

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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DASHBOARD NAMEPLATE is self-adhesive and is said to stick firmly in place in any kind of climate on any road. The plate is made of gold-tone metal, two and one-half inches long, and bears the inscription, "This Car Especially Made For (any name you desire)."

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

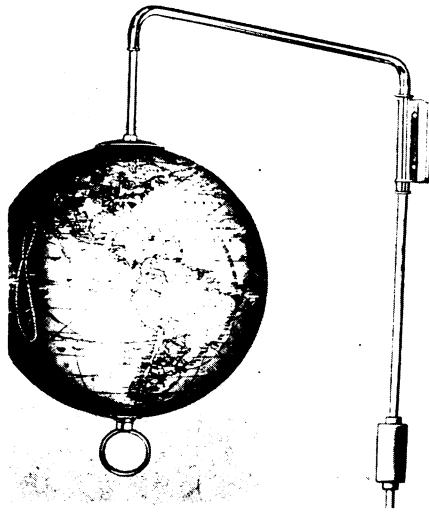
INSULATING SHEET MATERIAL combines light weight and structural strength and is available in sheets up to four by eight feet in size. It will not burn, rot or mold and can be worked like wood and machined. It may be used for ovens, ceilings, partitions, duct work, firewalls, heat screens, and high temperature test chambers.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

BOAT LETTERS AND NUMBERS, three inches high, are designed in strong, simple, Gothic style. Made of tough, weather-resistant plastic, they are still sufficiently flexible to conform to the shape of a hull. They come pre-drilled with fasteners that are easily tacked into place.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

PULL-DOWN WORLD GLOBE, shown in the photograph, can be easily raised or lowered to any position from a wall-arm



bracket that swings through a 180-degree angle. It comes in two sizes, 10½-inch and 12-inch diameter, and is available in an illuminated-from-within style that also serves as a lamp.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS of polyethylene plastic are of extra-large size for kitchen use or at barbecues. Available

in red, yellow, white, pink or turquoise, they have gold legends that are permanently molded into the plastic.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

MARKING-WRITING PEN has a replaceable felt nib and cartridge refills to avoid messy refilling. It can be used to write, mark or sketch on a wide variety of surfaces in the home, school, office or factory. The pen has a gold metal finish with a pocket clip. Red, blue and black ink units are available.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

STOPCOCK PLUG of corrosion-resistant plastic has a reverse taper design that eliminates the need for a screw thread, minimizing replacement due to thread stripping. For use in laboratory burettes, separatory funnels and the like, the plug is held in place by a constant-tension spring, and requires no lubrication.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960

PUNCHING-BINDING MACHINE for office use is a portable desk-top size. A special cam action enables the operator to punch a "lift" of paper with the simple down-stroke of a lever. Another swing of the handle attaches the plastic binding.

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Nature Ramblings



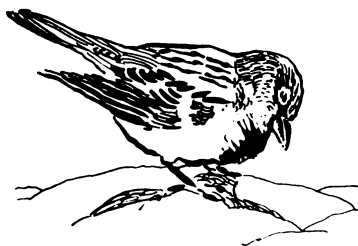
By HORACE LOFTIN

WHILE MOST of us were still nestled snug in our beds, more than 7,000 eager bird watchers were braving the early morning cold in search of extra species for their lists in the 60th annual Christmas Bird Count during the recent holidays.

This midwinter bird census involved day-long counts of kinds and numbers of birds seen in selected areas 15 miles in diameter. These Christmas Count areas ranged from semitropical Florida to the frozen fields of Alaska. It will be several months before the results of this Christmas Count are compiled. So let us take a look at last year's count to see what kind of results we may expect.

In 1958, more than 500 species of birds were seen during the Christmas Count. In terms of numbers of individuals, 33,890,845 birds were reported. By far the most abundant wintering bird in North America was the red-winged blackbird. This familiar bird of field and swamp was noted in 321 localities, in numbers total-

Counting Bills



ing 13,976,815 individuals. Runner-up was the common grackle, with more than 8,000,000 birds counted.

That unwelcomed immigrant from Europe, the starling, was the third most common bird found in midwinter in the United States and Canada. Observers in 501 census areas counted 4,183,000 of these pests.

Incidentally, another European immigrant, the English sparrow, took all honors for being seen in the greatest number of places—535 census areas to be exact. In numbers, the English sparrow gave a count of 277,000 individuals.

A pleasant change from blackbirds and the like, the fourth most abundant species of bird in North America at midwinter was the mallard duck, with 1,178,449 seen at 372 census stations. Ducks and geese in general were among the most numerous species. For example, the pintail had a total count of 438,800 and the Canada goose, nearly 300,000.

Numbers of birds seen often did not reveal which species were in widest distribution. For instance, the red-wing was seen in only 321 areas in spite of its huge numbers, while the English sparrow with only 277,000 individuals was reported from 535 areas. The second most widely distributed bird in midwinter was the downy woodpecker, counted in 516 areas, though only 14,500 individuals were seen in all.

Some of the low counts are interesting, if only for their exotic names. Among species with just one individual reported are blue-faced booby, red phalarope, whiskered owl, black-eared bushtit and the lazuli bunting.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1960