

# Keeping Lakes in the Family

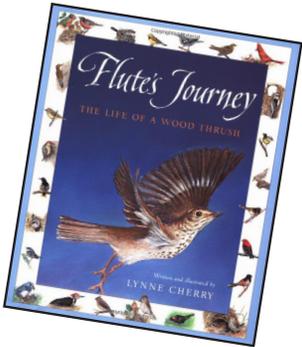
## Sharing the Magic Through Stories

Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Stevens Point and Karen Engelbretson, KJE Design, LLC

### What do birds need?

Many of us enjoy watching and listening to the wonderful songbirds in our yards. What we might not realize is the great journey they make to come here for the summer to breed and raise their young. While flight paths usually go along central America, many go non-stop over water. The birds arrive exhausted and hungry and often find suburban-style landscaping – which is the equivalent of an empty fridge.

We can put that food back... for the birds, and for our own enjoyment in watching them. With the exception of goldfinches, birds don't feed their babies seeds. Birds prefer, and feed their young, big fat caterpillars and insects. By planting native flowers, and fruiting trees and shrubs, all of which are full of insects and caterpillars, we can help these birds thrive.

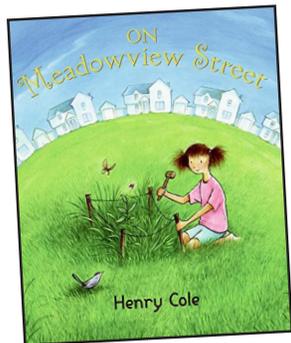


### Flute's Journey: The Life of a Wood Thrush Ages 5-8

Written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry

Through the tale of a young wood thrush, readers learn the dangers migratory birds face. Cherry's illustrations, always a feast for the eyes, provide colorful, richly detailed forest scenes as a handsome backdrop for the story of Flute's autumn migration from his birthplace in a Northern American forest to a Central American rain forest for the winter. There he rests and feeds before beginning his journey back north in the spring. Along the way, Flute faces natural predators, but the destruction of the plants that provide him food and shelter are the most serious threat.

a real meadow on Meadowview Street. And soon, their neighbors' yards changed. Cole's economical text and tender, acrylic paintings tell the story with simplicity and energy as the barren strip of grass evolves into a lush habitat.



### On Meadowview Street Ages 4-8

Written and illustrated by Henry Cole

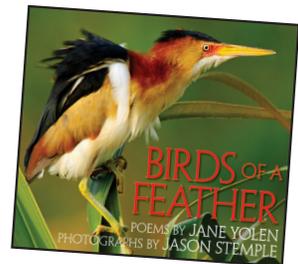
When Caroline and her family move to a suburban development, their street's pleasant name prompts an exploratory stroll to see if there really is a meadow on Meadowview Street. The girl doesn't get far before she spies a beautiful, solitary flower on her own lawn. She asks her dad to work around it while mowing the lawn, hurries inside to find string and sticks, and builds a "small wildflower preserve." As other flowers bloom, she enlarges the area. Dad puts the lawn mower up for sale, and, with the help of her parents, Caroline sets about transforming her backyard into a teeming ecosystem. Soon there are birds, butterflies, a pond, flowers, trees and

### Birds of a Feather

Written by Jane Yolen

Photographed by Jason Temple

Birds of a Feather pairs striking, full-color photographs of birds with spirited poems in a full range of styles and forms. For example, a haiku for a kingfisher speaks tenderly to the quirky, diminutive bird, and a poem for a "solitary wood duck" admires the bird's nobility. Stemple's intimate photos capture a great horned owl's gaze, a chickadee's downy plumage, and sandpipers silhouetted against a sunrise, while Yolen's solidly constructed verses show equal affection.

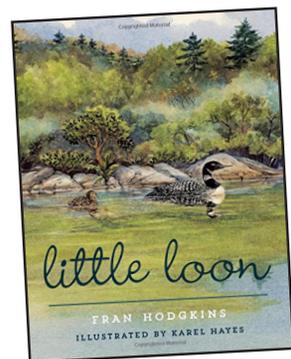


### Little Loon Ages 4-8

Written by Fran Hodgkins

Illustrated by Karel Hayes

Little Loon traces the birth and first summer of a loon chick, ending with the loon's migration for the winter. Readers follow along as the baby loon grows and discovers the world around her. Along the way, they'll learn that loons are so perfectly adapted to life in the water that it's very difficult for them to walk on land. Readers will also discover that the biggest threats to loons come from people—boats, pollution and fishing tackle. Lavishly illustrated in full color.



**Oh Look! Baby Loons!** All ages  
Written and photographed by F. C. West

Those who have heard a loon's eerie call or glimpsed a fluffy loon chick riding on its parent's back will love this informative new photographic book. Fifty-five color images of life on an idyllic lake give readers a glimpse into the world of baby loons and their elegantly plumed parents. From eggs on a nest to first flight, follow along as these two lovable chicks go on outings about the lake, learn to fish, and grow, grow, grow. A special section introduces readers to the other residents of the lake.

**Over and Under the Pond** Ages 5-8  
Written by Kate Messner  
Illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal

This book brings to life a secret underwater world. In this book, readers will discover the plants and animals that make up the rich, interconnected ecosystem of a pond. Over the pond, we see goldfinches, herons, woodpeckers and loons. But under the pond is a hidden world of minnows darting, beavers diving, tadpoles growing. These and many other secrets are waiting to be discovered...over and under the pond. A wonderful read aloud book.

Paul Skawinski



# Books and videos for adults

**Bringing Nature Home**  
Written by Douglas Tallamy

“If you cut down the goldenrod, the wild black cherry, the milkweed and other natives, you eliminate the larvae, and starve the birds. This simple revelation about the food web - and it is an intricate web, not a chain - is the driving force in Bringing Nature Home.”

~ The New York Times

This book is so readable and engaging – and so valuable!

If you prefer a video, try *Bringing Home the Natives*, 64 entertaining minutes about birds and plants by Doug Tallamy at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LthiZ0ppr-A>.

**The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden**

Written by Rick Darke and Douglas Tallamy

Richly illustrated with superb photographs – beautiful to peruse. Many gardeners today want a home landscape that nourishes birds and wildlife. But they also want beauty, a space for the kids to play, privacy, and maybe even a vegetable patch. Sure, it’s a tall order, but The Living Landscape shows how to do it.

**Protecting Our Living Shores**  
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Red osier dogwood provides excellent shoreland protection. Bluebirds, thrushes, grouse, turkey and other birds favor its distinctive white fruits. It favors wet soils and can grow in sun or partial shade. The striking red stems are especially attractive in winter against snow. See page 4 for other plants to help birds.

<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/GWQ039.pdf>

