

BIRD THAT FIGHTS BURROWING PESTS

THIS splendid bird is undoubtedly the most powerful hawk met with in Montana, where it is usually called eagle, and its carrying power is remarkable, as the sequel will show. It does no harm, but, on the contrary, wages unceasing warfare against such pests as prairie dogs, gophers and meadow mice, and should, therefore, be universally protected; nevertheless it has unfortunately become very scarce, excepting in one or two favored localities, where it is strictly preserved. Although a good deal has been written about the ferruginous rough-leg (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*), I am not aware that it has, hitherto, been studied or photographed at the nest. Last summer Mr. W. R. Felton kept four nests of this hawk under observation for me, and visited them whenever his work allowed him time, writes E. S. Cameron in *Country Life*. These four nests were within a radius of four miles from Mr. Felton's headquarters at the Square Butte ranch in Chouteau county, and others were reported seven miles away. Besides the above, Mr. Felton found four disused, but well preserved, eyries—two of them within a quarter of a mile of an occupied nest. All eight nests were placed upon rocky ledges or points. They were constructed of the same materials, which consisted of sage brush and greasewood sticks, with some soapweed intermixed, and lined with dry cow dung. As will be seen from the measurements, the loose pile of sticks made the new nests remarkably high, but they settled considerably before the young had flown. A brief history of one of these nests condensed from Mr. Felton's notes is as follows: The nest was only two miles north of the Square Butte ranch, easily visible from there through powerful binoculars, and was visited almost every day. This particu-



ON THE LOOK-OUT



THE NESTINGS CROUCHED LOW

YOUNG BIRD AT THE LEAVING THE NEST

Fisher, "Hawks and Owls of the United States," page 175, it undoubtedly beat off its assailant without difficulty. So far as I have observed in eastern Montana, the ferruginous rough-leg feeds chiefly upon prairie dogs and meadow mice, though not averse to snakes. In my opinion it never takes frogs. Like golden eagles, these hawks often hunt amicably in pairs, and then appear to be more courageous, attacking mammals as large as jackrabbits. Mr. Felton made many valuable observations on the food habits of these

lar nest was picturesquely situated on a rocky point of the "Chalk Cliffs" northeast of the geologically famous "Square Butte," which, despite its modest name, is an immense rock constituting an isolated spur of the Highwood mountains, 2,500 feet above the prairie. In reality the so-called "Chalk Cliffs" consist of an outcrop of white sandstone, chiefly in the center of a range of grass-covered hills whose green summits rise in strong contrast above the white corrugated rocks. This sandstone stratum has been worn into a series of perpendicular cliffs, pure white above, but stained light brown below by lignitic matter, and projecting spurs are carved into fantastic pinnacles and mounds. One promontory in particular is a regular saw-tooth ridge. The nest here shown is poised upon the apex of a pillar which terminates a knife-blade projection 3.575 feet high, and suggests in some photographs the prow of a ship. As there is a sheer vertical descent on three sides, and the surface of the connecting ridge suddenly breaks off, leaving a wide fissure in the rock between it and the nest, it is a task of no small difficulty to reach the latter and one best suited to a sailor or a cat. It can only be accomplished by approaching the eyrie from above, and then crawling along the ledge, when, by dropping into and crossing the gap (which is well shown in the photograph), the nest can be attained. Mr. Felton, making light of the danger, climbed frequently to the nest, and made numerous exposures with a small camera at the range of a few feet. The nest was four feet in height and three and a half feet in diameter, and was higher than any Montana eyries of the golden eagle known to me, which species has also nested in the "Chalk Cliffs." (In his recently published "History of the Birds of Colorado," Mr. W. L. Sclater mentions a golden eagle's nest which measured "six feet in diameter and nine feet high.") The hawks carried green alfalfa to the nest for decorative purposes, and Mr. Felton noticed a fresh supply there on three separate occasions. When found on May 18 the eyrie contained three newly hatched young, but only two reached maturity, as one of the nestlings disappeared on July 9 when fifty-two days old. Mr. Felton conjectured that it had been blown out of the nest by a violent thunderstorm, but the two stronger birds might have ejected their weaker brother. In any event, the outcast would soon have been picked up by some four-footed or winged marauder. The two remaining fledglings permanently left their nest on July 25, when about nine weeks old. While watching at this nest, at two o'clock one afternoon, Mr. Felton observed a great horned owl flying along the cliff face in an easterly direction. The owl passed close to the nestlings, when one of the soaring hawks, presumably the female, was seen to swoop at and strike the interloper, which thereupon dived obliquely to the ground. The hawk made two more dashes at the sitting owl, and a short squabble ensued each time between the birds; but when Mr. Felton reached the place, the owl was nowhere to be seen, and the hawk had returned to her nestlings. As the great horned owl is a powerful and ferocious bird, which even attacks and eats large hawks (see

hawks during the nesting season, and discovered the fact, new to science, that they prey upon birds as well as on mammals. Over the whole course of his observations until the young birds had flown, prairie dogs were found largely to exceed all other diet; but until the nestlings were about two weeks old, their food consisted partly of meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*). While very little food was found in the nest, taking into consideration the frequent visits paid to it, there were seen altogether nine prairie dogs, one cotton-tail rabbit, two bull snakes (one 31 inches long) and some remains of sharp-tailed grouse and meadowlarks. On two separate occasions, while Mr. Felton kept watch near the eyrie, the wary female frequently passed and repassed overhead with a meadowlark in her talons, as subsequently identified. The bill of fare at all four eyries was similar, and meadowlarks, as demonstrated by their down and feathers, were provided for the nestlings. The following interesting collection of remnants was seen at one nest: Four prairie dog skulls, the skeletons of two bull snakes (one of them being very large), the leg of a sharp-tailed grouse, the wing and scapulars of a magpie and the primaries of a meadowlark. Grouse and magpie remains were not found until July 17 and 21, and were proved by the feathers to belong to young birds. To the best of my knowledge, this species never attempts to take poultry of any kind, and my own observations are strongly confirmed by Mr. W. P. Sullivan, for 16 years manager of Mr. Milner's beautiful Square Butte ranch, where these hawks have always been protected on account of the numerous gophers (*Thomomys*) which they destroy. As above narrated, several pair breed annually upon the ranch, and are constantly flying around the buildings, yet no chickens have ever been molested. Mr. Sullivan, who is a close observer of nature, considers that, after the young can fly in the fall, these hawks subsist chiefly upon gophers, and he has described to me their methods of capturing them as follows: "I have watched the hawks often through glasses in our alfalfa field after the first crop has been taken off. The pocket gophers get pretty busy tunneling, and pushing all the loose damp earth up in piles on the surface. The hawks fly slowly over the field until they discover a fresh pile of damp earth. Here they will alight softly, and wait for the gopher to push close to the surface. They will then spread their wings and, rising a few feet in the air, come down stiff-legged into the loose earth, when the gopher is transfixed and brought out. I have seen them eat the gopher where caught, and at other times carry it away."

In the summer of 1903 about an acre of ground at the Square Butte ranch was covered with piles of building material, such as lumber, posts and heavy shed timbers, which had been collected there the previous year. Numbers of cotton-tail rabbits lived under these piles, and provided an occasional meal, both for the hawks and for the ranch cat, which was a female tabby. On a certain day Mr. Milner (owner of the ranch) happened to be engaged in conversation with Mr. Sullivan near a pile of posts, upon which the cat was basking in the sun with one eye open for a chance rabbit, as usual. A ferruginous

widened and struggling cat from her couch on the posts and was slowly bearing her aloft. It seemed at first to the astonished spectators as though the hawk would actually succeed in disposing of this troublesome quarry, since it continued to rise easily with its burden to a height of about 25 feet. By this time, however, the fully-aroused victim was stirred to a desperate effort, and it became clear that the audacious hawk had "bitten off more than it could chew." In Mr. Sullivan's words, the tabby "twisted round, gave a terrible splutter and scream, and clawed the hawk with a vengeance." The latter, flapping wildly, at once relaxed its grip, while pussy, nothing loth, withdrew her claws, fell to the ground and dashed under the posts. Numerous downy feathers floating gently to the ground convinced the onlookers that the chagrined hawk had none the best of the encounter. Temporarily tired of cats, it now soared to a great height, and returned with empty talons to the "chalk cliffs." The cat in question was a very small one, and Montana cats are notably thin in summer; but, allowing for these facts, the victim must have weighed six pounds at least. Nevertheless, Mr. Sullivan feels sure that had the cat behaved like the rabbit for which she was mistaken, the hawk would successfully have conveyed the quarry to its eyrie in the rocks. As the nest was two miles distant this would seem an extraordinary feat, and presumably transcend any hitherto published records of the kind. I quite admit that under favorable conditions of wind the female hawk might transport a five or six-pound jackrabbit to the eyrie; but that any cat-lifting hawk should ever surpass what this one achieved seems to me improbable. The dexterous application of the cat's raking claws would not fall to prevent it as in the above remarkable instance. Where a rabbit succumbs to the shock and the hawk's constricting grip, the agile and wiry feline, on the other hand, is stimulated to offer a desperate resistance, and, like Mr. Sullivan's protegee, is little the worse for the encounter. It cannot be told whether the hawk was mistrustful of rabbits after this event, but the cat became so suspicious of a flying object that she would race for the wood pile if Mr. Sullivan threw his hat into the air.

A Thoughtful Wife

"Where's my new meerschaum pipe?" asked Mr. Cumso, after dinner. "I thought I left it on the mantel, back of the clock, when I quit smoking last night."

"Didn't I hear you say that it would take a long time to color that pipe, dear?" asked Mrs. Cumso.

"It is quite likely you did. The operation can not be performed all at once. But where is the pipe?"

"You know how anxious I am to save you all the work I can, dear?"

"Yes, just like the precious little woman you are; but what has that to do with the pipe?"

"Just this, love. I got to worrying over the long time it would take you to get it colored, and I wondered if I couldn't help you a bit."

"What! You don't mean to say you have been smoking the pipe yourself?"

"Oh, no! But a poor tramp came to the house this morning. He was smoking the forlornest little bit of a pipe, and—"

"Go on!" commanded Mr. Cumso in a constrained voice, trying to keep calm. "You have made him a present of my meerschaum, I suppose?"

"Oh, no! Your little wife isn't quite so foolish as all that."

"Then what has the tramp to do with the pipe?"

"Don't be impatient, dear, and I'll tell you. I remembered what you said about the long time it would take you to color it, and so I asked the man if he would smoke it all day for a dollar. He said no; that a dollar and a quarter was the lowest he could do it for. So I told him I'd pay him that. He's out in the back yard now, working hard; and he really seems to enjoy it. Yet some people say that tramps can't be induced to work. But where are you going, love? Not downtown so early, are you? Now I wonder what's made that man so cross?" she added, as her husband slammed the door.—Puck.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 7

THE FALL OF JERICO.

LESSON TEXT—Joshua 6:3-11, 14-26. GOLDEN TEXT—"All things are possible to him that believeth."—Mark 9:23.

There is a wonderful teaching in the story of the two memorials (Ch. 4) that Joshua erected after Israel had passed over the Jordan. One is left to be overwhelmed by the river, the other is erected in Gilgal. They mark the distinction between Christ's death under judgment in the believer's place, and the believer's perfect deliverance from judgment. See Pa. 42:7 and 88:7; Josh. 12:31-33. The stones in the Jordan stand typically for Pa. 22:1-18.

In chapter five is the record of the reproach of unbelief, "rolled away" (v. 9) the cessation of the manna (v. 12) and the appearance of the "captain of the Lord's host" (vv. 13-15) unto Joshua as he was making a reconnaissance before Jericho.

I. God's Orders, vv. 1-5. The fame of the Israelites had preceded them (ch. 2:9) and that this was added too by the miraculous deliverance at the Jordan is suggested in verse one. Verse two suggests that again they must proceed upon the bare word of Jehovah, and humanly speaking, how utterly absurd appear the divine orders.

Jehovah's Word Followed. II. Joshua's Instructions, vv. 6-8. A reading of this section reveals the fact that Joshua diligently followed out the word of Jehovah. Preceding the people was the ark, and we need to remember what it contained and that it is a type of Christ. Following the armed men and the priests came the silent host (v. 10). No other sound than that of the trumpet (v. 13).

The walls of Jericho are not to fall by the use of the ordinary implements of war, see 2 Cor. 10:4, and the resultant victory was in no way to give opportunity for human boasting, Eph. 2:9; 1 Cor. 1:26-29. Joshua did not set forth a "more reasonable method;" he did not alter God's orders; that he had no right to do, nor have we, Rev. 22:18, 19; John 3:2; Matt. 15:6. The implements and the methods were foolish to those in Jericho and to all unbelievers, see 1 Cor. 1:21-25. It was the priests who led with the "jubilee trumpets," typical of the gospel which Paul tells is the "power of God," Rom. 1:16.

III. The Obedient People, vv. 9-15. One great act of distrust and disobedience led to those years of aimless wandering accompanied by discomfort and resulting in death to all (save two, Caleb and Joshua) who crossed the Red Sea with Moses. Here we have the contrast. Seven days of patient, obedient marching, according to specific orders, is followed by victory and possession. What a strange sight this cavalcade must have made. The trumpet blowing priests; the ark, symbolic of Jehovah's presence and typical of Christ; the silent multitude. Verily this new generation is being tested ere they enter into their promised inheritance. On the seventh day they arose earlier and were subjected to a seven-fold test. Our fiercest testing is generally just before the moment of our greatest victory.

Saved by Faith. Faith used means ordered of God, foolish to man, and wrought a great victory. Faithful obedience is here wonderfully contrasted with former unfaithfulness. Joshua directs the spies to search out Rahab and she and her household are saved according to promise, vv. 22-25. She also was saved by faith, Heb. 11:31, and became one of the line from which Christ came, Matt. 1:5. The only part of the wall that remained standing was that where Rahab's house stood, vv. 22, see chapter 2:15.

The teaching is very plain. As the Israelites depended wholly upon God, were obedient to his orders, accepted his discipline, held back all passion and covetousness, they entered into the fruits of a victory that made easy many subsequent ones. Their acts of faith were a more severe test than those more visible and carnal means of fighting battles.

As these people of God had crossed the Jordan, submitted to the rite of circumcision, took their first march in this land of promise and captured this walled city which stood in the way of their progress, the unbelief of forty years was rebuked. This was a day of vindication for Caleb and Joshua, a day of proving that God was able to give victory to the people in whom he delighted.

The Golden Text illustrates what it is to believe, when we recall the story from which it is taken—obedient faith in spite of appearances. No one can deny the absurdity of a people walking around the walls of a city blowing rams' horns and expecting to possess it. Faith in both of these incidents depended upon the word of God and did the apparently foolish thing, thereby demonstrating its wisdom, and his power.

Faith is revealed also as the power to wait and to persist. Faith is cooperation with God in the accomplishment of his purposes.

Classified Mail. "Good morning," the young woman said as she stepped to the window at the Euclid Village postoffice. "Is there a letter for me today?" "I'll look," the clerk answered. The young woman blushed a little, and she added, "It's a business letter."

The man inside the window took up a handful of letters and looked them over hastily. Then he informed the customer that there was nothing for her; and with great disappointment depicted on her lovely features, she went away—she soon came back, this time blushing more furiously than before.

"I—I deceived you," she stammered. "It—it wasn't a business letter I was expecting. Will you please see if there is something for me among the love letters?"

SUFFERED FOR 25 YEARS.

Mr. R. M. Fleenor, R. F. D. 39, Otterbein, Ind., writes: "I had been a sufferer from Kidney Trouble for about 25 years. I finally got so bad that I had to quit work, and doctors failed to do me any good. I kept getting worse all the time, and it at last turned to inflammation of the bladder, and I had given up all hope, when one day I received your little booklet advertising your pills, and resolved to try them. I did, and took only two boxes, and I am now sound and well. I regard my cure as remarkable. I can recommend Dodd's Kidney Pills to any one who is suffering from Kidney Trouble as I was." Write to Mr. Fleenor about this wonderful remedy.

Dodd's Kidney Pills, 50c. per box at your dealer or Dodd's Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Write for Household Hints, also music of National Anthem (English and German words) and recipes for dainty dishes. All 3 sent free. Adv.

Telephone Memorandum. A little combination pad and telephone list that may be attached directly to the instrument is a new and handy contrivance. A thick pad covered with leather has a spring holder at the top which slips around the receiver and holds the pad firmly in place. Attached to brass rings on the pad is a set of ruled cards with a thumb index arranged alphabetically for the list of telephone numbers, and on top of these, mounted on a silk-covered board, is a little memorandum pad containing about 100 sheets with a lead pencil in a little holder at the top. The memorandum sheets can be renewed, as the piece of cardboard at the back fits into a slit in the silk covering.

Q. E. D. "Ten years ago," said the professor of mathematics, "I killed a fly that had got into my office. If I hadn't killed that fly, she would certainly have laid fifteen hundred eggs. From these eggs would have come other flies, who would in turn have increased and multiplied so that by now we should have 550,637,841,296 more flies. Obviously they would have made life an inferno. Therefore, it is certain that by the killing of that fly I did the world a great service."—New York Evening Post.

Overdid It. "So she married him to reform him. And what is the result?" "He's so good now that he's shocked by the gowns she wears."

During two years 34,000 of improved roads were constructed in this country, which is more than all the roads of France.

WIFE WON Husband Finally Convinced.

Some people are wise enough to try new foods and beverages and then generous enough to give others the benefit of their experience. A wife writes:

"No slave in chains, it seemed to me, was more helpless than I, a coffee captive. Yet there were innumerable warnings—waking from a troubled sleep with a feeling of suffocation, at times dizzy and out of breath, attacks of palpitation of the heart that frightened me.

(Tea is just as injurious as coffee because it contains caffeine, the same drug found in coffee.)

"At last my nervous system was so disarranged that my physician ordered 'no more coffee.' I capitulated.

"Determined to give Postum a fair trial, I prepared it according to directions on the pkg., obtaining a dark brown liquid with a rich snappy flavour similar to coffee. When cream and sugar were added, it was not only good but delicious.

"Noting its beneficial effects in me the rest of the family adopted it—all except my husband, who would not admit that coffee hurt him. Several weeks elapsed during which I drank Postum two or three times a day, when, to my surprise, my husband said: 'I have decided to drink Postum. Your improvement is so apparent—you have such fine color—that I propose to give credit where credit is due.' And now we are coffee-slaves no longer.

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Well-being," in pkgs.

Postum now comes in two forms: Regular Postum—must be boiled. Instant Postum is a soluble powder. A teaspoonful dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. Grocers sell both kinds.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.