

# Ingratitude to Birds

## Some Suggestions For Their Protection Before They Are Exterminated

By Louts Windmueller

**S**OME 10,000 specimens of birds have been created for man's benefit. Carrion would propagate disease without vultures and ravens; owls, buzzards and other hawks prey upon noxious rodents and venomous reptiles; but of all tribes the insectivores are the most numerous, their services the most valuable. Vermin would destroy the grain in the West, the cotton in the South and the fruit wherever it grows, if birds were not near to defend them until they ripen.

Aside from the debt of gratitude we owe for their usefulness, birds claim our affection by the charm of their presence, but we lay no obstacles in the way of divers enemies that persecute them. The fiercest of them all, the domestic cat, we permit in our garden and orchard to prowl and to make the artless bird his prey before he has time to fly. Instead of checking we countenance the enormous natural increase of cats until it is estimated that 5,000,000 of them annually kill some 20,000,000 birds. A license fee is exacted for keeping a watchful dog; why should not this rule apply, as it does in some places already, to the more dispensable cat? A German household must pay a small fee for the privilege of keeping a single cat.

Besides illiterate Italians, unrestrained American boys indulge in the mischievous pastime of maiming or killing flying birds with firearms or pea shooters, and in robbing nests of the eggs they find. Such practices are prohibited by municipal regulations in every city, but laws are disregarded in suburban districts where nobody is delegated to enforce them.

It is hard to realize how bad taste could have so hardened the hearts of some women as to make them deadly foes of the feathered tribes. Women who are bound to satisfy a cruel desire for the feathers that inexorable fashion demands allow whole species of birds to be exterminated. The herons of the South are killed while they breed in order to procure their handsome bridal plumage, and their young are left to die. These birds prey on crayfish, which by tunneling through the levees of Louisiana cause enormous damage. Millions of humming and paradise birds are satisfied to gratify female vanity. Unless checked, ruthless spoliation eventually will annihilate all tribes the plumage of which now gratify and please the friends of nature.

# Radium and the Age of the Sun

By Garrett P. Serviss

**M**NEW phase of the discussion aroused by the wonderful properties of radium has been opened by Professor George H. Darwin, best known as the son of the father of Darwinism, Charles Darwin, and as a mathematician of great ability, who invented the tidal theory of the birth of the moon from the earth.

Professor Darwin appeals to the newly discovered source of energy contained in atoms, and illustrated by the continual radiation given forth from radium and other substances, for a means of vastly prolonging the age and the future existence of the sun. Lord Kelvin many years ago calculated, upon the basis of the then known laws of matter and energy, that the sun could hardly have existed as a light-giving body more than 100,000,000 years, and upon similar grounds the future duration of the sun has been estimated at not more than 10,000,000, and possibly not more than 5,000,000 years.

This, to be sure, would be ample time for the ripening of all present human schemes, but it is a brief period in astronomical reckoning, and one hardly likes to think of the sun as going out so soon.

But now comes Professor Darwin with the very comforting assurance that the sun must be very much longer lived than we have hitherto supposed. Knowing, as we do, he says, that an atom of matter is capable of containing an enormous store of energy in itself, we have no right to assume that the sun cannot liberate atomic energy to a degree at least comparable with what it would do if made of radium. And with this new light upon the subject he sees no reason to doubt the possibility of augmenting the estimate of the duration of the solar heat to ten or twenty times its present calculated value.

According to this view, we may regard the sun as having existed for at least one or two thousand million years, and we count upon its continuing to illuminate and warm the earth for one or two hundred million years yet to come.

The new view will commend itself to geologists and evolutionists who have always protested against the brevity of the sun's existence as heretofore calculated, because it did not afford sufficient time for the development of the existing species of animals and plants upon the earth from the exceedingly simple forms in which life appeared at the beginning. Now, however, when geological time, thanks to the hint given by radium, may be reasonably stretched out from ten to twenty times the estimate of its former length, the situation is changed, and the theory of evolution gains just what is wanted.

# The Girl Who Marries For Money

By Nixola Greeley-Smith

**S**HE is not necessarily unhappy, though it is undoubtedly the fashion, to say so to hold up the young woman contemplating a commercial marriage the inevitable misery that must result from it.

It all depends. Some women are born to be wives, and others to look well at the head of the table.

Which does not mean that a good wife cannot be decorative nor that a decorative woman cannot be a good wife.

If a normal woman, a creature with a fine capacity for loving and being loved, marries for anything save the fulfillment of her best impulses, she is certainly making a mistake.

But suppose she is born without those impulses? Suppose the keenest joy she knows comes from dining at Sherry's or listening to the sliken rustle of her skirts moving through the corridors of the Waldorf-Astoria.

Should she marry the man who can make these occasional joys permanent? Why not?

In doing so she is not making a mistake, though perhaps he is. Even that, however, is doubtful.

For is he not looking for some one that will enable him to express the instincts for finery which plaid socks, red ties and a diamond scarfpin have left unsatisfied?

Does he not want some one to wear the diamonds with which, owing to the restrictions of the masculine toilet, he cannot adorn himself?

Look at the women in New York who wear most jewels—think of those you know.

Are they not all fine healthy bovine creatures averaging 150 pounds? Surely they do not look unhappy with their well-padded jaws resting placidly on the glittering pincushion beneath.

Perhaps one wonders in looking at them whether their exceeding plumpness is the cause or the result of the many sparkling jewels which adorn it, but one knows they are serenely pleased with themselves and the world.

Why should they not be? Perhaps John or James or Thomas does not seem to be as much in love as in the days when he bought that first magnificent two-carat solitaire.

What does that matter? The solitaire sparkles as of old. Perhaps he does not come home to dinner more than one evening in the week now. Is not the emerald and diamond tiara snugly reposing in its plush case?

Perhaps he takes a great many business trips and goes on many vacations alone.

The more the merrier! Does he not always bring her a new jewel on his return?

Was it not Emerson who said that the consciousness of being well-dressed outweighs all the consolations of religion?

And surely love is less important than religion.—New York World.

# AGRICULTURAL.

## Straight Ditches.

When draining the land, whether with tiles or ditches, better results will be obtained if the ditches or tiles are as straight as it is possible to have them. Every turn made in a drain assists in permitting an accumulation of solid matter, as well as impeding the flow of water to a certain extent.—Baltimore Sun.

## The Value of Subsoiling.

Farmers do not seem to favor subsoiling, even when it is given a trial. They claim that the soil does not recover for two or three years. It is urged in favor of subsoiling that the land improves every year, although it may have been subsoiled but once. In viewing the effects it should be in the light of improvement and not a recovery, as no injurious effects are noticed at any time. It is also claimed that if a narrow roller could follow the subsoil plow, so as to compact the soil after the subsoil plow has passed, the capacity to hold water would be greatly increased and the benefits of subsoiling be more immediate.

## The Use of Absorbents.

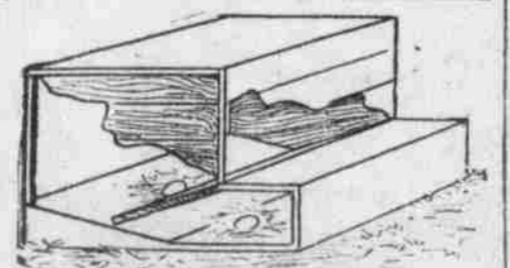
One of the best methods of keeping manure is to have a pit, with cement bottom and sides, and the solid portions kept wet by pumping on the heap from the drainings, for if the manure is kept damp there will be a great difference in its value. Experiments made show that a heap carefully managed and kept wet lost about thirteen per cent. of its nitrogen, while another heap, not kept wet, lost about twenty-four per cent. of its nitrogen. Manure, even when kept wet, will be more valuable if, in addition to the cut straw and stalks used as absorbents, the manure is first covered with dirt and marl, a layer of manure being followed by a layer of marl and then a layer of absorbents, the whole well trampled. The loss of nitrogen when such a plan has been tested did not exceed two per cent. Marl is perhaps the cheapest and best absorbent material, as it not only serves to prevent loss, but is clean, easily handled and costs but very little. It can be used both in the stalls and in the heap, and applied freely. It really enriches the manure as well as preserving it, for the reason that it contains plant food in an insoluble condition, which becomes available for plants when used with the solid and liquid manures.—Philadelphia Record.

## Classification of Food.

In feeding animals, the farmer, by his knowledge of the difference between flesh-forming foods and those that form fat, is enabled to so combine the different foods as to provide for all their wants. Knowing that the "albuminoids," or nitrogenous foods, produce muscle (lean meat) and milk, in order to allow for heat and fat he must "balance" the foods for the purpose of avoiding too much of the one kind and not enough of the other. On an average, the proportion of nitrogenous foods to the carbonaceous is as one to six, or rather, he should add six times as much of the carbonaceous as he does of the nitrogenous. The conditions, however, affect the proportions, for if an animal is highly exercised, as is the case with working horses in summer, the nitrogen may be increased and the carbon diminished; but if the weather is very cold the proportion of carbonaceous matter, on the contrary, should be increased. By a knowledge of the composition of different foods the farmer who feeds for milk will regulate the material allowed to his animals according to circumstances, and not without an object in view as is frequently the case. In fattening his animals he will use the fat-forming foods, allowing only so much nitrogenous matter as may be necessary for the existence of the animal.—Philadelphia Record.

## Prevention of Egg Eating.

The quickest cure for the habit of egg eating in fowls is decapitation for the table, but oftentimes a fowl is too valuable for this treatment, and it may be worth while to prepare a nest like the one shown in the illustration. The bottom of the nest is in



NEST TO PREVENT EATING EGGS.

two parts. The larger piece slants to the rear just enough to cause an egg to roll down it. A glass nest egg is made fast to the lower piece to induce the hen to lay on the bare nest. When the hen has laid the egg and turned around to peck it she is much astonished to see it roll out of sight.—Orange Judd Farmer.

## Farm Notes.

It is doing what needs to be done at the right time that makes good butter. With manure and clover the skillful

farmer needs to buy little fertility save in bran.

Fast driving makes stiff horses unless extra care is taken after each spurt of speed.

Dairy stock cannot be improved if a mixing of breeds is carelessly permitted to go on.

A bad disposition in an animal is generally the result of bad management and handling.

No animal, no matter how well bred, should be used for breeding unless it has individual merit.

Having the conditions right when the seed is sown is an important item in securing good germination.

The only way the grass crop can be cultivated is by preparing the soil in a fine tilth before sowing the seed.

The horses that are best able to stand hard drains are those which work steadily every day in the week.

The dirt and sweat which accumulate on a horse during the day should not be allowed to remain on over night.

A hog with a short nose, a thick head, short legs and plenty of heart and lung room is generally a quiet and good grower.

The average farmer finds it best to keep a variety of stock in order to use to the best advantage all of the products of the farm.

In making the best quality of butter it is essential that the cream should have a uniform consistency as well as uniform ripeness.

Ashes, salt and charcoal should be kept where the stock can help themselves. They assist digestion and sharpen the appetite.—Kansas Farmer.

## INDIANS' VENERATION FOR DEAD.

In Alaska They Select the Most Picturesque Spots For Burial Purposes.

"One of the distinctive features appealing to every traveler in Alaska," said F. J. Parke, special agent of the Interior Department, at the Republic, "is the veneration displayed by the Indians for their dead. The most picturesque spots imaginable are selected for their burial places, and as one travels along the mountain sides, or up the canons and valleys, the fantastic graven representation of animals, birds or fish indicate the fact that beauty spots have been taken for the burial places of the natives.

"I visited villages where the totem poles recounting the history of its population resembled a small shipyard. The amount of work done on these records is almost beyond comprehension, and, like the Egyptian hieroglyphics in ancient times graven upon marble and stone, the language of a totem pole tells the history of chieftains and tribesmen. Some of these features must disappear with the march of commercialism developing the Territory.

"The relic hunter, imbued with the spirit of vandalism, is no respecter of traditions, and many a rudely carved totem pole has been transplanted. Instead of standing like grim sentinels guarding the secrets of the frozen northland, and to the initiated telling the story of the life and death of the semi-barbarian whose deeds it commemorates, the chances are that it will decorate the private grounds of relic hunting tourists."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

## Preparing Advertising Copy.

A great many otherwise shrewd business men, says an exchange, buy expensive and valuable space and fill it with the most absurd rot imaginable, misnaming it advertising.

The preparation of copy requires individual thought and research in each particular case. Common sense is the first essential, and this is exercised by employing plain, straightforward statements.

An advertisement that will sell a patent medicine will not sell a silk dress; an advertisement that will sell goods in Washington will not always sell the same goods in Chicago. It stands to reason that a medicine advertisement is made more forcible and convincing by using a local testimonial than a foreign one.

The advertiser should always figure on spending a considerable amount to have his ideas worked out in neat, attractive and forcible shape. It is natural to assume that the judicious advertiser purchases publicity for profit, not for fame. Some advertisers figure on advertising as an expense in their business, instead of what it should be and can be—a paying investment.

## Fiction Made Fact.

A thief with a tendency toward humor, who did not have time to steal all the household furniture in the residence of R. H. Chalfant, 522 North West street, last evening, contented himself with carrying off a new Radiant Home stove, which warmed him on his way. The stove, fire and all, was lifted by the thief and his assistant out of the house and into a waiting wagon, which was driven away by the men, who kept the fire going as they drove off with the stolen property. Where the wagon the men and the stove went is a mystery which the police would like to solve, but up to the present time they have been unable to get on the right trail.—Indianapolis Journal.



In the schools of France one child in four of both sexes is a nail biter.

Scrap steel is now welded into a homogeneous mass by a new composition under pressure.

Not more than eleven per cent. of the deaths from heart disease occur at ages under forty-five.

The eyeball is white because its blood vessels are so small that they do not admit the red corpuscles.

Most of the prepared baby foods contain too much fat and develop the child's weight rather than its strength.

Refined coconut oil is being largely used in Hungary as a substitute for butter. Two and a quarter million pounds of it were imported last year.

A Glasgow museum is forming an important collection of railway material, intended to cover the period from the time when the Romans brought over the system of stone roads. Between sixty and seventy different exhibits will be included.

The eye of a young child is as transparent as water; that of the youth a little less so; in the man of thirty the eye begins to be slightly opaque, and in the man or seventy or eighty it is dull and lustreless. This gradual development of opacity is due to the increase of fibrous tissue and deposit of waste matter in the eye.

## Railroads in Cuba.

Nearly a year ago the Cuba railroad was opened, and since then trains have been running between Havana and Santiago three times a week, taking three days en route, and stopping for the night at Santa Clara and Puerto Principe. Trains are now running night and day, and making the trip in twenty-five hours. The Cuba Company has outfitted the line with fine sleeping cars, ballasted much of the roadbed already with rock, built steel bridges, and made a first-class railway throughout. It owns the sleepers and the telegraph, and is just completing a fine modern hotel in Puerto Principe, which is to be the company's headquarters. The fares established by this company are practically half what have prevailed in Cuba for years. The road is bound to be a financial success, says the Hartford Courant, as from the day it was opened its receipts covered all fixed charges and its business is steadily growing. Its importance from a social point of view is incalculable. By it the island is bound together as it never was before, and soon a line will be established between Florida and Jamaica, by way of the Cuba railway, so that there will be only two short night rides by water and all the rest of the trip will be overland between New York and Jamaica.

## In the Shah's Palace.

The palace of the Shah of Persia, according to Donald Stuart, in "The Struggle for Persia," is an appalling combination of dinginess and splendor, of squalor and luxury. One of the most interesting rooms is that filled with the portraits of all the monarchs of Europe. In the next room is his majesty's writing desk. Here stands a globe such as may be seen in a schoolroom, except that the continents are made with gems of different color, and all the names and rivers are in diamonds. On the walls a painting by an old master is framed next to a highly colored advertisement of a dealer in fishhooks. The throne itself is a sort of wooden bed, about nine feet by six, the woodwork covered with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires, some an inch long. The value of the whole is estimated roughly at \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000. On the floor of the throne is a carpet so thick with pearls that the texture of the cloth is hardly visible, while a huge vase, set with turquoises and pearls, stands side by side with a cheap painted urn, such as is sometimes seen at country fairs.

## High Finance.

The Herald learns of a piece of financing in Yazoo City that it thinks worthy of notice. Last March a gentleman gave a boy of tender years a silver dime to go into his savings bank. The mother decided that instead of placing the coin in the bank where it would draw annually three per cent., she would invest it in something salable and put the profits in the bank. This she did, and from the first investment she cleared forty cents. This was reinvested with like results, and on June 29 the first deposit of \$5 from the dime was made in the savings bank. August 3 another \$5 was deposited, and another on September 5 and October 1, making in all \$20 as the result of the investments made from the dime. The money is still at work, it being the desire of the mother to try and have \$50 when the year is up. This is what the Herald would call pretty good financing. Wonder if any one in the State can show better results from the investments of a dime in the same length of time?—Yazoo City (Miss.) Herald.