



# VINTAGE ADVENTURE

④ HOME

CREATION DAY 5

BIRDS & SEA CREATURES

*Caraway*

Spiritually Resourcing the Older Person

*Dear Vintage Adventure friends,*



*I hope you have been able to enjoy the summer sunshine. At least while I am writing the sun is shining. I'm looking out of my window up into the clouds, hoping to see swifts. I saw two on 18<sup>th</sup> May and I look every day to see if they are flying high. They will soon be gone, back to Africa for the winter.*

*I look out for other birds too. One day there were five sparrows outside my window, another day had a plump wood pigeon devouring leaves on a tree and sometimes gulls soar overhead. I enjoy birdwatching from my living room! There is no such easy way to observe sea creatures....but you can enjoy thinking about God's amazing creation by reading on in this month's VA @ Home, with all its usual features and puzzles.*

*If you are like me, you will sit down quietly with a cuppa and start with the puzzles, then go back to the beginning and read the worship and reflection sections, stopping from time to time to look out of the window in case there are birds flying past. Of course you could vary this by eating fish and chips or having a fish paste sandwich along with your reading to enjoy the harvest of the sea!*

*God in His creation has made so many amazing birds and sea creatures and He provides for all their needs. That is mind blowing!*

*So, read on, be amazed and enjoy wondering at the God Who made both them and us.*

*God bless you as you read.*

*With love from us all at Caraway.*

# WORSHIP



## Day 5 - Marine and Sky

*And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning - the fifth day.*



Genesis 1:20-23

### Thousands

"Teem." I love that word. The writer of this first page of the Bible wants to share with you an idea about God:

**God is inventive:** It takes a lot of imagination to make so many different creatures.

**God is generous:** Scientists estimate there are at least 750,000 million marine species, and about 10,000 species of birds.



It is obvious, God wants lots of life in this world.



### Opening Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for being Mr Maker. Thank You that You have lots of ideas! Please help us appreciate Your generosity, and the wonder of what You have made.

## So Many Wonderful Things

This quote from Leonardo Da Vinci reminds me about the connection between God and the wonderful things He has created.

*'A true understanding of all the forms found in the works of nature ... is the way to understand the maker of so many wonderful things and the way to love so great an inventor.'*

## Stuffed Full

Have you visited an aquarium recently? Or had a little peak in the sea? Living things swarm in those waters: On the 15th of June, 2021, a “bloom” of jellyfish took a jolly up the River Test and forced Marchwood Power Station to shut down temporarily. A swarm near you! The sea is stuffed full of life. The sky is too.

## Not Boring

The writer saw the variety of living things which flutter, and glide, and wriggle, and jet-propel themselves through our skies and seas and came to a conclusion: Aha, God is not boring. God isn't short of ideas.

I must admit, I am convinced by this picture of God.

It also strikes me that God must have a sense of humour - (have you ever seen a Red Handfish before? Or a Potoo Bird? Very hilarious). It is worth trying to find a picture of these fine specimens. God is fun.



I am glad God is inventive, and generous, and not-boring, but fun!



This makes me think about my own life. Am I inventive, generous, and fun? Do I care about the life of other living creatures?





## Hymn

All things which live below the sky,  
Or move within the sea,  
Are creatures of the Lord most High,  
And brothers unto me.

I love to hear the robin sing,  
Perched on the highest bough;  
To see the rook with purple wing,  
Follow the shining plough.

The seagull whiter than the foam,  
The fish that dart beneath;  
The lowing cattle coming home;  
The goats upon the heath.

All-loving Father, King of kings,  
The helper of the weak,  
Make me a friend of helpless things,  
Defender of the weak.

## Prayer

Dear Father God, Please help us to be inventive, generous, and fun like You. Give us the awareness to care for the life of other living creatures, humans, egrets, octopi, whatever..



# Reflection



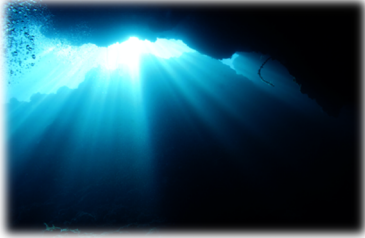
## 'God is working His purpose out'

*'And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.'* Genesis 1: 20-23 (NRSV).

In our reflections over the past few months we have been following the story of the creation of the world, as described in the first chapter of the book of Genesis. Whilst the dry land and the areas of water, the sky with its stars and planets, and all the many varieties of vegetation, trees and plants have beauty, purpose and value in themselves, it seems to me that through them God has been preparing and providing the ultimate, optimum environment for the next level of miraculous creation – living, moving creatures! As if all that has gone before isn't enough, God now wants to give a perfect home to a whole host of mammals, birds, fish, insects and reptiles and many more besides! These creatures are given the capability to sustain life, to form relationships and to reproduce so that they can continue to populate and inhabit that amazing world.



This part of the creation story in particular reminds me not just of the splendour and versatility of God's creation, of the evidence of divine creativity and multiplicity we can see all around us, but also of the order and purpose we can find in God. Out of the chaos of 'the beginning' when all was dark and empty and without form, God



created light and substance and structure. And it was good. In our troubled world, which is in a state so far removed from its creator's original plan, it is easy to feel discouraged and dismayed. When we see and hear about pain and suffering in this world, whether it's for reasons of climate change, because of war and conflict or in our personal circumstances, it can seem as though these problems are either just too enormous or too insignificant for the attention of the almighty God of creation. But amazingly, we are told that God does care and that nothing is outside of God's control. In Matthew chapter 10, Jesus reminds His listeners how much they (and we) are loved: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.



And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." (verses 29-31). So nothing is too small for God.

And as for whether anything is beyond God's reach - I am reminded of the words of Arthur C. Ainger's well-known hymn:

'God is working His purpose out,  
as year succeeds to year:  
God is working His purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near:  
nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.'

In the knowledge that the God of creation planned and prepared the best environment for 'every living creature that moves', we can choose **to trust in God's perfect plan** for our lives too.



## Based on Matthew 10:29-31

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.***

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

*Refrain:*

*I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know He watches me.*



"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

*Civilla D Martin 1905*



## Bird Migration

Birds that migrate from the south in spring to breed in the UK, then return to warmer climates in the autumn are known as summer visitors. They include well known birds such as cuckoos, swallows, swifts, house martins, nightingales, pied flycatchers, and yellow wagtails and rarer species such as nightjars, ospreys and golden orioles. Sea birds such as puffins and gannets also arrive on our shores in spring after spending the winter at sea and can be seen nesting along our coasts.

Some birds clock up extraordinary distances. The British Trust for Ornithology tracked a cuckoo known as PJ over more than 5 years. He was found to have travelled over 50,000 miles since being tagged in June 2016, including crossing the Pyrenees mountains in France and Spain, and the Atlas mountains in Morocco. Other projects have shown one bar-tailed godwit travelling from Alaska non-stop 7,500 miles to reach Auckland 11 days later. Many birds, including swifts return to the same nest. Others, including seabirds remain faithful to their partners and gather near their nest site to wait to be reunited.



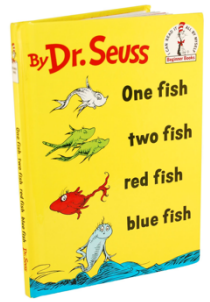
How do they do it? They need a combination of brain and brawn – navigational expertise and physical endurance. Some birds stoke up a layer of fat to provide the energy for a long distance flight without food. They can make use of air currents to help them to glide high over mountains or low over the waves of the sea. It is believed that some birds have a sense of the stars to guide them and others respond to the earth's magnetic field.

John Heath Stubbs celebrates the swallow in a short poem:

The swallow has returned and we can say for sure  
That spring is here, and summer will follow after.  
All through our winter, around an African kraal  
His steel-blue pinions flickered; now he's flown back  
Thousands of miles, over the seas and mountains,  
To build once more his nest in an English barn –  
Hooray for the swallow and the weather he bring with him !



**Dr Theodor Seuss Geisel** was an American writer, poet and cartoonist widely known for his children's books. Here is one of his amusing poems.



One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish  
Black fish, blue fish, old fish, new fish  
This one has a little star. This one has a little car.  
Say! What a lot of fish there are!

Some are red. And some are blue. Some are old. And some are new.  
Some are sad. And some are glad. And some are very, very bad.  
Why are they sad and glad and bad? I do not know. Go ask your dad.

Some are thin and some are fat. The fat one has a yellow hat.  
From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere.

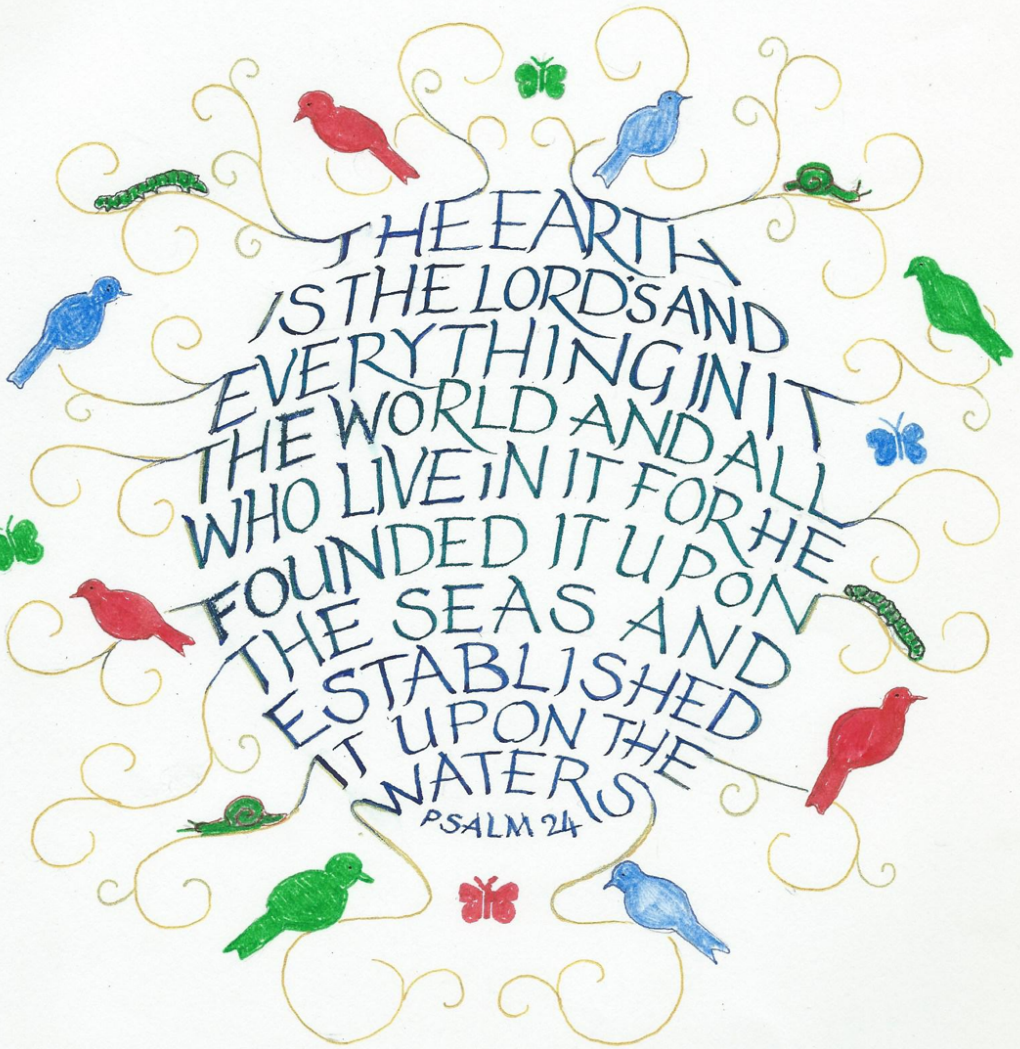
Here are some who like to run. They run for fun in the hot, hot sun.  
Oh me! Oh my! Oh me! Oh my! What a lot of funny things go by.

Some have two feet and some have four.  
Some have six feet and some have more.  
Where do they come from? I can't say.  
But I bet they have come a long, long way.

We see them come we see them go  
Some are fast, and some are slow some are high and some are low  
Not one of them is like another. Don't ask us why. Go ask your mother

My hat is old, my teeth are gold. My shoe is off, my foot is cold.  
I have a bird I like to hold. My hat is old, my teeth are gold  
And now my story is all told.





THE EARTH  
IS THE LORD'S AND  
EVERYTHING IN IT  
THE WORLD AND ALL  
WHO LIVE IN IT FOR HE  
FOUNDED IT UPON  
THE SEAS AND  
ESTABLISHED  
IT UPON THE  
WATERS

PSALM 24

# Common Garden Birds in the UK

## **Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*)

The Common Blackbird is a medium-sized garden bird in the UK. Males are black with a contrasting orange bill, while females are brown with a brown bill. Blackbirds visit our gardens throughout the year, and their sweet song often rings out at the break of dawn.



## **Blue Tit** (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

The Eurasian Blue Tit is a colourful little bird with bright blue, white, yellow, black, and green shades.



## **Great Tit** (*Parus major*)

These non-migratory songbirds regularly visit bird feeders where they can be rambunctious and even downright aggressive towards other garden birds. The Great Tit is similar in appearance to the Blue Tit but has a black (rather than blue) cap and throat. The species is also significantly larger than its blue cousin.



## **Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

The European Goldfinch is a welcome sight wherever they turn up. These bold and bright little seedeaters are easily identified by their scarlet, white, and black faces and contrasting black and yellow wing feathers.



## **Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*)

These red-breasted songsters are common in gardens. Despite their sweet looks and voices, Robins are highly territorial, which explains why you're most likely to spot just one or two in your garden. The same mated pair will visit your garden throughout the year to forage for insects and other invertebrates.



### **Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

The Starling a common and conspicuous garden bird. Starlings feed primarily on insects, although they will readily visit bird feeding tables, especially where suet, peanuts, and sunflower seeds are on offer. Sadly, Starlings are in decline in rural areas of the UK, although they remain a familiar sight in urban and suburban parks and gardens.



### **Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

The Wren is a tiny, non-descript insect-eating bird, the UK's most common bird species, with an estimated population of over eight million pairs!



### **Greenfinch** (*Chloris chloris*)

The Greenfinch is a regular garden visitor and a welcome sight at the bird table. Males are greenish with bright yellow wing patches, whereas females are less colourful.



### **Carrion Crow** (*Corvus corone*)

A bold and intelligent bird from the corvid family. The Carrion Crow is often wary of humans, although many have learned to take advantage of garden feeding stations, and they may become regular visitors if left to forage in peace.



### **Magpie** (*Pica pica*)

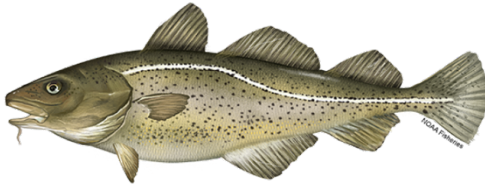
The Magpie is another clever corvid that will visit UK gardens to forage. These pied birds are instantly recognisable by their long iridescent tails and contrasting black and white plumage.



# Fish found in and around Britain

*(not to scale!)*

**Cod**



**Plaice**



**Haddock**



**Salmon**



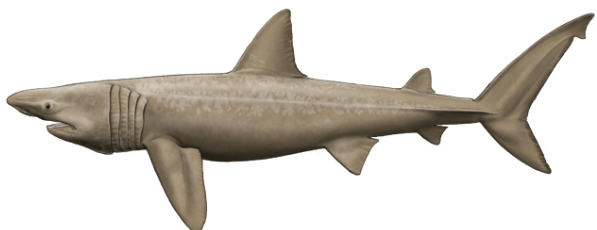
**Rainbow Trout**



**Bottlenose Dolphin**



**Basking shark**



# How well do you know your fish?



1. Name a small fish we eat that comes in a tin.
2. How are lobsters caught?
3. Fish need these to breathe.
4. A long fish resembling a snake.
5. These fish go upstream to breed.
6. A fresh water place where fish, frogs and lily pads live.
7. A dangerous meat-eating fish from the Amazon River.
8. A fish used to make 'Sashimi'.
9. In the Bible story about the 'Loaves & Fishes'; how many fish were there?
10. What name is given to a person who sells fish?
11. Can you think of 3 names of fish starting with the letter 'B'?
12. When you describe something as 'a bit fishy', what do you mean?
13. Fish are cold-blooded; true or false?
14. What is the world's largest fish?
15. What fish is commonly used for 'Fish & Chips'?
16. Name the animated children's film about a fish, released in 2003. 'Finding...'
17. Can you finish the proverb: 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day...'?
18. Nordic people eat raw salmon, cured in salt, sugar and dill; what is the name of this dish?
19. What did Molly Malone sell?
20. Can you name 3 fishes starting with the letter 'H'?



# SOME HISTORIC DATES IN AUGUST



**August 4, 1900**

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother was born.

**August 8, 1963**

The Great Train Robbery - In England, a gang of 15 train robbers stole £2.6 million in bank notes in the Great Train Robbery. They were later caught.



**August 8, 1969**

The 'Zebra Crossing' - In London, photographer Iain Macmillan took one of the most famous photographs of all time, for the cover of the Beatles Album-Abbey Road.

**August 12, 1981**

The IBM Personal Computer was released. It was known as IBM PC 5150. It was sold for \$1500 (USD).



**August 12, 1851**

American inventor Isaac Singer patented the Sewing Machine.



### August 12, 1908

Henry Ford's Company builds the first Model T car (1908- 1927).

### August 13, 1961

East Germany closed the border between the eastern and western sectors of Berlin with the Berlin Wall.



### August 15, 1950

Princess Anne was born.



### August 16, 1996



At the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois, a three year old boy fell into a Gorilla enclosure and lost consciousness.

Binti Jua, a female Gorilla, guarded the young boy from the other Gorillas, cradled him in her arms and carried him 60 feet to an entrance where zookeepers could retrieve him.

### August 24, 1932

Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the United States non-stop, from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey.



# Word Search



## BIRDS

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

Albatross

Woodpecker

Pheasant

Kingfisher

Hummingbird

Kookaburra

Roadrunner

Canary

Ostrich

Peacock

Nightingale

Cassowary

Penguin

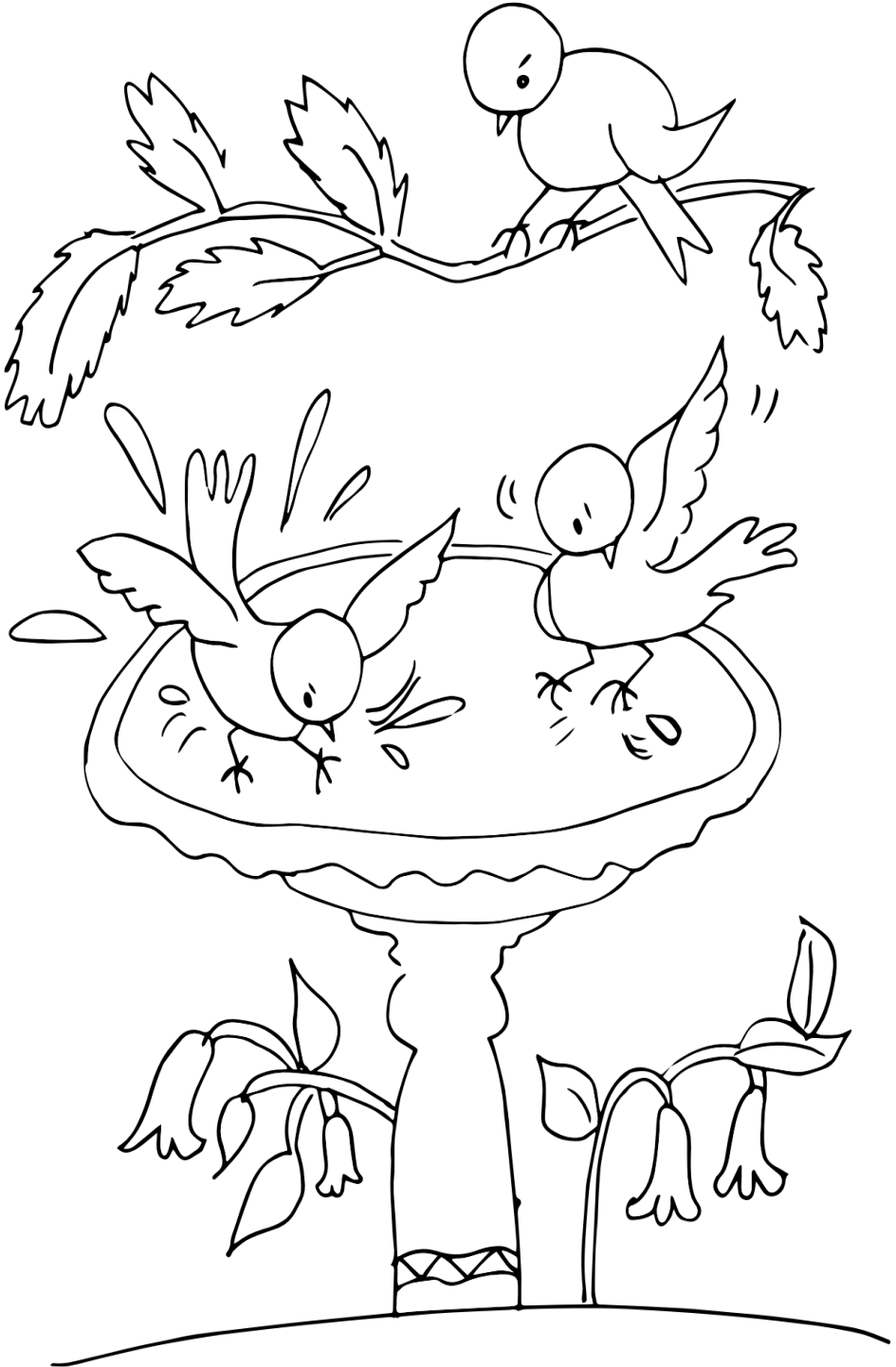
Seagull

Mockingbird

Flamingo

Parakeet









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**Messy Vintage**

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 