

*Journal
Notes*

New Year Lunch Counter

It may take time to build up a bird patronage in the lunch counter business just as it does with a restaurant. Sometimes our winters are mild and the birds that live here find plenty of food. Most of the birds prefer to hunt for their own natural food, if there is anything to hunt. Then they become indifferent and rather snooty about our hand-outs. Sometimes the birds that have been with us all summer and expect to migrate south for the winter misjudge the weather and are caught by a hard storm. This holds them over and humbles them, and they are glad to take a last big feed before starting out.

fall when the weather is nippy + food not plentiful
Keep your eyes and ears to the ground in late Indian summer and you will become aware that something is going on among the birds. The busy housekeeping season has been over for some time and the birds, both young and old, have been enjoying easier days with plenty of ^{moths,} ~~bugs~~, worms and all kinds of favorite seeds. It has been a quiet time. You haven't noticed the birds much. All at once you see small groups of swallows on the telephone ^{wires} ~~lines~~, and these chummy four-somes soon become long lines of chattering ^{courades,} birds. The noise is so great that it fills the air and wafts on the wind. They sit for hours bobbing and talking, but mostly preening ~~and preening~~ and oiling their feathers. The reason is evident. A long trip is ahead.

The most noticeable preparation for migration is among the robins. After the first real shower of the fall, clouds of robins ^{and trees,} seem to appear all at once. They gather in the fields, but especially the lawns ^{green} ~~behave~~ around the house become regular congregation halls. They dot the grass thickly, all busy digging angle worms that the moisture have brought to the surface for a drink.

All over the flat greenness, there is excited ^{movement.} animation. A bird stands at attention, his head cocked and listening, then he dives his pointed bill into the ground, sits back on his heels, and gives ^{and pulls up} a fat angle worm. ^{the lawn} All over the surface it looks like a busy shuttlecock system in full swing. Then one day they are not there, and not hunting worms. They are full and ready to go. And they are more excited than ever, bunches dashing here and there, others fighting for places in the ^{pool} ~~bird bath~~ for a last bath. And the noise is ear-splitting outside the window. They are all talking at once, arguing about who shall be leader and give the word to start. The next morning the lawn lies glistening, silent and empty.

It is said that birds go south for lack of food. Then how do you account for the fact that almost on the heels of departure of the summer robins, swallows and other common dooryard birds, new flocks of robins arrive? They are quieter, more serious and go about getting a good meal immediately. These robins come down from higher altitudes and winter with us, taking the place of those that left us. ^{And other species do the same thing.} They fare very well in a normal season, but if snow comes and lingers for several weeks, they must scratch for food and warmth. ^{and strength} And the right food creates warmth and saves the lives of many of our birds. ^{The feeding tray is the solution of their winter problems.}

After the robins, wrens, swallows, warblers, vireos, etc have gone, the winter visitors that come in ^{to the feeding trays} and some that are with us all year consist of chickadees, Gairdner woodpeckers, towhees, song sparrows, fox sparrows, juncos, ~~white-crown sparrows~~, robins, Alaska robins, an occasional hermit thrush, flickers, ^{purple finches,} winter wrens and perhaps one or two other stragglers driven in by cold, ~~purple finches~~ and hunger.

P The towhee is a regular comer. He nests on the hillside and he and his wife come regularly to the back door all summer for bread

crumbs, and ~~they~~ complain plaintively if the table is empty. They also bring their children for meals as soon as they are out of the nest. In winter the towheee is as regular a boarder^{at the tray} as in the summer, and loaves of broken bread are always on hand. The sparrows also like their bread rations. The juncos and song sparrows are always mildly hilarious about their winter "Johnny bread."

This is a home receipt made of corn meal, chopped suet and raisins, baked in a big loaf. Pieces are broken off and put in the feeding trays. When cold and snow bring the Alaska robins and flickers to the trays, a big chunk of Johnny bread is enclosed in the wire frames the same as big chunks of suet and nailed up on trees not in the vicinity of the trays. This is to protect the little birds from the big quarrelsome gluttons who would carry off everything.

Ins.
IP — Little Gardner woodpecker lives about the place all year, and in winter the male ^{sleeps} lives in a hole that he has dug in one of the handily braces of the grape arbor. His big chunk of suet is tied right outside his doorway. These days if you drop in to see him about five o'clock of a dull gray afternoon, he will poke his head out and scan you with a quissical bright eye, then bob back and settle himself for the night. The chickadees eat both the plain suet and the Johnny bread, and they are numerous and ^{curious} friendly around the trays. Opening the window next the tray doesn't bother them at all, which furnishes much fun for the children. One can run a ruse on the friendly chickadee by stuffing suet or sunflower seeds in the bowl of a man's pipe and holding it ^{in the hand} ~~eat~~ beside the tray. He will alight on the pipe handle and start eating out of this modern dish. This, of course, if one is quiet and no quick moves are made. Also, of course, these chickadees know their own boarding house.

Many simple home-made feeding trays are used throughout the country and work very well. The main principles are a shallow ^{or box} wooden tray with a slanting roof and open on one side opposite to the direction of the prevailing storms. One of the neatest feed-boxes ~~is~~ has a weather-vane on it and revolves with the wind in such a manner as to protect the open side. These can be secured ~~from~~ in Portland from a man who makes them for sale.

For a person who wants to know more about winter bird friends than their mere diet, a box the size of the lower sash of a window is fitted almost into the room. It is open on the outside for the birds and has a glass back ^{as an} ~~exit~~ inside wall for the observer in the room. The two side walls are wood. The whole thing is a neat carpenter's job so that no rain or snow can seep into the room. Sitting quietly in a rocking chair, one can watch the feasts, the usual family scraps for places at the table, the winter plumage and colors of the different species. ^{IP - I see.} Apples are a regular item in winter bird feeding, but are seldom put on the feeding trays, as they lure the ^{rare} ~~Alaska~~ robins and flickers. This fruit is scattered in the yard, or better still ~~app~~ fallen apples are left in the orchard nearby where any of the birds can get them. The ^{or rare} ~~Alaska~~ robins always have free-for-all fights over the apples, and if they frequent the window trays they always ^{peck and} drive off the littler diners. They are never polite, while a chickadee will wait for a junco to finish his meal, and vice versa.

One of the most complete and satisfactory window boxes is described by an eastern dweller, Ernest Harold Baynes, in his book, "Wild Bird Guests." He says:

"It is made to fit the open window, the sash coming down snug into a groove in the woodwork at the top. It projects into

the room about a foot." The top, back, and sides are of glass, which helps to give the room a cheerful sunny appearance. The floor of the box is of wood and in the form of a tray projects into the garden ten or twelve inches. At the top, and inside the room, of course, is a hinged lid through which we put the food, and which can be used to ventilate the room when necessary."

It is sometimes difficult to introduce birds to so intimate a dining room as this one. Various schemes to help the ~~birds to~~ find it have been used. A post or stump can be set in the ground a few feet away from the window with suet fastened to it in plain sight. One bird or another driven away from the stump will spy the food in the window box, and soon the news is out.

Winter bird work always brings interesting rescue cases of exhausted travelers. One dark cold afternoon, a tiny round ball of a bird with his head tucked under his wing was found on the concrete step of our study. *It was a hermit thrush, a rare visitor from the north.* A finger touched him gently and he wobbled a little, but was too stiff and exhausted to move- or care perhaps. He was picked up and brought into the warm room, put in a box with a soft cloth to rest on, and some crumbed hard-boiled egg yolk in one corner. *IP* No attention was paid to him for a little while, and then he began to thaw out. He opened his eyes and sat looking about the box, trying to find out where he was. There was no delirium of fear or thrashing about. After a while he moved about ~~for~~ a little, and as we glanced occasionally we noticed that some of the egg yolk had disappeared. He fluffed his feathers and showed enjoyment of the warmth. More egg yolk and a drink of water were put in the box, and he was left for the night. The next morning ~~his~~ big round eyes were bright and he wanted to go. He staid around for a few days, eating with the small birds at the

tray. When the weather cleared up some and moderated, he had slipped away, perhaps to the woods which he loves best.

In the crotch of an old apple tree in the orchard was a square bird house, covered with moss and lichens. It is famous in bluebird history. During eight seasons that it was occupied a hundred and ten young blue birds came out of the round doorway and made their start in life. One might think the world would be overcrowded with bluebirds, but it is not. About this farm there are no more bluebirds than eight years ago. It goes to show that birds have many enemies we know not of. Many may starve or die of cold in the winter, others are killed by predatory birds and mammals, and some may die of disease and old age.

Attractive homes help a great deal to improve bird conditions and encourage large families. A scarcity of homes naturally makes bird folk move on to other places.

It is a simple matter to make a bird house by sawing a piece of a limb in two, hollowing it out in the inside, boring a round hole in the side near the top, then nail the two pieces together, tack on a floor and a roof and you have a natural bird house that looks a good deal like a woodpecker's home. It is easier still to take an old starch box or even a tin can and put a round hole in the side near the top.

Mr. John Gill, President
Third and Alder Streets
Portland, Oregon
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Northwestern Bank Building
Portland, Oregon
MR. J. C. AINSWORTH,
President United
National Bank
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Oregon Audubon Society
Portland, Oregon

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND
SPONSORS FOR THE BILL

Roosevelt Bird Refuge Association

ORGANIZED TO SECURE THE PASSAGE OF THE

ROOSEVELT BIRD REFUGE MEASURE

To be Voted on at the General Election

November 2, 1920

MR. WILLARD A. ELIOT, Second Vice-President
1011 Thurman Street
Portland, Oregon
MR. WILLIAM L. FINLEY, Secretary-Treasurer
651 East Madison Street
Portland, Oregon

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC

"The preservation of the useful and beautiful animal and bird life of the country depends largely upon creating in the young an interest in the life of the woods and fields."

Roosevelt Bird Refuge Measure

The following is the compromise measure agreed to by Hon. Charles Ellis and Dr. L. E. Hibbard of Burns, and by Henry L. Corbett of Portland, representing a large majority of the irrigation people and land owners of Burns and the Malheur Lake region, and by the officers and executive committee of the Roosevelt Bird Refuge Association.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. In order to save some of the native waterfowl of Oregon from extinction, it is necessary that their nesting grounds and feeding places in Malheur Lake Reservation in Harney County be preserved from further destruction, and therefore, the state of Oregon does hereby grant, cede and convey to the United States of America, subject to existing water rights, filings and applications to use, impound or appropriate water made in conformity with the water laws of the state of Oregon, all the right, title, claim, interest, rights and powers of control, appropriation and jurisdiction owned or possessed by, and also such as may hereafter be acquired by the state of Oregon in and to all the lands within the exterior boundaries of, and in and to all the waters within the Malheur Lake Reservation in Harney County, as set apart by executive order No. 929, issued by President Roosevelt of date August 18th, 1908, for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a preserve and breeding ground for wild birds, except that portion of said lands situate and lying west of the section line between sections thirty-one and thirty-two, extended on each end, in township twenty-six (26) south of range thirty-one (31), east of Willamette meridian.

Section 2. That the people of Oregon request the national government to change the name of said reservation, and to designate it as "The Roosevelt Bird Refuge," in memory of the president who set it apart as a reservation especially to preserve Oregon native waterfowl by protecting their nests and breeding grounds.

"I advocate the ceding of Malheur Lake and Mud Lake in Harney County to the United States government by the state for the purpose of creating a permanent wild bird refuge. I make this recommendation because I feel that Oregon, which contains some of the most important breeding grounds in the United States, should support the federal government in its laudable plan to furnish protection to migratory birds."

JAMES WITHYCOMBE, Governor of Oregon, in his last message to the legislature.

"Our wild birds are nature's check upon insect pests. Without their assistance a large part of the food crop of the country would be destroyed. All birds have their part to play in the great economy of the earth, and it is a dangerous experiment to upset the balance of nature."

T. GILBERT PEARSON, Secretary National Association of Audubon Societies.

Malheur Lake is the greatest wild fowl refuge in the United States. The water is alkaline in character. The soil around the lake is practically useless for agriculture. Both state and federal laws protect the great wild fowl colonies on the lake. Why allow the destruction of this lake, which means the extinction of the great bird colonies?

TITLE OF THE MEASURE APPEARS ON THE BALLOT AS FOLLOWS:

Roosevelt Bird Refuge Measure—Purpose: To create a refuge for the native waterfowl of Oregon, and in memory of the late Theodore Roosevelt request the national government to designate such refuge Roosevelt Bird Refuge, by ceding and conveying to the United States the right, title, claim and jurisdiction possessed by the state of Oregon in lands within the exterior boundaries of and in and to the waters within Malheur Lake Reservation in Harney County, as set apart by executive order issued by President Roosevelt in 1908, for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a breeding ground for wild birds.

VOTE 316 YES