Bread is Bad for Ducks!!!

Bread is like junk food for ducks. It doesn’t provide any nutritional content and can make them sick. Too much bread in ponds can also mold and pollute the waters. Instead of bread, try feeding grapes that have been cut in half, bird seed, or frozen peas or corn. Or better yet, you could also simply enjoy their presence and not feed them at all!
Dear Adults

Hooray! Spring is Here!

Spring is a busy time for everyone: plants, bugs, trees, people, and birds! It’s so fun to be able to spend some time outside, listening to and watching the hustle and bustle of nesting, growing, eating and more. In this issue, you will learn about the Belted Kingfisher, get ideas for fun outdoor nature activities, test your knowledge about wetlands, and challenge your eyes with a fun, bird-themed I-Spy. Enjoy!

Mark your calendars for the following scheduled events:

- **Recycled Materials Hummingbird Feeder making!** Saturday, March 17, 10-11 a.m. at the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop

- **Seabirds and Beach Clean-Up –** Friday, April 13 (spring break week!) 10-11:30 a.m. Brackett’s Landing, Edmonds, WA

- **Youth Bird-a-thon –** Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. – Noon, at Discovery Park (Stay tuned for registration links coming in April!)

We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! If you and your Rookery member plan on attending, please RSVP at the number below or email hanaeb@seattleaudubon.org.

For more information, visit www.seattleaudubon.org or call: 206-523-8243 x108

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**Puzzles and Activities**

Color the kingfisher with using the numbers in the picture:

- 3 – Gray Blue
- 4 – Light Green
- 5 – Brown
- 6 – Black
- 9 – White
- 10 – Rufous
- 13 – Green
- 14 – Blue
**Puzzles and Games**

Let’s Go Outside

There are a lot of fun ways to connect with nature. All you need is 5 minutes and some imagination. Try out some of these fun outdoor activities:

**Leaf Rubbings:** Find some leaves, leftover crayons, scratch paper, and rub away!

(Check out those veins!)

**Nature sculptures:** Collect fallen nature objects like leaves, cones, twigs, and lichen and create something beautiful. (You could even pull invasive plants like English Ivy to create art that also helps the habitat.)

**Sound mapping:** Find a nice natural spot to sit and create a map of all the sounds you hear. Use colored pencils to color-code your sounds and use different shapes and drawings to show their volume and location.

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**Wetland Wonders**

Across
2. The way water moves through an ecosystem
4. A small narrow river
8. Tall “hot dog” plants
10. Tall wading bird
13. Fish that migrate from the river to ocean and back
14. Insect that can fly backwards
15. Seattle Audubon’s logo bird
16. A small body of fresh water

Down
1. Bird with red wing patch on shoulder
3. Two things that tired, hungry migrating birds get from wetlands
5. Falling water from the sky
6. Duck with green head
7. Flying south for the winter
9. Water in the sky
11. How water turns from liquid to gas
12. This month’s cover bird
Food Webs

Create a wetland food web by connecting all of the elements that depend on each other for food, shelter, space, or other important things in order to survive. (Example: Cattails depend on the sun for food.) The more lines the better!

Spotlight on Kingfishers

TRUE or FALSE?

1. There are about 86 species of kingfishers all over the world.
2. Kingfishers live on every continent except Antarctica.
3. All kingfishers eat fish.
4. The laughing Kookaburra is the largest type of kingfisher.
5. All kingfishers have mostly blue feathers.

Name that kingfisher!

A B C D


(Answers are on the back!)
Spotlight in Kingfishers

The Belted Kingfisher

Scientific Name
Megaceryle alcyon

General Info
Belted Kingfishers are stout birds with thick, strong bills and large crested heads. They have slate gray backs and white bellies with a blue stripe across the chest. They also have a small white dot in front of their eyes. Females have an additional rufous (a brownish orange) stripe and rufous sides.

Habitat and Diet
Belted Kingfishers are found near fresh and salt water wetlands, where they feed primarily on small fish, frogs, and sometimes tadpoles and crayfish. They can often be spotted by their rattling call as they fly over.

Nesting
Belted Kingfishers use their two fused front toes to dig nesting holes in sandy banks. Both the male and female help incubate 6-7 eggs and feed the young as a team.

Behavior
Belted Kingfishers perch or hover above clear water, searching for prey near the surface. When they spot it, they dive headfirst into the water to catch it with their bills. If the fish is too active to swallow, they can be seen hitting it against a rock or branch to stun it before swallowing it whole!

Create your own local food web here! Spend some time in your yard, or take a walk in the neighborhood with a parent to see what you can find!
I Spy

Can you find: One silhouette of a crow, two birds soaring, three soft feathers, four different trees, five ants creepy-crawling, six eggs of various sizes and colors, seven local songbirds, eight leaves and cones, and nine geese flying in a V?