Hello, Friends!

I hope you have been outside enjoying these beautiful spring days! Have you been watching

birds at your house? Let me know which birds you have been seeing!

It’s time to get my garden going. I started some vegetable and flower seeds inside to get a head start on the growing season. Lettuce, spinach, basil and marigold seeds are good to grow inside. They are happy when they get moved to the outdoor garden while it is still cool weather. Radishes and sugar snap peas want to stay outside and in the same place when they are planted. You can plant them now, but first soak the seeds in water for several hours. If we have a very cold night after they start coming up, I tuck them in with a lightweight cloth, like a sheet.

Mr. Paice and I put together a raised garden bed this week. We will put it in place in a few days and fill it with healthy soil. I’ll plant the sugar snap peas then. The carrot seeds will go into the soil, too. The green beans, tomatoes and marigold flowers will have to wait until after the last frost of spring. That is usually around Mother’s Day. The seeds that I grew inside are now in a special garden bed called a cold frame. It’s like a little house to keep the early plants warm at night until the weather warms up. We’ll see how they do!

Something else that Mr. Paice and I did was plant milkweed seeds in our meadow that is being made into a pollinator habitat. Milkweed seeds don’t mind the cold weather, either. Last fall, I harvested milkweed pods and kept them in a cold place over the winter. The seeds have to get freezing cold before they will grow in the spring. Aren’t you glad you are not a milkweed seed?

We are hoping that the seeds will grow into big plants that will attract monarch butterflies this summer.

If you would like to plant some milkweed seeds in your yard, I will send some to you. The plants need a sunny, well drained spot so they will be happy. They will not like a place that is always damp because they don’t like to get their feet wet.

Please have your family help you write an email to ask for some seeds. The email address is

[paice75@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paice75@sbcglobal.net). Be sure to include your address! Tell me about your bird sightings, too.

Keep on exploring nature, Friends!

Love,

Mrs. Paice