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Kids on Science

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A note from the editor: Hundreds of terrible e-mail jokes reach me pretty much every week, most of which find their way quickly to the trash. Every once in a while, I forward a tidbit to a few friends. And once in a blue moon, something crosses the screen that warrants a larger audience. The following bit of hilarity concerns science in general though not birds in particular but brought such a positive response, I decided to share this children's wisdom with readers of the Bird Review, who appreciate levity:

Kids on Science

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The beguiling ideas about science quoted here were gleaned from essays, exams, and classroom discussions. Most were from 5th and 6th graders.

\*Question: What is one horsepower? \*Answer: One horsepower is the amount of energy it takes to drag a horse 500 feet in one second.

\*You can listen to thunder after lightning and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.

\*Talc is found on rocks and on babies.

\*The law of gravity says no fair jumping up without coming back down.

\*When they broke open molecules, they found they were only stuffed with atoms. But when they broke open atoms, they found them stuffed with explosions.

\*When people run around and around in circles we say they are crazy. When planets do it we say they are orbiting.

\*Rainbows are just to look at, not to really understand.

\*While the earth seems to be knowingly keeping its distance from the sun, it is really only centrifugating.

\*Someday we may discover how to make magnets that can point in any direction.

\*South America has cold summers and hot winters, but somehow they still manage.

\*Most books now say our sun is a star. But it still knows how to change back into a sun in the daytime.

\*Water freezes at 32 degrees and boils at 212 degrees. There are 180 degrees between freezing and boiling because there are 180 degrees between north and south.

\*A vibration is a motion that cannot make up its mind which way it wants to go.

\*There are 26 vitamins in all, but some of the letters are yet to be discovered. Finding them all means living forever.

\*There is a tremendous weight pushing down on the center of the Earth because of so much population stomping around up there these days.

\*Lime is a green-tasting rock.

\*Many dead animals in the past changed to fossils while others preferred to be oil.

\*Genetics explain why you look like your father and if you don't why you should.

\*Vacuums are nothings. We only mention them to let them know we know they're there.

\*Some oxygen molecules help fires burn while others help make water, so sometimes it's brother against brother.

\*Some people can tell what time it is by looking at the sun. But I have never been able to make out the numbers.

\*We say the cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.

\*To most people solutions mean finding the answers. But to chemists solutions are things that are still all mixed up.

\*In looking at a drop of water under a microscope, we find there are twice as many H's as O's.

\*Clouds are high flying fogs.

\*I am not sure how clouds get formed. But the clouds know how to do it, and that is the important thing.

- \*Clouds just keep circling the earth around and around. And around. There is not much else to do.
- \*Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.
- \*Humidity is the experience of looking for air and finding water.
- \*We keep track of the humidity in the air so we won't drown when we breathe.
- \*Rain is often known as soft water, oppositely known as hail.
- \*Rain is saved up in cloud banks.
- \*In some rocks you can find the fossil footprints of fishes.
- \*Cyanide is so poisonous that one drop of it on a dog's tongue will kill the strongest man.
- \*A blizzard is when it snows sideways.
- \*A hurricane is a breeze of a bigly size.
- \*A monsoon is a French gentleman.
- \*Thunder is a rich source of loudness.
- \*Isotherms and isobars are even more important than their names sound.
- \*It is so hot in some places that the people there have to live in other places.
- \*The wind is like the air, only pushier.