

• New Machines and Gadgets •

D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 846. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription. For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6,

✿ **CUTTING KNIFE** features a light balanced handle made of butyrate plastic, and surgical-steel blades. Designed for hobbyists, artists, photographers and craftsmen, the knife has a patented chuck that keeps the blade locked to the handle.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **SLIDING DOOR CABINET** can hold office supplies, books, magazines, tax records or medical supplies. The sliding doors run smoothly on over-head nylon rollers. Made of heavy gauge steel, the cabinet has one welded shelf and two movable shelves. It measures 36 by 22 by 68 inches.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **SOFTER SCISSORS GRIP** features a new line of scissors in various sizes. The effect is obtained by coating the handles with a foamed plastisol based on a vinyl resin. Soft and resilient, but not slippery, the coating adheres firmly to the forged steel, easing tough cutting jobs. The coated-handled scissors are available in blue, yellow, green and red.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **TOY BUG** gives the impression it actually thinks. Powered by flashlight batteries, the big bug, shown in the photograph, moves along steadily, turns right or left or goes around in a circle. Whisker-like an-



tennae of steel wire activate the steering mechanism. The bug's body is made of an orange acetate plastic.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **GRAPHITE GUN** small enough to be hand-held sprays the dry lubricant at its target while held in any position. A rubber bulb is attached to the container to provide

a fine spray. The unit contains graphite for several thousand "shots."

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **EMERGENCY CHART** for the laboratory is a comprehensive, alphabetical compilation of emergency treatments for burns, scalds, cuts, electrical shock and collapse. It includes an A-to-Z listing of treatments for specific poisons. Measuring 18 by 27 inches, the chart has metal edges at top and bottom. It is printed on a fiber-and-plastic material.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **PORTABLE PHOTO COPIER** is an all-metal, self-contained machine that does all the necessary operations such as exposure and processing. Operating under all normal office lighting conditions, the photo copy machine reproduces from all colors and makes one- or two-sided copies. Multiple copies up to seven can be made from one negative.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1956

✿ **SPORTS GAME** for young baseball and football fans will also amuse adult sports enthusiasts. Players throw feathered rubber suction darts at a three-dimensional target that whirls when struck. The board has a baseball diamond on one side and a football field on the other.

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Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

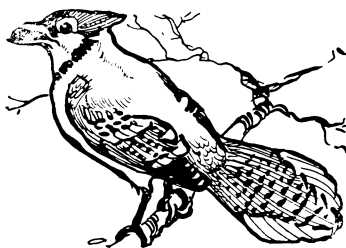
➤ **MANY WILD BIRDS** and mammals lose their fear of man when they are not molested, and thus the squirrels and song birds living in many human communities become almost tame.

Although their human "enemies" may not trouble them any more, these wild creatures must not relax their guard for long. Other enemies are always about.

In one small city where animals are protected by its citizens, two squirrels were seen racing blindly round and round the base of a great oak. In this merry chase, they were making a great deal of noise, and seemed to have abandoned all caution.

Meanwhile, a lithe, white cat was working her way in short spurts of movement toward the heedless squirrels. The cat stopped a few feet from the tree trunk, just out of striking distance of the squirrels. Her tail twitched excitedly to and fro. Every muscle seemed strained.

Nature's Sentinel



The squirrels ceased playing, and one of them perched still on the ground to eat a nut. The cat prepared to leap.

Just at that moment, however, a loud "squawking" began in a lower limb of the tree. Both squirrels suddenly shot up the tree trunk to safety while the cat, frustration written on her face, peered up into the branches.

There sat a blue jay, who began an even more insistent fussing at the cat. As if he could stand it no longer, the jay then took to the air and dive-bombed the cat, striking out with his big, sharp bill. The cat raised an ineffectual paw, but by then the jay had retreated to safety.

Soon, other jays flew to the tree, attracted by the alarm call of the first jay, and they joined in the chorus and the attack. From their safe branch, the squirrels ignored the whole proceeding now, settling down for a mid-afternoon nap. Then the villain of the piece was seen to slink away from the scene of his defeat, uttering a pitiful "meow."

Even when animals move from the "wilds" of the forest to the "safety" of the town, they must keep their alertness or post a guard. In the pugnacious jay, nature has provided a sentinel against predators which has saved many small lives.

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