

## Diary of a Bird Watcher



Thursday, Jan. 1, 1959

A new year of birding now begins. The first thing to do, though, is to re-check my bird list for 1958. On it I have 242 species, the largest year I have ever had. I haven't added a new one since Oct. 6, but I did so well earlier in the year that new ones were hard to find at the end. Of the 242, I saw 166 in Jackson county and 72 on the home place.

During the day I managed to find 19 species on the home place to start my list for the new year. I found both ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets and both Audubon's and myrtle warblers. I did a little old-fashioned New Year's Day calling during the day and as I went around I found nine additional species away from home.

Friday, January 2

A myrtle warbler came to one suet feeder during the day and an Audubon's warbler to the other. I can't remember these warblers ever taking the suet before. I figured this might make the difference between life and death for these frail looking birds in the colder weather, so I got another hunk of suet from my butcher and replenished the feeders.

Saturday, Jan. 3

I've been throwing out a little bit of apple for the birds every day for quite a while, but now that the ground is too frozen to get worms a female robin has begun to take the apple for the first time. Finding this treasure, she was determined to protect it. She drove all other birds away from the immediate area. In fact she was so busy fighting for the apple that she hardly had time to eat it. Robins are that way, rather the pugnacious type.

Sunday, Jan. 4

Again there were 8 or 9 Audubon's and myrtle warblers on our front lawn, so apparently they survived our two cold nights successfully. Perhaps I should say, cold for us; I think the minimums were 22 both nights. In some parts of the country that would be pretty warm.

Monday, Jan. 5

I didn't have time for the usual Monday morning birding trip today. I hope to do better next week. Looking back on our Christmas bird count I continue to feel happy about it. I saw a story of the Portland count and they were quite elated with their record 92 species. Considering their much larger number of observers our 84 compares very favorably. They also have the advantage of more bodies of water, but we have the advantage of a more southerly latitude.

It is interesting to see the variation in the abundance of different species from year to year. The 45 golden-crowned kinglets found on the count goes along with the greater number of these charming little birds seen in the past several months. On the other hand, only one varied thrush was found on the count and this shortage we have noted before this winter.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

I had a letter from a fellow who lives in a little cabin on the Rogue above Trail. I can't find the letter at the moment but I know he told me I should tell everybody that now is the time to clean out and repair old bird houses. He has a good time every year watching the tree swallows at the bird houses near his cabin. He feels quite sure from watching them that when baby swallows hatch out in one house all the other swallows visit that house to see the new babies.

I admire fore-handed people who do jobs like fixing up bird houses at the time it should be done. Unfortunately, I don't belong to that tribe of people myself. My friend is right, too, when he says it is only 60 days until the swallows will be coming back and looking for a place to live. In fact, it may be quite a little less than that.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

I gave a bird talk for the Central Point garden club. One of the ladies said that house finches (linnets) at her place have begun to gather nesting material and make a nest. They, too, must think spring is nearly here. I was outside at about 5 o'clock and saw a big red-tailed hawk fly over our place, maneuver around in the wind, and settle down in a cedar tree on Groveland where I have known it to roost before. It seems odd that this big hawk should choose to roost right here in town.

Thursday, Jan. 8

The strong wind had blown down my pine cone bird feeder, but later in the day I put it up again to stay at least for a while. These winds could move the birds around quite a bit. If a California bird were to get in the wind it wouldn't take it long to arrive in Oregon. I wonder if that is how the mockingbird and hummingbird got into our valley.

Friday, Jan. 9

On this wet morning I saw a snipe in the field back of our house. I only see one on the home place about once a year. — T. M.

## Mothers March Planned Jan. 29

Porch-lights are expected to go on throughout Medford Thursday, Jan. 29, and the rest of the county when the "Mothers March on Polio" drive is conducted.

Mrs. Harold L. Gilbert, 209 Eastwood dr., Medford, city drive chairman, said a meeting of captains will be held at 8 p.m. Monday at her home.

The city has been divided into 12 areas according to school districts with a captain appointed to each area, Mrs. Gilbert said. These districts have been subdivided into a total of 22 areas with lieutenants appointed to work under the captains. Mrs. Gilbert said.

Approximately 700 mothers are expected to turn out for the drive in Medford, the

chairman said. All those wishing to volunteer should contact Mrs. Gilbert by calling SPing 2-4980.

Mrs. Gilbert said that although no definite goal has been set for the campaign, "This is the opportunity for everyone to give."

"Last year total collections in Medford were under what the mothers had hoped to collect. Much to my disappointment Roseburg passed us," the chairman said.

When Henry Ford put together his experimental two cylinder car in a shed behind his Detroit home in 1896, he found he had built it too big to get through the door. He enlarged the opening with an

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By Jimmy Hatlo

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THANK AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO ANDREW LAWERT, 57 TYLER ST., FREEPORT, NEW YORK

## Reports Given at Meeting of County Red Cross Chapter

Monthly reports were presented at a board of directors meeting of the Jackson county chapter, American Red Cross, at the chapter house, 60 Hawthorne ave., Medford, last week.

Reports were presented by

Mrs. John Day, Junior Red Cross; Mrs. Joseph W. Burba, blood program; Mrs. Raymond Reter, United Medford Crusade; Dr. Elmo Stevenson, United Ashland-Talent fund; Elliott Becken, the inter-agency council and Mrs. Jennie Creager, Gray ladies, Camp White.

An award of appreciation was presented to the chapter to Mr. and Mrs. John Winton for their contribution in fund raising.

Volunteer workers in home service and staff aides were presented awards by Mrs. Frank C. Preston Jr., co-chairman for all volunteer services.

**Presentations Made**  
Presentations for workers in home service went to Mrs. W. Sheridan Scott, chairman; Mrs. David Lowry, co-chairman; Mrs. Frank Fairweather,

Mrs. C. L. Larson, Mrs. C. W. Kline, Mrs. Robert Kenney, Mrs. W. E. Thomas, Mrs. Robert DeLorme and Mrs. V. P. Nicoletti.

Staff aides honored include Mrs. Clarice Spatz, chairman; Mrs. Edna Stoehr, co-chairman; Mrs. R. A. McKay, Mrs. M. J. Lattie, Mrs. H. M. Hall, Mrs. William Cowning and Mrs. Robert Twoomey.

Mrs. Fairweather, volunteer field consultant, reviewed policies of the home service and several actual cases handled for the military personnel and civilians.

About 50 members attended the luncheon and business meeting, over which Manville Heisel, chapter chairman, presided.

## Wide, Wide Whirl

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## 160,193 Traffic Cases Reported

Salem — Courts reported 160,193 traffic violation convictions last year to the Oregon department of motor vehicles. It was an all-time high in the state's history, James F. Johnson, director, reported.

The increase over the previous year totalled 22,916, or almost 17 per cent.

Johnson said 10,411 drivers, excluding those who were involved with financial responsibility, had their licenses suspended either through mandatory provisions of the law, court recommendation or discretionary action of the department as set forth in the motor vehicle code. Even so, suspensions involved only a fraction of the more than 875,000 licensed drivers in the state.

The breakdown shows 3,197 drivers suspended after convictions of driving while intoxicated; 1,330, driving while suspended; 2,217, court recommendation for various traffic offenses; 1,975, driving record; and 67, causing of or contributing to a fatal accident.

Other reasons for suspension during the year included failure to report accidents, hit and run, failure to pass required tests, medical and physical reports.

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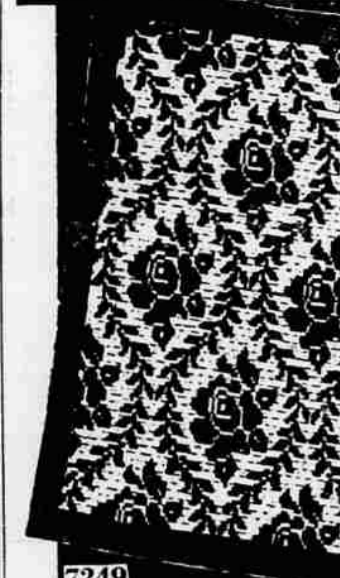
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Our new 1959 Alice Brooks Needlecraft Catalogue has

## Treasurer Elected For Water District

G. L. Witte, 2194 South Pacific highway, was elected treasurer of the Charlotte Ann Water district at a recent annual reorganization meeting of the board of directors.

The post formerly was held by John W. Stewart, who retired from the board last year.

many lovely designs to order: crocheting, knitting, embroidery, quilts, dolls, weaving. A special gift, in the catalog to keep a child happily occupied — a cutout doll and clothes to color. Send 25 cents for your copy of the book.

Guests at the Riviera Hotel in Havana can now play roulette in their rooms by following the play on television and placing their bets by telephone.

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