

Spring is Bird Travel Time

The material on this page is furnished by the Coordinating Council on Nature Activities.

Nature Study Coordination

Realizing the need for a national program that would coordinate the nature activities of national groups working with young people, the American Museum of Natural History invited these volunteer organizations to form a council to be known as the Coordinating Council on Nature Activities for the purpose of teaching the growing generation, through nature activities, the value of all wild life and natural resources and their conservation.

The organizations represented are as follows:

American Museum of Natural History, American Nature Study Society, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Directors' Association, Camp Fire Girls, Inc., Girl Scouts, Inc., Pioneer Youth of America, Playground and Recreation Association, and the Woodcraft League of America.

The representatives of these girls' and boys' groups adopted the following lines of activity:

1. Coordinating the nature programs of young people's organizations.
2. Focusing attention in these nature programs on conservation of wild life and natural resources.
3. Cooperating with other established groups in furthering their programs for nature conservation.
4. Encouraging public schools and other educational institutions to include nature study and conservation in their courses of study.
5. Developing methods whereby these organizations can give their best services to the public schools and similar institutions in furthering nature conservation.
6. Promoting needed legislation in connection with their program.

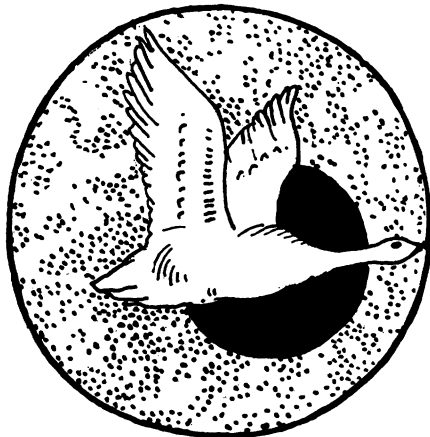
Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

Food For Feathered Friends

"They are here, there, and everywhere, and many more are on the wing." Competent authorities estimate that there are in the United States 3,800,000,000 nesting birds of all kinds and that in addition 3,800,000,000 more birds pass through the United States in their regular migratory journey. This vast army represents approximately 1,200 different kinds of birds as recorded, for entire North America. Approximately 350 different kinds occur in Iowa and about 400 in the State of Illinois. No other group of our wild life com-

mands such wide-spread interest and universal attraction as birds. Birds offer unusual opportunities for cultivating the powers of observation as well as purposes of recreation and study for playground groups. Birds are the real friends and partners of man in his continuous warfare against injurious weeds, insects and some mammals. Gradually, however, the covering and food of birds are being destroyed by the hand of man in his industrial and agricultural interests. So that it presents a real question as to just how and where all of these birds are to find suitable shelter and nesting places.

It has been shown that if suitable nesting and feeding conditions are provided, playgrounds, playfields and parks, as well as home grounds, can be made miniature bird sanctuaries, and that increasing variety of birds may by this provision be encouraged to take up permanent or summer residence with us. With the placing of rustic type bird houses, bird baths, feeding stations, and the planting of trees and shrubs valuable as food and nesting places and places of protection, and with ever watchful care of our own or our neighbor's cat, we may expect the successful beginning



Bound North

Did you ever chance to hear the midnight flight of birds passing through the air and darkness overhead, in countless armies, changing their early or late summer habitat? It is something not to be forgotten.

I thought it rare music. You could hear the characteristic motion—once or twice "the rush of mighty wings," but often a velvety rustle, long drawn out—sometimes quite near—with continual calls and chirps, and some song-notes. I could make out the bobolink, tanager, Wilson's thrush, white-crown'd sparrow, and occasionally from high in the air came the notes of the plover.

—Walt Whitman.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

of a community center of birds.

The following list is of plants that bear fruit sought for by birds and will provide for them protection and a place for the building of their nests:

Trees

Red Cedar	Black Cherry
Hackberry	Hercules Club
Red Mulberry	Hawthorns
White Mulberry	Mountain Ash
Choke Cherry	Pin Cherry

Shrubs

Red-berried Elder	Shadbush
Common Elder	Waahoo, Burning Bush
Wayfaring Tree	Black Alder
Nannyberry	Blackberry
Arrow-wood	Dewberry
High-bush Cranberry	Juneberry
Huckleberry	Chokeberry
Osier Dogwood and all other Cornels	Common Juniper

Climbers

Bittersweet	Northern Fox Grape
Virginia Cooper,	Frost Grape
Woodbine	River Bank Grape

Honeyuckles

Herbaceous Plants

Sunflowers	Millet
Kaffir	Pokeweed

Flowers

Coreopsis	Cornflowers
	Zinnias

Note: This list is for materials that usually grow well in Illinois. Towns south or north of this section or in particularly arid sections should have the advice of local horticulturists.

It has been observed that the younger as well as the older groups of children take keen delight in the planting and care of trees and shrubs useful to birds. It easily becomes a regular activity in the playground program. One learns the life habits of the birds and the materials on which they subsist, their names and the names of trees and shrubs native to the State or the country. The life histories of the imported shrubs and trees make interesting stories. The child observes the birds securing food, protection and homes in the very plants that he helped to establish. He learns to have a human interest in nature and a greater appreciation of the mystery and beauty of life.

—By Harry Allen, Playground and Recreation Association of America.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

Bird Sounds At Night

Identifying birds by their songs at night is an interesting and novel test of one's bird lore. Recognition by day is comparatively easy because of the daylight environment; though the bird may not be seen, the place that it frequents may be

(Just turn the page)

Bird Sounds

(Continued from page 303)

located and the identification thereby helped.

At the spring migration on certain nights the listener is conscious of thousands of birds passing overhead. A few calls drift down, barely recognizable. On rainy and misty nights when the flocks fly low we are thrilled by the number of species traveling together. A Staten Island man heard these strange traveling companions in full song on one rainy May night: Spotted Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Brown Thrasher. The calls of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Myrtle Warbler were also distinguished among several other unrecognized notes.

The camper has a great opportunity to analyze the "mysterious noises of the night," and he finds that many are only moving birds. The sleepy "cheep" is difficult to assign to the proper bird, yet each bird has its characteristic tone. The Ducks winnow overhead, each kind with a different quality of wing whistle. A Chat becomes strangely garrulous through half of the night. The Woodcock has a startlingly sweet song as it does its sky-dance at mating time, and the whistle of its

wings is different from the whistle of the Mourning Dove's wings. Both are heard at dusk or later.

The Owls contribute much to the night, and the bird student often finds it difficult to distinguish some of the hootings. Heron croaks are puzzling to the uninitiated, and the calls of other night-wandering shore birds are most perplexing. The Oven-bird prefers to sing its unusual flight song at night, and it is often startling even to those who have heard it many times.

The bird student who goes into the woods at night, or at migration time takes to the rooftops, finds new thrills and pleasure in the experiences with night bird sounds.

—By Lester Thomas, *Woodcraft League of America.*

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

Tree Year In Camp Fire

This is Tree Year in Camp Fire. All over the United States Camp Fire Girls are not only planting trees, but are giving publicity to the necessity for reforestation and conservation through public programs, pageants and exhibits.

The outline of activities which has been prepared by the Department of Out-door and Health Activities is inclusive enough to give opportunity to all girls in the United States to

take part in the tree service to their country.

A cooperative agreement has been drawn up between Camp Fire Girls and the United States Forest Service. The idea of those who are directing the program is that the enthusiasm and interest should not be allowed to burn up quickly, but should continue over a period of years, so that Camp Fire forests and various tree activities once started will be watched and cared for by the girls for a number of years until they are on a lasting basis. Reports have already come in of 30,000 trees planted.

Camp Fire Girls have entered upon this program with enthusiasm and their activities have attracted interest all over the country.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

Placing letter boxes on trolley cars is speeding up mail delivery in Germany.

A method of fitting a tiny blotter to the end of a fountain pen has been devised.

Quicksands are sand so smooth that the grains have little friction.

The largest active volcano in the world is Kilauea, in Hawaii.

"When you gather round the camp-fire—"

Each of you should have your own copy of the **SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER** with its special outdoor nature pages.

To make it easy for groups, clubs, scout troops, summer schools and gangs to provide each of their members with individual copies to tear up and digest as they please, this **QUANTITY** or **BUNDLE** order price is offered.

TEN copies to the same address for THIRTEEN WEEKS—\$6.00.

(For each additional copy add 60c to above price. You may figure bundle orders of ten or more copies for a smaller number of weeks at 6c a copy per week. The regular price of the **SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER** is \$5.00 a year and 10c a week.)

BUNDLE ORDER

To **SCIENCE SERVICE, 21st and B Sts., N. W., Washington, D. C.**

Send copies of the **SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER** for weeks to the address below.
Remittance for \$..... is enclosed.

Name.....

Address.....