

Diary of a Bird Watcher



Saturday, May 24

R. B. reported seeing the first nighthawk. This is an early record, equal to the earliest that Gabrielson & Jewett know of. I regard the nighthawk as the latest spring migrant we have. The main body of them don't usually arrive until June. Last year I saw the first one May 30, the year before June 2nd.

Sunday, May 25

We don't have as many birds on the home place at this season as we do in the winter. I only got 17 species on my home list this week. But the trees and flowers on the place are really great. This afternoon my wife and young son went around counting the different kinds of flowers we have blooming and came up with 75. This includes the different varieties of iris and roses and different colors of batchelor buttons.

Monday, May 26

J. H. being ill and my wife busy I went on a morning birding trip by myself. I was anxious to go up the Dead Indian grade and see what birds were up there on the road to Lake of the Woods. I went over the summit a short distance and then hiked to a certain place where there is some partially cut over land which slopes down to a little valley where there are aspens and willows. On the slope is a patch of wild larkspur. Near it I found the calliope hummingbird in exactly the same spot where we found it last year, perching on a dead branch in the top of a small tree. Instead of feeding at the larkspur blossoms it kept darting out after insects. I circled around so that the light was right and its violet pink neckpiece gleamed in the sun. This is supposed to be the smallest bird found in North America and it is certainly an attractive one. This is the only place where I have seen it in our area although I am sure that diligent looking would discover quite a few more.

I also found a house wren which went to a nest hole in the top of a tall stump. I seldom see house wrens in the towns here in the west. They seem to favor the cut over land in the hills.

In the afternoon I was calling out near Hoover lake, so of course I stopped there. The terns were there, small black terns and medium sized light colored ones with forked tails, probably Forster's although the markings looked more like common terns to me. It just happens that the "common" terns are not nearly so common as the Forster's, so I would have to get a better look to be sure of this identification. I also saw gulls which, as usual, I couldn't get near enough to identify.

Thursday, May 29

A year or more ago a neighbor gave me a red-hot poker plant because she said hummingbirds like it. Today a hummingbird found it, the first I have seen on the home place this year. It was a female rufous, the common variety.

Friday, May 30

This was one of the great birding days of my life. About a dozen of us, working in four different parties, covered various sections of the county, both mountain and valley, and counted 90 species (more if the party finishing on the upper Rogue got any late in the day). Our party alone counted 79 species. R. B. was our recorder, while I did the driving. He already had recorded 7 species when I picked him up at 4 a.m. This was by hearing—it was still too dark to see clearly. Yet when I wanted to take a walk in the woods in the rain in the evening dusk to listen for hermit thrushes he was still ready to go with me. Pretty good for a 14 year old boy. Another boy, T. T., who had just been made an Eagle Scout the night before was one of the most persistent observers in another party.

As always on a long day of observing, some birds stand out as of special interest because of their beauty or rarity. We had a wonderful view of a big pileated woodpecker near the Rogue river at the end of Upton rd., the light shining just right on its big, red crest. We got unusually close to a male blue winged teal and a male cinnamon teal with a female which could have belonged to either one, because the females are almost exactly the same. Both species are uncommon this side of the mountains.

Late in the day, as it began to rain in the higher country, we saw the calliope hummingbird on exactly the same tree as before. We saw and heard the beautiful songs of Swainson's (olive backed) thrushes. We didn't succeed in hearing a hermit thrush, but did see one. As we came back from that rainy walk and darkness was really falling a big horned owl flew out of the woods apparently being chased by a couple of robins. This capped the day.—T.M.

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Jewett Elected Lions President

Alan Jewett, a partner in Jewett Office Supply and a Medford business man for the past 18 years, will be installed as president of the Medford Lions club at the annual installation banquet, Friday, June 27, at 7 p.m. at the Rogue Valley Country club. Wives of members will be

20,000 Persons Visit Las Vegas on Holiday

Las Vegas, Nev.—(UPI)—Tourists literally jammed this desert resort and gambling Mecca as the three-day Memorial Day holiday got underway.

The holiday crowd was estimated at more than 20,000 persons—and many of them were having a hard time finding a place to stay.

The Chamber of Commerce appealed to private home owners to open their spare rooms to take care of the overflow.

Other officers of the club for the 1958-59 year are Nick Gier, first vice president; Joe Patella, second vice president; Lee Knox, secretary-treasurer; Al Dollarhide, Lion tamer; Herb Seitz, tail twister; and Robert Harland and Tom Eslinger, directors. Clyde Webb and Vern Nusbaum are hold-over directors.

Jewett is a past vice president and a past director of the Medford Lions club. He is also on the finance committee of St. Luke's Methodist church and a member of the camp committee for Rogue area, Girl Scouts of America. He makes his home at 6 South Groveland ave.

The club-elected officers at a meeting recently in the Jackson hotel.



HEADS GROUP—Glenn McCullough will be installed July 1 as president of the Rogue Valley Association of Life Underwriters. Election was held last week at Rogue Valley Country club.

BOOM LOWERED

Longview, Tex.—(UPI)—An employee went too far when he returned \$120 he had stolen to a restaurant manager who had offered to forget the robbery for the return of the money. The man lost his job when he demanded a receipt from Skyway Restaurant manager Larry Loper. "Did you leave me a receipt when you robbed me?" Loper asked.

31 Seniors Will Graduate From St. Mary's School

Commencement exercises for the graduating class at St. Mary's High school will be held Tuesday, June 3, at 8 p.m. in Sacred Heart Catholic church. Baccalaureate services were held there this morning, followed by a breakfast in honor of the graduates given by the faculty.

Jaqueline Garrett, valedictorian, and Katherine Metz, salutatorian, head the class of 31 seniors who will receive diplomas. Miss Garrett is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Garrett, route 3. Miss Metz is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Metz, 112 Washington st.

Other members of the class are Robert Betschart, Martha Botchek, Grant Burroughs, Rick Colver, Richard Cooper, Eugene Cronin, Donna Fredenburg, Jerry Flakus, Patricia Gosch, David Hartley, Richard Hayes, Judith Hout, Jerry Kerr, Lauren Kirsch, Kathleen McGowan, Judith Paup, Rodney Read, Jack Relling, Carol Robinson, Margaret Schnack, Elaine Schortgen, Gena Sechler, Marilyn Rotert, Ferris Simpson, Joan Sheppard, Nancy Stevenson, Helen Timms, David Turner and Clarence Zeitler.

A reception for the graduates and their guests will be held immediately following commencement exercise, in St. Mary's school hall. Junior Mothers will be reception hostesses.

The Rev. Carl Mal, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic

church, officiated at the baccalaureate this morning and preached the occasional sermon. The St. Mary's Marian choir sang the high mass.

The Rev. Carl Mal, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic

Siskiyou County Sets Graduation Dates

Yreka—A total of 286 students will graduate from the high schools of the Siskiyou Union High School district in exercises the first week of June, according to Dr. Jere E. Hurley, district superintendent.

Butte Valley graduation will be Thursday, June 5; Fort Jones, Tuesday, June 3; Happy Camp and Weed, Wednesday, June 4; McCloud and Yreka, Thursday, June 5 and Mt. Shasta, Friday, June 6.

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