

Today and Tomorrow

By Frank Parker Stockbridge

BIRDS a study

Of all of the forms of animal life which I see around my country home, birds always interest me most. There is something fascinating in the facility with which they do what humans can do only with the aid of costly machines—that is to fly. And even the best airplane ever built can't light on the limb of a tree!

The trees around my house are populated by a great variety of birds, varying according to season. Just now the blue-jays are the principal tenants. They are not only beautiful to look at, but alone among the birds I know they seem to have a sense of humor. At least, they always seem to be laughing, as if at a good joke.

I have a friend, Dr. Casey Wood, a famous oculist now retired from practice, whose hobby is the study of bird vision. He tells me the blue-jay has keener sight than any other American bird except hawks.

HAWKS and owls

Wild-life experts are saying now that farmers make a mistake when they shoot hawks. The occasional chicken which a hawk may snatch when there is no other food in sight is small pay for his services in keeping down the field mice and other pests which fatten on crops.

The popular notion that owls are especially wise birds is also false, according to Col. H. P. Sheldon of the U. S. Biological Survey. Owls are actually rather stupid, he says. They sit still and say nothing because they don't know enough to do anything else. "The owl is a fool, and you can quote me as saying so," says Col. Sheldon.

I don't imagine that owls are any more foolish than most other birds, however, in the presence of unfamiliar surroundings. A swallow flew in the open window of my bedroom not long ago and didn't have sense enough to go out the same way. He broke his neck trying to fly through the glass of a closed window.

PESTS two named

There are two kinds of birds I don't like—nor does anyone else, that I know of. They are the English sparrows and the starlings.

also an importation from England. Unlike most of our American birds, neither starlings nor English sparrows migrate in winter, and perhaps because their ancestors have lived for a thousand generations in a densely populated country, they seem to like to stay close to houses.

If they were musical, that might not be so bad, but the only bird noise I know which is more annoying than the chattering of English sparrows is the loud, raucous squawking of a flock of starlings.

The worst thing about these imported birds, however, is not so much their noise as the fact that they drive our native birds away wherever they decide to congregate.

SWANS fresh water

If not the most beautiful of all birds, the swan comes pretty close to being the most graceful when afloat. On land a swan waddles like a duck, and I have never seen one in flight, but I like to watch them swimming.

One of my Pennsylvania neighbors has a swan farm at Yardley, where he not only raises swans but takes them to board in the winter.

A curious fact about swans is that they are such strictly fresh-water birds that even a few minutes of swimming in salt water makes them ill, and sometimes kills them. A theatrical producer who did not know that put on a show on a raft off Jones' Beach on Long Island last summer. He borrowed or rented a number of swans, for scenic effect, including some of the rare and valuable black swans. He had to pay the owner from \$50 to \$200 each for the dead and disabled swans which he had tethered to the raft out in the ocean.

SQUIRRELS winter

Next to the birds, the most friendly and interesting tenants of the trees around my house are the gray squirrels. They are fat and thick-furred just now, which some of my country friends say is a forecast of a hard, cold winter. I have been watching squirrels for a good many years, and it is my belief that their fur depends entirely on whether they get enough to eat or not.

Since moving from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania I have not seen any of our familiar New England red squirrels. I don't miss them much; they are noisy and quarrelsome. I do, however, miss the little striped ground squirrels, or chipmunks, who have to have stone-piles and sandy soil to live in, and which do not flourish in the smooth,

MEN OF MILLIONS BEHIND NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR



New York (Special)—The Board of Directors of the New York World's Fair Corporation, meeting at headquarters in the Empire State building, Manhattan, heard Grover Whalen, President, outline the progress being made toward the 1939 Fair as envisioned by a table model prepared by the Board of Design.

The directors' names form an imposing list. About the table, left to right, are: Louis W. Kaufmann, President, Chamber of Commerce of Staten Island; W. Franklyn Paris, United States Commissioner to the Paris Exposition; Bayard F. Pope, Chairman, Marine Midland Corporation; Matthew Woll, Vice President, American Federation of Labor; Timothy J. Sullivan, President of the Board of Aldermen of New York City; John R. Burton, President and Chairman, Na-

tional Bank of Far Rockaway; George McAnerly, President, Title Guarantee & Trust Company; Grover Whalen (standing); Frank J. Taylor, City Comptroller; Harvey D. Gibson, President, Manufacturers Trust Company; Mortimer N. Buckner, Chairman, New York Trust Company; James G. Blaine, President, Marine Midland Trust Company; Morgan J. O'Brien, of Conboy, Hewitt, O'Brien & Boardman; Cornelius F. Kelley, President, Anaconda Copper Mining Company; George A. Brownell, of Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Gardiner and Reed. Seated toward back-ground, left to right, are Fair officials: W. Earle Andrews, General Manager; Harold Thorne; Charles C. Green, Secretary; Commander Howard A. Fianigan, Administrative Assistant to the President.

Cotner To Describe Tobacco Course

The Tobacco Short Course, which will be held at State College January 18-22, is expected to attract hundreds of North Carolina growers to Raleigh.

Dr. J. B. Cotner, professor of plant breeding at the college, will give a full description of the course and its purposes and aims on the Carolina Farm Features radio program Saturday, December 12.

Farm leaders, knowing that to-

bacco is the State's leading cash crop, have stamped their approval on this short course which will instruct farmers in the growing of a better quality of leaf.

Specialists from the State College School of Agriculture, the Extension Service, and the Experiment Station will lead group discussions in all phases of tobacco growing and marketing, from the time the seed are set out in plant beds to the time the weed is sold on warehouse floors.

Those in charge of the course are confident that farmers will welcome such a meeting and that improvements in the crop will be seen

Care Needed In Handling Bees

Careless management of bees in winter often costs apiarists half the honey producing value of their colonies.

Colonies which barely manage to survive the winter are so weak they can produce only small quantities of honey in the spring and summer.

Successful wintering depends

largely on the condition of the colonies as they enter the winter, said C. L. Sams, State College extension apiarist.

The colonist should have good queens, a large number of bees, and abundant stores of honey.

If good queens are introduced to the colonies in time to start laying six to eight weeks before the first killing frost, and if the hives have plenty of honey, there will be a strong bee population at the start of the honey flow next spring, Sams continued.

When the honey is taken from the hives for the last time in the fall, care should be exercised not to take too much.

Single story colonies should have the combs three-fourths full of honey, and two-story colonies should have the food chambers filled completely.

In case the bees run short of their natural food, feed them a syrup made up of two parts granulated sugar to one part of water.

Each colony should be fed enough to bring the food stores up to 40 or 50 pounds, Sams pointed out.

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JOE GISH

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