

Diary of a Bird Watcher



State Director Confers Locally On Chest X-Ray

Sunday, April 13
Some chipping sparrows were in back of our house in the late afternoon. I have had little time to observe birds since returning from the coast, but the fine spring weather could easily have brought a good many in.

Monday, April 14
This was the kind of day that I think we would have seen good numbers of interesting birds any place we might have gone. Where we did go was down the Applegate valley to the town of Applegate, a short distance up Williams creek, and then home.

The spring migration is definitely on now. We saw five new-for-the-year birds, all spring migrants. They were solitary vireo, orange crowned warbler, MacGillivray's warbler, yellowthroat and vesper sparrow.

We also saw a number of birds already seen that have now returned in greater numbers. This was especially true of pine siskins and chipping sparrows which we kept running across in different places.

We found orange crowned warblers in several spots. They are rather inconspicuous yellowish and greenish birds. The yellow throat is also in the warbler family but it is rather striking with its black mask across the face. We only saw one, but got a good view of it. The first vesper sparrow we saw were right in town, by the lower end of Windsor ave. They are a streaked bird with white outer tail feathers.

Tuesday, April 15
My daughter-in-law spotted a yellowthroat among the weeds in the back of our house. I usually seem to see about one each spring. An orange crowned warbler seems to be around in our trees pretty steadily.

I had a call about some tree swallows at a nesting box. A pair has been using the box for several years, but this year there are three birds at it. This seems to be some form of the eternal triangle. With most species of birds the male will drive away any other males that come around, but I don't exactly know what happens to an extra female.

Wednesday, April 16
Being out at Camp White on other business I took a turn down Gregory rd. to see if any different birds were around. I saw one I had never seen before in this valley, a pair of bob white quail. Perhaps they had just been released by the game commission. I hope they become established so that the whistled call with which they say their name becomes one of the familiar sounds of our valley.

In the evening I gave a bird talk to a garden club. As usual I learned some things myself. I was told that band tailed pigeons have been back for a couple of weeks and are to be found in the woods along the Medford-Jacksonville highway.

After that meeting my wife and I went to call on some people who had asked us to come to look at some bird books. This turned out to be one of the happiest experiences of our lives, first meeting these fine people, then receiving as a gift a number of excellent and valuable bird and flower books. Some are valued for the illustrations, some are especially well written and some are very useful reference works. They will be a source of pleasure to us as long as we live. If this came partly as a result of writing these notes I am already much overpaid.

Thursday, April 17
In the morning the oak tree in front of our house seemed to be just alive with Audubon's warblers. Most of them seemed to be males in full spring plumage, resplendent in their patches of yellow, black and white. Later in the morning I also saw one or more myrtle warblers, which look very similar except that they have white instead of yellow throats.

Out on Corey rd. where I was making a call I was shown a pheasant's nest with ten eggs in it.

I received a call from my young friend, R.B., who said he had seen rough winged swallows on Saturday, the 12th, and barn swallows on Monday, the 14th. I am glad to add these to my first-of-the-season records.

Friday, April 18
Today my wife and I have been married for ten years. This has something to do with bird watching because I met her at an Audubon Society picnic, courted her on birding trips, and bird watching has been our chief recreation on our honeymoon and ever since. It has proved one basis of a happy marriage.—T.M.

County Road Men Slate Road Oiling

County road crews will begin oiling roads to settle dust early next month, County Engineer Paul Rynning said Friday.

Those who want public roads fronting their property oiled by the county may have the county apply the oil, he said. Residents must pay 5 cents per lineal foot for the oil, with the county paying the cost of application, he said.

Property owners wishing the service may call the roads department. They must pay for the oil in advance.

Rynning added that the county prefers to oil an entire area at a time. Some of the county roads needing repair will receive a mat coat of heavy asphalt and rock later.

Nine American towns and villages are named Peru.

The U. S. has 14,175 banks the top 300 of which accounted for \$120 billion in deposits at the end of 1956, 53 per cent of the total.

Mrs. Elsie Misner of Glendale, Ore., accompanied by a friend, was a guest of Mrs. Fred Straube a few days ago.

Mrs. Glenn France had her two daughters and their families as guests recently. They were Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Bortolazzo and daughter, Vickie, of Weed, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leaming of Shady Cove.

A band concert and choral numbers were given at Ruch school Tuesday by the Gold Hill elementary school band.

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APPLEGATE VALLEY Range Cows Get Checkup

By MAUDE ZIEGLER
Applegate Valley — Come the last day of March, when young growing things make forage for cattle, all local herds are turned from winter feed lots and shoved to the surrounding low range—but not without first submitting the bossies to a rigid program of shots, sprays, tests, de-horning, treatments and medications for some weeks previous to turning them loose.

Two of the most important tests and vaccinations are for Brucellosis and tuberculosis, which are required by state law, according to Jim Corson. This is a new law in that formerly only dairy herds were required to have it. For this work Dr. S. E. Phillips, or Dr. James W. Bayliss, deputy federal veterinarians are on hand.

Another operation is spraying the cattle for lice, ticks, grubs and flies. Corson said that lice infection is serious in some animals. Another necessity that is new this year, through governmental requirements, is ear tagging each animal to designate the number turned out, and the weaning of calves over six months of age so that they do not go on the range unless the owner desires them tagged.

Marking and branding was done in the fall, but a few stragglers were run through in the recent corraling. Treatment for occasional liver infections and foot rot also is included, and as a final touch many of the cows are given their traditional cow bells again, which were removed when they came off the range.

The cattlemen remove the bells to prevent them from being lost, as well as to insure quiet in the night when the herd may congregate outside living room window, Corson pointed out.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. DeShazo returned to their home this week from Merced, where they had been since Christmas, when Mrs. DeShazo was seriously injured in a car wreck. She came by Mercy Flights. She is confined to her bed, but is able to have visitors. Her sister, Mrs. Vertise Skalkitsky, of Los Angeles, is remaining here with her.

Mrs. Nira Nash of Portland was an overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Pearson Monday while en route to California on a vacation trip.

Mrs. Glenn Saltmarsh will be hostess to ladies of Little Applegate Sewing club at her home Thursday, April 24.

Mrs. Lynn Valentine will be master of ceremonies at the Applegate valley extension festival to be held at the Grange hall Saturday, April 19.

Mrs. Robert Sorber is chairman of the event, and other committee members in charge are Mrs. Charles Williams, exhibits; Mrs. Harley Hall, style review; Mrs. John Byrne, refreshments; and Mrs. Chester Jones, flowers.

Two extension units here are working together in arranging the festival. Unit chairmen are Mrs. Lester Rich and Mrs. Rolland Smith.

There is no admission charge, and cookies and coffee will be served. An invitation has been extended to Mrs. Mabel C. Mack of the state extension staff at Corvallis, who served as home demonstration agent in Jackson county for many years, and who organized the work in this area in the 1920s.

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