

Radio Timetable

MONDAY

WIBA 1210 to	WISC 1490 to	WKOW 1070 to	WISU 174 to
6:00-6:30 6:30-7:00 7:00-7:30 7:30-8:00	Top of the Morning News: Top in Sports News: Weather	Breakfast Symphony Farm Hour All Rural Roundup	Silent Silent Rural Roundup
7:00-7:30 7:30-8:00 8:00-8:30 8:30-9:00	Top of Morning News: Weather Pauline Fred's Club	Coffee Club News Club News	News Farm Service News: Weather Farm News
8:00-8:30 8:30-9:00 9:00-9:30 9:30-10:00	My True Story Waltz Stream Assault Storm	Arboretum Godfrey Arthur Godfrey	News: Music Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor
10:00-10:30 10:30-11:00 11:00-11:30 11:30-12:00	Let's Go Your News Queen for a Day	Arthur Godfrey Music: Muzak L. Montmann	News: 8 Navy Mid-Morning Matinee
11:00-11:30 11:30-12:00 12:00-12:30 12:30-1:00	Jack Berch Victor Lindihar John Conze	Aunt Jenny Helen Tracy Our All Sunday	News: Matinee Headlines News: Farm Front
1:00-1:30 1:30-2:00 2:00-2:30 2:30-3:00	Top Tunes Mister Music	Uncle Julius Farm Parade	Music: Markets News: Markets Farm and Home
3:00-3:30 3:30-4:00 4:00-4:30 4:30-5:00	Mister Music Choice News: Mr. Jockey's Choice	Jockey's Choice Downy Mother Jockey's Choice	Farm Service Hubba Hubba and Dattetta Hubba Hubba
5:00-5:30 5:30-6:00 6:00-6:30 6:30-7:00	Mister Music Choice News: Mr. Jockey's Choice	Quiz the Misus Hubba Hubba Hubba Hubba	Hubba Hubba Hubba Hubba Guest Star
7:00-7:30 7:30-8:00 8:00-8:30 8:30-9:00	Break the News Break the News Break the News	Chapel in the Sky Mister Music Hour	Chapel in the Sky Mister Music Hour
9:00-9:30 9:30-10:00 10:00-10:30 10:30-11:00	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor
11:00-11:30 11:30-12:00 12:00-12:30 12:30-1:00	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor
1:00-1:30 1:30-2:00 2:00-2:30 2:30-3:00	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor
3:00-3:30 3:30-4:00 4:00-4:30 4:30-5:00	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor
5:00-5:30 5:30-6:00 6:00-6:30 6:30-7:00	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor	Bob Crosby Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor
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Blackbirds Give Wings to U.W. Man's Thesis

Arboretum Perch Gains Bird's-Eye View of Redwings

By Vivien Hone

The lovely redwing blackbirds are adding more than a dash of color to the University of Wisconsin arboretum.

Their fighting, mating, rough cackling, and raising of families in the cat-tails of the arboretum marsh are going to add up to a Ph. D. thesis by Robert Nero, university graduate student in zoology.



Robert Nero, graduate student at the University of Wisconsin spends much of his time atop this wooden observation tower, watching the redwinged blackbirds in the University Arboretum and wildlife sanctuary.

"They're fine birds — I like them," Nero says of the redwings.

The fledging scientist spends much of his time atop a 15-foot observation tower looking down on the domestic doings of a blackbird flock, some 42 birds.

Started in '48 Nero started his birdwatching in the marsh of the university's 1,200-acre wildlife sanctuary in 1948. His project, to learn the behavior patterns of the redwings will, when completed form the basis for his thesis.

Behavior patterns have been established for only a relatively few birds, Nero claims, and the redwings were selected for the university study because their habit of living together makes possible observation of many birds in a limited area.

"In a way you try to understand the psychology of the kind of bird you're working with," Nero explains. "You're doing this for two reasons — to understand behavior patterns of birds as a whole — to understand those of the individual species."

Redwings are particularly interesting, Nero thinks, because of the chummy actions of the males at some times, their unfriendly attitudes at others.

Males get together in groups during the non-breeding season, tend to stay apart during the mating period by each holding his own established territory. During the non-breeding season, males and females move in separate flocks. These patterns are not true for all birds, the scientist points out.

It Takes Time Probably averaging once every other day during the longer period March through August and at least once a week during April 1, Nero watches through the reeds and climbs the weathered boards to his platform post.

In the April-May months he can have a bird's-eye view of the redwings as they choose partners, establish homes, and produce more of their own handsome breed. The adult males are a bold, glossy black and have bright crimson patches edged with buff on the wings. The females have a gentler coloration — striped tan-brown with pinkish overtones.

Often Nero is in the marsh before sunup and after the sun is down.

He manages transportation to and from the bird world in a 1933 Plymouth, "one of the oldest cars in the campus," a sedan looking buggy, which the zoologist makes do but would certainly abandon for "any more modern donation."

He Doesn't Hide No special attempt is made by Nero to conceal himself from the redwings.

"They don't seem to mind me much," the observer says of being observed, but of course Nero gets troubled responses (and he is very eager to watch these) when he creates situations he might otherwise have no opportunity to observe.

The introduction of a nest from one male's territory into the territory of another male, or the transfer of a dummy female from one territory to another are examples of Nero's machinations.

Identification of individual birds is done by color banding and Nero has marked more than 300 birds in this manner in the last four years.

The redwings must be live-trapped first, then labeled with one permanent metal band and three colored celluloid ones from a selection red, green, yellow, blue, and white.

Variation of color combinations with the metal band and with variation of their distribution on the birds' legs, left and right, produces an accurate system of identification.

Thus a bird coded in Nero's notes as REYX is one with a red celluloid over a blue one on the left leg, a yellow one over the metal band on the right leg.

Asks Protection The zoologist thinks it is a pity that his marsh friends are not protected.

"Want to go shooting blackbirds?" he asks. "You can, you know," they're classed as vermin along with rats, crows, starlings, and sparrows."

Yet, the biologist agrees, according to Nero, that the birds are generally more beneficial than injurious to man's welfare. They do tremendous quantities of insects and do only local damage in areas where huge flocks occasionally descend on crops of green corn.

These close-ups of bird life especially and other wildlife incidentally have given Nero an intense sense of the stresses and strains that operate in the natural world.

"There's a terrible pressure in nature," he says. "The migrations, the struggle for nesting places, the number of new birds

constantly trying to find a spot and to hold it.

"You notice this when you study any one species and special individuals. Someone is always waiting to take your place."

The pressures to which Nero himself has been subjected in the world of men disappear when he's in the marsh absorbed in the doings of the birds.

"It's like going back to the familiar characters of an old book, but finding them each day in new situations," he says.

Bob Nero, veteran of World War II, entered the university in 1946 graduated with his first degree in 1949, and enrolled in marriage that same June day. His bride

was a student nurse from Nero's home town, Milwaukee.

In the years since then, Nero, pushing on toward the Ph. D., has been one of that valiant GI clan which manages on small funds and in smaller quarters to satisfy the duties of husband and father and the demands of scholarship.

(Nero and family live at the University's East Hill Trailer Camp. The older of two children is just three.)

"My wife deserves the credit for managing the family affairs," Nero acknowledges readily.

Began As Child The 29-year-old veteran's interest in zoology began in childhood.

"I wasn't very scientific about

things then," the scientist student says, "but I was always out."

If Nero isn't "always out" now, it is because he must sometimes be in at the university zoology museum in the basement of Birge hall. He is curator of the museum, has the responsibility for making research collections of birds and mammals.

He must prepare, care for, and catalogue these and do the same with research collections of reptiles, fish, amphibians, and mollusks gathered by others in the department. Professional zoologists don't do all the collecting for this unique museum, Wisconsin citizens, students outside the field, and the Wisconsin Conservation Department send a steady flow of contributions to the campus repository.

The curator explains his duties further in the services of the museum.

"We keep collecting specimens of Wisconsin species so that we can understand what we have in the state. And in a way we're like a library—anyone working seriously in zoological research can borrow specimens from us."

It is a beginner's course in taxonomy to watch Nero deftly skin a dead bird, powder the moist inside of the pelage with borax, and stuff the limp bundle of feathers and shape it into something strongly resembling a live bird, wrap the form in cotton batting, and finally lay it away.

He's Off Again That one is the last for the afternoon. It's time to go to the marsh again, and the five specimens who are teaching Bob Nero a thesisful by just living.

"Wonder if old GRGX's last year's mate came back to him today," he says as he turns the old Plymouth south.

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Today's Radio Highlights

Drama

6 p.m. — Suspense (WBBM): "The Death of Me," starring George Murphy.

7 p.m. — Radio Theater (WBBM): Cary Grant and Betsy Drake recreate original movie roles in "Room for One More," story of generous home-sharing with parentless children.

7:30 p.m. — Crime Does Not Pay (WISC): how "The Big Book" aided a gang of criminals to spread a reign of terror in a peaceful community.

8 p.m. — The Big Man (WISC): story of intrigue in French Indo China and the business rivalry between two brothers.

10:30 p.m. — Women of the Year (WISC): George Brent, sports writer, dabbles in international politics and a headline baseball story.

11:30 p.m. — Proudly We Hall (WISC): "A Ring of Stars," story of Betsy Ross and the making of the first American flag for George Washington.

Documentary

9:05 p.m. — The People Act (WKOW): story of a remarkable and dramatic institution, the storefront churches of New York's crowded East Harlem.

Religion

10:15 p.m. — Your Pastor Speaks (WIBA): the Rev. Arnold Lehman, St. Bernard's Catholic church.

Music

7:45 a.m. — George Morgan (WIBA): "Riddle de Diddle de Day," "Slowpoke" and "Just a Petal from a Faded Rose."

8 a.m. — Breakfast Club (WISC): Peggy Lee is fourth and final songstress guest on Don McNeill's show.

11 a.m. — Jack Berch (WISC): a salute to an arthritis victim who organized shut-in club of 200 members.

5 p.m. — Music of the Masters

(WHA): "Symphony No. 3," by Beethoven.

5:15 p.m. — Jack Smith (WBBM) and Dinah Shore sing "Gandy Dancers," "For the Very First Time" and "The World Has A Promise."

5:30 p.m. — Club 15 (WBBM): Bob Crosby and Gisele Mackenzie sing "Us A Sin to Tell A Lie" and "Be Anything, But Be Mine."

7 p.m. — Show Train (WIBA): "My Maryland," with Gordon MacRae and Dorothy Kirsten singing favorites by Sigmund Romberg.

7:30 p.m. — Concert Hour (WIBA): Lois Hunt, soprano, guest star, sing "Some Day," "Jewel Song" from "Faust," and "One Kiss."

8 p.m. — Great Artists (WIBA): Lucille Cummings, contralto, guest soloist, sings "Ah! Mon Fils," "Angie Laurie," and "Oh, What a Beautiful City."

8:30 p.m. — Band of America (WIBA): salute fourth anniversary of Military Air Transport Service; play "Heroes of the Pacific," "The American Salute" and "French National Defile March."

9 p.m. — FM Concert (WHA-FM): "Piano Concerto No. 3," by Beethoven.

Sports

12:25 p.m. — Baseball (WIND): St. Louis vs. Chicago.

4:55 p.m. — Baseball Roundup (WENR): Frankie Frisch begins news series of late afternoon baseball programs.

5:45 p.m. — Sports Parade (WIBA): Fritz Weener previews Madison supper baseball program.

7:50 p.m. — Baseball (WISC-FM): Chicago vs. St. Louis.

Discussion

11 a.m. — Contemporary Trends (WHA): "The Moslem East: Dawn of Nationalism," Richard Hartshorne, dept. of geography.

Farm Programs

12:30 p.m. — Farm Service (WIBA): "Save Some Sows" for Early Pigs Next Spring, Prof. Robert Grummer, head of the swine dept. of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin.

Children's Programs

4:45 — Uncle Dick (WISC): "Woody Woodpecker."



GRANT

and atomic energy and winds up with a headline baseball story.

11:30 p.m. — Proudly We Hall (WISC): "A Ring of Stars," story of Betsy Ross and the making of the first American flag for George Washington.

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- cheer the folks
- greet a friend
- express regrets
- comfort the sick
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