

The Gyrfalcon

Gyrfalcons are rugged birds. They have to be, for they live in the cold barren Arctic and northern Canada. Sometimes they venture southward, but few go as far as the Northern United States—only once in a long while is a Gyrfalcon seen in our country.

In the bleak territory which they inhabit, the big birds perform like true members of the hawk and falcon family. They are among the fastest of all feathered fliers, and in their bag of aerial tricks are the skills of soaring and diving.

With a keen eye for prey, they arouse fear in the hearts of their neighbors—birds, rabbits, mice,



©National Wildlife Federation
Gyrfalcon

shrews, and other small animals. Many an unsuspecting creature has felt the swift, sure claws of a Gyrfalcon whose appetite was unsatisfied.

The struggle with a victim is usually short because the Gyrfalcon is a large, powerful bird with strong feet and beak. He is from 20 to 25 inches long and has a heavy body. His wings, built

for speed, are long and slim, and his tail is somewhat long, too.

Only experts can be sure of identifying him, says the National Wildlife Federation. This is partly because the Gyrfalcons are so rarely seen, and partly because they come in different color combinations. Some are white, with broken bars of brown or black across their backs and wings. Others are darker, with mostly gray, brown, or black feathers and only a bit of white.

At one time this caused bird authorities to list three or four races of Gyrfalcons living in N. America. But now they feel that there is only one, and that the different colors may show up among birds of the same brood. The young makes their appearance in a rough nest of sticks and twigs, built in a protected corner of a high cliff. There are three or four of them to a family. They are hatched from large buff or brownish eggs which are marked with reddish brown.

From their lofty home, they look out on a cold, forbidding land—where ice and snow never completely disappear. But they are husky babies right from the start, and soon they gain the thick layers of feathers which will protect them against wintry blasts.

Not long after they leave the nest, the young Gyrfalcons display the flying skill for which the family is famous. Beating their wings in rapid flight or holding them outstretched while soaring, the young join their parents on patrols of the arctic skies.

Ordinances In Issue

Elsewhere in this issue appear two ordinance, Nos. 9 and 10, of the City of Brookings, concerning appointment of a city engineer and a traffic ordinance.

It is suggested that these ordinances be clipped and preserved by citizens that they always be acquainted with the city rules and laws.

The Pilot is trying to keep its readers informed on all matters concerning the city government.

Damage Suit Filed

A suit was filed at Gold Beach, Nov. 7 by Loyd Briscoe of Medford, against Leo and Margaret Pfeil of Ocean Spray Motel, for damages sustained in a fall which he alleges broke his hip. He is asking \$21,000 damages from the defendants.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dimond of Portland were Saturday visitors in this area, en route north from his periodic trip over the state as salesman-owner of Paper Mills Agency of Oregon.

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According to a statement issued by John Porisch, Gold Beach, district ranger, Brookings Plywood Corporation recently purchased an estimated 6,600,000 board feet of Forest Service timber at what is probably a record high price for Douglas fir in Curry county.

The timber was sold at public auction at Grants Pass. In addition, a deposit of 45cs per M board feed is required to cover cost of planting and burning the slash. An estimate 7000M board feet of hemlock was sold for \$1.10 per M board feet, plus the deposit.

This timber is located in the Mill creek drainage of Chetco River, in sections 19, 30, Twp 40s, R12W. It is located on an area of about 143 acres. The total value of the sale will exceed \$175,000, or about \$1270 per acre. The share paid to be paid in lieu of taxes to the counties in which the Siskiyou National Forest is located, will be about \$44,000 or \$210 per acre. This money is apportioned to the road and school funds of the counties concerned. Ten per cent of the total value of the timber sold will also be made available to the Forest Service for maintenance of roads and trails in the counties.

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Bengtson Invited To Nat'l Conclave

O. H. Bengtson has accepted an invitation to attend the 59th annual convention of the United States Savings and Loan League, to be held Nov. 9 to 13 at Miami, Florida.

He was invited to speak at the attorney's session of the league convention. Mr. Bengtson intended, while at the convention, to contact Merle Smith, vice-president of the league, with view toward getting Smith to visit at Brookings to discuss with local residents the requirements and feasibility of establishing a savings and loan institution in this vicinity.

Mr. Bengtson formerly represented all Oregon Savings and Loan Associations as Oregon's delegate to the U. S. Savings and Loan League.

Brother Sought

Ernest Rarey, reputed to be employed somewhere in this area, is being sought by relatives at Kelso, Wash., prompted by the death of a brother, Claude, last Sunday.

Mrs. Earl Rarey phoned from Kelso, early this week, to the police department of Brookings, seeking aid in locating Ernest, who is asked to telephone collect, 8015R1, Kelso immediately.

Weather Report

For the week ending on Sunday:	Max.	Min.	Rain
November 5	68	56	---
November 6	59	48	---
November 7	50	52	---
November 8	62	43	---
November 9	52	47	1.47
November 10	56	47	.71
November 11	55	48	2.45
Rainfall for week			4.63

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