

CATBIRD, BROWN THRASHER AND WREN



Brown Thrasher—Above, Bright Reddish Brown; Below, White; Breast and Flanks Spotted With Brown.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

According to a new bulletin issued by the department of agriculture, entitled "Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer" (farmers' bulletin No. 630), the wren, brown thrasher and catbird are three very useful neighbors to the grower of crops or fruits. The diminutive house wren frequents barns and gardens, and particularly old orchards in which the trees are partially decayed. He makes his nest in a hollow where perhaps a woodpecker had a domicile the year before, but he is a pugnacious character, and if he happens to fancy one of the boxes put up for bluebirds he does not hesitate to take it. He is usually not slow to avail himself of boxes, gourds, tin cans, or empty jars placed for his accommodation. In food habits the house wren is entirely beneficial. He may be said to live upon animal food alone, for an

ally visits the garden or orchard, but nests in swamps or in groves standing upon low ground. The thrasher's favorite time for singing is in early morning, when, perched on the top of a tall bush or low tree, it gives an exhibition of vocal powers which would do credit to a mockingbird. Indeed, in the South, where the latter bird is abundant, the thrasher is known as the sandy mocker.

The food of the brown thrasher consists of both fruit and insects. An examination of 636 stomachs showed 36 per cent of vegetable and 64 of animal food, practically all insects, and mostly taken in spring before fruit was ripe. Half the insects were beetles and the remainder chiefly grasshoppers, caterpillars, bugs and spiders. A few predaceous beetles were eaten, but on the whole the work of the species as an insect destroyer may be considered beneficial.

Eight per cent of its food is made up of fruits like raspberries or currants which are or may be cultivated, but the raspberries at least are as likely to belong to wild as to cultivated varieties. Grain, made up mostly of scattered kernels of oats and corn, is merely a trifle, amounting to only 3 per cent. Though some of the corn may be taken from newly planted fields, it is amply paid for by the destruction of May beetles which are eaten at the same time. The rest of the food consists of wild fruit or seeds. Taken all in all, the brown thrasher is a useful bird, and probably does as good work in its secluded retreats as it would about the garden, for the swamps and groves are no doubt the breeding grounds of many insects that migrate thence to attack the crops of the farmer.

The catbird, like the thrasher, is a lover of swamps and delights to make its home in a tangle of wild grapevines, greenbriers, and shrubs, where it is safe from attack and can find its favorite food in abundance. It is found throughout the United States west to the Rocky mountains, and extends also from Washington, Idaho and Utah northward into the provinces of Canada. It winters in the southern states, Cuba, Mexico and Central America.

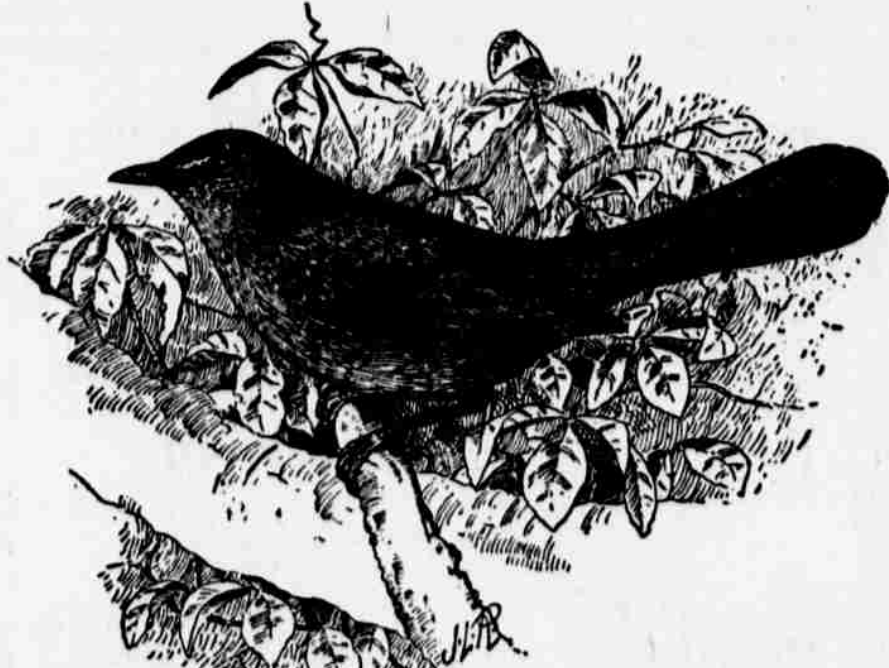
Reports from the Mississippi valley indicate that the catbird is sometimes a serious annoyance to fruit growers. The reason for such reports may possibly be found in the fact that on the prairies fruit-bearing shrubs, which afford so large a part of this bird's food, are conspicuously absent. With the settlement of this region comes an extensive planting of orchards, vineyards and small-fruit gardens, which furnish shelter and nesting sites for the catbird as well as for other spe-



House Wren—Above, Reddish Brown; Below, Soiled White Wings and Tail Barred.

examination of 88 stomachs showed that 98 per cent of the contents was made up of insects or their allies, and only 2 per cent was vegetable food, including bits of grass and similar matter, evidently taken by accident with the insects. Half of this food consisted of grasshoppers and beetles; the remainder of caterpillars, bugs and spiders. As the wren is a prolific breeder, frequently rearing in a season from 12 to 16 young, a family of these birds must cause considerable reduction in the number of insects in a garden. Wrens are industrious foragers, searching every tree, shrub and vine for caterpillars, and examining every post and rail of the fence and every cranny in the wall for insects or spiders.

The house wren is only one of a numerous group of small birds of similar habits. There are within the limits



Catbird—Slate Color, Pale Below; Under Rump Chestnut.

of the United States 34 species and subspecies of wrens, occupying more or less completely the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With the exception of the marsh wrens, they all appear to prefer some cozy nook for a nesting site, and, as it happens, the farm buildings afford just the place desired. This has led several of the wrens to seek out the habitations of man, and he is benefited by their destruction of noxious insects. No species of wren has been accused of harm, and their presence should be encouraged about every farm, ranch, village or suburban residence.

The brown thrasher breeds throughout the United States east of the great plains, and winters in the South Atlantic and Gulf states. It occasion-

ally. There is in consequence a large increase in the numbers of the birds, but no corresponding gain in the supply of native fruits upon which they were accustomed to feed. Under these circumstances what is more natural than for the birds to turn to cultivated fruits for their food? The remedy is obvious: Cultivated fruits can be protected by the simple expedient of planting the wild species which are preferred by the birds. Some experiments with catbirds in captivity show that the Russian mulberry is preferred to any cultivated fruit.

Feed for Balancing Ration. Every locality in the country can produce a kind of feed capable of balancing up the corn ration.

Don't Forget!

An eminent physician lays down these simple rules for better health:

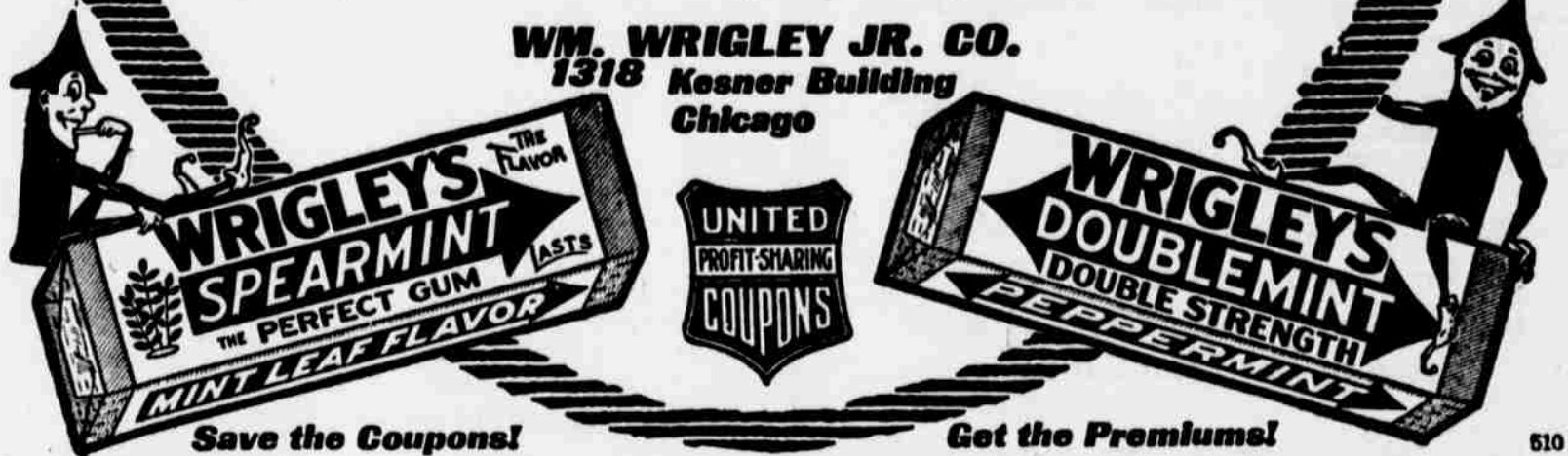
- 1.—Drink lots of water.
- 2.—Eat slowly.
- 3.—Chew your food well.
- 4.—Have plenty of chewing gum on hand. Use it shortly after meals and chew until the "full" feeling disappears.

Be sure of the Perfect Gum in the Perfect Package—made clean, kept clean, sealed against all impurities:

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The Wrigley Sparmen want to help you remember these beneficial, long-lasting aids to teeth, breath, appetite and digestion. So they have done all the old Mother Goose "stunts" to the "tune" of the new Wrigley jingles. Their book is 28-pages in four colors. It's free. Send for your copy today. Address

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CONVEYED ONLY PLAIN TRUTH

Advertisement of Boston Physician Merely Stated Facts Exactly as They Were.

A Boston physician tells of a Doctor Reed who, in his time, was one of the prominent medicos of the Hub. His large practice included many patients outside the city limits, and these he visited in his buggy.

One day Doctor Reed bought a new horse, with which he was much pleased until he discovered that the animal had an insurmountable objection to bridges of all kinds, and could not be made to cross one.

Inasmuch as at that period it was necessary to cross certain bridges in order to reach any one of the surrounding towns, the doctor decided to sell the horse. He did not think it necessary to mention the animal's peculiarity, but was much too honest to misrepresent him, and, after some thought, produced the following advertisement, which he inserted in a local paper:

"For Sale.—A bay horse, warranted sound and kind. The only reason for selling is because the owner is obliged to leave Boston."

Yes, It Could Be Done. Pat Whelan, the new lodger, was engaged in lacing his shoes in the kitchen. His landlady, standing near, remarked:

"Pat, would you like an egg for breakfast?" "Faith, ma'am," replied Pat, grimly, "I heard of a man who ate two and he is alive yet."

A self-made man is often the only one satisfied with the job.

At the age of thirty a girl begins to realize that she misses the "Mrs."

Hidden defects in Roofing

If your roofing is not guaranteed by a responsible company you run the risk of finding out its defects after it is on the roof. It costs no more to get a written guarantee with the best responsibility behind it.

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—our leading product—is guaranteed 5 years for 1-ply, 10 years for 2-ply and 15 years for 3-ply. We also make lower priced roofing: slate surfaced shingles, building papers, wall boards, out-door paints, plastic cement, etc. Ask your dealer for products made by us. They are reasonable in price and we stand behind them.

General Roofing Manufacturing Co. World's largest manufacturers of Roofing and Building Papers. New York City Boston Chicago Philadelphia Atlanta Cleveland Detroit St. Louis Cincinnati Kansas City Minneapolis San Francisco Seattle London Hamburg Sydney

GET TO KNOW YOUR GOODS

Method by Which One Man "Made Good" May Be Recommended to All Salesmen.

Inquisitiveness is not generally regarded as an admirable trait. Yet when inquisitiveness is properly directed, it is one of the most useful habits of mind. A story illustrating this point is told by John J. Arnold, vice-president of the First National bank of Chicago. In a talk to employees of the members of the Chicago Association of Commerce he related the experience of a young man he had known as a boy in a wholesale house in Chicago, where the latter started his career as a helper to a salesman.

"He got hold of certain classes of goods," Mr. Arnold said. "The names appeared to him. He set to work and studied the history of that particular fabric. He got the name of the factory. He wrote to the factory in England and asked for particulars as to the institution. He studied that institution from one end to the other and he studied all the fabrics, all of the different things that went to make up that particular piece of goods, and in that way he analyzed every piece of goods that came into his hands. He was not satisfied merely to take the goods and hand them out, but he wanted to know what he was handing out. The result is, today he is one of the most expert buyers in this city, in one of its greatest wholesale houses. Those are the things that count. Get down to a study of the inside workings of the thing that you are handling."

An Unfit Companion. Mrs. Atherton had tried to impress upon her young son, Eugene, that he should play only with good boys.

"Mother," said Eugene, as he came in one day, "you don't want me to play with wicked boys, do you?" "No, indeed," said the mother, pleased that her son had remembered her teachings.

"Well, if one little boy kicks another little boy, isn't it wicked for him to kick him back?" "Yes, indeed, it is certainly very wicked," was the mother's reply.

"Then I don't play with Richard Whitney any more," said Eugene; "he's too wicked. I kicked him this morning, and he kicked me back."

Slight Absent-Mindedness. How are you getting on as the presiding officer of your new club?" "Pretty well," replied the emphatic woman.

"No trouble with parliamentary points?" "Not much. The only difficulty I have is to remember that you must hold on to the gavel and hammer with it instead of throwing it."

The Kind. "The politicians are looking in the campaign barrel and licking their chops."

"That's because they're pork chops."

Europe Loses Sweet Tooth.

The girls they left behind them the British Tommy, his French colleague and his German enemy went off to the war suffered a good deal more than has been supposed up to this time.

The candy export figures from this country prove it. Europe curtailed the bean supply of the United States when Austria's exports were stopped. Now America has retaliated by reducing the quantity of candy sent to the old world.

The first five months of the war caused a decrease of \$153,823 in value of candy exports from the United States, as compared with the same period of the year before. The value of the total exports of candy for the calendar year, \$1,185,894.

The Outside of the Cup. Aunt Mittie Mills enjoyed a wide reputation among her acquaintances for all the household virtues. She was as neat as the proverbial pin. Once, however, in order to sustain that reputation, she admitted resorting to deception.

A neighbor, an intimate friend, passing her home, discovered her industriously scrubbing her piazza floor, and sought an explanation.

"I thought," said Aunt Mittie, catching a breath, "if passers-by see this piazza clean they wouldn't suspect how my kitchen looks."—Youth's Companion.

Didn't Break Her Word.

"Maud married! Why only last June she told me she wouldn't marry the best man that walks the earth."

"That's all right; the man she married rides in an automobile."

Have Sharp Ears.

"Women are not good listeners." "Evidently you've never had much experience with female help."

The Man's View. Penelope—My book of dancing rules says, "Don't hold the lady too close." Percival—Impossible!—Judge.

When the average man has occasion to boast of his past he selects a part of it that others have forgotten.

Official Denial

No War Tax on Homestead Land in Canada. The report that a war tax is to be placed on homestead lands in Western Canada having been given considerable circulation in the United States, this is to advise all enquirers that no such tax has been placed, nor is there any intention to place a war tax of any nature on such lands. (Signed) W. D. Scott, Supt. of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, March 15th, 1918.

BEE SUPPLIES

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W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 14-1918.

Canada is Calling You to her Rich Wheat Lands

She extends to Americans a hearty invitation to settle on her FREE Homestead lands of 160 acres each or secure some of the low priced lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This year wheat is higher but Canadian land just as cheap, so the opportunity is more attractive than ever. Canada wants you to help to feed the world by tilling some of her soil—land similar to that which during many years has averaged 20 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre. Think what you can make with wheat around \$1 a bushel and land so easy to get. Wonderful yields also of Oats, Barley and Flax. Mixed farming is fully as profitable an industry as grain growing.

The Government this year is asking farmers to put increased acreage into grain. Military service is not compulsory in Canada but there is a great demand for farm labor to replace the many young men who have volunteered for service. The climate is healthful and agreeable, railway facilities excellent, good schools and churches convenient. Write for literature and particulars as to reduced railway rates to Superintendent Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or to

W. V. Bennett, 220 17th St., Room 4, Bee Building, Omaha, Nebr.