

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Facts About Hawks

(By Jack Miner)

As a boy living in the open 365 days in the year and—please let me go back still further—as a child down in Ohio, hanging on to mother's hand, strolling through a little jungle near our humble buckeye home, visting as high as nine Brown Thrasher's occupied nests in practically that many minutes, and then both Spring and Fall back in the Seventies, watching the passenger pigeons, not by the thousands, but by the clouds; then in the first year of my teens we moved here to the sunny side of Canada where the woods and the few cleared fields were simply aglow with birds. I am absolutely sure I have seen as high as twenty-five Scarlet Tanagers. I called them red birds, in sight at once and when the red bird storm came, as we called it, along about the 20th of May, I wish every naturalist of today could have followed me a few hours in the woods and he would have seen more warblers in an hour than I can find in a week right now, and the long poverty hours of no boy's life could be made shorter and richer than all these God-given creatures did mine. In fact I forgot all about my appearance—long red hair and freckles—and every Sunday in the summer would find me in my little hiding places allowing these creatures to come closer to me than I could get to them, but of course I did not know the scientific and Latin name for them. For illustration, I called the Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk "Bul-let Hawks." The Sharp Shinned Hawk my brothers and I called the "Quail Hawk," and the Nut-Hatch I called the "Tree Creeper," and the Wood Thrush I called the "Brown Linnet." Yes, I knew them and their habits but not their colleagues and I am persuaded that today there are many with their university degrees, who know their names but not their habits.

Let me give you the natural methods of our wickedest hawks' system in their natural home, namely the virgin forest. He darts through the woods at a height of about six or eight feet from the

CULLING THE FLOCK

(Experimental Farms Note)

With the general low price of poultry products now prevailing, it behooves the poultryman to keep his cost of production as low as possible. Present economic conditions call for the elimination of the undesirable and unprofitable hens from the farm flocks, thereby increasing the quantity and improving the quality of eggs produced and decreasing the cost of production by a saving of feed, housing and management wasted on the non-producing or low-producing hens.

It is important to be able to distinguish between the laying and the non-laying birds. If a bird is laying the comb will be red and full, the vent dilated and moist, the pelvic bones thin, pliable and wide apart, and the abdomen large, soft and pliable, while if not laying the comb will be pale or whitish-colored, the vent contracted and dry, the pelvic bones rigid and close together, and the abdomen firm or hard. In a yellow-skinned bird the beak, vent and shank of a heavy layer are pale yellow or white in colour, whereas the beak, vent and shank of a poor layer or of a layer that is taking a long rest are usually bright yellow in colour.

ty-five per cent. of their food birds gone, which includes the Passenger Pigeon, the hawks are left here hungry, and the only way to restore nature, or bring nature back to her own, is to reduce them to the same extent that other bird life has been reduced; for remember, while a hawk will take a weak, delicate bird first, he can and does catch any he wants to, all except the larger variety of hawks, which include the Red-Tail, Red-Shoulder and Broad-Winged Hawks. Personally, I do not shoot these big, clumsy varieties, for while they will take rabbits and a few domestic fowl and so on, that does not bother me so much, but to find the feathers of our cheerful Cardinals and dozens of places where Mourning Doves have been killed and eaten by such varieties as Cooper's, Sharp Shinned and Marsh Hawks, just says to me, Jack Miner you

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

"THE WIDE WEST"

Among the very miscellaneous "settler's effects" with which I burdened myself on my journey to Canada, was a considerable number of books some of which profess to give a glimpse of the land to which my steps were directed. One (which might be considered an old book) was printed in London, England, in 1875, nearly sixty years ago and its title was "Half hours in the Wide West." It is the journal of an Englishman who had travelled rather extensively in Canada and the United States, and the "Half hours" in the title refer to the shortness of the chapters rather than to any brevity of travel. One is struck, right from the very start, with the phenomenal changes which have taken place in both countries since our unknown author braved their dangers. The journeys seemed to have been for pleasure, or observation the writer has the gift of description which perhaps was more common sixty years ago.

His first journey was from Toronto to "Fort Edmonton." From Toronto to Fort Garry in the province of "Manitobah" was a little matter of one thousand miles, traversed for the most part by water: the first half taken by a steamer along the northern shore of Lake

are not humane and do not love and know the value of our song and insectivorous birds if you will stand for it. Readers, one Cardinal singing good cheer near my home brings me more enjoyment than to see a hundred hawks and hear the terrorized cries of other valuable birds getting away from them.

As far as interfering with nature is concerned the same may be said of the sheep dog. Are you going to allow him to continue unchecked in your community or are you going to control him?

The same can be said of the wolves in Ontario, that have been allowed to multiply and have decreased our deer alarmingly the last twenty years and will continue to do so until they are controlled by man.

The same could apply to our field mice or rabbits in our young orchards. If man goes and kills them, you, according to some men's arguments, would be interfering with nature. I say this is nonsense, go and kill them and save your orchard that it may bear fruit for the rising generations.

The same argument, re interfering with nature, applies when you kill the typhoid fly. God created it, but he created man to control it. So I say, as far as this argument is concerned, it is up to men to control the hawks. Why bless your life, He has even given us power to control Niagara Falls.

It is true the Sparrow Hawk's chief living in the Fall of the year is crickets and grasshoppers and I might say he is a good little mouse catcher, but years ago when I raised pheasants and quail in captivity, the first two or three weeks of these baby game birds' life, the Sparrow Hawk was one of my worst enemies. In fact one Sparrow Hawk carried away ten little baby pheasants in three hours.

Yes, a great deal is said about the mouse-destroying ability of the hawks and owls and, in reply to this, the little weasel is the biggest mouse destroyer we have in America, yet I knew one weasel to kill and carry away thirty-three baby pheasants in one night and pile them up under mullein leaves, etc. Next to the weasel there is nothing to equal the house cat, for both the weasel and the house cat are natural mouse killers, but the quicker they are buried side by side the better for the song, insectivorous and game birds; but remember, the hawks are natural bird killers. (To be continued)

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 unlanded \$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, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and own-er'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.

Superior, and the second half by canoe paddled or tugged over an innumerable chain of lakes. A railway had at that time been proposed across the country from upper Ottawa to the Red River, but had not yet materialized. Our author was in search of something out of the way in locomotion and seems to have struck it.

Lake Superior, to his eye, corresponds least to the ordinary conception of a lake. "Day after day you can sail in the same direction over its deep crystal waters without seeing land. It breeds rains, storms, and fogs like the sea. It is as cold in an American midsummer as the Atlantic."

As he passed Silver Islet he notes the richness of a wonderful vein of silver there: in 1871 thirty men took out of the mine (or hole, as he calls it) just \$1,200,000! At Prince Arthur's Landing he meditates on the persistent loyalty of the Canadians which comes to the surface in the number of Victorias, Prince Alberts, and other Royal family names, "which promises a good crop of confusions and annoyances in postal matters in the future." That loyalty is scarcely yet outworn, though Canada is now more conscious of her own nationality.

Prince Arthur's Landing, Thunder Bay, is the beginning of the canoe journey. "Our canoes were four or five fathoms long, and though fragile each carried nine or ten men—six of them crew—

and three or four hundred pounds weight of luggage." The crews were chiefly Iroquois Indians, who possessed all the virtues attributed to the noble red man in Fenimore Cooper's stories. "We could readily understand how it is that an Englishman travelling for weeks together with an Indian guide invariably contracts a personal feeling amounting to friendship for him. His patience, endurance and dignity, his fertility of resource, and self-forgetfulness are alike admirable and can hardly fail to evoke friendship." But remember this was sixty years ago! We have at least two Portage Roads on the island, and the description of what happened at a portage ought to interest us. When the end of a lake was reached, the canoe was emptied in a tree, turned up, examined, and if necessary caulked, with resin from the red pine, which was always at hand in an iron pot. Two Indians would then shoulder the canoe and set off at a steady trot to the next lake. The others would hoist on their backs "as heavy a load as a Constantinople porter is said to carry" and holding it in position by a strap passed across their foreheads, would follow at the same pace.

The advantage of the "portage strap" was that it left the voyager the free use of his arms in going through the woods.

The travellers had now reached Rainy River, which for ninety miles of its length formed the boundary line between Canada and the United States. "The soil along its banks is exceedingly fertile, and I saw no more desirable place anywhere for a large settlement. Every essential is in abundance; good wood, water, and soil; and the Indian title now extinguished." And at that time, he adds, "there is not a single settler on the river as far as I know."

The first glimpse of the prairies roused great enthusiasm among the botanists of the party. "A boundless sea of green sprinkled with white, yellow, lilac, and red, extended all around. In the hollows the grass was from three to four feet high; on the level prairie from six inches to a foot." "The orders best represented in the flora were the Leguminosae, Campanulaceae, Rosaceae, and Compositae, the last especially, which is everywhere the characteristic order of the American flora."

Our author had now reached the eastern boundary of "Manitobah, the latest born of the sisterhood now included in the dominion of Canada, and our first glance at her rich soil was reassuring. The Great West was a reality!"

A drive of thirty miles over the prairies brought the party to the Red River, "a broad, deep, muddy-colored stream;" and crossing this on a scow they drove through the village of Winnipeg to Fort Garry. Here the author makes the acquaintance of the Ojibway Indians, who do not measure up to the standard of the Iroquois: "They are dirty in person and habits, unclean livers, cowardly, and even as compared with their brethren to the east, west, or south, low in the scale of civilization."

The Winnipeg depicted is equally squalid. The houses were small, ir-

regular, and frail in themselves, but "looking doubly mean and contemptible compared with the wide level prairie on which they seemed to have dropped promiscuously and which they disfigured horribly, straggled together into something like rows and streets; knots of loafers about the doors or bars—the latter chiefly—of numerous "saloons;" a semi-drunken Indian, dirty, tattered blanket hanging loose about him, running excitedly from the village chased by imaginary foes;—such was our first picture or impression of the capital of Manitoba."

But this does not discourage him: he has seen the growth of Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota to their present (1872) population and wealth, and as farmer after farmer, from Ontario or the South after a long and tedious march with his cattle and household goods, pitches his tent outside the "village," he concludes "tomorrow or next day he will hitch up and move off to his quarter section. And in ten or twenty years, Winnipeg, just through the labors of such men on their farms, will be a very different place from the ragged, unattractive village of shanties and saloons of 1872." And here we shall leave him for the present.

THE BIRDHOUSE CONTEST

Just a note to remind contestants that all "certificates of occupancy" and observational notes must be in to The Guardian Office by Saturday Sept 2nd. Address: "Agricola, Offices of The Charlottetown Guardian, City." Give name, address, lot, and County.

"A CATCHFLY"

We have two plants—weeds—on the island which so resemble each other, as to give some trouble to the amateur botanist. They are the white Campion (Lychnis alba Mill.) and the Night-flowering Catchfly (Silene noctiflora L.). All the scientific books stress their likeness, the flowers white, and the leaves more or less lanceolate. But the points to remember are that the Campion has five styles while the Catchfly has but three; and the fruit capsule of the Campion has 10 teeth at the top, instead of 6, as in the capsule of the Catchfly.

However what took my attention when I found the Catchfly springing in an old strawberry bed, was the viscosity of the plant. The clammy feeling made one readily understand why the plant was named Silene, from a word meaning saliva or spittle. Under a lens the whole plant, and particularly the stem, is seen to be densely covered with soft, spreading hairs, some of which are long and pointed, and some short and headed like a pin. It is these latter glandular hairs which secrete the viscid fluid.

A small piece of the plant examined, had caught, as if with "anglefoot," five small staphylinid beetles, about two millimeters long; two small psylla-like insects, and three small two-winged flies. Some were still alive and feebly trying to make progress, but the hairs impeded their movement and they were doomed to die of exhaustion and hunger.

Of what use to the plant is this ability to capture insects? A number of "insectivorous" plants show a director gain to the captor in the absorption of the insects' juices, traces of which may be seen in the neighboring cells. Moreover, such plants, as Darwin showed, produced more and better seed, when they were supplied with flies, than those who were not so fed. There is another indirect way in which such capture may benefit the race: the dead insects may form manure for the seedlings of such plants as have little means of

MARKETING THE LAMBS

(Experimental Farms Note)

A study of the trend of market prices of lambs for the year 1932 reveals that these declined gradually with the advance of the season. In June 1932, lambs were selling at \$10 per hundred, in August \$6.50, and in November \$4.50. Although on a higher scale, his year's prices so far show the same trend.

In order to realize greater returns lambs should be marketed as early as possible provided they have the proper finish. In the early season, lambs are generally lighter, but if they are fat and blocky, the price obtained more than makes up for the difference in weight and thus greater profit is realized.

From the Central Experimental Farm for the last three years during the months of July, August, September, October and November, a

dispersal. To determine to which of these classes the Catchfly belongs, would require more skilful and laborious research than the writer is able to give.

INTERESTING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Robt W. Tufts, the Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Maritime Provinces, has kindly consented to give a series of informal talks on Bird Life to the children of our rural schools. Mr. Tufts is a noted authority on our native birds, and a rare treat is in store for those who have the opportunity of hearing him. The project, I understand, is countenanced by the Department of Education, who are to be commended for their interest. Mr. Tufts will visit the Province from Sept 6th to 8th inclusive, and teachers who wish to have him attend their school are requested to apply at once to "Agricola" care of the Charlottetown Guardian, giving name of school, lot and county, to facilitate the drawing up of a programme. At any central points where electric light is available, Mr. Tufts is prepared to show lantern slides and motion pictures, in evening lectures. Perhaps the Women's Institutes would arrange this part of the tour. As September is rapidly nearing, teachers and others interested are urged to be prompt.

group of lambs has been sent to the market in order to ascertain which would bring the greater profit. Invariably the early marketed groups brought the greatest return in spite of a slightly lighter weight. Every farmer should, therefore, endeavour to grow and fatten his lambs as rapidly as possible. To do so, healthy lambs and good feed are necessary. Worm infested lambs, however, well fed, will not make satisfactory gains. On the other hand, healthy lambs on scanty or unsuitable pasture may grow, but will not come to the proper finish that the market demands.

Treat your lambs for worms. Give them a clean fresh pasture such as second growth alfalfa or clover, green oats or rape. They will eat it with relish. A little grain will prove economical, if the pasture is not sufficient. Oats and bran, or oats alone, are excellent feed.

Above all remember that the fat, blocky, properly finished lamb will bring the highest price. P. E. Sylvestre, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ont.

AN IMPROVEMENT

All changes are not improvements, says the proverb, but on taking a run down the Winsloe Road recently, I found both combined in very agreeable form. It would appear that a favorite motor run is up the Brackley Point Road from the City, along the Portage Road, and down one of the other roads back to the City. That gives a short afternoon run, and a friend tells me that he has counted over fifty cars passing in the course of the Sunday afternoon (not this year though!) They used to steer clear of the Winsloe Road, because at the north end where it joined the Portage Road, it was a mere cow track with bushes to the centre of the road, and had been so for years; and as there were two right-angled turns within a hundred yards of each other, it was a kind of trap for motorists. Now all that is altered. There is a fine level road from fence to fence with a good drain on each side. Here is an instance, politics aside, where every one concerned in this piece of work deserves the thanks of the travelling public.

The motor car was not contemplated at that double right-angle above mentioned, was sanctioned.

Service Suggestions For Purina Fox Chow Users

PURINA FOX CHOW USERS

With prospects for much higher pelt 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 Checker, 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 pelting 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 pelting time. If your feed cost is 2c a day, it will cost \$2.40 to feed each pup to pelting. 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 \$3.00 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 TO 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 price of Purina Fox Chow is lower now than at this time last year, while pelt 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 pelting time and be protected at today's prices.

Purina Mills
Woodstock Toronto



IMPERIAL COD OIL AND DOG BISCUIT

Their Choice
A BALANCED RATION

IMPERIALS

Imperial Products—IMPERIAL FOX BISCUITS and IMPERIAL PUPPY FOOD—enjoy a long and enviable record for highest-class results in fox and fur raising.

Ranchers find them always dependable and most economical. Numerous patrons inform us they are unsurpassed for food value. "IMPERIALS" fed liberally and regularly ensure success.

Imperial Biscuit Company Ltd.
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

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