

# OREGON'S WINTER BIRDS

Prof. F. L. Washburn, the State Biologist, Gives Much Interesting Information

Regarding Some of the State's Feathered Inhabitants, in His Biennial Report--He Corrects Several Erroneous Ideas Regarding Hawks and Owls.

The biennial report of Prof. F. L. Washburn, the state biologist, has been received at the capitol. Prof. Washburn discusses at length some of the winter birds of Western Oregon. He calls attention to the great interest shown in the birds of the state by the citizens, corrects several erroneous impressions entertained by the people generally and gives a brief description of some of the birds and their habits. The following excerpts are taken from the report:

There has been much interest shown in our birds by the citizens of the state and, while the list is not complete, the species described herewith are those about which there has been more or less inquiry. Some of the birds listed are known to nest within the confines of the state; hence they are not exclusively winter inhabitants, although in the absence of our regular summer bird residents, their presence in winter is noticeable.

The growing interest in our feathered friends is an encouraging manifestation and argues that the birds will probably be better protected in the years to come. There is need of this, for as the season of spring approaches each year, the small boy begins his cruel work with the slingshot and air-gun. Most of the birds thus persecuted are our familiar birds, in the long run more or less beneficial to the tourist and farmer. Moreover, for every bird slain, a large number are wounded and escape to drag out a wretched existence until death relieves them. The thought of the unnecessary suffering inflicted upon helpless animals by the thoughtless or cruel, prompts me to take this opportunity to appeal to citizens of our towns and cities, urging them to see that the laws which forbid the use of slingshot or gun in public places within the corporate limits and the laws which protect our birds are rigidly enforced.

Neither can I neglect the opportunity to correct, as far as possible, an erroneous idea quite prevalent amongst our people to the effect that all hawks and all owls are injurious and should be slaughtered whenever possible. The farmer's boy feels it his bounden duty to destroy every hawk and every owl which comes within the reach of his gun, while some so-called sportsmen go through our streets boldly flaunting the Great Horned Owl which they have shot, while the China pheasants which have been poached are stowed away in the pockets of their smiling coats. As a matter of fact, hawks, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, mink, mice, snakes, frogs, grasshoppers and other insects form a large part of the food of hawks and owls. The number of mice destroyed by this much-maligned class is enormous. To be sure, the larger hawks and owls do prey upon poultry and game birds, but before condemning we should bear in mind that scientific examination of their stomachs reveals the fact that many birds which are one season injurious, may, at another season, be very useful.

Finally, permit me to call attention to erroneous statements regarding the birds which find their way into print. A casual observer, seeing a bird he is unfamiliar with, jumps at the conclusion that it is an imported bird and sends a communication to that effect to a newspaper, whereas, were he a close observer of birds, he would have recognized the bird as a native. Again the same observer reports seeing a strange bird, "brown, with a red head" thus setting all bird lovers agog with excitement, which abates considerably when he picks out his bird from a museum collection and it is found that the crown is chestnut and that the bird is olive above, possibly with streaks of brown on a light ground below. I would therefore urge our citizens to treat with some suspicion the statements regarding our birds not coming from a recognized authority. In describing species in this report all technical terms have been avoided.

The Varied Thrush, Oregon Robin, Alaska Robin--Common in late winter and early spring. Familiar enough to render a description unnecessary. While its note is somewhat monotonous, a plaintive whistle, the bird coming as it does at a season when there are but few bird attractions, is a welcome visitor, with its dandy shirt front of orange-brown crossed with a black collar. Upper parts slate colored. Remarkably tame when not molested. From seeing the birds in the timber during the summer months, the writer is led to believe that it nests here quite extensively. A nest and eggs are reported from Yamhill county. Length nine and one-half to ten inches.

Evening Grosbeak--This striking bird has of late years become a very regular winter visitor. Quite tame, and partial in the spring to buds and green seeds of the maple. General color dull yellow with an olive shade. Yellow on the forehead over eye on rump and shoulders; wing and tail black, come white on the former, and

wings yellow beneath. Bill greenish-yellow. Length about seven inches. The above description applies to the male; the female is much duller, with length from seven and one-half to eight and one-half inches. The writer has noted the occurrence of this bird in our towns as late as June 10th, its presence in the shady maples being betrayed by its sharp chirp and three years ago, in August, while traveling from Alsea Bay to the Willamette Valley, I found in the timber on Digger Mountain a pair of these birds in frayed plumage, their condition and the date indicating the possibility of their breeding here, although no nest was found. They come to us from the north, not, as is generally supposed, to avoid the cold, but to find more abundant food than is afforded in their own homes.

American Red Cross-Bill--On February 3, 1890, the writer observed a small flock of these birds in Eugene. The members of this genus are readily recognized by the fact that their upper and lower mandibles cross, hence their name. This structural peculiarity appears to have something to do with extracting seeds from cones, cracking small nut fruits, etc. General color grayish or dusky; the males tinged with red; wings and tail blackish. Length about six inches.

Cedar Bird, Cherry Bird, Waxwing. This beautiful bird is a common resident in winter and summer, usually seen in small flocks. General color a rich cinnamon on head and forehead; crest of same color, this color shading to ash near the tail; bill black, a jet black patch running over forehead at base of bill, enclosing the eye; a well-marked white line on lower jaw, and a narrow streak of same color over the black patch mentioned above. Lower eyelid white. The cinnamon on breast shading into yellowish on belly and white on under tail covers. Inner quills of wings tipped with red appendages, resembling wax, hence the name of "waxwing." Tail feathers tipped with yellow, sometimes showing red wax tips also. Length six and one-half inches.

Ephebian Waxwing--Very much like the last and belonging to same genus, but much larger. Not observed by the writer. Quoted in "Oregon Naturalist" as a "winter resident of Eastern Oregon, rare in Western Oregon."

Purple Linnet, Purple Finch--"Cherry Thief." A beautiful songster, but with a pernicious habit of eating blossoms from cherry and other fruit trees which has earned for it the name of "cherry thief." Tail feathers tipped with yellow, sometimes showing red wax tips also. Length six and one-half inches.

White-Crown Sparrow. One of our larger sparrows, about six and one-half to seven inches. Crown black, enclosing a medium white stripe and two lateral white stripes, all meeting on back of head. Back ash with brown above, whitish on chin and on belly; middle of back streaked with dark purple and ash. Common for the species during the year. It has rather a pleasing song, bearing a close resemblance to that of the White-Throated Sparrow, but not so elaborate. Comes vocalizes it by using the words, pee, dee, de, de, de.

Oregon Towhee, Ground Robin, Chewink. Common throughout the year in timber and brush. Called "Towhee" and "Chewink" from its peculiar note. Between seven and eight inches long. Male black, white below with chestnut sides, white markings on wings and tail, eyes red. Female, brown where male has black. This is quite a "ground bird" since it is found, commonly, scratching among the leaves. Its note and a habit it has of elevating its tail when hopping about are unmistakable characteristics, even were the colors lacking.

Italy-Crowned Kinglet--An inconspicuous bird except to the student. Length about four inches. Greenish-olive, pale below; two white bars on wing; a concealed scarlet patch on crown. This patch, confined to the male bird, glows like a living coal when the feathers of crown are raised. This gem of a bird, remaining an Easterner of the woods in winter, snow-laden trees and flocks of Chickadees with which it associates in the East, is not at all uncommon here in winter. The writer knows of no record of its nesting here.

Sap-Sucker. A common pest, winter and summer. We should be careful in condemning him, not to include all woodpeckers, which, as a class, are very useful to the agriculturist. The rows of holes in our apple trees and maples are put there by this bird whose fondness for sap is said to sometimes lead it to strip bark from fruit trees.

Arctic Owl, Snowy Owl--This large owl is an occasional winter visitor; not fleeing from the excessive cold of its northern home, for its thick plumage renders that out of the question, but rather forced southerly through lack of food in its accustomed haunts. About two feet long. White, with blackish or brownish bars and spots.

Screech Owl--A common and useful resident, fond of mice, and hence to frequent the neighborhood of dwellings. A carefully prepared work from the Department of Agriculture, as the result of an examination of two hundred and fifty-four stomachs of this species, has this to say: "Thousands upon thousands of mice of different kinds thus fall victims

to their industry." Their economic relations, therefore, are of the greatest importance, particularly on account of the abundance of the species in many of the farming districts, and whoever destroys them through ignorance or malice should be severely criticized.

Great Blue Heron, Crane--A picturesque figure of our winter and summer landscape, whether flying high in the air with long-legs outstretched behind, or standing by the side of a quiet stream with sharp eyes and sharper beak ready for any luckless frog which may venture in its vicinity. Too common to need a special description. Length three and one-half feet. Nests in trees and bushes, said to occasionally build on cliffs. Eggs greenish-blue.

**A DIRECT LINE.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21--San Francisco merchants will try to obtain direct steamship communication between this port and Manila. The San Francisco Board of Trade has petitioned the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to run their vessel to Manila. As an alternative it has been suggested that a line of steamers be established to connect with Hong Kong with the Pacific Mail and carry Philippine freight. The present arrangement is unsatisfactory to the merchants at Manila who do business with San Francisco. Goods in transit which have been stored in Hong Kong have been broken into while in the storerooms. The Manila merchants, subjected to delay and loss for which there is no redress, have written letters to San Francisco threatening to do business solely with places connected by direct lines to Manila.

**HER FATHER'S SHAME.**

"Ah," cried the duke, "I cannot marry you. No! Your social position makes it impossible. I am the son of an ancient house. I must remember and respect my ancestors."

"Pity! Have pity!" she implored, according to the Chicago Times. "It is, alas! too true that I cannot claim a noble lineage. My father's name was never associated with that of any actress that I ever heard of. My grandfather never got mixed up in a scandal, either. Neither of them ever wasted an inherited fortune. But, oh, be generous. Do not spurn me!"

"No, no!" he cried; "don't tempt me. I cannot withstand your tears. Can't you see that in spite of my exalted station I am only a man, after all? Oh, it must not be! It must not be! Leave me, I pray you. Let me go--I must--"

"Stay! Stay!" she implored. "Think of your tumble-down castles--your ruined estates. Ah, be true to yourself. Do not turn from me because I am rich. Let us wed for love--love--heavenly--holy love!"

"But your father," he bitterly replied, "made his money in the lumber business. If he had only had pride enough to be a railroad magnate it would all be well with us now. I could marry the daughter of a man who had made millions by transporting hogs and cattle without stooping too low, but to take the daughter of one who owned sawmills would be descending to the most vulgar depths. Oh, Etiquette! Etiquette! What hearts are broken for thee!"

With a long, low, pitiful wail she fell prone upon the \$900 tiger-skin and he hurried away cursing the fates for having made him a child of misfortune.

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**WRONG MAN HANGED.**

Innocent Negro Lynched in Mississippi--Gulley Man Escapes.

GULF PORT, Miss., Dec. 21.--Henry Lewis, the alleged negro murderer of City Marshal Richardson, has not been caught, though bloodhounds and a

posse are still after him. The negro Lewis, who was lynched here yesterday by a mob, it now appears, was a cousin of the alleged murderer, and wholly innocent of the crime.

**THE ANNAPOLIS ASHORE.**

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 21.--The gunboat Annapolis went ashore last night at the mouth of the Western branch, very near the Red Can buoy. Her crew had raised her anchor and were about to put out another when the strong tide carried her aground. The tugs McCauley and Katie now have lines on her, and are endeavoring to pull her off. It is not believed she will be much damaged. The C. & O. steamer Rappahan, which was grounded, has been floated.

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A MILLIONAIRE CONVICT.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.--Sternberg, the millionaire banker, who has been on trial for a long time, was found guilty today of unseemly immoralities, and was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment, with the loss of citizenship for five years.

**RICE WILL CONTEST.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.--The Rice will contest is now well under way. The taking of testimony is going on, and the real contest has been entered upon sooner than was expected. The citations under the second will are for December 31st.

**MRS. FRYE DEAD.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.--Mrs. William P. Frye, wife of the President pro tem. of the Senate, died suddenly at the Hamilton Hotel at 9:40 o'clock today. Mrs. Frye on Tuesday last suffered an acute attack of indigestion, and had since been ill. When she arose this morning she was apparently much improved and partook of breakfast. Shortly after leaving the table the end came without the slightest warning, heart failure causing death. The body will be taken to Lewiston, Me., the home of Senator Frye.

**A SHIP AGROUND.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.--Latest advices received by the Merchants' Exchange in regard to the grounding of the merchant ship Edmund on the beach a mile south of Santa Rosalia on November 28th, are to the effect that Captain Gordon has hopes of saving her. The Edmund has 1500 tons of sand ballast. She was bound out for Oregon.

**AN EYE FOR THE PRESENT.**

Miss Smoother--No, I cannot give you my answer until the first of next year.

Mr. Softleigh--But, why? You say you love me, and--

Miss Smoother--Why, you silly thing! If our engagement were announced now, none of the other men would send me a single Christmas gift--Ralphine American.

**ABOUT LATE FASHIONS.**

The handsome "costume satins" for the making of smart dress costumes, are rivals of the plain and fancy wool models of the season. These rather heavy, but pliable satins are made exactly after the conventional style of cloth costumes, and have the unimpaired finish of silk stitching at the edges, a stylish French coat with velvet-faced pockets, and on some of these the black satin jackets, lined with yellow taffeta, have rows of small, expensive gold buttons on each side of the front.

Jet and gold passementeries and appliques in designs both simple and extremely ornate are used with very artistic effect on a number of evening gowns and wraps. Black Chantilly or Flanders lace dresses made up over golden yellow satin or more are trimmed in a lavish manner with delicate arabesque devices, girdles, jacket pieces and muffing Queen Bee collars.

formed of jet and gold beadwork. If the bodice is decollete, there are odd half-yokes at the top of the low-cut waist, these laid over black velvet, with matching sleeve cap pieces. A beautiful gown sent to Washington this week from a Broadway house was of eau de Nil brocade. The bodice had a drooping vest front of old-rose satin, but otherwise it fitted the figure very closely, and a large Venetian collar, all in finest lacelike gold passementerie with pearl sequins worked into the designs. This collar reached also to the shoulders like a Vandyked yoke, making a complete golden framework for the throat and face.

A small quantity of brocade makes a charming decollete bodice in combination with crepe de Chine or mousseline de soie and can be worn with a skirt of the softer material, trimmed with frills and ruchings, and some applique ornaments. The bodice and skirt back must be perfectly slight and very long-waisted, and the square top slightly indented in the center to show folds of crepe de Chine. The full front of the crepe opens in the center, and a lace ornament fascens across separately.

The loose and slightly puffed fronts or brocade turn back in rever fashion to show a lining of plain color, and the entire bodice is outlined with a pointed ruching of black chiffon, this touch of black being almost indispensable on a fashionable evening gown. The sleeves are made on a close-fitting lining of Brussels net reaching to the elbow, and the upper part of the crepe sleeve is laid in fine plaits, which are confined by an applique ornament of lace.

Lace has a softening effect which is not generally recognized or there would be more of it worn. Thin, sharp features seem to derive curves and plumpness from it, and eyes lose nothing from its proximity. It is becoming to either color or pallor of face--in fact, lace is a benefactor to the sex. Old ladies look very much prettier with white lace caps resting on their silvered locks than in caps of black lace. The soft, filmy white at once suggests daintiness and gentleness.

While the all-white house gown is decidedly ultra-fashionable, winter house dresses in white are frequently attractively trimmed in black and colors. A house dress of white mohair, for instance, recently completed for a woman well known in society was of white mohair, trimmed with black velvet and disks of turquoise blue velvet embroidered with gold. These disks are one of the novelties of the season. The white skirt was cut with a deep volant en forme. About the bottom of this was a border of black velvet cut into deep, pointed teeth and outlined with gold. Above the flounce was dotted with the blue and gold disks. The bodice was cut as a Russian blouse, with full skirts, trimmed as was the bodice on the skirt. This was closed to the bust, with ornaments of black velvet and the blue disks; there was a little chemisette of gold tissue with a touch of blue at the neck.

White mohair is also being used for separate blouses to be worn with tailor-made suits; white flannel and cloth also, although the latter slip less easily under a jacket. White silk is stylish, especially a corded silk. All these white styles are made very simply. From the standpoint of economy they are a delusion and a snare. There is nothing so ugly in all the domain of dress as dirty white, and to keep constantly sending waists to the scourer means the outlay of considerable money. However, to the woman to whom expense and durability are no concern the white waists holds out irresistible attractions. One thing is certain--there has probably never been a winter when white has been so universally worn as it promises to be this year.

A spider is proud when it has caught a fly, and another when he has caught a poor hare, and another when he has taken a little fish in a net, and another when he has taken wild boars, and another when he has taken bears, and another when he has taken Samurians. Are not these robbers. If thou examinest their opinions?--Marcus Aurelius.

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## TEN MILLS ARE LEVIED

City Council Made Its Estimates of Expenditures for 1901, AND PROVIDES FOR THE REVENUE

The Fixed Charges for the Year Are Placed at \$22,050.49--Brief Session Held Last Night.

(From Daily Statesman, Dec. 22.)

The city council met last night in adjourned session, at the city hall. The roll call showed all the members of the body present except Councilmen Buten and Burrows. The only matter to come before the council was the ordinance estimating and declaring the expenses and revenue of the city for the year 1901. This measure was passed to third reading and a vote upon it was unanimous in its favor, and it was declared a law by the mayor. The ordinance follows:

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Salem, Oregon:

Sec. 1--That the Common Council of Salem, Oregon, in regular session assembled, does hereby estimate and declare the amount and volume of fixed charges and expense of and for said city, in the conduct of its municipal affairs, for and during the year 1901, to be \$22,050.49; the segregated estimates in this behalf being as follows:

Salary account ..... \$ 7,120.00  
Water account ..... 1,419.60  
Lighting account ..... 2,500.00  
Interest on bonds ..... 11,020.80

Total fixed charges, 1901, \$22,050.49

Sec. 2--That the necessary amount of money to be raised by general taxes in, and for, the purpose of said city, for the year 1901, is hereby estimated and declared in the sum of \$15,250; and that this council, aforesaid, does hereby further declare that the sum of ten mills on the dollar be, and the same is hereby levied on all property taxable for city purposes, in the city of Salem, Oregon, and that the recorder of said city shall, and he is hereby directed to, give full and timely notice of the levy hereby made, to the county clerk of the county of Marion, state of Oregon, as required by law.

Sec. 3--That this council does hereby further estimate and declare the actual revenues of, and for, said city, for the year 1901 to be derived from all sources, in the following figures:

From general taxes, ..... \$15,250  
From saloon licenses, ..... 6,000  
From fines and fees, ..... 500  
From rents city property, ..... 900  
From show licenses, ..... 300  
From vehicle licenses, ..... 30  
From miscellaneous licenses, ..... 3,250  
From street assessments, ..... 300  
From miscellaneous receipts, ..... 110

Estimated revenues, 1901, ..... \$26,760

The moral system of the universe is like a document written in alternate cipher, which change from line to line.--Froede.

The sufficiency of merit is to know that my merit is not sufficient.--Quarles.

In a dream-nighted December,  
Too happy, happy brook,  
Thy bubbling ne'er remember  
Apollo's summer look;  
But with a sweet, forgetting,  
They stay their crystal frothing.  
Never, never parting,  
About the frozen time.

—Keats.

HOLLY AT GILLINGHAM, 25.

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