

6 Brookings Harbor Pilot
THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1953

Arbor Day, Feb. 13 In Western Oregon

Salem, Oregon (special) What has happened to Arbor Day in Oregon? Who knows? Dust was scraped from the musty forest law this week when Homer Lyon, reforestation director for the state forestry department, unearthed the 1889 statute which provides for regular observance of Arbor Day in Oregon.

According to the forester, the law sets aside the afternoon of the second Friday in February—the 13th this year—in western Oregon and the same day in April for eastern Oregon as "Arbor Day". It was designed to assist in establishing trees on school grounds and implant in the minds

of the children the benefits of growing timber and the perpetuation of Oregon's valuable forests.

In the mid-west, Arbor Day is one of great activity—but in Oregon—the nation's No. 1 producer of lumber, it is difficult to arouse interest in the old custom.

All is not lost, Lyon said, as many high schools in the state carry on extensive tree planting programs. Each year, high schools in Portland, North Bend, Reedsport, Marshfield at Coos Bay, Tillamook and many others obtain forest tree seedlings free of charge from the state forestry department to plant on cut-over forest lands.

The forester advised that trees for planting on school grounds and yards must be purchased from commercial nurserymen, farm woodlands and windbreaks could be obtained at a very low cost from the state forester. More than thirteen different species of trees are available including Douglas-fir, Port Orford cedar, black locust, Chines elm, ponderosa pine and others.

For those interested in planting a tree on Arbor Day, the forestry department has prepared a chart showing the proper methods of starting a young forest seedling on its way to becoming a part of Oregon's important forests.

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Red-Throated Loon

THE FACT that a bird has a wide range for its species does not mean necessarily that it is correspondingly well known. The red-throated loon ranges during the year from the Aleutians to Greenland and south to Florida and Lower California and yet most people go through their lives with-



Red-Throated Loon
©1952 National Wildlife Federation

ever seeing or hearing one of these birds

The red-throated loon, with a length of 27 inches overall, is some five inches shorter than a full grown common loon. It lacks the conspicuous black head and neck band of the common loon though it is white underneath and has the breast striped with black and white. The throat of the red-throated loon has a conspicuous chestnut triangle at its lower edge. In winter the bird is dusky above. The sexes are colored alike.

Breeding of the red-throated loon takes place from northern Alaska and the western Aleutians south to northern British Columbia and east to Greenland, Newfoundland and Quebec. It also breeds in Europe and Asia. Our winter range of the species extends south to Florida and the region of Lower California nearest to the United States, for the most part.

The red-throated loon has been suspected of feeding on fish eggs and it is known to make a large part of its diet of fish which it catches by diving and pursuit under water. Because of these habits it has been considered as undesirable, but what would a summer be in the wilds of Canada or northern United States without the opportunity of listening to some loons "talk things over" on the other side of the lake in the middle of the night.

During migration the birds have a remarkably strong direct flight. If through accident or otherwise they happen to come to earth in migration, they probably will end their days where some down since they cannot "take off" except from water. In New England the southern migration is about at its height in October. A poet has concisely described the overground migration of the bird as "the sure, swift flight of loons." Words would hardly improve this description.

The nest is nothing but a mere depression hidden on the bank of a lake or stream. Sometimes it is lined with finer grasses. It must be close to the shore because the birds are almost helpless on land. In the water they more than make up for this land handicap. There are usually 2 eggs, each about 3 inches long, highly variable in color and either spotted with drab brown or plain.

Both sexes take part in the 4-week incubation period and the downy chicks are dark gray above and drab. The young take to the water soon after they are hatched but they are guarded jealously by the parents who be-

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Falk of Eugene were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Guerrettaz last week. Mrs. Falk and Mrs. Guerrettaz are cousins. Mr. Falk is sales manager of the Williams Bakery of Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. "Bud" Phetteplace moved into their new home on Sunday. Formerly owned by Les Shanahan, it is located on the old airport tract.

Harry Lyness returned to Brookings on Monday after visiting his wife in Seattle for two weeks.

Luke Fadding is recovering from an appendectomy, per-

come greatly excited when any sign of danger is to be found. In spite of the noisy behavior of loons at some times, they may vanish from sight quickly when they wish to do so.

The National Wildlife Federation and similar conservation organizations are greatly interested in careful observations of all forms of wildlife about whose genuine value there may be any question. The red-throated loon would come under this heading unquestionably.

By E. LAURENCE PALMER

formed at Seaside hospital on Sunday.

Mrs. Irene McKinley, state associate grand matron of Eastern Star, Portland, gave the officers of the local lodge a course of instruction for the next year's work Monday. She was entertained at luncheon by the officers at the I.O.O.F. hall.

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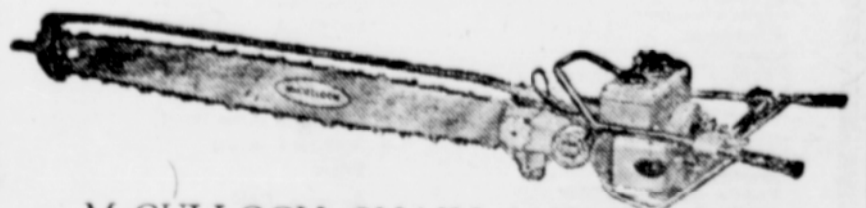
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