

NOT A FRUIT THIEF

It Is Also Denied That Bluebird Preys Upon Crop.

IS A HARBINGER OF SPRING

In Selection of Food Bird Is Governed More by Abundance Than by Choice—Insects Form Important Part of Its Diet.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Although the bluebird frequents our orchards and gardens and builds its nests in cavities of trees, there seems to be no evidence that it is a fruit thief. Neither does the bird seem to prey upon crops.

The eastern bluebird, one of the most familiar and welcome of our feathered visitors, is a common inhabitant of all the states east of the Rocky Mountains from the Gulf of Mexico to southern Canada. In the Mississippi valley it winters as far north as southern Illinois, and in the East as far as Pennsylvania. It is one of the earliest northern migrants, and everywhere is hailed as a harbinger of spring.

It is evident that in the selection of its food the bluebird is governed more by abundance than by choice. Predaceous beetles are eaten in spring, as they are among the first insects to appear; but in early summer caterpillars form an important part of the diet, and these are later replaced



Bluebird—Above Azure Blue, Throat and Breast, Cinnamon, Belly White.

by grasshoppers. Beetles are eaten at all times, except when grasshoppers are more easily obtained.

So far as its vegetable food is concerned, the bluebird is positively harmless. The only trace of any useful product in the stomachs consisted of a few blackberry seeds, and even these probably belonged to wild rather than cultivated varieties. Following is a list of the various seeds which were found: Blackberry, chokeberry, juniper berry, partridge berry, greenbrier, Virginia creeper, bittersweet, holly, strawberry bush, false spikenard, wild roseparilla, sumac (several species) rose haws, sorrel, ragweed, grass and asparagus. This list shows how little the bird depends upon the farm or garden to supply its needs, and how easily, by encouraging the growth of some of these plants, many of which are highly ornamental, the bird may be induced to make his home on the premises.

Two species of bluebirds inhabit the western states—the mountain bluebird and the western bluebird. In their food habits they are even more to be commended than their eastern relatives. Their insect food is obtainable at all times of the year, and the general diet varies only in the fall, when some fruit, principally elderberries, is eaten, though an occasional blackberry or grape is also relished. Grasshoppers, when they can be obtained, are eaten freely during the whole season. Beetles are eaten and comprise mostly harmful species.

The new Farmers' Bulletin (No. 630) of the United States department of agriculture describes this and other American birds useful to the farmer. It may be had by dropping a post card to the Editor Division of Publications, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

CHOLERA IS GERM DISEASE

Domestic Animals, Such as Dogs and Cats, and Also Birds Are Frequent Carriers of Infection.

Hog cholera generally is recognized as a very contagious, infectious, germ disease. It is caused by an organism described as small enough to pass through any kind of filter and still retain its disease producing power.

No one has been able to identify the germ which is the specific cause of the disease. It is contained in the blood of sick animals, and is given off in the urine; thus contaminating the yards and pens in which such animals are kept. It may be carried by streams, on the shoes of persons who enter the yards or pens, or by horses or cattle from one farm to another. Dogs, cats, rabbits and birds also are frequent carriers of the infection.

Temporary Hog Pasture.

If you are short of hog pasture you can make a good temporary one by sowing a mixture of oats, barley, wheat and rye. Sow all of them or a few. Do not be afraid to put in plenty of seed.

Uses for Peppers.

The large and hot peppers can be used for many purposes and are good to grind and mix with the chicken food in winter. One packet each of two or three good varieties will suffice.

OWN REGISTERED LIVE STOCK

Practical Knowledge of Business Should be Obtained Before Starting With Pure-Breds.

The desire to own registered stock is praiseworthy, but until a man is well fitted by experience and inclination to handle registered stock he will find it better to go cautiously until he has gained a practical knowledge of the business.

There is no mystery regarding the breeding and management of pure-bred stock, still they require materially different treatment than is usually afforded the common scrub stock. These improved animals do not require pampering or babying but they do require good care and enough to eat and that they cannot obtain when wintered around straw stacks and fence corners.

The farmer who has made good success with a grade herd or flock will not find the transition to pure breeds very difficult. If a man knows absolutely nothing about breeding registered stock he will do well to gain the necessary experience by grading up his scrub animals before he invests in pure-bred stock. At least he should gain the actual experience in some way before he makes the plunge.

There are many men who buy pure-bred stock who should never be in the business and the result is that their stock is a byword and a derision—a very disgrace to the name pure-bred. Some men have jumped suddenly into fame by breeding improved live stock, but usually we will find that these men gained a practical knowledge of the science of breeding while handling their grade animals, that made their success possible.

CELERY FOR SMALL GARDENS

As a Rule It Is Only Moderately Profitable Crop—One of Most Delicious of Vegetables.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

Celery is a fairly good market crop, but there are many other crops that pay better. In the famous Kalamazoo district in Michigan, where the crop is grown exclusively on hundreds of acres by experts, it is stated that the average profit after rental of land growing and marketing expenses are paid does not exceed \$100 per acre. Occasionally we hear of a phenomenal crop, but as a rule celery is only moderately profitable.

It is a fine crop for every farmer to grow because it is one of the most delicious vegetables produced. It is not difficult to grow celery. It requires exceedingly rich land, some commercial fertilizer and great care in cultivation and bleaching.

In the Kalamazoo district, where very fine celery is grown, the soil is a very black, rich, spongy sort of loam, but good celery is grown on sandy land and on clay loam.

The ground must, however, be put into thorough cultivation and very asparagus. This list shows how little the bird depends upon the farm or garden to supply its needs, and how easily, by encouraging the growth of some of these plants, many of which are highly ornamental, the bird may be induced to make his home on the premises.

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To help you to remember — **WRIGLEY'S** for the kiddies — and yourself; its great benefits to teeth, breath, appetite and digestion; its cleanliness and wholesomeness in the air-tight sealed packages; its two different and delicious flavors — and the gift coupons too:

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SEIFISH AUTOBILIST.

In an argument about world politics — welt politik — Senator Lodge said the other day in Boston:

"The morality of too many governments seems as frankly selfish and as frankly unjust as the man Smithers."

"As Smithers, Havana in mouth, came out of an expensive restaurant and started to get into his automobile a creditor held him up.

"I tell you what it is, Mr. Smithers," said the creditor, "you wouldn't go riding round in a fine automobile like that if you paid your debts."

"Ha," said Smithers, "quite right! My point of view exactly! Glad to know you're in agreement with me. The golf club, Alphonse."

THICK LOVELY HAIR

Because Free From Dandruff, Itching, Irritation and Dryness.

May be brought about by shampoos with Cuticura Soap preceded by touches of Cuticura Ointment to spots of dandruff, itching and irritation. A clean, healthy scalp means good hair. Try these supercreamy emollients if you have any hair or scalp trouble. Sample each free by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. XY, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Her Patience Wearing Out.

Little Lola had been censured for some mischief she had been engaged in. After thinking it over for some time she exclaimed: "Oh, I do wish I had a baby brother!"

"Why do you wish that?" "Cause," she replied, "this thing of being scolded for everything that happens around this house makes me tired."

Pleasant Prospect.

Countryman (buying a cigar)—I hope this isn't one of those weeds that burn out in no time at all. I want a good long smoke.

Tobacconist (impressively)—Mine friend, dat cigar will last till you vas sick of it.

ROOMS FOR RENT.

Even college professors furnish some of the humor of school life. It was the registrar of a large university who, to an inquiry for a suite of "large, light, airy rooms," answered:

"Why, I don't just recall any now; but I've got a lot of 'em in my head."

And a flustered professor told a class of young ladies, "You may have fifty minutes of the hour to tell me what you know on the subject, and I will take the remaining ten and tell you what I know."

Everything Higher.

The Old Skipper—Don't you come tellin' me none of your cock an' bull yarns about waves 80 feet high. Why, I've been at sea, man an' boy, for nigh on fifty years, and I never saw none higher than 40.

The Young Sailor—Ah, but see 'ow things 'ave gone up since then!—Punch.

A paper dollar is said to last about six years—unless it visits a church fair.

The lowly egg has the best of mankind in one respect; it can spread itself better after it is broke.

A fat stranger passed down the street yesterday. "Who is the dirigible?" Eph Wiley asked.

St. Louis has opened a new \$2,000,000 Washington university group of medical buildings.

WOULD HAVE MADE TRADE

Disgusted Drummer Was Willing to Accept Joking Offer if the Law Had Allowed It.

A traveling salesman for a Gansvoort street wholesale grocery firm, recently back from a trip through the rough lands of eastern Pennsylvania, tells this possibly true tale:

"One day on my last trip I had a six-mile ride to make to the county seat, and the small village in which I was had only one horse that I could hire and no other form of conveyance. I may say that a friend had landed me in the town that morning from his car and I had sold goods enough to pay the expenses of the trip.

"Well, I got away on the sorriest specimen of a horse I ever straddled, and I was to send him back by mail carrier, though not as a parcel post package. It took me two hours to cover the distance—I was sorry enough I hadn't walked—and as I passed the county jail on my old bag of bones a face grinned at me from between the bars of a small square window. I was too sore to smile, but I nodded to the grin, and the prisoner called to me:

"Say, mister," he said, 'how'd you like to trade that critter for 30 days in jail?"

"Just then I would have been glad enough to have traded, but the law wouldn't let me, and I rode on."—New York Sun.

HE KNEW DADDY.

The eight-year-old son of a famous lawyer was one day taken by his governess to a court of law in which his father was expected to make a particularly brilliant speech.

"Mother, I heard father make a fine speech today," said the boy on his return home. "And what do you think? Father almost cried, and he made some of the jurymen cry, too!"

"And you, too?" asked his mother. "Oh, no—he can't get over me!" replied the heir and pride of the family.

IMPORTANT TO MOTHERS

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* In Use For Over 30 Years.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Doubtful. "How is your mother, Tommie?" "She's better, but not so better as she was yesterday."

A Doubt. Bob—So she's rejected you again? Ned—Yes—worse luck! Bob—Oh, I don't know!—Judge.

YOUR OWN DRUGGIST WILL TELL YOU

Try Murine Eye Remedy for Red, Weak, Watery Eyes and Irritated Eyelids. No Stinging. Just Eye Comfort. Write for Book of the Eye by mail free. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago.

No man is qualified intelligently to discuss the "leisure" classes until he has run for office.

SHOWED DISCRETION.

Betty was milking the cow when the mad bull tore over the meadow. Betty did not stir, but continued milking. Observers who had run into safety saw, to their astonishment, that the bull stopped dead within a few yards of the maid and cow, turned around and went away, sadly.

"Weren't you afraid? Why did he run away?" asked every one of Betty. "He got scared," said Betty. "This cow is his mother-in-law."

HIS FITNESS.

"What's become of your assistant?" asked the newspaper man in the barber shop, about to get the once over. "Oh, he's quit the barber game to become a newspaper man," replied the boss barber.

"What does he know about the newspaper game?" "Well, he can handle the shears, all right."

FASCINATED.

Bill—Is she a good dancer? Jill—Well, she looks good to me when she dances.

Nothing makes a man so quickly forget that he has been jilted as the society of another woman.

Maybe they say silence is golden because it is about as rare as the yellow metal.

When no one will say a kind word of the dead man it is a sign that he did not die quick enough.

COLT DISTEMPER

Can be handled very easily. The sick are cured, and all others are made stable, no matter how exposed, kept from having the disease by using *COLT'S LIGHT BRONCHITIS CURE*, give as the bottle of it in food. Act on the blood and expels germs of all forms of distemper. Sold remedy ever known for horses in fact. One bottle guaranteed to cure one case. 50c an 8 1/2 bottle. Brand name on bottle. Beware of cheap imitations. For more copies send 1c to *W. V. Bennett, 220 17th St., Room 4, Bee Building, Omaha, Nebr.* Local agents wanted. Largest selling house remedy in existence—twenty years.

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The people of European countries as well as the American continent must be fed—thus an even greater demand for Canadian Wheat will keep up the price. Any farmer who can buy land at \$15.00 to \$30.00 per acre—get a dollar for wheat and raise 20 to 45 bushels to the acre is bound to make money—that's what you can expect in Western Canada. Wonderful markets convenient, climate excellent.

The excellent grasses, full of nutrition, are the only food required either for beef or dairy purposes. Good schools, military service is not compulsory in Canada but there is an unusual demand for farm labor to replace the many young men who have volunteered for service in the war. 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. Canadian Government Agent.

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