

J. SCOTT HARDIN

BIRD COUNCIL

Making The Preserve - Issue 1

Bird Council: Making the Preserve – Issue 1

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Making the Preserve

The Series:

The idea behind the series comes from the familiar table-to-farm concept, only in the case of the writing process I'm calling it "napkin-to-novel." This is because of a miscommunication. People who create literature do not tend to share how they went about doing it. People who scribble ideas on napkins tend to lose them.

Some content creators differentiate between the terms "authors" and "writers". Authors are people who have had their work published, and writers are those who have not. In a world with fewer and less influential gatekeepers, however, readers have access to an ever-expanding universe of content. Traditional and indie publishing, small press and website, literature and blog, physical and digital – these are distinctions that have become blurry. Is a bookstore a place or an online cart?

You tell me.

One thing about history worth remembering is that once a challenge to authority has taken hold, there can be no going back. The deck of human experience may be reshuffled, but this does not mean cards are not added and taken away during the process of the shuffling. *Making the Preserve* shows the journey and the destination are not mutually exclusive.

Bird Council

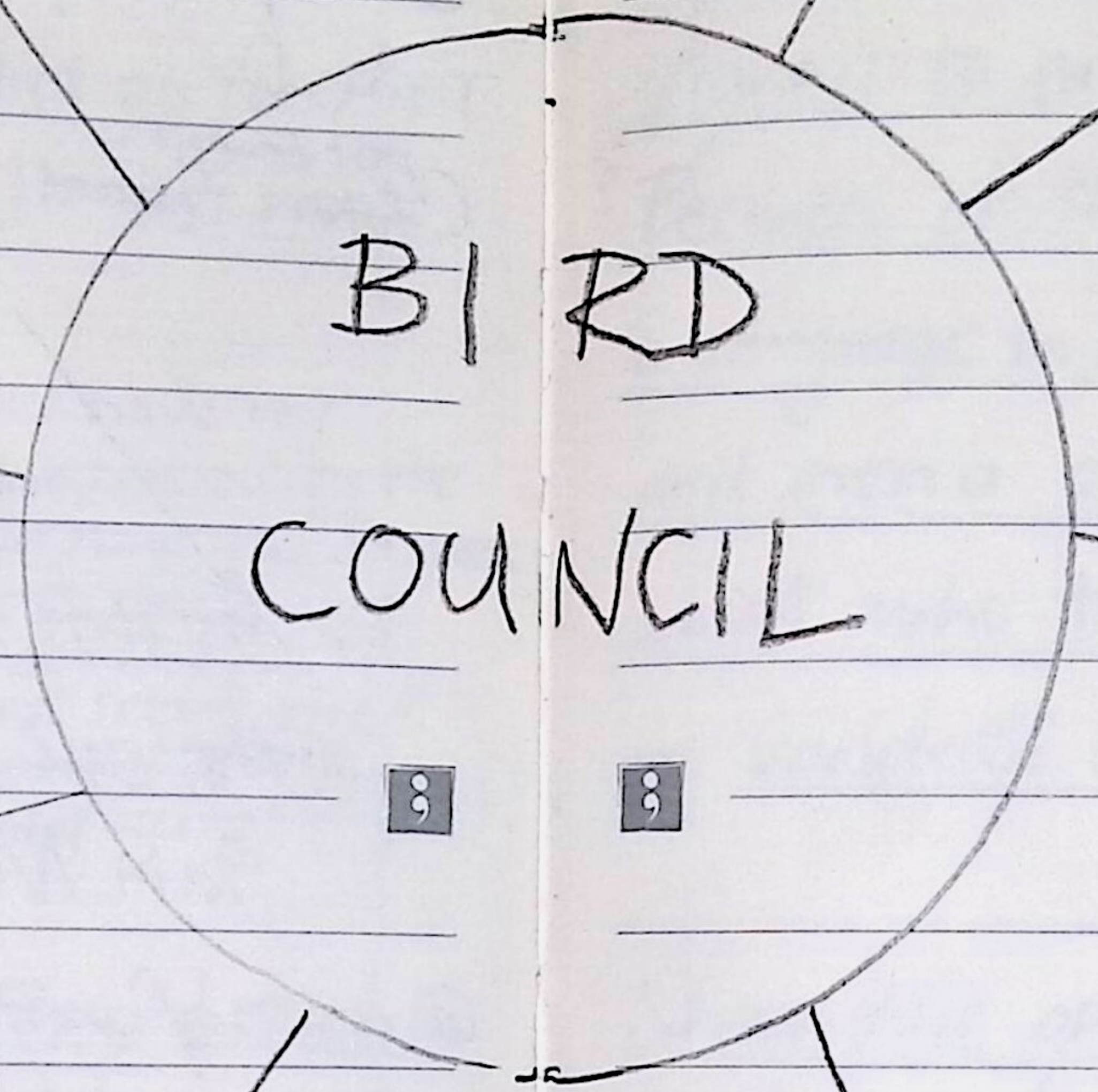
Issue 1:

The creative act begins by definition with an idea, whether conscious or otherwise. It is both a declaration of intent and a piece of hard evidence to be examined later. The Bird Council diagram is an example of this. On one hand it is a picture with words and lines and shapes; on the other a storyboard with characters, structure and conflict. Before I started the narrative of the novel, I researched avian behavior, studied the science of animal communication and poured over thousands of images of birds. I also started forming, consciously or otherwise, a cast of characters in my mind. What follows is a snapshot of that early and critical step.

THE PRESERVE

- version 1 (August 2017)
 - version 2 (January 2018)

by
 J. Scott Hardin



Robins

- guardians of "True North" (magnetic compass)
- in charge of migration

Woodpeckers

- workers, builders
- industrious
- "Socialists"

Owls

- wisemen, preservers of tradition
- learned
- "night problem"
- female leadership

Vultures

- destroyers of evidence
- sometimes their excess is helpful, understandable
- tempted by the "Sky Burial"

Osprey

- long range vision
- in charge of all patrols
- fishing

Sandpipers

- tiny, many
- tactile receptors on beak tip
- waders; water-strafters
- crowlike behavior
- crowd-sourcing (funding)

Parrots

- large vocabulary
- mimics
- role of play in learning → gaming

Crows

- mimic more sounds
- social
- defends territory as couple
- COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE

Bald eagles

- fed fish by the osprey
- protected status
- eat other birds
- PREDATOR UPGRADE

journal notes

124 OUTLIERS but still creatures that can FLY

Bats

- the 'cave-dwellers'
- seek to rule Preserve
- members of secret alliance with humans

Bugs

- nonsentient
- food

Magpies

- Mirror Test
- perch
- INTELLIGENCE UPGRADE

creatures that can FLY

125 the line creatures that CANNOT FLY

Humans

- "up-rights"
- trade (tourism)
- + advanced technology
- + no hunting zone agreement
- + SECRET ALLIANCE
- + agritourism
- ↳ science lab

"You may live to see man-made horrors beyond your comprehension."
 - Nikola Tesla (1898)