

The Naturalist's Column



By Frazer G. Poole

Oddities of the Bird World

Nature's truths are often hard to believe and those found in the realm of birds are no exception. You need look no further than the crimson blossoms of the trumpet vine outside your door in order to see one of its many oddities. Here, on any bright summer day, you may see the brilliant flash of ruby and the whirl of wings of the hummingbird that drinks the nectar of your flowers. Watch them closely, see them hang hovering before some flower, push forward to drink the wine offered them, and then, with the swiftness of an arrow, back-up and fly to the next blossom. Odd—yes, for the hummingbird is the only bird known to man who possesses the ability to fly backward.

Now we jump to the tropical forests of South America and visit the home of the Toucan. Here we find the female bird sitting on her eggs, which are laid in the hollow of some large tree. Odd—yes, for she cannot get out. Her mate has sealed the opening with clay and, except for a small hole, she is completely imprisoned. Through this hole she is fed by the male and only when the eggs are hatched does he chisel away the clay and allow her and her young their freedom.

Every year thousands upon thousands of Chimney Swifts mass together in Georgia and Florida and then head southward; to be seen no more by civilized man until they return to us in the spring. There have been, however, a few records of occurrence, during migrations, in Cuba and Central America. After that they disappear and no man knows where they go. Probably they spend their

Woman Mayors



NEW YORK . . . Mrs. Alicia C. de Errazuriz (above), is the only woman city official in South America. She is mayoress of Providencia, Chile, the most exclusive residential city in that country. She is here on a visit.

time in the great rain-forest area of the Amazon valley in Brazil, but no one has ever seen them. Odd—yes, that such a vast number of birds should disappear so completely.

In Australia and the East Indies there lives a class of birds somewhat closely allied to our chicken. To the scientist they are known as the Megapodes (great feet) to the inhabitants and natives as brush, turkeys or mound builders. Odd—yes, for these birds use their large feet to dig holes in the sand or some decaying matter and there deposit their eggs. The parents, after the eggs are laid, have nothing to do with them and the young scratch their way up through the sand or debris in order to reach the surface.

Returning to our own continent for our next example we remember the Water Ouzel of the western states. Odd—yes, because this bird often feeds under water. Reputable authorities have seen them feeding on the bottom of streams more than five feet deep. They seem to love water, for often their nests are found hidden on the damp rocks behind waterfalls and cataracts.

So we could go on—nature's oddities are never ending. Always we can see and learn something new and different.

SHIFT OF EMPHASIS

The preacher's small son was being quizzed by an elderly visitor one day.

"Does your father ever preach the same sermon twice?" he was asked.

"Sure he does," the small boy replied, "but he hollers in different places."

"Boys Are Slow" Says Miss Fowler

By Leonie Fowler

Campus Problems I

Are the boys bashful, backward, selfish, or haven't they been around much? After years and years of struggle, Catawba College has at last succeeded in establishing dancing as another social activity. And what a response! There are over four hundred students in school, half of them girls, and yet there are probably not over fifty who do not dance. Yet how many show up for a dance? Whose fault is it? The boys! There are practically two girls for every boy and one of the two should surely be sufficiently appealing to escort to a dance. But, no, the male must come alone, if he comes. If it's bashfulness—remember the gal wants to go (and you should be over bashfulness by now). If it's backwardness—read Emily Post! If it's selfishness (meaning, of course, that the boy doesn't want to be responsible for anyone but himself)—take a tip, girls still prefer protection.

Dancing has been left up to the students. If we want it, we must support it, and that means the boys have got to break down, ask a girl, and go. Many of the boys won't go because they can't take the Belle of the Ball. If you would look around you might find some very good prospects for the Belle-to-be.

There have been quite a few complaints about "these Southern break dances" coming from Northern boys. Judging from this, we would expect all of them to have dates. But, no, at the last dance, two-fifths of the stags were Northern boys.

We must admit, however, that the poorest co-operation comes from our Southern Beau Brummels. If a few of them were not going with a girl regularly, they might all come stag.

You males now know your shortcomings. If the girls have any where dancing is concerned, let us have a little retaliation. We want dancing in the school; we think the dances are swell. If it is up to us in any way, let us have it, and we will meet you three-fourths of the way.

WANTED NEW TEETH

Little Mary Ellen was suffering from toothache and her father, hoping to cheer her up, asked: "What would you like me to give you for your birthday next week?" "You might give me some teeth like mamma's so I can take them out when they ache," answered the child.

Republican New York Sun Calls Digest Poll Misleading

For months unbiased observers have been pointing out the unfairness of the *Literary Digest* Presidential Poll of 1936, primarily because its sample ballots were mailed out to persons having telephones and automobiles listed in their own names. Women, first voters and individuals on relief were not included but in many instances the members of exclusive clubs were circularized.

Now the arch Republican New York Sun, one of the most violent anti-Roosevelt Old Guard newspapers, has solemnly "cautioned" its readers to "disregard the *Digest* poll." In a leading editorial labeled "Imperfect Samples," the Sun says:

"The fourth weekly instalment of the *Literary Digest's* poll covers 503,000 voters from 21 states and gives Gov. Landon 13 of them and a 3 to 2 lead over President Roosevelt. Republicans should not be misled by these figures, however, for an examination of the detailed figures indicates clearly that the sampling so far is unrepresented.

"The returns from New York State, for example, include votes from 53,905 persons who voted the Republican ticket in 1932 and only 28,605 who voted the Democratic ticket. The vote for Roosevelt in New York in 1932 was 2,534,000 and for Hoover 1,937,000. The sample represents less than three per cent of the 1932 vote and that small percent-

Wellesley President



WELLESLEY, Mass. . . . Miss Mildred H. McAfee (above), is the new president of Wellesley College here. She was introduced, officially, to the faculty and student body by Dean Mary L. Coolidge.

age not in the proper mixture.

"Similar discrepancies can be found in other states represented in the *Digest* poll. Indiana went Democratic four years ago by approximately 9 to 7, but the *Digest* poll so far has produced ballots from 22,700 Republican voters of 1932 and only 18,000 Democratic voters of that year. California was Democratic by more than 470,000 votes in 1932, but the Republican voters of 1932 represented in the straw vote equal the Democratic voters of 1932. These examples are enough to indicate

why tendencies in the poll are more significant than totals."

In polite language, the Sun indicates its belief that the *Digest* effort is a little less than unwelcome. It states in its lengthy analysis that decidedly too many who are listed as having supported Roosevelt in 1932 are recorded as favoring Landon this year. To the Sun, with its intimate relationship with the Old Guard headquarters, this "tendency" is all but disgusting, as is also another to make it appear that Lemke "will win three times as many Republican votes as Democratic votes in Republican states." To the Sun this seems little short of absurd.

The same editorial treats disparagingly still another sampling which the Republican high command and its columnists have been

praising very highly and frequently. Of it the Sun says: "The so-called grass roots straw vote has brought in almost 670,000 votes of which Landon received 58.3 per cent, or almost exactly the same proportion as in the *Literary Digest* poll." To the Sun this seems a remarkable coincidence, as it had seemed previously to less biased observers.

NOT WORTH IT

Lawyer to colored client: "Well, Hank, I can probably get you a divorce, but it will cost you \$50." Hank: "Fifty dollars, boss?" Lawyer: "Yes, that includes court fees and other expenses."

Hank: "Well, boss, I guess I don't want no divorce. There ain't \$50 difference between dem two wimmen."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, Etc., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

OF THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN, published weekly at Salisbury, North Carolina, for October, 1936 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROWAN, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared E. W. G. Huffman, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of The Carolina Watchman and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement.

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: The Carolina Watchman Publishing Company, publisher; E. W. G. Huffman, Editor and Business Manager, of Salisbury, N. C.

2. That the owners are: The Carolina Watchman Publishing Company, Salisbury, North Carolina.

3. That the known bondholder, mortgagee, and other security holder owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities is: E. W. G. Huffman, Salisbury, N. C. E. W. G. Huffman, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of October, 1936. Ira R. Swicegood, Notary Public.

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Pioneer Contract Awarded Watchman

(From The Pioneer)

The printing contract of the Pioneer has again been awarded to The Carolina Watchman. This company printed the paper last year, and has done so for many years in the past. One of the best printing companies in the South, The Watchman has always given the greatest satisfaction to Catawba by its work on the Pioneer.

Co-operation, personal interest, and good judgment are the traits exemplified by the company in its work with the members of the Pioneer staff. Particularly well done has been the work of Mr. Leach, who has had special charge of printing the paper for a number of years. Consequently, the staff members feel the Pioneer to be in competent and trustworthy hands this year. It is expected that everyone will be satisfied with the printing of the publication for the coming term.