

Diary of a Bird Watcher



Saturday, May 10.

I saw a female oriole flying down to the ground. I think it was gathering nesting material. I hope it builds one of its beautiful hanging basket nests here on our place.

Sunday, May 11.

During the first church service a robin began building a nest in a tree right in front of the church. I guess I was the only one that saw it. It made several quick trips with material in its beak and then quit. Apparently it gave up the project entirely. I don't know whether it didn't like the music or the sermon it heard in the church. Still, it couldn't have been the music.

Monday, May 12.

J. H. and I went with a friend, H. P., who took us to his cabin on the Rogue. There seemed to be quite a concentration of birds there. I had a fine view of a lazuli bunting from the porch of the cabin. It is a pretty shade of blue on the back and head. I also saw a black headed grosbeak from the same place.

We took a walk in the woods there and saw a number of Wilson's warblers, several warbling vireos and had a fine view of a gorgeous western tanager. Flying above us not far from the cabin we saw a couple of vauv swifts, the first of the season. Swifts are like swallows in that they feed on insects in the air, but their wings are narrower and beat faster. H. P. said that once they came down his chimney and invaded his cabin and he had a hard time getting them out.

During the afternoon I saw two golden crowned sparrows on the lawn at home. The late date for them the last two years was the 4th and the 5th, so they must have liked it here pretty well this year.

Tuesday, May 13.

A visitor from Ohio made the occasion of a trip to Crater Lake. Never before have I found a short trip up there so rewarding. The dogwood was in its prime in the timber above Prospect. The deep snow was impressive in the higher parts of the park. Then, when we walked out on a path that had been opened thru the snow for a look at the lake, I saw it as I had never seen it before. The lake was absolutely still — not a single ripple — and made a perfect mirror. In fact the reflections were so perfect that it was hard for new visitors to distinguish the real mountains from the reflection. The shore line that I tried to point out looked to them as if it was half way up the mountain. It was a memorable sight.

It turned out to be a great day for birds, too. As we opened the car trunk to get out our lunch, Clark's nutcrackers began flying down to the road right beside us, and also a few gray jays. My wife had given us an ample lunch so that we did not begrudge them a few crumbs and had birds around us about all the time we ate. A couple of Steller's jays also joined the feast. This was at the top where the snow banks were high above the car. Food must be scarce enough up there that a few picnickers are a welcome sight.

On the road going forth and back from park headquarters to the rim we flushed numbers of rosy finches that were evidently finding something to eat along the roadside, the only place in the area free of snow. I never saw so many rosy finches in my life. They are a true mountain bird that often feeds on insects which blow on to snow banks. I couldn't say if there were any along that road but they must have been finding something.

Wednesday, May 14.

Forty-four years ago today I began to study birds. A neighbor boy got a bird book for a birthday present and we decided to start looking for them. He soon lost interest, but mine has continued through the years and given me a lot of fun.

I had a phone call from a woman who was troubled by a robin that kept beating itself against a window. I told her I thought it was a male defending its territory by fighting the other male that he saw in his own reflection, but I didn't know any remedy because the window was big and it would be hard to figure out any way of killing the reflection. I also had a call from a man who saw a bald eagle over on Modoc Road. I have seen them at mountain lakes, but never on the valley floor that way.—T.M.

Powell Pleads Innocent To Income Tax Evasion

New York—Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (D-N.Y.) pleaded innocent in federal court Friday to charges of income tax evasion.

The Negro congressman was released in his own custody and given permission, at the suggestion of the U.S. attorney, to travel outside the court's jurisdiction in pursuance of his congressional duties.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says if American farmers were farming now as they did in 1940, housewives would be paying 10 billion dollars more annually for groceries.

Group Named to Study Effect of Recent Campaign

Paul Lea, president of the Medford Automobile Dealers association, has announced the appointment of a special committee to study the economic effect of the recent "You Auto Buy Now" program in Medford.

Named were Darrell Miller, chairman, Dick Heysell, Bob Taylor, Russ Knight and Lon Skinner, all of Medford.

In addition to the study of the program, the committee will report on ways and means of conducting similar community programs and projects by the dealer group.

The announcement was made at a no-host dinner last week in Medford to conclude the 10-day campaign to stimulate retail business in this area.

Darrell Miller, cochairman of the campaign, complimented dealers for their support and community spirit in spearheading the program locally.

Miller noted that the program was successful in bolstering consumer faith in the dynamic nature of our local economy and will be used as an example of cooperative effort for other areas planning similar events.

Rotary Fellowship To Be Awarded

A Rotary Foundation fellowship which provides transportation, tuition, books, room, board, incidental living costs and limited educational travel will be awarded to a college graduate.

Medford is one of 26 clubs participating in the program, according to Frank Bash, local chairman. He said each club will present one candidate for the award. The district includes the southern two-thirds of Oregon.

Each Medford candidate must live within the Medford Rotary area, be between 20 and 28 years old, have a good scholastic record, have a bachelor's degree or will receive it at the end of the next school year and have a good working knowledge of the language of the country in which he wishes to study.

Applications and additional information are available by contacting the Medford Rotary club, box 811, Medford. Deadline for applying for the fellowship is July 1.

Life in Prison Given Portlander

Portland—Lee Allen Parker, 31, was sentenced to life in prison Thursday for the body-in-a-well slaying of Robert E. Holloway, 44, Portland cement worker.

Parker was convicted of second degree murder. Holloway's body was found last December in a well near Vernonia.

Another defendant, Harold Keith, 43, Vernonia, is scheduled to go on trial Monday on a murder charge.

Parker will remain in the county jail for two weeks pending possible appeal.

Griffin Creek Pupils Visit Local Library

A Thursday morning visit was made to the Medford Public library by 31 members of the second grade of the Griffin Creek school.

They were accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Pat Stewart, and received by Mrs. Cynthia McKay, acting head of the junior department at the library.

A nine-pound washing machine has no tub of its own, but will fit any sink that will hold seven inches of water.

London—Britain is strengthening its strategic reserve in Kenya by moving another 1,600 troops including administrative units to the Nairobi area next month, it was announced Saturday.

Ball-point pens are not a recent phenomenon. The first ball-point pen was patented in 1888 by J. J. Loud. They did not gain widespread attention until 1945, however.

In 1956, heart and circulatory diseases were responsible for 53.9 per cent of all deaths at all ages. These diseases affect more than 10 million living Americans, including 500,000 children of school age.

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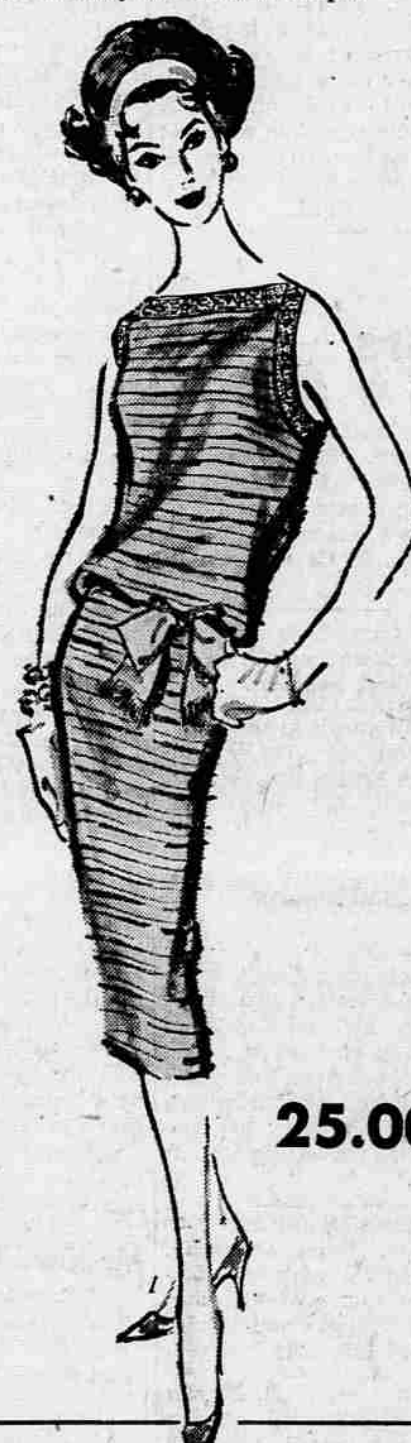
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