

"Toppenish, Jan. 23-" strange feature of the winter's mild weather has been the tremendous flocks of blackbirds and meadow larks that have remained in this valley.

Old Indian weather prophets say that this is an infallible sign of a mild winter as in cold years the birds migrate to some warmer climate--The Yakima Herald, January 29, 1908.

Birds

Members of the Twentieth Century club are going about these days with field glasses and an eye to the birds.

They are to answer roll call at the next meeting by short observation on some bird seen in Yakima this fall and it hoped to have as many mentioned as possible.

A lot of Myrtle and Audubon warblers came in yesterday after the hard rain the night before which was a snow storm in part of the county where they were sojourning.

A near relative to the little yellow birds of the summer which thronged the orchards, the Myrtle and the Audubon warblers, one with four markings of clear yellow showing against the generally dusky plumage and the other with five, are fonder of cold weather than the yellow birds of the summer and specimens may be seen even in December and January.

A western golden-crowned kinglet was reported last week and there were a good many ruby-crowned kinglets a month ago. The kinglets are tiny birds, about the size of the chickadees and even more delightful.

Other birds which the club women may expect to see at this time are the Gambel's white crowned sparrow, the Merrill's song sparrow, the black-capped chickadee, the red shafted flicker, the western gold finch, the white-rumped shrike, the Brewer's blackbird, the English sparrow, the robin, the junco and several kinds of hawks and owls.

The Yakima Herald, Nov. 20, 1912.

The State Audubon society founded for the protection of birds has addressed letters to local milliners advising them of and calling their attention to the existing law against the selling or having in their possession plumes or parts of wild birds other than tame birds.

The law and the intention of the friends of the feathered creatures to enforce the same places "the bird on Nellie's hat" in jeopardy.

The law is looked upon as a joke although its strict enforcement in Oregon is playing havoc with milliners--Yakima Herald, August 4, 1909

Eighty nine different kinds of birds, most of them song birds, were to be seen at some time during the past year in the vicinity of North Yak ma.

Some of the birds stay the year around, others spend five or six months here and the balance of the 12 months in the mountains or Alaska.

The fact that there are so many varieties to be seen about the orchards, along the ditches and streams will be a surprise to many people for it is not uncommon to hear expressed the belief there are hardly any birds here.

A bird lover on Nob Hill, finding in the willows which border the Hubbard ditch back of her home a splendid vantage place for the study of local birds, has just completed a year's record of birds seen within a radius of ten or 15 miles from the center of the city. She has noted the dates of their first appearance for the season and of their migration in the fall, so that her note book furnishes perhaps the first complete ornithological data for the Yakima valley.

In the list of 11 different sparrows and eight warblers are differentiated. Of the sparrows which comprise the Gambel's or "White Crowned, Merrill's song, English, vesper, lark, western tree, mountain song, Brewer's sage, western Savannah and western chipping, the Merrill's song the plainest dressed and most accomplished vocalist is a permanent resident.

The yellow warbler is one of the commonest of orchard birds in the summer, being distinguished from the other summer yellow birds, the gold finches by having black and white wing bars and other minor differences. During the fall migrations good sized flocks of myrtle and Audubon's warblers sojourn for a few weeks in good feeding

grounds. The western yellow throat is a summer resident and raises a couple of broods here but the only other warbler seen, the Townsend's, Tolmie's, Pileolated and black throated gray warbler, only one or two occurrences were reported for last year.

The hawks which are to be found are the desert sparrow, the red tail, black merlin, marsh and the osprey. There are three kinds of juncos, the Oregon, Shufeldt and slated colored and they come down from the mountains about the middle of October staying until the middle of November. At least seven flycatchers make their summer here, the Traill's, western ash-throated, eastern and western kingbirds, the Say's phoebe and the wood pewee. The barn, bank and violet green swallows are to be seen, and there are both the American and western robins, the difference being in the coloring in the tail. Both the red-eyed and warbling vireos were reported but their visits were casual.

Others on the list are the lazuli bunting which raises two broods here, mountain bluebird which does the same; both the Brewer's and Columbine red wing blackbird, bob white quail, black capped and mountain chickadees, western crow, mourning dove, red-shafted flicker, western and willow gold finch, Cassin's purple finch, black-headed grosbeak, rufous and calliope hummingbirds, stellar and California jays, ruby crowned and western golden-crowned kinglets, belted kingfisher, meadow lark, Columbian horned lark, Chapburn's leucosticte, magpie, burrowing short eared and long eared owls., Say's Phoebe, wood pewee, Hungarian partridge, red poll, Sora rail, snowflake, white-rumped shrike, varied and dwarf hermit thrush, sage thrasher, canyon wren, Lewis woodpecker, Bohemian and cedar waxwings, killdeer, Louisiana tanager, spurred towhee, Chinese pheasant, night hawk, water ouzel and Harris' sparrow, the latter being a very rare bird not before reported from these parts... The Yakima Herald, Dec. 11, 1912.

If government permits sanctioning bird collecting as a hobby keep on getting harder and harder to obtain, in another 25 years or so they'll move the dodo over in the case and put a bird collector in alongside of it.

Bird Collector J.B. Hurley, Yakima authority on the feathered creatures pointed out that it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure permits for bird collecting.

The potential collector must have both federal and state permits and \$1,000 bond is required for the latter, he said.

For 25 years the Yakima man has collected birds as his hobby and annually he sends in a scientific report to the government on migratory birds that have stopped over here on their way south. He has 500 specimens, one of the state's finest collections.

In Yakima county counting the transients there are 215 different kinds of birds. The ever present sparrow found here in great quantities comes in different varieties.

We have the Merrill's song sparrow here, the light desert sparrow form he said. On the coast where they do not have so much sunlight they have the rusty coated, dark sparrow.

Another among the sparrows is the western tree sparrow that can be found at the head of Roza canyon.

A rare bird is the marsh-loving black neck stilt. One of the black necks was found in the Satus district, Hurley said. Then there's the olive sided fly catcher that inhabits Bethel ridge at about 6,000 feet elevation. The olive sided fly catcher is not as large as a robin and lives up to its name by sitting on a stump and catching flies.

Once in a while a Hepburn rosy finch, a migrator wanders through here. It is an attractive bird, pink with a grey head. The Hepburn rosy finch is found here in the spring and nests above the timberline

on Ranier, Adams and Goat Rocks. It has the more-familiar ptarmigan of white grouse outdistanced for altitude.

Birds as a general rule are named for the scientists who discover them or for the type of land which they inhabit.

Looking at it from the bird's standpoint, the Yakima country is ideal. Here there are different life zones, the desert, the swamps, the irrigated lands and the mountains--hence the many varieties. Texas leads in varieties with 454 varieties wintering or living there the year around.

Don't pull that old one about going snipe hunting or Mr. Hurley will come back with a callinago delicta (snipe). And speaking of snipes Mr. Hurley pointed out the peculiarities of the Wilson phalarope, a snipe like bird that inhabits the marshy places.

"The female wears the bright plumage and the male sits on the eggs until they hatch," he said--Yakima Herald, June 27, 1937.

Pasco, June 26--Arthur Chase, Washington State college entomologist said today the Mormon cricket infestation this year is the worst in the history of the region.

He increased the force battling the pests from 38 to 60 and spread them over a 40-mile front.

Ravens and seagulls which flocked in the area 10 days ago to feast on the pests have greatly increased in number and have been joined by a number of crows. Yakima Herald, June 27, 1937.