

Diary of a Bird Watcher



Saturday, Feb. 8

I saw a chickadee from my study window. It was in the willows above our place, so I went out to get a closer look. It was a pair of black capped chickadees. This is the variety we are apt to see in the willows and cottonwoods along the streams. One winter we saw quite a few of all three kinds of chickadees in town, black capped, mountain and chestnut backed, but we usually see very few. Their relatives, the titmice, are commoner.

Sunday, Feb. 9

I saw more people than I did birds. I like people, too. Some of them can sing even prettier than the birds. I heard some that did.

In the afternoon I pulled some of the grass out from among the daffodils that are coming up. Daffodils are among my favorite flowers. We have quite a few kinds on the place. I think the February Gold will be in bloom by another Sunday. Then the others will string along for about two months. That is the way our lengthy spring works in this climate.

Monday, Feb. 10

For our regular Monday morning trip J. H. and I went up through Ashland, past Emigrant reservoir, and up the old 99 Highway to the Siskiyou Summit on the present 99. We walked around a little up there among the patches of snow but the only two birds we saw were a Steller's jay and a robin. We saw hardly any birds in the mountain area, but just below it where the old highway starts up the hill there was a place where a good many cattle are being fed. There we saw the largest concentration of Steller's jays either of us had ever seen. These are the handsome black headed ones with a crest.

The only two new-for-the-year birds we saw on the trip were cowbirds and purple finches, both fairly common in the valley. Cowbirds look like blackbirds with brown heads and short, thick bills. They are the only parasitic bird in our country. They lay their eggs in the nest of other birds and let the other birds take care of the young when they hatch. Purple finches look so much like house finches you have to look closely to determine which you are seeing.

At a cub scout dinner in the evening I met another bird watcher. I used to accept the judgment that bird watchers are queer people, but if we are it is comforting to know there are so many of us, because it seems I meet or hear from new ones almost every day.

Tuesday, Feb. 11

My young friend, R.B., called up and told me about seeing a marsh hawk not far from his home on Barnett rd. He works that area around KYJC and down along Bear creek quite regularly and comes up with a good many birds. He found our only marsh wren and burrowing owls on the Christmas count. Any one can see birds if they look around where they are. In 1955 we saw 73 species on or from our home place.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

One of the members of a garden club wanted to know what good are these scrub jays that are so common in our valley. I happened to have an answer that I got from reading the "Bird Watcher's Anthology." One of the writers in that book told about how he sat watching the way acorns fell off oak trees and rolled down the hill. He got to wondering how oaks ever became established on the higher slopes of the hill. Then he saw the scrub jays gathering acorns, flying up the hill and storing them in the ground. Many other ways could be listed in which birds are useful to trees, and as many in which trees are useful to birds. All nature is interrelated. The study of the interrelationships has become a science, called ecology.

Thursday, Feb. 13

I took an hour to look for returning tree swallows but saw none. This isn't the year to beat my record for early spring migrants. The weather has been mild, but I think the recurring storms discourage migration.

Friday, Feb. 14

Birds might have been making love all over the place on this lover's holiday but it was too rainy and I was too busy to find them. A robin sang a log song in our birch tree. Maybe its hormones are beginning to stir and it will soon be singing its true territorial song. It is now generally thought that most birds sing as a declaration that the place where they are is one that they have established as a territory for nesting. When a female comes along she then chooses her home site along with her mate.—T.M.

Grange News

Phoenix Grange

Phoenix Grange met for the regular business meeting Tuesday, Feb. 11, with Master Charles Johnson presiding.

The horticulture committee put on the program.

Vaughn Quackenbush, of the experiment station, had a display of pears of different varieties, some real red, others pale green and still others which were the result of crossing two or more varieties. He said they have about 150 varieties of pears at the experiment station which (with help from the government) they are testing and working with, trying to improve the flavor, keeping qualities, appearance and handling and shipping qualities, also those least susceptible to disease and insects.

He talked on the history of pears and gave a brief outline from 1000 years B.C., up to the present. He said pears belong to the same family as quince, hawthorne, and service berry, and in early days were not considered a desert, but a medicine, and it was recommended they be thoroughly cooked or baked for best medicinal results.

He brought up the subject of evolution in the animal

kingdom, particularly extinct animals and changes that took place at times due to climate, different food, defense and always the struggle for survival, and the history of the growth of pears through the ages was much similar.

Dee Hendrickson mentioned the names of a number of pears now almost unheard of such as, the wilder, Flemish beauty, congress, howell, golden nells and others which at one time were grown quite extensively. But some lacked the flavor, some did not have good keeping qualities or were susceptible to disease and insects and for various reasons are not now grown to any great extent. He mentioned the ferrillas, sometimes called trout pears, because of its spots like a fish, and said it was used principally for decoration.

Olin Poe reminded us to save sales slips as this quarter is rapidly slipping by.

Secretary Lesbia Lattie read a letter from Mrs. Laurel Poling, a Phoenix Grange member, who now lives at San Leandro, Calif., and a letter to the Grange from Mrs. Dora Hilton who is spending the winter with a daughter on the east coast.

Mrs. Hilton told of visiting the White House, a senate session, having lunch with the Charles Porters and mentioned having visited a number of places of interest.

The subject of pay television was brought up and discussed. The Grange voted that our resolution committee draw up a resolution opposing pay television and send to our congressmen in Washington, D.C.

Coral Schroeder, HEC chairman announced a potluck supper at the next Grange meeting Feb. 25. This will be the annual birthday dinner. The serving committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Quackenbush, Mr. and Mrs. George Hartley and Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Bates. The supper will be served at 7 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring their own table service and meat, dessert or salad dish.

She also announced the HEC meeting at the home of Mrs. George Hartley Wednesday, Feb. 19, there will be a potluck dinner at 12:30. Mrs. Mark Smith and Mrs. Barney Lewin will be co-hostesses.

Proceeds from the penny march and the penny march next meeting, will be given to the March of Dimes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 and refreshments of ice cream and home made cookies were served by the serving committee Mr. and Mrs. Warren

Loffer, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hamilton and daughter, Linda. The tables were decorated with valentine place mats and vases of pussy willows and narcissus.

Roxy Ann Grange

Roxy Ann Grange held a potluck dinner before Grange Friday, Feb. 7. There was a good crowd out for dinner.

Frances had part of the lecturer's hour before Grange. Master Al Sims opened Grange with five officers absent.

Harry Martin reported on the farm program meeting held at Gearhart. He said there were speakers from

Washington, D.C. Farmers are Feb. 19 at the Grange hall, not signing up for soil bank program in Jackson county.

Roscoe Roberts reported on insurance meeting held in Seattle. There is a new coverage in Grange insurance. It is commercial liability. They also voted to raise rates on number three drivers. He said GIA made money last year and they are writing insurance at old rates.

Verda Quackenbush, HEC chairman, reported there were 26 members and one guest at a meeting held at Grange hall Feb. 5. Marie Pfnister and Bessie Wight were hostesses. The next meeting will be held

Mae Moore and Ruby Garrett will be hostesses.

Master Al Sims urged all officers to attend conference at Central Point. He also read a measure Grange is sponsoring to get on the ballot on lowering rates on electricity

in Oregon. Marie Pfnister welcomed members, who hadn't been there for a time.

Madge Nowlin called attention to valentine on display table, that was more than 80 years old, also flowers made by Verda Quackenbush.

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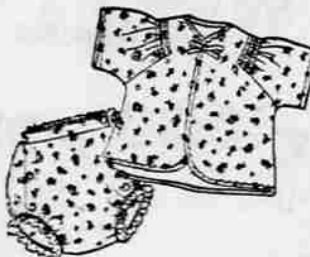
Shirt — Jiffon neck, Navybind sleeves. Water-repellent Diapenda Taper. White, 3 mos.-3 yrs. 2 for 1.29



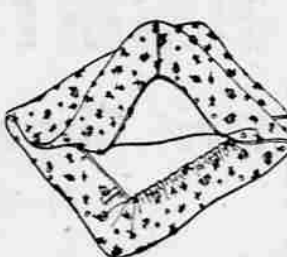
Gown — Snap-fastened. Navybind sleeves. Handy-Cuffs, tie bottom. Pink, Blue, Yellow Rosebud Print. 3-6 mos. 1.75



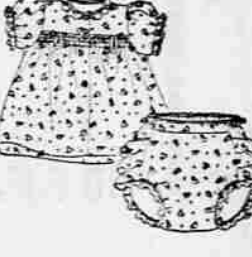
Kimono — Snap-fastened. Pink, Blue, Yellow Rosebud Print. 6 mos. 1.69



Sacque Set — Snap-fastened jacket. Plasticized, snap-fastened pant. Pink, Blue, Yellow Rosebud Print. Layette size. 2.50



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