



(By Thornton W. Burgess)

Each has his own peculiar needs and this determines how he feeds—Old Mother Nature

"What are you feeding those babies?" asked Welcome Robin of little Mrs. Hummer, the hummingbird. Quite by chance he had alighted beside her nest on a limb of a maple tree. Now he was shocked as he watched Yes, sir,

Welcome Robin was shocked. It looked to him as if Mrs. Hummer was trying to push her long needle-like bill right down through those babies. The funny part was the babies didn't seem to mind. No, sir, they didn't seem to mind at all. It was clear they liked what they were getting. "It is no business of yours what I am feeding them," squeaked



"I'm feeding them spiders," squeaked Mrs. Hummer

little Mrs. Hummer. She was a little out of sorts. She didn't like being questioned. She didn't like being watched. What is more, she didn't like having her dainty little home found even though she knew that Welcome Robin would do it no harm.

"I have heard that you live on sweets found in the hearts of flowers. I suppose that is what you are feeding the babies," said Welcome Robin.

"You may suppose what you please," squeaked little Mrs. Hummer. "However, I'll have you to know that we hummingbirds eat a lot of things besides sweets from flowers. I'm not feeding these babies of mine sweets now. Sweets are all right, but there is such a thing as too many sweets."

"Then what are you feeding them?" cried Welcome Robin. "It is still no business of yours but I'll tell you, I'm feeding them spiders," squeaked Mrs. Hummer. "Spiders!" cried Welcome Robin. "Don't tell me you are feeding those helpless mites spiders."

"I am," retorted little Mrs. Hummer. "And why shouldn't I? What are teeny weeny spiders for if not to be eaten?"

Welcome Robin paid no attention to that question. Long ago he learned that it was smart to seem not to hear questions that you cannot answer. "Are spiders and sweets the only things you hummingbirds eat?" he wanted to know.

"Don't ask foolish questions. Are those long wiggly worms that you pull out of the ground the only things you eat?" retorted Mrs. Hummer.

Welcome Robin said nothing. He continued to watch Mrs. Hummer push her long bill down the throats of the two babies. For the first time he noticed that the tiny bills of those tiny birds were not like the bill of their mother. They were quite short. That seemed queer. He mentioned the matter.

"If their bills were long like mine, how in the world would I be able to push my bill down their throats?" she demanded. "Their bills will grow long when it is time for them to get their own food," she added.

She had said she was feeding spiders to the babies, tiny spiders. Though his eyes are keen Welcome Robin hadn't seen a single spider. There was a very good reason. Mrs. Hummer had swallowed those little spiders some time before and they were partly digested. Thus they formed a sort of special food and this she pumped up out of her own throat into the babies. She was feeding them by what is called regurgitation.

Of course that is a big word, but all you have to remember is that it means feeding the babies with food that has been prepared in mother's throat. She pumps it up from her throat into the throats of the babies. Aren't you glad you didn't have to be fed that way when you were a baby?

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

THE ART OF SELF-PROTECTION

North-South did well to reach the game contract in today's deal, but the declarer "left himself open" in the play.

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠	10 6	♣	3
♥	8 3	♦	Q J 10 7
♠	K 7 5 4 3	♣	J 8 6 2
♥	A J 9 8	♦	6 5 4 3
♠	A 7 2	♣	Q J 10 7
♥	A K 9 8	♦	J 8 6 2
♠	4	♣	6 5 4 3
♥	10	♦	6 5 4 3
♠	K 10 7 2	♣	K Q J 9 8 5 4
♥	6 2	♦	A Q 9
♠	Q	♣	Q

The bidding: West 1♥ Pass East 2♥ 3♣ Pass North Pass South Pass

If South had merely overcalled two hearts with two spades, as so many players would do, he probably would not have reached the game contract. Since North would not have been able to raise, of course, in view of the outcome, South would have been better off by not reaching game, but that was only because he did not conduct the play skillfully.

West opened the heart king, and East signalled with the queen. Thereupon, West quickly shifted to the ten of diamonds — he had found a probable way of putting East on lead.

South took the diamond trick by playing the queen of clubs, hoping that West had the king and would cover. But when West declined to sacrifice his king, South went astray. He was sure that West's diamond ten had been a singleton and that a ruff was impending, but the only way he could see to ward off this ruff was to let the club queen ride and hope for a quick entry to dummy via the ten of trumps. This hope was dashed, however, by the alert West player. On declarer's lead of a low trump, West went right up with the ace and undered his heart ace. East, in with the heart ten, had no problem — he returned a diamond and West's ruff was the setting trick.

Since South realized that the club king had to be on side if he was to fulfill the contract, he should have proceeded somewhat differently. The right (and winning) play was to overtake the club queen with the ace, then to lead the club jack and discard the heart from his own hand. This would effectively break communication between West and East players, and shut out the diamond ruff which was so menacing.

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