

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Jack Miner And The Birds

By Jack Miner Himself—A History of This Notable Bird Lover's Life

CHAPTER I

WHO IS JACK MINER?

Now, as you have this book in your hands and have looked at the name of the writer, and possibly flipped over a few pages, glancing at the interesting illustrations, etc., I imagine I can see you raise your head, as your eyelids come down for an instant. "Who is Jack Miner, who is Jack Miner?" This thought repeatedly flashes through your mind.

Well, let me assure you of this fact, that Jack Miner is not Old Bill Miner, nor Jesse James, and although I have been raised in the woods, that is no evidence that I have split feet and antlers. But I will admit that there has been many a time in my life that if you could have seen me you would have thought you were looking over Esau's line fence.

However, just who I am is a question I am not prepared to answer, as it is not a history of my life I am supposed to be writing; but in a few brief words will say that my dear brother's people that are in America are a good self-sacrificing, respectable, God-fearing people. And my father never had but one full sister; yet, he said, where he lacked in quantity he made up in quality. Father and mother were both born in Leicestershire, England. As to my father, I know he was a truthful, honest man, and, according to his own story, he was raised on the toe of a step-father's boot. A few years after he graduated from this lofty position, he followed mother and her people to America, and eventually overtook them in the good old State of Ohio, and on the 10th day of April, 1865, I was born, barfoot. According to my oldest brother's statement, father was at that time quite down-hearted over the fact that his old favorite yellow t-shirt had been coming home absent for about two weeks, by and he had given up all hope; but as soon as I arrived and he saw my complexion, he took me out, and as I laid in my brother's arms, and as he raised up he clasped his hands together, quite cheerful, and said, "Ted, we'll call him John Thomas."

John Thomas it really is. Fortunately, my friends have shortened it down to just Jack.

We were very poor financially, and as I was second-oldest boy in a family of ten children, I had to put a shoulder to the wheel and help roll the bread-wagon. The result is I was educated for ditching, cutting cord-wood, and splitting rails. In the spring of 1878 father decided to migrate, and at the age of thirteen I was liberated here in Canada, a sportsman's paradise. I took to the woods as naturally as a park hare, and I know I was father's favorite because he always called me to build the fire in the morning, and when the other boys would lodge a tree, I have often heard him scold, "Come out and come away from it! You'll get hurt! Leave it while Jack comes; he'll go hunder and cut it down." If we were splitting rails, father always set the wedges, permitting me to handle the mail.

Father and mother enjoyed life together nearly sixty years and put up with the mingled enjoyment and annoyance of us ten children. How some of father's teachings still ring in my ears! When I have gone to him with complaints about others he has often said, "Shut up! I don't want to hear it. But if you have some of your own failings to tell, let's hear 'em." Yes, he was always short but to the point. One piece of advice that he gave us boys I have always tried to practise; that was, whenever we grabbed hold of anything and found it was red-hot, to drop it.

But now let me lay these smiling faces aside for a few seconds and close my introduction to you in real earnest. For, outside of unavoidable sadness, my life has been one continuous round of enjoyment made up of failures and disappointments and dark, stormy yellow t-shirt had been coming home absent for about two weeks, by and he had given up all hope; but as soon as I arrived and he saw my complexion, he took me out, and as I laid in my brother's arms, and as he raised up he clasped his hands together, quite cheerful, and said, "Ted, we'll call him John Thomas."

CHAPTER II

MY FIRST PETS

Well, the first pet I can remember having was a young blue jay. I was, of course, very anxious that he should live, so I filled him to the top with fish worms. The next morning the blue was there, but the jay was silent.

The next I have any recollection of was when father took our pet possum by the handle and wound it around the corner of the old stable to settle a quarrel which arose between my brother and myself over its ownership. I remember I started one spring with a pair of white rabbits, and when fall came, I had every box on the premises full; even father's old wagon box was turned upside-down with a snarl of rabbits under it, and when he used the box my troubles were many. As I knew how to set traps around my rabbit pens I am strongly of the opinion that some of the neighbors' cats haven't got home yet.

How will do I recollect seeing the wild geese, and hearing their "Honk! Honk!" as I strained my young eyes to see them way up there, often having to look twice before seeing them, as they passed, in spring and fall, over the good old State of Ohio on their migrating trips. Oh, how I used to stand with clenched hands and wish I were a man so I could follow them somewhere and secure one, but until I got to Canada did the real fun begin.

All kinds of game, and such a variety of pets as I had; squirrels, coons, foxes, crows and ravens, and I even got a nest of young hen hawks and kept them until father found it out. You know in those days there was one day in the week that we did not work, and I made every minute count; and although I had miles and miles of woods to roam through, night and day, yet my ambition was a little higher. So I secured a pair of tree-climbers, and then there was a tree high enough for Mrs. Crow or Mrs. Hawk to raise her young so as to be out of my reach.

Well do I remember shooting my first deer, and how I burglarized the top shelf of the pantry to get one of my mother's old pewter spoons. This spoon had a great handle to its history, being handed down from somewhere this side of Noah. I pounded it, to remove the ancient loam, melted it and ran seven small bullets, while my un-

Spinning and Weaving

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaned \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots. WM. LANDRIGAN, 65 Queen Street, Charlottetown.

June 20-Tue-Sat-321. A suspicious mother looked on at the operation of melting and moulding. By daylight the snow had ceased falling, and I put the seven balls in the "thumb-hand" barrel of the old shot-gun and started on my first deer hunt. By noon I was back with a fine deer, and if I had a melted spoon in the other barrel I surely would have killed two. (To Be Continued)

RICHEST FARM MANURE

Poultry manure is undoubtedly the richest produced on the farm. Poultry manure, however, ferments very quickly, losing, if left exposed, a large proportion of its nitrogen as ammonia. This fact, the Dominion Chemist points out, emphasizes the desirability of systematically and frequently cleaning off the boards beneath the roosts, a plan that also conduces to the general good health and thrift of the fowl. In summer, the manure, previously mixed with loam to destroy stickiness and facilitate distribution, may be applied directly to the land and worked with the surface soil—its best preservative. In winter (and at other seasons when the manure cannot be used directly) it should be mixed with a fair proportion of loam, dried peat, muck sawdust, together with a little land plaster or superphosphate to fix the nitrogen. It should then be packed tightly in barrels or boxes and stored protected from rain until required in the spring. Lime and wood ashes should not be used for this purpose as they set free nitrogen. Poultry manure is particularly valuable for garden and leafy crops generally, and the majority of poultry keepers will no doubt do well to reserve it for this use. However, if the amount available permits, it can be profitably employed for the cereals, grasses, roots and corn.

MARKING CUCUMBER PACKAGES

The regulations regarding the marking requirements for sizes of cucumbers are that the minimum length or the numerical count of the cucumbers in any package must be plainly marked, stencilled, or otherwise marked on the package. The facts must be stated in terms of whole or half inches, at 6 inches, 6 1-2 and so on in accordance with the size. In order to allow for variations incidental to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 per cent by count of the cucumbers in any package may be below the minimum length specified. In addition to grade requirements, any lot in grade 1 may be classified as small, medium or large if 90 per cent by count of the cucumbers conform to the following length requirements for such sizes: small, under 6 inches, medium, 6 to 10 inches inclusive and large, over 10 inches.

OPPORTUNITY INCREASE THE FLOUR AND FISH EXPORTS TO BRITISH GUIANA

MONTREAL, Que., Sept. 7.—Sugar accounts for approximately 60 per cent of the total exports of British Guiana and, as a result of the increased preference granted by the United Kingdom, 50 per cent of the sugar exported went there in 1932, replacing Canada, the colonies most important market since 1927, according to the Canadian National Steamships. It is stated that a continuance of the present favorable exchange rate should aid Canadian exporters in recovering their share of the cheaper grades of the flour and fish business of this colony. A rather peculiar situation with regard to the fish business is that Canadian dried codfish, which finds a ready market in the adjacent Islands of the British West Indies, is considered a luxury in British Guiana. In 1932 the imports of fish from the United Kingdom amounted to \$147,991 and from Canada \$78,998.

Minard's Liniment for Chills.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

THE BIRDHOUSE CONTEST

This contest seems to have aroused a good deal of interest among our young folk, but despite the care taken, some of the contestants had no birds visit their boxes. I myself have had a box out for three years, and have put it in the likeliest places I could see—but with no results. However, we must not be discouraged: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" was an old school song. And good philosophy! It might help us if the successful house-owners gave a hint as to what localities the birds seem to prefer, what height from the ground, and any other particulars which might prove useful in coaxing the birds into their "summer houses" next year.

Reversing the usual order of procedure I propose to print all the "observational notes" first, reserving judgment (as they say in the Law Courts) till the end of the series. Here is a good letter from Ruth Jenkins, of Mount Abion:

Mt. Abion, Aug. 28th, 1933.

Dear "Agricola":—As I was a contestant in your last bird contest and was lucky enough to get one of Jack Miner's lovely books, I took a much greater interest in the birds this year. I have started watching and feeding them. The food I used was oats, hay seeds, meat scraps, and suet. The birds began to arrive here around April 3rd, and the following birds came: Flickers, or yellow hammers, 1 downy woodpecker, two male and two female woodpeckers, two pairs of tomtits, or chickadees, also song birds, and Hungarian partridges. Around April 18th, red poles, bluebirds, meadow larks, 1 pair of canaries, and a yellow and gray bird, about the size of a blue bird, I do not know its name as it was new around here. Then we started putting up bird houses and out of twelve, ten were occupied. Eight swallows built in the houses, one of them right at the kitchen door; we could go out and talk to them and they would never move. She hatched out five. Also back in the field a little way another swallow was so tame that you could take and lift up the top of the nest box and talk to her and she would move to one side but would not leave the nest. She hatched five young ones. One robin, and one English sparrow (which I did not care about) occupied the other houses. We had about ten robins to build right around the barn and trees, also one blue bird built and two grey birds; two yellow hammers built in one tree for a great many years. Also a king bird built in a birch tree which is something unusual for them. We have a lovely pond just back of the barn and last fall we had a lot of wild geese to light in it. They started with three and got as high as eleven. Of course we put callers there. We made the pond quite a bit larger this year, and hope to see a lot more geese this year. I take a great delight in watching the birds flying back and forth in preparing the nest, also in feeding the young. I think this contest is a wonderful thing, and I hope to see a lot of letters this year in print.

Best regards to Editor,

RUTH JENKINS, (Age 10), Mt. Abion, P. E. Isle, Queen's Co.

This essay written by Ruth Jenkins of Mt. Abion School, is perfectly true. The houses which the birds occupied, are to be seen at her home, and this has proved to be a wonderful place for the birds. Yours truly, Teacher—Elythe Lawton.

Irma Bagnall of Hunter River, put out four boxes but, like myself, she had no luck. Irma is evidently an enthusiastic "bird-fancier," and the letter she sends in is proof of it.

Hunter River, P. E. I.

August 21. Dear Agricola:—I am very much interested in birds. At present I have four bird houses out but I am sorry to say I did not get any birds in my houses. We have two swallows nests in our barn loft, so daddy shut the cats up. I know the following birds and have seen them this summer: Goldfinches, Song sparrow, Swallows, Juncos, Robins, Humming birds, Blackbirds, Myrtle Warblers, Crows, Yellow warblers, Cranes, Night Hawks, English sparrow, Chicken hawks, Chipping Sparrow, King Birds, King Fishers, Sand Pipers, Wild Ducks, Canada Geese, Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Blue Jays, Partridges, Marsh Hens and Sea Gulls.

I have found the nest of the following birds: 1 Flicker, 3 Juncos, 8

Robins, 1 Chickadee, 3 Yellow Warblers, 1 Crow nest. Dozens of Swallows nests, many English sparrows nests, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Song-sparrow and 8 Blackbirds' nests. I also saw an owl. The Night Hawks fly low just before rain, catching insects. Mother and I saw a lark on the road early last spring. Last spring we put out wool, hair, yarn and string for the birds; it was nearly all taken.

Last winter we put out bones, oatmeal and a chicken frame for the birds. I am also enclosing notes which we took last summer. I think the contest is splendid. Yours sincerely,

IRMA G. BAGNALL, Hunter River.

Age 11 years.

1933 notes: May 2. Tree swallows and barn swallows arrive. The earliest Daddy ever remembered seeing them. They came May 9, 1930 and May 14 for several years before.

Although we kept no written record for many days, we observed the birds continually.

June 11: Cranes pass over daily, flying low, from brook to brook.

July 13: Myrtle warblers nesting in hedge.

July 13: An English sparrow flew right up to Daddy and perched on the cow's rope which he was holding.

July 20: Daddy and mother found chipping sparrow's nest, about 10 feet from where we sit on verandah, little birds without feathers. Daddy held us up to see it. About 8 ft off the ground on a spruce hedge.

July 21: Night hawks pass over nightly. Tonight one came so low we could see the bars of white distinctly on wings. Daddy calls him Mosquito Hawk.

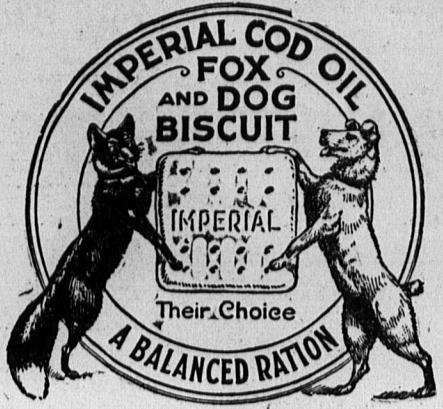
July 22: This evening hundreds of blackbirds came and lit on the little hay field.

July 27: Daddy found a King bird's nest. We went to see it. It was on a small dead spruce in clear view of everything. The spruce is about 10 feet tall and nest was about 8 ft. We could not get right near it as it was on an island in the brook but by stretching up, Daddy could see and show us quite big birds in the nest. Daddy teased the old mother a little so she would show her spunk. She came at him in a fierce and fearless manner. The father came and she stopped scolding a minute and said to him in a very worried voice "che-wee-wee-wee." It was so funny we all laughed. To our surprise the male bird perched on a low limb and did not join with her in the attack upon Daddy. We are going back with field glasses and a camera. We often see King birds fight with crows and blackbirds. They chase them miles and make them "squawk." Robins also chase the crows and blackbirds.

We had a pair of American Goldfinches in June and Daddy saw a humming bird right outside our neighbor's window. I hope we children see it too.

July 29: About 7 o'clock we saw a flock of nine wild geese flying westward.

July 31: We went to the King birds nest. They had all gone. Nest was made of dried grass, wool, bits of yarn and string. We saw several other King birds. One had a dragon fly, eating it. We saw a Northern Yellow-throat. We saw it through the field glasses. It came within a foot of Daddy. Very tame. A lovely bird. We saw several song sparrows. Also a big blackbird flew with something red in its



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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

NEW VEGETABLES OF PROMISE

(Experimental Farms Note)

There has been a great deal of effort made during the past few years on the Dominion Experimental Farms to actually originate and introduce new varieties of vegetables that really have merits surpassing the ones in use for many years.

Corn is a comparatively easy crop to work with and it is simply surprising the improvement made by plant breeding methods. For instance Bantling, Gold Nugget, Dorning and Spanish Gold have taken the place of many of the older white varieties, due largely to earliness, superior quality and yellow colour.

Beans are still an important snap pod crop and it is most interesting to note that the well known Davis Wax bean that was looked upon as one of the best money making varieties has been superseded by an improved stringless strain.

If a very tasty green fleshed muskmelon is desired the Early Knight variety will be found most acceptable. This variety matures very early and grows to a very desirable size for the ice cream trade. The flesh is a very attractive green rich in muskiness and with an exceptionally fine flavor. As an early maturing green fleshed variety it is unsurpassed.

The value of early maturing tomatoes in certain sections is well known to those who have experienced a desire to grow the crop in their own garden and have the thrill of picking nice ripe fruit fresh from the plants. This is possible even in the short season sections if such varieties as Abel and Alacrité are grown. Tomatoes fully ripened can be had in from 95 to

mouth and gave it to a young one. We ran over but he had swallowed it. It looked like a moth. The young blackbird is rather a rusty color.

We saw many myrtle warblers around the bridge and a male rose breasted grosbeak. Around a wild cherry tree we saw several robins. We saw Juncos also. The field-glasses are fine to see the birds with. All the above birds were seen while we walked along the brook and railway track and on the road coming home.

(Sgd) IRMA G. BAGNALL.

100 days from seed sowing, according to the performance of these plants at the Central Experimental Farm, where these varieties were originated. According to a report received from the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Abel tomato led all other early maturing varieties for earliness and yield in 1932.

Where a rhubarb plant is released or sown that plant is looked upon with favor. Ruby rhubarb will be found to give the reddest product and require the least amount of sugar of all varieties available.

After all, those interested in vegetable gardening should consult the Superintendent of the nearest Dominion Experimental Station regarding the problem of varieties suitable for the locality.

WHERE FROGS ARE FROGS

In parts of the British West Indies one buys live frogs from native boys and fattens the frogs for food. These frogs attain a large size, as big as a small hen, and are delicious. They go by the name "crepeaud" which shows the influence of French in the Islands. One drawback is that the frogs become tame and are almost human in their gestures and expression, so that one hesitates to kill them.

A GOOD SOUP

Steamer, train and hotel chef of the Canadian National agree that this makes good soup: Two lbs. of mutton, 2 qts. of water, 1 onions, 2 carrots, 2 turnips, 2 apples parsley, thyme and bay leaf, 1 tablespoonful of curry powder, 1 tablespoonful of flour, juice of a lemon. Fry the apples and vegetables in melt d. suet, and cook gently for 15 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour and curry powder, then add the meat, cut in small pieces, some salt, the herbs and water. Skim this after it begins to boil then cook slowly for 3 or 4 hours. Strain and force the meat through a sieve, then return to the soup. Serve with hot boiled rice. Add the lemon juice before serving.

Dr. W. R. Carson

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Service Suggestions For Purina Fox Chow Users

PURINA FOX CHOW USERS

With prospects for much higher pet prices, careful feeding will pay bigger returns this year than ever. The way pups are fed during the next 30 days is especially important. If your pups vary in size and development, it will pay you to classify them and give the backward pups special attention for a few weeks. Doing this will add many dollars to the value of their pelts.

FEEDING BACKWARD PUPS

Mix together 1/2 ground meat or tripe, and 1/2 Purina Fox Chow Meal. If necessary add a little water to get the right consistency, but do not add milk, bread or anything else to this ration. To do so upsets the balance and slows down the growth. Feed 8 to 12 ounces of the total mixture, per pup per day. After three weeks change gradually to the meat and Checker ration described below.

FEEDING "JUST AVERAGE" PUPS

For pups about three quarters grown, we recommend a 2-3 Purina Fox Checkers, 1-3 meat ration—2 1/2 ounces of meat and 5 ounces of Fox Checkers per pup per day. "Just average" pups need a little more growth before you start feeding for color and fur development. Gradually reduce the meat and increase the Checkers until you are feeding Checkers and nothing else by the end of August.

FEEDING FULL GROWN PUPS AND ADULT FOXES

For full grown pups and adults straight Purina Fox Checkers is unquestionably the best ration from now until pelt time. This ration will give better, clearer color and better all round fur development than any other ration you might feed. There is no doubt about this. Ranchers who fed part of their pups straight Checkers after they were fully grown last year tell us they produced definitely better pelts than on the meat and Checker ration. Of course 2-3 Checkers and 1-3 meat gives splendid pelts too, as you know from previous experience. However we urge you to put at least some of your pups on straight Checkers this year and watch the prices you get for their pelts.

FEEDING COSTS

Consider this: Only 120 days remain until pelt time. If your feed cost is 2c a day, it will cost \$2.40 to feed each pup to pelt time. If the daily cost is 2 1/2c, the cost per pup is \$3.00. If 3c the cost is \$3.60. At the most you cannot have a difference of more than \$1.20 a pup, regardless of what or how you feed. This is small indeed when you consider that feeding can affect values from \$5.00 to \$15.00 a pelt. Results are of first importance and the cost is secondary.

The Fox Chow Meal and meat ration above costs 3c to 3 1/2c a day. The Fox Checker and meat ration 2 1/2c, a day. The straight Checker ration 2 1/2c to 2 3/4c, a day.

FORMULA AND INGREDIENT QUALITY UNCHANGED

Behind every bag of Fox Chow you feed, lies the rigid testing and inspecting of each ingredient used. Ingredient prices have advanced but the formula has not been varied to have a more attractive selling price. Results are paramount, cost is only secondary. Eight years of the most careful kind of experimental work is back of your Purina Fox Chow rations. Over 3000 foxes were used in last year's experiments alone. Over 2500 foxes are under experiment again this year to further improve Fox Chow, if we can.

TODAY'S PRICE IS LOWER

7c A POUND

Fox Chow advanced with the cost of ingredients last spring—has declined now with the recent market set back. Today's price is 7c in single bag lots, lower prices by the ton. The lower price of Fox Chow is price of Purina Fox Chow is lower now than at this time last year, while pet prices are much higher. Your feeding cost will actually be less than a year ago. If desired you can book your requirements from now until pelt time and be protected at today's prices.

Purina Mills

Woodstock Toronto