

## Diary of a Bird Watcher



**Friday, Dec. 5**  
This evening we had a meeting of 11 of the bird watchers of this area to make plans for our Christmas count. This is one of the big events of the birding year. Last year Audubon Field Notes published 565 reports from all parts of this country and Canada on the 58th Christmas Bird Count. Ours was one of six reports from Oregon. Each year we all try to find more birds than the year before by covering our territory more thoroughly and identifying as many as possible of the species that are in it.

We set Dec. 30 as the date of this year's count. It can be any time between Dec. 20 and Jan. 1. We will keep the same territory we have used most previous years, a 15-mile diameter circle, centering just south of Camp White. If there is a dense, freezing fog such as we had one year we will move it to a circle centering in Talent. If there are any people in the valley who are good at identifying birds that would like to take part in the count I would be glad to have them call me at SP 2-8860.

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
Today I went out with some young people gathering mistletoe and sugar pine cones as a Christmas money-making project. In respect to the mistletoe we found ourselves in competition with the birds. We wanted mistletoe with berries on it because people seem to think it works better for the purpose for which mistletoe is used. But the berries are an important winter food for birds, especially bluebirds and cedar waxwings. In some cases the birds had already beaten us to the berries and cleaned them off. Then, finally, we found some with many berries and our harvesting of it will deprive some birds of their food. However, there is such a large amount of it in the area that the amount we took will be a very minor factor.

**Monday, Dec. 8**  
On our morning trip J. H. and I again tried to visit some spots within our Christmas count circle where we had not previously been. We have been studying a detailed map and discovered on it two or three ponds that we had never visited. One of these turned out to be especially good for ducks. The owner very kindly agreed that he would try not to have it hunted on the 29th and 30th, so that we will be the more likely to find ducks on it the day of our count.

Speaking of ducks, for the first time this season we found the pretty ring-necked ducks, and the interesting thing is that we found them on four widely separated ponds. They evidently came in from the north as the result of colder weather up there and then scattered around on our various ponds. Hunting pressures as well as weather changes seem to keep ducks on the move more than most other birds.

We found 43 species on this morning trip but were not working especially for numbers. The family of birds that we nearly always see in largest numbers is the finches and sparrows. We found 11 different kinds today.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Richardson dropped in from up near Prospect where they live. He is one of the most scientific of the bird students in our area. He has a collecting permit and makes skins and mounts. I think he is the only one in the county that does bird banding. He notified me that they would participate in our Christmas count if the weather permits. I gave him a map showing our count circle.

He told me one thing that interested me especially. He says that starlings are nesting in the area east of the Cascades. This I suspected because we had seen one at Tulelake in June. He says they nest in old woodpecker holes and are rather quiet and inconspicuous at that season.

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
I have been putting sunflower seed and other choice food for birds on a window sill. I really did this for the titmice that used to come after these things quite fearlessly last year; but unfortunately I changed window sills and the titmice have not found it yet. The bird that comes the most is a brown towhee. It has come when I have been sitting almost beside the window. This is a fine way to get a really close view of a wild bird.—T.M.

## Kiwanis Kapers Dates Established

March 4, 5, 6 and 7 have been set as dates for the Medford Kiwanis club's annual Kapers, a production of songs, gags, skits and dancing, according to Curtis Nesheim, general chairman for the show.

Presentations will be at the Medford High school auditorium.

Proceeds will be used to continue support of the children's dental clinic, which operates at the county courthouse under Kiwanis sponsorship, and for the club's other work for underprivileged children. Title of the 1939 show will be "Kiwanis Kapers and Musical Revue Minstrel."

Five divisional chairmen have been named by Nesheim. They are Fred Morlan, advertising; Curtis Butterfield, tickets; Harry Barker, publicity; Billy Blackstone, show direc-

## Helicopter Service Topic for Luncheon

Plans for bringing a helicopter service into Medford in the near future will be discussed Monday noon at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce roundtable luncheon at the Jackson hotel.

The public is invited to hear George H. Dimick, president of Janrick Air Service, Seattle, and M. C. Ziegler, vice president and general manager, explain methods of operation and prospects for making Medford a base for service.

Helicopters can be used for spraying and seeding and for emergency operations such as fighting forest fires, searches or airborne ambulance work.

Three-quarters of the population of Columbia lives in rural areas.

## Coca Cola Plant Entered Thursday

A breaking and entering at the Coca Cola Bottling company, 600 North Grape st., was reported to Medford police Thursday night.

Six six-packs of orange drink had been placed beside a door where they could be pulled through from the outside, according to the report. Nothing was reported missing.

Salem—UPI—The State Unemployment Compensation Commission estimated 44,100 unemployed as of Dec. 1, compared to 50,600 last year at this time.

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## Mass, Open House Planned by Church

A Pontifical Mass of thanksgiving, an open house, and a banquet are included in the tentative program outlined for the mid-January Centennial commemoration of the blessing of St. Joseph's Catholic church in Jacksonville.

Gordon E. Boner is general chairman of the Centennial committee and is being assisted by Robert Hamlin and Mrs. Elmer N. Ness, banquet committee; James J. Dunlevy and Mrs. Charles T. Ely, program committee; and Thomas W. Dugan and Mrs. John L. Hockstatter, publicity committee.

Officers of St. Anne's Altar Society, the Parents' club of St. Mary's school, and the Medford council of the Knights of Columbus met recently with the Rev. Carl Mai, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic church, to start preliminary plans for the celebration.

Through efforts of the pastor, The Rev. William McLeod, St. Joseph's church has been restored and repaired and is used regularly for Sunday Mass. A brochure on the history of the church has been compiled by Mr. McLeod and will soon be available for distribution.

Positive steps are expected to be taken at a meeting of the groups Monday, Dec. 15.

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