Birds: a Youth's Guide to the Rocky Mountain States by Adele Porter
598.0978 PORT

Mama Built a Little Nest by Jennifer Ward
598.1564 WARD

On the Wing by David Elliott
811.54 E460



Orchard House at the Rock Ledge Ranch

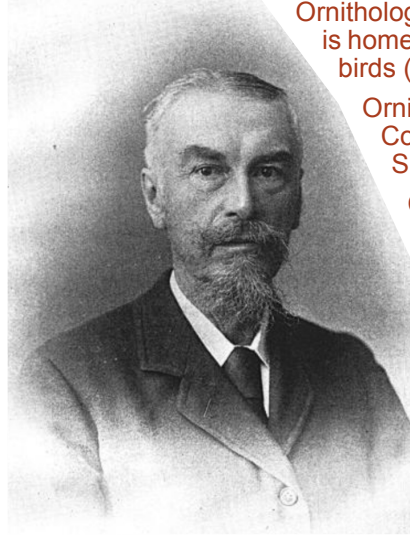
Featured Family Paul and Wendy Geisler

We met the Geisler family in the spring 2015 Homeschool Connections. Let's finish our interview and ask Wendy Geisler a few questions on page 3.



To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.

William Sclater: Colorado's Ornithologist



Ornithology, the study of birds, is a wonderful way to combine biology and the great outdoors. Colorado is home to a number of organizations that encourage amateur ornithologists in their search for unique birds (see the "Little Known Secrets" section inside for more information).

Ornithologists have long felt at home in Colorado. With excellent scenery and a variety of habitats, Colorado has had nearly 500 different total species recorded within its boundaries. Colorado Springs in particular has an avid birding community.

Colorado Springs has been home to ornithologists since General William Palmer founded the town in the 1870s. Charles E. Aiken spent over 30 years collecting information and specimens of birds in El Paso County and the greater Colorado area before donating his work to Colorado College in 1907. To help curate this collection, General Palmer asked his brother-in-law, William Sclater, to move to Colorado Springs. A well-known ornithologist, Mr. Sclater's duties at the college included teaching and serving as director of the natural history museum General Palmer had started at the college.

During his time in Colorado, Sclater worked on a book cataloging the birds of Colorado. Sclater continued his work after he and his wife moved back to England in 1909,

following General Palmer's death. Published in 1912, the book was titled *A History of the Birds of Colorado*. Mr. Sclater based the book off of the collection donated to the museum by Mr. Charles E. Aiken, who served as an advisor to Mr. Sclater while he worked on his book. The book includes descriptions and information on where to find 392 different birds as well as a few black and white photographs of certain species and habitats. Pikes Peak Library District has a copy of Mr. Sclater's book in Special Collections at the Penrose Library under call number 598.2 S419H.

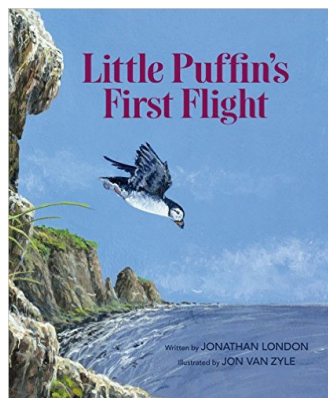
If you and your family want to learn more about William Sclater and his time in Colorado Springs, head to Rock Ledge Ranch where Mr. Sclater lived during his time in the city. General Palmer built Mr. Sclater and his wife, Charlotte, a home on the Ranch. It was named the Orchard House. The Ranch is located at 3105 Gateway Road, off of the main entrance to Garden of the Gods. For information on hours, pricing, and special programs, visit their website, rockledgeranch.com, or call (719) 578-6777.

For additional resources on birding, be sure to check out PPLD's databases like Science in Context and World Book Online. Another fantastic birding website, Cornell Science Lab of Ornithology, has lots of information on how to get started birding. As always, our shelves also hold a wealth of information. Make sure to stop in the 598s in nonfiction to take a peek at all of our print resources. Enjoy discovering birds this fall!



new books are treasures, waiting to be discovered. Enjoy!

The BookShelf



Little Puffin's First Flight by Jonathan London (2015)

This picture book is a great example of books that provide information and a good story. Puffins are seabirds, interesting birds that live far from Colorado. A story like this is a wonderful way to meet them.

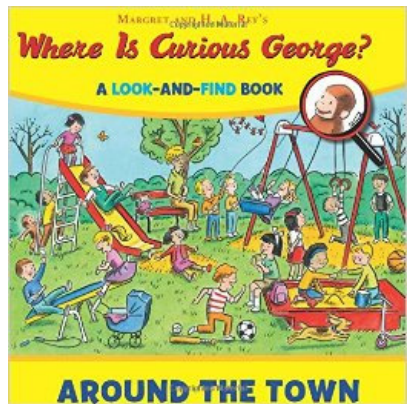
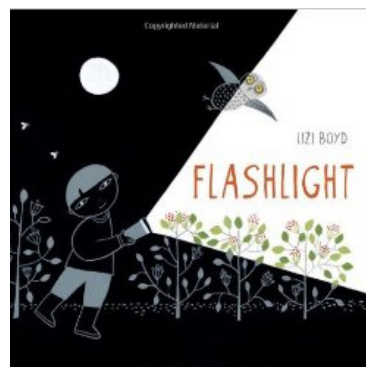
The author gives us more facts about the Horned Puffin in the back of the book.

Science, ages 4 - 8

Flashlight by Lizi Boyd (2014)

A wordless walk in the woods, join a child who is exploring the woods after dark, and see what animals are caught in the flashlight beam. Wordless books are a wonderful opportunity for a not-yet-reading child to "read" or tell you the story. Being able to understand what pictures are telling the reader is an important skill for preschoolers to develop.

Visual acuity, ages 4 - 8



Where Is Curious George? Around the Town: A Look-and-Find Book (2015)

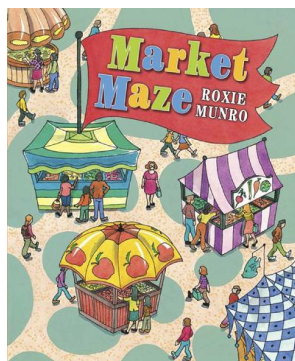
In the style of Margret and H. A. Rey's Curious George books, this is a great beginner book for working on visual acuity. Rhyming text sets the stage for each "around the town" scene, and then items are both illustrated, and included in the text as to what the child should be looking for on the two-page spread.

Visual acuity, ages 2 - 4+

Market Maze by Roxie Munro (2015)

Now, here is a visual workout for older children! There are three "topics" in this book: 1) find the listed objects, and the objects are not as obvious as the Curious George book; 2) find your way through maze-like roads on each two-page spread, following the instructions given, to get from one point to another 3) learn about where food comes from along the way to the Farmer's Market. The answers are given in the back of the book, and you will need those answers!

Visual acuity, ages 4 - 8



Little-Known Secrets

Bird Program Opportunities in Colorado

Bear Creek Nature Center in Colorado Springs and **Fountain Creek Nature Center** in Fountain, offer the opportunity to count the bird population every May. Birding enthusiasts of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in a citizen science project counting species and populations in Bear Creek Park. Donation of \$5 for bird seed is requested. To learn more, information for both nature centers can be found at adm.elpasoco.com.

The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO), located in Brighton, has as its mission, the conservation of Rocky Mountain and Great Plains birds and their habitats through research, monitoring, education, and outreach. RMBO offers monthly educational programs for homeschool families. These programs are designed for multiple ages and ability levels. RMBO educators and naturalists encourage the older participants to be positive role models and mentors to younger homeschool students throughout all of the activities. Parents are welcome to stay throughout the program. Be sure to check out their website at rmbo.org.



For 33 years, **Rocky Mountain Raptor Program (RMRP)** has served the northern Colorado community through rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured birds of prey. All bird lovers will enjoy the Birds of Prey class taught by RMRP. The series of classes begins in September, and runs through November. Three classes are held at the RMRP center in Fort Collins and the fourth day is a field trip to explore Northern Colorado and practice newly learned Raptor Identification skills. Find out more information at rmrp.org.



The **Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo (NRCP)** is located in beautiful Rock Canyon on the banks of the Arkansas River, one mile west of Pueblo. Their mission is to provide unique experiences in education, conservation and recreation that inspire responsible environmental decision making. To learn more, visit their website at natureandraptor.org.



HOMESCHOOL EVENTS

The Educational Resource Center is coming!

This fall, East Library will be opening its Educational Resource Center (the "ERC") to families interested in enriching the education of their children. It will be located on the second floor next to the new Computer Commons and MakerSpace. The ERC will house the expanded Homeschool Science Lab, over 90 manipulative kits (for math, science, language arts, social studies, music, and art), large tables for experimenting and learning, computers with interactive software (driver's education and virtual dissections), and early literacy toys for younger siblings. Materials may not be removed from the library, although some can be used outside the ERC for limited periods of time. Be on the lookout for more information and an announcement about our Grand Opening!

Science Lab Orientation Meeting

Come to a brief orientation meeting about East library's Homeschool Science Lab and then check out the Lab itself. You'll find out about the equipment we have available and what you can do in the lab with your children.

Fri., Sept. 11 • 1 p.m. • East Library

Homeschool Science Lab

Use PPLD's science equipment for parent-assigned experiments. Watch for news about special programs planned during lab time. Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org for more information or visit ppld.org/homeschool-hub.

3rd Friday of each month • East Library
Lab equipment will be available every day once the ERC is open!

Homeschool Primary Source Workshop

This workshop is designed to teach students the basics of "reading" a variety of primary sources (photographs, letters, and videos) and to give students a familiarity with PPLD Special Collections.

For grades 7 - 10. Space is limited to 16 students and registration is required! Contact Corrie at cbaker@ppld.org for more information.

Thu., Oct. 29 • 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Penrose Library (Carnegie Reading Room)

Homeschool Tools

Come and learn about the many library resources available to homeschool families. During this drop-in program you choose what you want to learn! We can show you some of our best online resources, answer your questions about our catalog and library services in general, introduce you to the Homeschool Science Lab, and offer library tours. We'll even have some activities for kids and teens!

Thu., Nov. 5 • 2 - 3:30 p.m. • East Library

Homeschool Programs at Library 21c

Homeschool Families will enjoy and learn together in these interactive programs at Library 21c

Access the Homeschool Hub, "Events" to see details and register:

ppld.org/homeschool-hub or ppld.org/Librar-21c
Mon., Sept. 21 • 2 - 3:30 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 16 • 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Other Events & Programs

Study Buddies

Teen volunteers help students in kindergarten through fifth grade with homework or reading practice. Call (719) 531-6333, x1407 or x1403 for more information (and starting date).

Tuesdays • 6:30 - 8 p.m. • East Library

Family Fun

Enjoy performers, animals, crafts, and much more at monthly programs. Fun for the whole family! Check online at ppld.org, or at your local library, to find out what's happening at that location.

AfterMath

Our experienced math tutors can help you improve your grades and take the stress out of math. No appointment necessary – drop in! Grades K - 12 only.

Mondays:

Monument Library • 3:30 - 7 p.m. (starting Sept. 14)

High Prairie Library • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (starting Aug. 17)

Wednesdays:

Library 21c • 3:30 - 6 p.m. (starting Sept. 16)

Thursdays:

East Library • 4 - 6 p.m. (starting Sept. 24)

Saturdays:

Sand Creek Library • 10 a.m. - noon (starting Sept. 12)

Scribes and Bards Writing Group for Teens
2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. • East Library (Annex)

Featured Family-Paul and Wendy Geisler

We met the Geisler family in the spring 2015 Homeschool Connections. Let's finish our interview and ask Wendy Geisler a few questions:

Q: How is Paul, dad and husband, involved in your homeschool experience (besides teaching every day he is with the children!)?

A: My husband likes to jump into the Unit Study part of our home-school time. He helps with the making of things (tin can lanterns, gold mines, or crafts that involve power tools). Paul also works each Saturday doing electrical circuits with the boys.

Q: How does your family use Pikes Peak Library District's programs and materials?

A: We love the library. Each week we come to the library and each of my boys picks 20 books. I have two fun iPhone apps that help level the library books by scanning the bar codes. This way I can let the boys choose books that interest them, while also making sure they are at an appropriate level. We also love to check out books on CD. We build this into our homeschool time as a listening center. (The Geisler family also attends the special programming for homeschool families at Rockrimmon Library).

Q: How does your family use technology to enrich your homeschool experience?

A: I have found several really great iPad apps for my children. I would recommend Cookie Factory (exploring place value), Llama Drama (beginner multiplication, arrays) and Mystery Number (100s chart), Greater Gator (greater than, less than), and Montessori Patterns (more 100s charts and number patterning). I would much rather set my timer for five minutes of them being on the iPad to practice a set skill than use a ditto or a worksheet, especially since the educational apps will give immediate feedback. We love Teach Time and Counting Money too.

Q: Share some of the unit studies your family completed last school year.

A: We studied Coins and Money, Colorado Mining, Little House on the Prairie, and are about to start a unit on Rockets. For each of these unit studies I gathered books from the library, located museums which are relevant, and planned out some fun things to do. For the Mining unit we built a gold mine in the garage out of cardboard boxes, visited the Mollie Kathleen mine, and read lots of Colorado history. We also hit the 2 mining museums nearby. For (Little House) we made lap books, tin can lanterns, sewed rag dolls, made Conestoga wagon models and a cardboard Mercantile in the garage. During the unit on Coins we started collecting state quarters, went to the money museum, and then the Denver Mint. The boys loved going to the bank once a week and buying rolls of quarters. As a bonus, they learned the geography of all of the states and capitals so fast because of the coins. We are now collecting the National Parks coins.