

Diary of a Bird Watcher



Sunday, April 6
We had children instead of birds all over our place on the annual egg hunt. While it doesn't come under the head of bird watching it certainly comes under the head of beautiful things that I have seen. Children of varying sizes, dressed in their bright Easter clothes swarmed all over the property. They all looked so happy it made other people happy to look at them.

In the afternoon while on some errands I found myself out on Stewart ave. and thought I might as well try my luck at looking for the blackbird with a white head I drove in and out two or three cross streets and finally I found it in a pasture along the King's Highway. I only saw it briefly because it flew away behind a hedge, but I did get a good view of it. The whole head seemed to be pure white, coming down a little farther on the back than on the breast. It certainly is an oddity, but I hold to the theory expressed before that it is probably a partial albino.

Monday, April 7
My wife and I set out in our car for the annual "Ministers' Retreat" held at Ocean Lake on the coast. This place is in the heart of the "20 Miracle Miles" that are being so ardently promoted at this time by the people of that area. It is a beautiful section, but perhaps not any more so than other parts of the Oregon coast.

We reached the coast going down the Umpqua from Drain to Reedsport. Then we had a very enjoyable drive up the coast to Ocean Lake. We stopped frequently to look for birds. It was here that we saw our first hummingbird of the year. It was a gorgeous male rufous. When the sun shone on its flame red throat patch its brilliance made us catch our breath. These male hummingbirds are not seen so often in Medford. After the mating they always go off to the mountains and let the females do the nest building, egg laying, incubating and rearing of the young. Sort of the irresponsible type. But they are still a feast of beauty when you see them.

Tuesday, April 8
Fortunately, our formal program at this affair was light, although the morning and evening lectures were excellent. However there was plenty of time left for bird watching. My early morning trip was hampered by rain, but our afternoon trip was very pleasant. We drove around Devil's Lake and there we flushed a bald eagle. Seeing our national bird is always a thrill to me. They are big and powerful and handsome. We also saw three different kinds of grebes on the lake. The handsomest is the western with its black and white pattern and long, graceful neck. Only these were taking a six and most of them had their heads tucked under their wings which gave them a strange look.

Wednesday, April 9
We took a walk on the beach after breakfast and were having a fine time until it began to rain. We saw a great number of black turnstones and surf birds. These birds like to feed on little sea creatures in between the barnacles on the rocks. When they fly the turnstones present a most interesting and attractive pattern of black and white. They seem to fit perfectly the rocks along the shore where they live.

My afternoon trip was again hampered by rain. I worked mostly from the car, parking it where I could get a view of a patch of water or a mud flat. I had my best views of red breasted mergansers. They seem to be quite common in the bays along the coast. They look graceful and pretty with their crested heads.

I like to watch the ducks that play in the surf. It looks like playing, but I guess they are really feeding. The big waves don't bother them at all. When a breaker comes along they just dive and then come up again when it has passed. The only species I identified this time was the surf scoter, but I saw quite a number of them.

Thursday, April 10
Today we drove home. There were some light showers before we left and just after we started, but the rest of the trip we had beautiful spring-like weather. When we arrived home at mid-afternoon we noticed that the leaves on the trees in Medford seemed to have come out a good deal more since we left.

My daughter-in-law had been feeding our birds while we were away and there seemed to be as many white crowned and golden crowned sparrows as ever. We will go on feeding them as long as they stay, probably another week or two. —T.M.

Two SOC Students Win Prizes in Contest
Ashland — Two Southern Oregon college students from Medford have received awards in contests in English composition and commercial design sponsored by Bear Creek Orchards.

Don Wendt, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Wendt, Jacksonville, received first prize of \$50 and second prize of \$25 for his commercial design entries.

Charles Rowan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rowan, 1117

West 11th st., received first prize of \$50 for his diction entry.

The United States exported 600 million pounds of tobacco leaf and tobacco products in fiscal 1957. This was valued at more than 400 million dollars and was equal to one-fourth of the U. S. tobacco crop, one-third of U. S. tobacco sales, and 35 per cent of the Free World tobacco trade.

Family Living Discussed By Clinical Psychologist

Dr. John E. Bell, clinical psychologist and professor of psychology, spoke Thursday during the annual meeting of the guidance clinic association on "Mental Health in Family Living."

Approximately 150 people attended the meeting. Dr. Bell explained how he has been studying a new concept in family counselling, seeing the family as a whole working out family problems.

He spoke of the need for the family members to talk through problems, and the great need a child has for reassurance and love and support from the other members of the family.

Out of his work with the family Dr. Bell said he learned disturbing behavior on the part of one member of the family makes sense. The child or the parent is trying to say something to the others, he explained.

"All members of a family share the blame and need to change even though the problem might seem to lie with only one member of the family," he added. "There is, basically, in every family, a love and respect for one another which finally emerges after the outward signs of disturbance are dealt with."

Dr. Bell is presently acting chief of Mental Health Services, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Region IX, with offices in San Francisco.

Dr. Alva Graham, association, introduced visitors from out of town. Dr. and Mrs. Frank B. Strange (he is director of the Mental Health Association for Oregon) were present from Portland. Dr. Mary Soule, public health officer from Roseburg, attended with several of her staff. Mrs. John Waterman, psychiatric social work consultant for Oregon, accompanied Dr. Bell from Klamath Falls, where he spoke to a similar group on Wednesday evening.

Board Elected
Dr. Brandt Bartels, co-chairman of the nominating committee gave the committee's report and the following new board members were elected: Mrs. Lloyd Selby and Mrs. Elmo Stevenson, Ashland; Armin Richter, Applegate; E. M. Stansfield, Central Point; Mrs. Jack Reed, Lake Creek; and John Holmes, Mrs. John Brandenburg, Mrs. Wilton White and Mrs. Fred Danielson, Medford.

At a brief business session held in conjunction with the dinner meeting it was voted to change the membership fee from \$2 to \$1.

Retiring board members of the association are: Alva Graham, president; Mrs. Earl Law, vice president; John Graff, treasurer; Mrs. Roland Holmes, secretary; Elliott Becken, Mrs. John Bohmert, and Mrs. Clarence Davies.

THIS IS NEWS
Ithaca, N.Y. — After making a survey Prof. Jean Warren of the State College of Home Economics at Cornell University revealed that wives make 85 per cent of the day-to-day decisions in family life.

Local Residents Warned on Letter
Medford area residents are warned of a "chain letter" scheme now being used which promises a person to "get-rich-quick" and concerns United States Savings bonds, according to Don McNeil, chamber of commerce manager.

He said a person receiving one of the letters is required to purchase two bonds for \$37.50 and is assured of receiving bonds in a few days totaling \$38,400 which would be worth \$51,200 when maturing.

The operation of such letters is against postal lottery and fraud laws. The Medford and area post offices have been alerted to the scheme, McNeil said.

Some organizers of the chain letter scheme imply the government and banks approve the idea in order to increase bond sales but this is not true, he said. The treasury department has instructed banks and other issuing agencies to reject applications for purchase of bonds where the applicant states, or where the issuing agent has reason to believe the bonds will be used in the letter scheme, McNeil added.

Local residents are urged to contact the chamber of commerce at once if contacted by such a letter. He added that to buy savings bonds is a good investment but not to further an illegal scheme.

Major General Joseph P. Hicks, county civil defense leader, outlined steps to prevent illness and death in case of radioactive fallout in the area when he spoke to Ruch Parent Teacher association Friday evening.

Gen. Hicks said that remaining in a tight building is the best protection, and that school personnel have been advised to keep children in the buildings until danger is over unless warned in advance and sent home. He also urged having several days' supply of food and water in air tight containers. He said that if persons are caught outdoors during the fallout, they should change clothing, bathe, and burn the contaminated clothes.

Gen. Hicks said he believes the greatest danger in this county is from missiles, and he also explained briefly the groundwork necessary for medical care and of the plans for communications in case of enemy attack and evacuation of people in cities to outlying areas.

Alfred Dore returned to Los Angeles Tuesday after visiting a few days here with his sister, Mrs. Gail Buffington.

The Applegate school is sponsoring a smorgasbord at the school cafeteria Friday evening, April 18. Funds will be used for the cafeteria.

A number of local folks are getting right after the spring work with good results. Morris Byrne is getting several rooms added to the family home, and Gerald Buck is building a new sheep barn with plans to chop his hay so the little beasts will be more conservative. And among the gardeners who already have green rows of new vegetables nodding in the icy wind are Mr. Buck and Charley Duvall.

Lower Applegate extension unit is sponsoring a rummage sale at the Fehl building in Medford Saturday, April 19. Proceeds will go to their child care fund.

Jim Mitchell celebrated his 12th birthday with a dinner to which several of his rela-

tives were invited Wednesday.

A group having Easter dinner at Kim's restaurant and driving to Ashland afterward included Mrs. Fred Straube and her sister, Mrs. Earl McMullen, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vigel of Central Point.

Mrs. George Brown will be hostess to Applegate Valley Garden club at her home in the lower valley Wednesday, April 16. Mrs. Chester Jones will give demonstrations of corsage making. The meeting opens at 1:30 p.m. and anyone interested is invited.

Rural Reflections: The nicest old fashioned idea that has come along in some time is from Mary Pat Lucy, Jackson county home demonstration agent, who believes that homemakers should wear pretty house dresses and aprons in their homes.

Another sale has been completed here in which Albert Collins sold his 40 acre ranch to Clarence Roloff of Los Angeles. Collins also sold 27 head of Hereford cattle, Mr. and Mrs. Roloff will take possession soon. Collins will reside with his brother, John Collins, in the community.

The annual pre-school clinics will be held in local schools Wednesday, April 16, according to Miss Alena Maki-nen, public health nurse for this area. Immunizations will be offered and Dr. A. E. Merkel, county health officer, will give examinations. Those children who will enter the first grade in September are eligible to attend and it is required that each first grade child receive a physical examination at this clinic or from his own physician. The clinic will be held at Applegate school from 10:30 a.m. until noon, and at Ruch school from 1 to 3 p.m.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

SKEPTICS POOH-POOED every great advance of science and every outstanding invention. Autos, radio, television, movies—none of them was practical, to hear the standpatters tell it. Eighty years ago a bishop preached a sermon castigating visionaries who dared predict that one day men would fly through the air like birds. "Flight is reserved for the angels," thundered the good bishop, "and to say men will fly is downright blasphemy."

The name of this bishop, incidentally, was Milton Wright. He had two sons, one named Orville, the other Wilbur.

On the beach near the newest hotel in Havana, the wife of a vacationing businessman came up with a conch shell and held it to her husband's ear. "Do you hear the sound of the waves inside the shell?" she asked.

"Nah," grumbled the businessman. "The only thing I hear is fifty-five dollars a day—without meals!"

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C. F. Metz Gets New Promotion

C. F. Metz, field auditor for the Unemployment commission in the Southern Oregon area for the past 15 years, has been promoted to the position of area supervisor by the commission it was announced Saturday. He will supervise activities of all field auditors and collection agents in the southwestern area of the state which includes Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Jackson and Josephine counties.

Metz, 112 Washington st., Medford, will continue in Medford headquarters for the time being. His former position as field auditor has been filled by Robert Denker, route 1, box 199, Rogue River.

Denker will work also in Medford headquarters and may be contacted by calling the state employment service, 119 North Oakdale Ave., in Medford.

Nebraska got its name from two Omaha Indian words, "ni" meaning river, and "Bhaska" meaning flat.

St. Patrick is believed to have died in Ireland in 461.

More than one ton of nickel is used to build a modern jet engine for high speed aircraft.

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Clip this ad and receive a \$1.00 reduction on your choice of Spencer Garments Individually designed

Offer Expires May 15, 1958 Registered Corsetiers

Alice G. Fobes
504 Whitman Place
Phone SP 3-6011

17 States Schedule Legislative Terms

Chicago — — The Commerce Clearing House, national tax and business law news agency, reports that legislatures of 17 states will hold their regular sessions next year.

Three of the states, Kentucky, Mississippi and Virginia, will be holding their biennial sessions. The legislatures of the other 14 meet each year.

Commerce Clearing House reported that special sessions are planned in at least two other states, with a strong possibility more will follow suit.

The organization said state legislature activity in even-numbered years has been rising steadily. It says the increased activity is due in large part to continuing pressure for more tax revenue.

The CRH predicted a volume of new state bills this year to exceed the record set in 1956 when more than 28,000 measures were introduced in regular or special sessions in 24 states. Approximately 8,500 of the acts introduced became law.

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