

**BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND**

BY WINIFRED E. WILSON



**DEFENDING YOUNG**

Even under the greatest stress, desertion by parents in Birdland is most unusual. They may employ various methods to gain their objective, but all species are unanimous in desiring to guard their young. When somebody imagines he discovered a tame bird because it allowed him to stroke its head as it sat on the nest, he actually terrified a mother, that stayed quiet in order that her babies might not be hurt by the big hand. Another time she may be found in the same position because she is acting as an umbrella, to keep a blistering sun from the nestlings. Whether it be a tiny Hummingbird or a Great Blue Heron the instinct is to protect the offspring.

A Screech Owl nesting in a suburban district of a large Canadian city was so angered when her baby was shot, that for many days she dived bombed anybody passing her way. Flying just overhead again and again, rattling in a most menacing manner, a Tern tries to scare off an intruder. Kingbirds are noted for their boldness in attacking any enemy, large or small. Both parents follow a meddlesome Crow for a mile or more, pecking at its head and back from above, while the big bully retreats shrieking.

The shy and inconspicuous Slate-colored Junco, a member of the Sparrow clan, can outwit many a human being. Half flying, half scurrying over the ground, it leads the foe away from the young birds. A Killdeer's antics are positively spectacular on the approach of expected danger. Giving the "dee-dee" call, and pretending injury, it hobbles away, dragging a wing as though it had been broken, trusting thus to draw attention away from the little Killdeers. In order to deceive a supposed enemy, a Coot puts on an act in much the same way.

When all tricks prove of no avail, a bird parent is intensely distressed. One photographer was able to get within nine feet of a baby Gannet. But on arrival with a fish, the mother was so much alarmed at seeing a stranger that she promptly regurgitated the baby's dinner.

In anticipation of danger, before going away from home, some birds cover their eggs. For this purpose Grouse use leaves, Ducks pluck down from their own breasts, Grebes prefer wet grass, and Sora Rails take any of the surrounding vegetation.

Among the most devoted parents are Chimney Swifts. One bird watcher saw a mother Swift enter the chimney of a house that was actually on fire, choosing to be burned rather than desert her babies.

Why are mothers demure?

**The Unlatched Door**

By Frank Price

**PART II**

The man's back was towards Barbara, but Nancy's face was in full view. It showed fear, repugnance and a wild distress as she spoke rapidly in response to some remark he had made. There was a hurried interchange of words between them. All at once Nancy's terror seemed to give way to some other feeling; she drew herself up and said something which, to her watching friend, seemed like an order of dismissal. Barbara saw the heavy shoulders above the wide back which was towards her raised in a shrug. Borden evidently spoke again, and his movements made it clear that he had taken something from the inside pocket of his coat. He held out his hand with a small, white object between the fingers.

He was offering a card. Nancy drew back and Barbara guessed that she was refusing to take it. He shrugged his shoulders again and laid the oblong of pasteboard on the table. Nancy glanced down at it with distaste, then her eyes wandered round the room again and suddenly terror was back in them. Her husband, skirting a group of people who had hidden him from sight, had appeared a few yards away and was hastening to her.

Barbara saw him at the same moment and noted the fierce frown which darkened his face. She saw Nancy snatch up the card and say something hurriedly to Roger Borden. He swung round and found himself face to face with Martin Winterton.

"There's going to be a quarrel! I must go to Nancy!" Barbara started forward.

"I'll come with you. If your Mr. Borden is looking for trouble I can give him more than he expects!" Barbara turned surprised eyes on Roy Hemersley. There had been a hard, threatening note in his voice.

and now his jaw was set and his whole body taut. Further speech was prevented by dancers who already filled the floor for another dance which the band had struck up. They had difficulty in threading their way through the crowd and when, at last, they came within earshot of the three in whom they were interested they were only in time to hear Roger Borden's parting words:

"All right, then! The pair of you'll get what's coming to you! You'll get a packet from me tomorrow morning. Mr. Winterton. See how you like it and see what your precious wife has to say when she knows what's in it!"

The last words were hurled at Nancy with a vicious snarl and, as they ended, Borden plunged in among the dancers and went barging across the floor and out through the main door without any regard for the havoc his passage caused to the clothes and tempers of the people with whom he collided.

Martin Winterton turned angrily to his wife.

"What does he mean by that?" he demanded harshly.

"I don't know! I—" White-faced and trembling, Nancy clung to the back of her chair. Barbara sprang to her side and put an arm round the drooping form.

"You can't ask her questions now or you'll have her fainting in public!" she said. "Help me to get her to the ladies' room and then wait till I've done what I can for her!"

As if suddenly aware of the notice which had been attracted to them by what had passed Martin conquered his desire for an immediate explanation and did as Barbara asked. They led Nancy from the room, Barbara noticing almost unconsciously that Roy Hemersley had already left her side and was making for the main exit with as much speed as, but far greater regard for the comfort of others than Roger Borden had shown a moment before.

They left Martin at the door of the ladies' room where he said he would wait, and went in. The woman in charge had smelling salts and sal volatile and offered to get brandy. Barbara ignored Nancy's refusal of the latter and sent the

woman out for a dose.

"It gets her away for a minute if it does nothing else," she said with a smile which she intended to be reassuring; "but she won't be long so we mustn't waste time. I don't know what has happened but if you've anything to say and there's anything I can do, tell me. I'm your pal, Nancy!"

"It's no good!" Nancy broke down and sobbed. "Nobody can do anything if he keeps his word. You heard what he said as he was going."

"Do you mean about the packet in the morning?"

"Yes." The word was barely audible.

"A packet for Martin that concerns you? Nancy! It can't be letters! There was never anything between you and Mr. Borden! That's impossible!"

"It's the truth! Of course you are surprised. You never thought of him in that way, seeing him only as a stodgy, middle-aged old fogey who had no taste for romance. I thought so, too, until he deceived me. Then — oh, you would not understand but — he made me think of him differently!"

"And now he has made you think again?"

"Yes. It is going to send my letters to Martin!"

"But why? What good could it do him? What satisfaction can it give him? Surely he would not do it!"

"He will! He will!" Nancy's voice rose hysterically. "He is angry with Martin. He wanted something from him — something to do with the bank, but Martin refused it. Not because of me — he knew nothing of that until just now; but he had heard reports to Roger's discredit and told him so. They seem to have had a scene at the bank two days ago. Tonight Roger tried to force me to appeal to Martin on his behalf — that's why he came to speak to me — but I refused. I could do nothing else. Martin tells me nothing about business and would have been annoyed if I tried to interfere in it. When I told Roger that, he insisted and threatened to tell

**Lewis Offers Loan To Striking Steelworkers**

By Norman Walker  
WASHINGTON, June 22 — (AP) — John L. Lewis offered to lend \$10,000,000 to the striking C.I.O. steelworkers Wednesday, and roundly denounced Senator Robert Taft (Rep. Ohio) and others advocating use of the Taft-Hartley Act to halt the strike.

The Taft-Hartley law provides for an 80-day no-strike period enforced by a court injunction. The steelworkers are on strike because steel management refuses to accept in full a 26 1-2-cent hourly increase and the union shop recommended by the Wage Stabilization Board.

Taking note of demands in congress and elsewhere for use of a Taft-Hartley Act injunction, Lewis said this would be "a heinous crime against American labor."

"It would be equivalent to the creation of a neo-Fascist movement in America, of which R. Alphonso Taft, with his jack boots and velvet pants, would be the willing tool and symbol," he said.

The United Mine Workers president made these remarks in a letter to Philip Murray, U. S. W. president. Lewis notified Murray he was placing the money at the steelworkers disposal, to be repaid "whenever you have achieved victory and convenience permits."

Lewis has made several gestures of financial aid for striking unions in the past, but seldom has any of the money changed hands.

Murray did not comment on Lewis' offer. Murray's union has a rich treasury of its own. The steelworkers do not pay any regular strike benefits. Local unions arrange to take care of what they deem to be hardship cases.

The steel strike was drifting along in its 17th day Wednesday. The

pinch of shortening steel supplies was beginning to be felt in some defence manufacturing and in the auto-making industry, but generally speaking such production was continuing.

CLYDE RIVER W.I.

The regular meeting of the Clyde River Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Daniel MacNeill on June 16th.

Mrs. Watson Livingston presided. Meeting opened by singing the Institute's Ode followed by the "Collect" repeated in union.

Ten members answered the roll call by showing their first picture. Next roll call is to be answered by "The first thing you remember of your school days."

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed. The following bills were presented and ordered paid, dues for District Convention \$50, school \$2.65, donations to Red Shield drive amounted to \$28. It was decided to buy ice-cream for the school closing.

An ice cream social is to be held in July, the proceeds being for the Community Hall. All the members of the district are invited to join this project.

Delegates to attend the annual convention were Mrs. W. A. MacLean and Mrs. John MacNeill with Mrs. Daniel MacNeill and Mrs. Eric MacPhail as alternatives. Collection for evening amounted to \$1.95.

Mrs. John Beer kindly invited the members to her home for the July meeting. The lunch committee will be Mrs. John Beer, Mrs. Watson Livingston, Mrs. Reginald MacKinnon and Mrs. Geo. Dixon.

Meeting closed by singing the National Anthem. Lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge. A social hour was spent looking over the pictures and guessing who was who.

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**Trouble for you**

Over 60,000 Canadian workers now on strike—More likely to hit the bricks soon—Read this Post report on what is happening to the price and supply outlook.

**Other Highlights This Issue**

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