The Common Red Poll

The Common Redpoll is a small bird, but a hardy one. He spends his summers in Canada and his winters in the northern United States. He may go as far south as Virginia, Kansas, Colorado, and Northern California. But he is more likely to stay up where the snow is deeper and the temperature falls lower.

Though the ground is buried under a white blanket, the Redpoll manages to get seeds for food. His favorite are the seeds of alder and birch trees. When he finds some, he clings to a branch and picks open the seed coverings. As the seeds pop out and drop to the ground, he flies down to collect his harvest.

All around him are other Redpolls, busy at the same task. They like to stay in flocks,

©National Wildlife Federation
Common Redpoll

whether they are traveling or settled down for the season. They also enjoy the company of goldfinches, and the two kinds of birds often fly together.

The best way to identify the flying Redpolls, says the National Wildlife Federation, is to listen for their call. They seem to be saying, "Chut, chut, chut, chut, chut." The sound may remind you of the muffled noise which comes from small pebbles being rattled between cupped hands.

At other times the Redpoll cries, "Pi-ree, pi-ree. Ti-er, tier." It is a sweeter call than his flight sounds, and there is a touch of sadness to it as he sings from a treetop.

In every other way, though, Common Redpolls are gay, active birds. They chatter both in the air and while they eat, and they seldom sit still for long. They aren't easily frightened, either. When something startles them, they may whirl into the air for a short flight. But they quickly settle down as though nothing had happened.

The flock is a colorful sight, because the birds all wear red caps. Under their throats are patches of black. The upper part of their bodies are streaked with brown and gray. The male Redpills also have streaks of pink underneath, but the femals do not. This is the one mark by which you can tell them apart. Both the males and the females are about 5¼ inches long.

In winter and summer, the Redpolls live in groves of birches, clumps of willows and alders, or in old weed fields and pastures. They may put their nests at almost any height, but usually they build in the low branches of a willow or birch. If a tree isn't handy, they may use a clump of thick grass for a nesting place.

To start their nest, the Redpoll parents collect small twigs for a foundation. With the twigs they mix grass, moss, and other soft materials. The final lining is made of downs, fur, and feathers. In this snug sport are laid five or six small, blue-green eggs which are spotted reddish-brown.

Both the baby birds and the parents eat insects while they are in Canada. As the days get shorter and the weather turns cold, they fly down to the United States where they can fed on seeds for the winter.

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. Blaine Gribble and sons, Stanley and Butch, accompanied by Mrs. Glen Zirbel, returned last week from a three-weeks' trip to Billings, Mont., and Greybull, Wyo., visiting relatives. At Billings they visited Mrs. J. J. Selwig and Mrs. Ward King at Greybull. Mrs. King, mother of Mrs. Gribble, came to Brookings with them to visit with her daughter and sisters, Mrs. Von Soidlitz and Mrs. Zirbel. Mrs. King liked this climate, as it is not too hot. Ward King arrived here last Wednesday to visit his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Gribble, and will return to Greybull with Mrs. King and their granddaughter, JoDel Reidl, soon.

Harold Sergeant, teacher in the high school, moved here late last week from Corvallis, to start building a home before the beginning of school. His wife is county nurse of Polk county, and will remain there until her term of office expires in October. They have a son almost five years old. The Sergeants have purchased a lot on the Ocean View tract.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Merrill and daughter, Marilyn, of Portland, stopped with Joe's sister, Mrs. Archie Hendricks and family last week, on their way to California for a vacation. They brought Grandma Merrill who had been at her home in Portland for some time with an old friend. Joe Merrill and his family are former residents of Brookings.

Mrs. Carley of the Brookings Market staff went to Grants Pass on Monday.

The new Beaver State Lodge at the eastern entrance of Brookings has finished its fifth unit for the use of those guests who insist on the "better than average" accommodations. Beautiful new furnishings — Grand Hotel mattresses, Palm prings bedspreads and the best grade of blankets made of the long strands of wool are installed in each unit. Mr. and Mrs. De Phillips have considered the comfort of their guests in all the modern appointments of their lodge.

Jim Carson and wife went to Partland last Thursday on business relative to their South American trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bolton of Yuba City, Calif., former residents, are guests of the Erskine R. Millers.

Mrs. Almo Newton was taken Portland for an emergency operation last weekend.

Mrs. Robert Phillips went to Portland last Wednesday for a week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Locke of Seattle were visitors at the Colgrove home last week. Mrs. Willard Colgrove of Hillsborough, Ore., is also a guest and will stay for two weeks. Mrs. Locke is a sisted of Jim Robinson.

Miss Marlene Reynolds is helping at the meat department at Brookings Market during the interval between her graduation from high school at Morton, Wash., and entrance to Tacoma General hospital to begin nurse's training.

Mrs. Clara Kern, Mrs. Mable Collis, Mrs. Edith Ackley and her guest, Mrs. Eva Shurwelle of Oakland, Calif., spent Saturday at the Del Norte Fair at Crescent City.

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