

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—"

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