



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

Today is Feed the Birds Day. Food for birds becomes scarce during the depths of winter in the northern hemisphere. The best food sources are black oil sunflower seeds, peanuts, and suet, offering vital energy, protein, and fat.

Garden Party

Africa's Namib Desert is dotted with hundreds of strange barren circles known as "fairy circles." The arid plains are covered in desert grasses, but for some unknown reason, the grasses do not grow in these sandy circles. Scientists thought that termites might have damaged the grasses' root systems underground. New research shows that the grasses might have evolved root systems that used the barren circles as "reservoirs" to hold water and sustain growth. It's not magic, just biological innovation.

Word Wise

Which word is not like the others?

torrid sultry

calescent brumal

ANSWER: Brumal means "wintery"; the others mean "hot."

Only Human

Uncombable hair syndrome is a genetic condition where dry, frizzy hair grows straight out of the scalp and cannot be combed.



Under a microscope, straight hair shafts are round and curly hairs are oblique or oval. The hair shafts of people with uncombable hair syndrome are triangular or heart-shaped. These uncommon hairs are caused by rare genetic mutations. Only 100 cases have ever been reported. Luckily, the syndrome isn't life-threatening, unless you think a lifetime of bad hair days is cause for medical treatment.

Name Three

Can you name three countries that begin with the letter *H*?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: Honduras, Hungary, Haiti