

# Do You Know?

Blanched *celery* is not as nutritious as green celery.

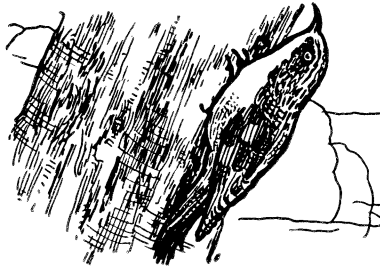
A full grown *ostrich* may weigh more than 300 pounds.

Greek *sponge* fishing is at a standstill largely because of mine-infested waters.

During the past year 72 *sheep*, mainly purebred Merinos, were brought to the United States from New Zealand for breeding purposes.

Toredos, better known as *shipworms*, each year damage much timber in wharves; they can be killed, it is now found, by shock from dynamite explosions in the water between the piles.

Surplus *potatoes*, fed raw to cattle or cut up with hay for ensilage, stimulate milk production and cut down the amount of grain needed; four pounds of potatoes are equal to about one pound of grain.



## Winter Birds

➤ **SUMMER BIRDS** have long since vanished from their northern homes; even late-flying geese and ducks are seen only as stragglers. The birds, we say, have gone south for the winter.

However, there are plenty of birds in the North who do not go south for the winter, but come south from regions of even higher latitude. We commonly speak of them as winter birds—chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, and so on. To them our snowy woods are as much a winter haven and feeding ground as the palmier woods in lands where snow rarely or never falls.

What do they find to eat, now that there are no insects flying or caterpillars crawling? Well, their rations are not abundant, but they do manage to get along by dint of unceasing industry and patient prying into all sorts of crannies. There are lots of eggs and chrysalises tucked away in crevices and under flakes of bark on trees, as well as hibernating adult insects and spiders. That explains the minute inspection to which one tree trunk after another is subjected by spin-

sterish little birds like the brown creeper. Woodpeckers, of course, can drill after the winter-stiff grubs which their still-unexplained X-ray senses detect in the sapwood of trees. And seed-eating species find plenty of weed and grass seed-heads sticking up through all but the deepest snow.

Among the winter migrants into the North from the Farther North some of the most interesting (and useful, too) are the owls. Great horned owls are fairly frequent, and once in a while a snowy owl turns up, even in the neighborhood of cities. These air cruisers of the dusk do us a real service, rarely appreciated by persons who "just don't like owls," in keeping the small-rodent population within bounds. The food of most owls is mainly mice, and they do their keenest hunting just when other winter hardships have the mouse population under greatest biological tension. Owls may look and sound misanthropic, but they are greater friends of man than many a more melodious bird family.

Winter-flying hawks, second cousins to owls, also deserve better of human hands than they usually receive. They, too, feed mainly on rodents, including rabbits, which might otherwise breed their numbers up to pest proportions. Hawks also migrate, but the summer population that leaves is replaced by a winter one that moves in, so that the flying patrol is maintained the year round.

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*Sharks' livers*, which furnish three-fourths of the American supply of vitamin A, vary greatly in vitamin potency even within a single species.

Beets, carrots, parsnip, cabbage and other hardy *crops* should be left in the garden as long as possible in the fall; they will stand repeated light frosts without injury.

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