

Diary of a Bird Watcher



Saturday, Sept. 6

I finished off my first week at home from vacation with 84 species on my home place list. There were five different kinds of warblers. This shows that the fall migration is definitely on, as well as some late summer wandering in search of food.

This is undoubtedly the season where there are more birds than any other. The summer broods are all grown and flying around. You see more immature birds than adults. The hazards that birds face are so many that good numbers of young must be raised each year for any species to hold its own. By spring, after all the dangers of winter and two migrations there may not be more than half as many birds as there are now. But more people will be studying birds then than now and getting more fun out of it, because they will be singing then and wearing their spring plumage.

Monday, Sept. 8

This morning J.H. came by for me before 7 and we had our first field trip since my return. We decided to go up the Dead Indian grade and over on the other side a short distance in search of black backed woodpeckers or any other birds that we had not yet seen in our county. Soon we began to run into mixed flocks containing large numbers of individuals. At one of the first places there were so many vesper sparrows, chipping sparrows and juncos that it was hard to pick out the less common birds among them. We found a Townsend's warbler which we rarely see. Near the same place we saw a flock of evening grosbeaks which are evidently wandering around again after breeding somewhere in the mountains. We also saw one Swainson's hawk, which is not common on this side of the divide.

In some logged over land a little farther along we found one new woodpecker, a female Williamson's sapsucker. I saw quite a few in Yosemite but neither of us had seen one in Jackson county before. We were surprised to find quite a number of Lewis' woodpeckers in that high country. We expect to see them more in the valleys but I have heard and observed before that they like to go to the mountains after nesting. Another thing worth noting is the first white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows of the fall season. The ones we saw up there were all immature. This is a pattern frequently followed by birds. The young ones migrate before the adults. It proves that they find their way by instinct, not by learning from the older birds.

In the afternoon I saw the first white-crowned sparrow on the home place. This is earlier than they have arrived in previous years. I immediately threw out some chick scratch to get them into the habit of feeding on the lawn near my window. This first white-crown was an adult. I thought maybe it was one that was used to feeding around our house last winter.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

I saw one more warbler at the home place, a yellow-throat. One or two seem to come by our place each fall and spring. I haven't yet seen any birds feeding on the lawn where I threw the chick scratch. They could have been there when I wasn't looking but they certainly haven't started flocking around in the late afternoon the way they did last winter. I haven't even seen that one white-crowned sparrow again.

My favorite newspaper says that Congress appropriated money to investigate the effect of insecticides on wildlife. This pleases me very much. The Audubon magazine has carried several articles indicating the danger to fish and birds from the broadcasting of insecticides. One study of bald eagles in Florida indicated a great reduction in the number. Study revealed that they would nest but the eggs would not hatch. The writer attributed this to their eating fish which had been killed by the broadcasting of dusts or sprays.

Friday, Sept. 12

This morning several immature white crowned sparrows appeared feeding on the lawn where I throw the chick scratch. As I watched them I noticed two immature golden crowned sparrows. The first rufous-sided towhee of the season was around, too, as well as two brown towhees. Then I finally saw again my adult white-crown. So the winter birds are definitely with us. Many summer ones still being with us, too, it gives us a lot of birds.—T.M.

HORNBROOK Flu Cases Reported

By MICKIE LARSON
Prospect—Several cases of the stomach flu have been reported in and around the Prospect area.

Frank Boothby is home after being a surgery patient in a Medford hospital.

Bert Pratt of Union Creek is now convalescing at home. He has been a medical patient in Rogue Valley hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Sberald Chapman and sons, Monty and Gery, and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Hannah camped at Clear creek over the Labor Day holiday.

Camping at Shasta City over Labor day were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Prinks and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doe.

Thirteen guests were present at a pink and blue shower held for Mrs. Rita Pierce at the home of Mrs. Peggy Cloud last week. Co-hostess was Mrs. Peggy Woods.

Attending were Mrs. Chris Snodgrass and mother, Mrs. Bert Williams, and daughters, Jody and Laura; Mrs. Edwina Hanson of Brookings; Mrs. Ilene Carrico, Mrs. Carla Hill, Mrs. Mona Bishop and Mrs. Jim Woods, who is visiting from Renton, Wash., at the home of Mrs. Snodgrass, also Mrs. Sharold Chapman.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sanderson and daughters, Pat and Sandra, visited in Shingler, Calif., last week end at the home of Mrs. Sanderson's

brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Furlongs.

Eight women gathered at the home of Mrs. Lavina Hanson last week for a game of bridge.

Those playing were Mrs. Jack Ellis, Ila Chapman, Mrs. Jack Rinks, Mrs. Jim Linderman, Mrs. Jack DeRosier, Mrs. Clara Snyder and Mrs. "Stub" Bean. A luncheon was served by Mrs. Hanson.

Mr. and Mrs. Beers from Central Point visited her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sanderson, last week.

Salem — RFD — Appointment of Ralph Wilson, Democratic candidate for the state Senate from Marion county, to the advisory committee of the O and C timber lands division of the Department of Interior has been announced.

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16 Disease Cases Reported Last Week

Sixteen cases of communicable diseases were reported to the Jackson county health department last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merbel, public health physician.

One case of pneumonia was reported in Medford. Other diseases reported included influenza, Phoenix 1; German measles, Medford 6, Ashland 1; impetigo, Medford 1; chicken pox, Medford 2, Ashland 1; infectious mononucleosis, Medford 1; mumps, Medford 1, and strep throat, Talent 1.



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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Gladys G.—We should take care of Uncle.

Philip G.—He belongs in a nursing home.

Gladys G.—We are having quite a dispute in our family over the problem of an aging uncle of my husband's. Neither of us has living parents and his uncle is the only member of the older generation with whom we have been close. Now past 75, he is beginning to need care and no longer should live by himself, as he has been doing since his wife died 15 years ago. I feel I would like to make a home for him in a larger house than the one we now have. My husband is all for a nursing home.

I feel it would be setting a poor example to our children to send this uncle off to a nursing home. When I was a child I was very close to my grandparents and I think this generation is deprived of something precious by having everything so neatly institutionalized.

Philip G.—My wife is quite sentimental, but I wonder how well her sentiment will wear when she has to wait on and nurse an old man day after day. We don't have all the facilities to provide for his care.

I think it is setting a far better example to the children to have them visit him and to have them see that he is well cared for, than to have them witness all the unhappiness that would inevitably be caused by having an ailing old man in our midst.

Aside from this, Uncle is not the kind of person who fits in easily. He is peculiar in his habits and that's why he has been living alone. I have my own sentimentality, too. I am painfully aware of the fact that my uncle is the last of the older generation and it would disturb me constantly to see him ailing.

The Council: Gladys has taken the more difficult side of the argument because she is attempting to go against the tide of the current mode. It is difficult to argue that the latest convention is not right, but her sentiment should not be undervalued.

There are many instances, where a great deal of medical care is required, and it would probably be decidedly

wrong to deprive the aging person of institutional facilities.

If this is not the case here, then Gladys may be right in arguing against the institutional separation of the generations that is the present trend.

Such questions should not be decided merely on the basis of what seems to be the average or norm. Individual feelings are too precious to be discarded for fashion or trend.

Philip may be wrong in assuming that his wife will tire of the nursing chores. She may actually derive a great deal of inward happiness from knowing that she is putting herself out for an older person close to her husband and children.

Her point of view should not be discarded lightly. (Copyright 1958, General Features Corp.)

100 Teachers at District Meeting

Central Point — More than 100 teachers attended the breakfast and business meeting of the school district 6C Teachers' association last week at which Richard Traylor was elected as delegate to the representative council of the Oregon Education association.

During the meeting, presided over by H. P. Jewett, district superintendent of schools, the scholarship committee reported that Miss Jocky Cameron has been awarded a scholarship and will attend Southern Oregon college this fall.

Among guests present were C. Norman Gail, chairman of the school board; Alf Mekvold, county school superintendent; Miss Elizabeth McGalliard, public health nurse; Roy Henry, Crater PTA president; Mrs. Ogden Kellogg, Gold Hill PTA vice president; V. H. Croxton, Sams Valley PTA president; and the Rev. Paul O. Kroon and Jean M. Shelley.

\$2,000 Contribution

Eugene — The National Committee for Political Education has made a \$2,000 campaign contribution to the

Reelect Porter to Congress committee, according to Keith D. Skelton, committee campaign chairman.

Skelton said the \$2,000 was money voluntarily contribu-

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ted to the National Committee the Committee for Political Education receive these campaign contributions, Skelton those candidates endorsed by said.

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