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PROVIDE FOOD FOR BIRDS IN WINTER

The following is from a United States Department of Agriculture bulletin and a continuation of a recent article on wild bird propagation in the Northwest:

For all birds some sort of bathing and drinking pools should be furnished. These may be either on the ground or raised and may be of pottery, stone, metal or cement. Both the edges and bottom should be somewhat rough. The water receptacle should be shallow and should slope up gradually toward the edge.

The vital factor in attracting birds is the food supply. This may be furnished either by providing artificial food such as crumbs, suet, chopped nuts and the like, or by planting trees, shrubs and herbs which will produce fruits or seeds that the birds themselves may gather. Winter feeding is the most familiar phase of bird feeding, but there is no reason why birds should not be attracted throughout the year by a supply of food.

For artificial feeding the biologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture suggest the use of several devices. A food shelf may be placed against the side of the house near a window, or a food tray may be fixed to the top of a post. Excellent food receptacle may be had by cutting a hole in a coconut and stuffing the shell full of chopped suet and nuts or some other food mixture. The shell can be hung from a limb. Holes bored in pieces of thick lumber may be used instead of a cavity in a coconut. Feeding hoppers like those used for poultry may be employed for birds on food shelves or on the ground. A wooden house open on one side away from the wind also may be used as a feeding place.

If it is desired to feed the birds naturally, there are a number of plants that may be grown which will be ornamental and, at the same time, will furnish good provender for the feathered guests. For seed eating birds in the Northwest the list suggested by the Department of Agriculture includes prince's feather, love-lies-bleeding, asters, calandrinias, blessed thistle, centaurea, California poppies, sunflowers, tarweed, forget-me-nots, Polygonum orientale, P. sachalinense, portulaca, silene and sugar cane. Other seed bearing small plants that may be grown are the various millets, canary grass, and the various species of pennisetum.

Among the trees bearing seeds relished by birds are the alders and birches. The red-polls, siskins and goldfinches are particularly fond of these tree seeds during the winter. Ashes and box elders furnish seed relished by evening grosbeaks, while larches and pines and other conifers are attractive to crossbills as well as to some of the species just mentioned.

The fruit eating birds may be attracted in great numbers by planting of fruit bearing shrubs and trees. The best of the long persisting fruits in the Northwest are juniper, bayberry, thorn apples and related fruits, holly and snow berry. A large number of other fruit-bearing plants are listed in the bulletin already mentioned, and the period of fruiting of each is shown on a chart. One of the advantages of planting wild fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, it is pointed out, is that the birds are fonder of these than of the cultivated fruits, and the latter, therefore, will be protected.

Copies of the bulletin may be had free on application to the U. S. Department of Agriculture as long as the Department's supply lasts.

ENGINEERS' REPORT IS NOT PLEASING

(From Hood River Glacier)

The recent report of the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, transmitted last week to the members of the commercial organization by Major Arthur Williams, of Portland, to the effect that the proposed dredging of the mouth of Hood river was not feasible because of the heavy expense that would be incurred, is not pleasing to the Commercial club. Despite the unfavorable report from the federal engineers, the club members at their annual meeting Monday night, decided to proceed with plans that look toward an ultimate opening of a channel through the sandbar that has formed north of the city.

In his annual report, R. E. Scott expresses the opinion that the proposal of a dock east of Hood river and reached by piling will not be for the best interests of the city. The club's plans of opening the old Hood river channel would bring the wharves close to the business district of the city, while the government plans would take the dock nearly a half mile from town.

Secretary Scott announced at the meeting that plans were under way that would render the club free from debt at the beginning of next year.

New members of the board of directors elected were: W. L. Clark, J. M. Culbertson, C. J. Calkins and C. C. Lemmon. They succeed R. B. Perigo, D. G. Cruikshank, S. A. Mitchell and A. S. Keir.

Teachers' Examinations

Notice is hereby given that the county superintendent of Wasco county, Oregon, will hold the regular examination of applicants for state certificates at the County Court House, as follows:

Commencing Wednesday, December 20, 1916, at 9:00 a. m., and continuing until Saturday, December 23, 1916, at 4:00 o'clock p. m.

Wednesday Forenoon—U. S. History, Writing, Penmanship, Music, Drawing.

Wednesday Afternoon—Physiology, Reading, Manual Training, Composition Domestic Science, Methods in Reading, Course of Study for Drawing, Methods in Arithmetic.

Thursday Forenoon—Arithmetic, History of Education, Psychology, Methods in Geography, Mechanical Drawing, Domestic Art, Course of Study for Domestic Art.

Thursday Afternoon—Grammar, Geography, Stenography, American Literature, Physics, Typewriting, Methods in Language, Thesis for Primary Certificate Friday Forenoon—Theory and Practice, Orthography, Physical Geography, English Literature, Chemistry, Physical Culture.

Friday Afternoon—School Law, Geology, Algebra, Civil Government.

Saturday Forenoon—Geometry, Botany

Saturday Afternoon—General History Bookkeeping.

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County Supt. of Schools.

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