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HICCUPS FOR 12 DAYS

MAGOG, Que., Jan. 12 (CP)—Olive McKelvey, 22-year-old bank clerk who is so exhausted from 12 days of continuous hiccups that she has to be fed in a tray, will undergo a new form of treatment. Her mother, Mrs. Edward McKelvey, said medicine being sent from Montreal will be used today to relieve the girl's spasms. She did not say what the medicine is.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fur and Mink Farming

Gruskin - Feldman, Inc., New York City, have taken a new approach in the presentation of silver fox. Their little wraps are far removed from the conventional five-skin cape-jacket or cape stole, and all the bulk is removed by plotting the skins in simple, yet dramatic silhouettes. Of special interest is what can be done with two full fox skins. For example, they take a suede girdle and build a fox bolero above. The capelet is short, dips down in an adjustable buckle closing (good for all figure sizes) in deep plunging lines and just warms the shoulders with the minimum of fur, the maximum of charm.

Another happy blending of fur and suede is evident in the fox "toga." Small, but swish is the one side fur drape that loops a single skin in a complete circle around the upper portion of the arm and swings another skin across the shoulder-back and chest. They fill in the neckline with suede and use two side buttons as fastenings. Black suede is also used as a full-in for the arm-let piece. A fur suit will be merchandized shortly in sizes 10-16. Of black quality gabardine, a separate shallow capelet circles the bodice, while two side pep-lums of fur flirt at the sides of the slim molded jacket. With it, a narrow skirt.

Lampson, Fraser and Huth, Inc., New York, held a very large mink auction sale Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The United Mink Breeders' Association offered 30,000 ranch mink and Starlights (halfbloods). Another mink association offered 35,000 of similar type. In addition there were 18,000 Royal Pastels, 6,000 Stewart Silverblus and 4,000 Spring Silver Blus, 40,000 Silverblus and 8,000 whites, Kohinur, Blue Frost, etc. and an additional 5,000 of other types. This should be one of the biggest mink sales of 1949 and no doubt the prices set at it will greatly influence the future trend of mink prices.

Next Monday and following days the Hudson's Bay Company will auction in their new premises, 465 Dorchester St., West, Montreal, 10,000 silver fox, 4,000 red fox, 4,250 white fox, 300 blue fox, 16,000 wild mink and additional quantities of ranch mink. Fox ranchers throughout the Dominion will be anxiously awaiting results of this auction which is expected to draw quite a number of American and European buyers to Montreal.

There has been a great amount of discussion and many meetings of marketing associations and

mink breeders associations to decide whether mutation mink should be offered at auction dressed on in the raw state. Representatives of both sides will meet in the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, to try and iron out a solution to the question.

The North West Fur Auction Company's general sale at Minneapolis, Minnesota, a week ago was not the success it was expected to be. The trade considered that only 25 to 35 per cent of the ranch mink was sold with only good lots moving. They considered the limits were too high on ranch mink. One nice lot of males, Yukon sizes, brought \$17.50 and a similar lot slightly weaker, brought \$16.50. Later on demand for mink seemed to buck up and the auction company finally reported ranch mink at 80 per cent sold and wild mink 95 per cent sold. The auction company said that ranch mink was about 10 per cent higher than last sale with a top of \$24 for males and \$16 for females. Good quality males sold for \$19; to \$23.50; ordinary males, \$15 to \$10; average silverblu lots \$15 to \$19; 80 per cent of the Silverblus sold. In the above report there certainly was a great variance between the company's claim and that of some of the buyers regarding the amount of goods sold and the prices.

At Regina, Sask., sale wild mink extra large, northern, brought from \$52.50 to \$57.75; medium small \$49.50 to \$51.50. Fall and winter extra large muskrats sold at \$1.74 to \$2.08; large, \$1.50 to \$1.74; medium brought, large \$1.04 to \$1.24; mediums and smalls, 60c to 65c.

Quantities listed for the Hudson's Bay Company's, London, auction which starts January 30, were announced as follows: Blue fox, 3,500; fisher 400; red fox 15,000; cross fox 2,000; white fox 6,500; marten 1,000; wild mink 5,000; ranch mink 10,000; muskrat 90,000; sable 400. In addition there are about twenty other varieties of furs which will be offered at the above sale.

The early January sale of the New York Auction Company found the 30,000 ranch mink which were described as ordinary to poor drew limited interest from the trade. It was reported 38 per cent sold by the auction house. Here is the statement . . . Approximately 30,000 ranch mink, an ordinary to poor collection, was 38 per cent sold. Attendance was fair, with biggest interest in female skins. Prices of goods, where sold, were firm to market, with shipper's limits holding back the sale of a greater percentage of goods. Only about 30 to 35 buyers were on hand to bid on the offering, which were easier than a month ago, possibly 10 per cent easier. This is in line with the auction company's report since the market is considered about 10 per cent easier on ranch mink than a month ago.

Petting of foxes has been completed by ranchers in this Province and there has been quite a large cut down, some state at least 50 per cent in breeding stock. No report has been received from the consignment houses such as Canadian National and P. E. I. Fur Pool, Ltd., as to how the quantities compare with last year, but there must be a very large drop. Generally speaking we understand pelts have been of pretty good quality this year as the season was favorable although not as cold as previous years. Despite the low prices quite a number of ranchers have the courage to carry on and some have doubled up. We know of one ranch that is caring for six different parties, each of them determined to continue until the fur comes back again into popularity. One thing we do notice, there is apparently more interest in silver fox both in the United States and Canada. If this continues to swell in volume it might be possible to clean up all the unsold furs in 1950. If so we could expect very much higher prices in 1951.

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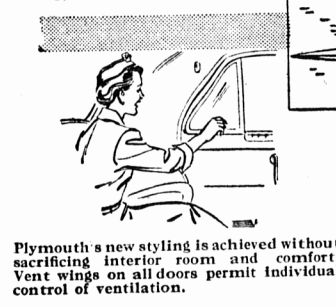
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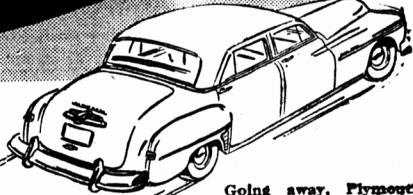
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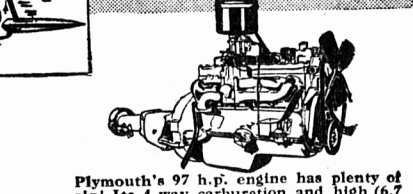
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- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

The Redpoll.
The Redpoll is one of our winter visitors, making heavy incursions every four or five years, according to my records. Whether these visits are cyclic, or merely accidental occurrence, is a problem for future bird-watchers. The Redpoll is as well-known in Britain as it is here: in fact it is circumpolar.
Francis Bain calls it the Redpoll Linnet, a popular name in Britain where the bird enjoys many a meal of flax-seed (Linum). Here it is so content with the weed-seeds standing above the snowy fields and is therefore one of the farmers most valuable friends. Redpolls are readily attracted to the vicinity of the house by scattering any kind of waste feed on a cleared spot on the lawn. In 1944 such a spot, just outside a window, afforded me an excellent chance of observing their plumage and habits.
"The Redpoll Linnet," says Bain, "is one of our common winter birds, though some winters it is scarcely seen at all. In size it is less than a sparrow: color above dusky, streaked with flaxen; crown dull crimson, under parts white, heavily streaked with dusky. Males in late winter, may be seen with rosy breasts and rumps. In autumn these little birds come in compact flocks wandering from grove to grove in search of the ripened seeds of the yellow birches. On the swaying top of one of these great trees they make a happy company, rifling the abundant seeds, and keeping each other society with soft, sweet, whispered notes. Sometimes, a solitary bird will get separated from the flock, then the loud peep-rings through the autumn sky and it is repeated till an answer comes and the warbler is restored to the bosom of the loving flock. In cold winter weather the birds crowd close together as if for warmth.
I have seen neither Snowbirds nor Redpolls as yet, this winter

a Black-poll Warbler; also a Mourning Warbler which has a pretty song. I never saw this Warbler before, at least to identify. On June 6th, I heard a Cuckoo. It was here for a few days. Later a Black and White Warbler, a Maryland Yellow-throat Cedar Waxwings and many other birds that are with us every year, appeared; but we never saw or heard the Olive-sided Flycatcher which for many, many years has been with us.
In September, when the birds were gathering for migration, we saw a number of little birds which I thought were yellow throated Vireos. They had bright throated throats, two wing-bars and other markings as described in "Birds of Eastern Canada."
I hope these notes may be of some interest to you, and may the New Year bring to you all that is best. Sincerely, Maude M. Jones."
In the name of my readers I heartily reciprocate Miss Jones's good wishes, and hope she will long continue to give us notes from Fownal.
With regard to the Redpolls, Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds" mentions the Greater Redpoll, a subspecies which differs somewhat from the Common Redpoll. Since both are found in the same region, bird watchers are exhorted to note any differences and report.
A somewhat similar division has been made in the case of the Yellow-throats. The bird I was taught to call the "Maryland" sub-species, is found from Pennsylvania southward, while our subspecies—slightly larger and deeply colored—is now called the Northern Yellow-throat. This variety breeds from Newfoundland southward.
I, too, heard the Cuckoo this year and this was the first time I recognized the song. If song it can be called. The rhythm was cu, cu, then a pause, repeated ad lib, and all on one note. The English Cuckoo uses two syllables at a time also, but the second cu (or coo) is a musical third below the other. I take our 1949 songster to be the Black-billed Cuckoo.

REPORT FROM FOWNAL.

For several years past we have been privileged to read a report on the birds observed at Fownal by Miss Maude M. Jones. The report for 1949 has just come in, and is fully up to the high and interesting level of earlier records. It runs:—"Dear Agricola, for some time I have been intending to send you a few bird notes but the 'thief of time' has hindered."
Last winter (1948-9) we had a flock of little birds around, and almost every time we went to the door we could hear their twittering on the top of a yellow birch. Towards the end of March when they seemed to be feeding, the thaws came, and the water trickled down the drain past the door, we saw some of those little birds bathing in it, and picking about on the snow; they were Redpolls, but not, we think, quite the same as those that were there. There were more than two dozen Pine Grosbeaks, feeding on the ground. They were so unafraid that one could go near and watch them picking the seed from the cones. I admired their beautiful colorings occasionally as they remained here for some weeks.
On May 2nd I observed a white-crowned Sparrow; and on May 16th Bobolinks our usual visitors for many summers. June 2nd brought

George F. Handel.
Handel's greatest work. (Continued on page 16)

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