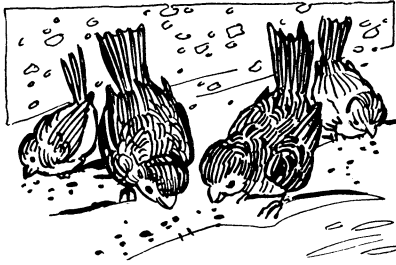


ORNITHOLOGY

NATURE RAMBLINGS

by Frank Thone



Christmas Guests

"There was a sparrow went out to harrow
On Christmas Day in the morning!"

THERE was a whole anthology of birds and beasts that did miraculous things on Christmas Day in the morning, if we may believe the old song. Most of them were domestic animals that had to stay around anyway, but the country folk who made the rhymes did take notice that there were birds in their dooryards during the winter that did not go away, even though it was blowy and snowy and pretty nasty in general.

It is a matter for congratulation and thankfulness that we do have these feathered Christmas guests, hardy little folk who dig a living of insect eggs and larvae out of cracks, or harvest wild fruits and weed seeds. Many of them are as inconspicuous and unornamental as the sparrow celebrated in the rhyme, but some are highly ornamental, like the tanagers and the cardinal, or gifted with sheer beauty, like the cedar waxwing, or even willing to sing occasionally, like some of the sparrows.

Some of them are permanent residents that never wander far from their homes, winter or summer. The woodpeckers, bluejays and our old picaresque friend the crow are good examples. Then there are those that go south, but not very far south, and frequently wander back during mild spells, or return very early, not waiting for spring. Such are the red-winged blackbird and the horned lark. Finally, there are the real winter boarders, like the tufted titmouse, that normally summer away up in Canada and come south for the winter when there is winter in the south, never going below the line of snows.

Science News Letter, December 22, 1934

ceived the Elliot Medal for 1930, from the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University, was awarded the American Institute of Chemists' medal for outstanding service to American chemistry.

In honor of a lifetime devoted to the study of Swedish antiquities, a Swedish farmer, Olof Christofferson, 70 years old, was created a Knight of the Royal Order of Vasa.

Dr. David Fairchild, plant explorer, formerly of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was presented with the Public Welfare medal of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Perkin Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry was presented to Prof. Colin G. Fink, Columbia University for his development of chemical methods of restoring damaged art work.

Prof. Alfred Fowler, Imperial College, University of London, was honored with the Bruce gold medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Dr. Cecelia Payne Gaposchkin, Harvard College Observatory, was selected by the American Astronomical Society as the first recipient of the Annie Jump Cannon prize for distinguished work in astronomy by women.

The General Electric Company received a gold medal from the American Institute of the City of New York for pioneering in industrial research.

Dr. Ralph E. Hall, director of the Hall Laboratories, Inc., received the first award of the Pittsburgh Award from the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society, honoring his researches on water conditioning.

Dr. Bjorn Helland-Hansen, Geophysical Institute, Bergen, Norway, received the Agassiz Medal of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Wetherill medal of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, was awarded to Prof. E. Newton Harvey, Princeton, and Alfred L. Loomis, banker-scientist, for their joint invention of the centrifuge microscope.

Capt. Stanford C. Hooper, U. S. Navy, was awarded the Institute of Radio Engineers' Medal of Honor for development of naval communications.

The \$1,000 prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was awarded to Prof. Reuben L. Kahn, University of Michigan, for his paper reporting the discovery that when an animal is immunized against disease, its body tissues acquire protective properties as well as its blood.

Dr. A. E. Kennelly, professor emeritus of both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for whom one of the ionized layers of the upper air is named, was awarded the 1933 Edison Medal by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, was awarded to Dr. Irving Langmuir, General Electric Company chemist.

Abbé Georges Lemaitre, Belgian cosmologist, was awarded the annual prize of the Francqui Foundation.

Mrs. Anne Morrow Lindbergh was awarded the Hubbard gold medal of the National Geographic Society for her accomplishments as radio operator, navigator and copilot on the Lindberghs' aerial circumnavigation of the Atlantic in 1933 and their flight to Asia in 1931.

Dr. Waldemar Lindgren, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received the Penrose Medal from the Geological Society of America.

Dr. Jacob Goodale Lipman, Dean of Agriculture, Rutgers University, received the Chandler Medal in Chemistry from Columbia University for outstanding achievements in agricultural chemistry.

The Chemical Industry Medal for 1934 was presented to Dr. Floyd J. Metzger of

Christmas Meetings

News of the coming meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated organizations will come to you soon in the pages of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. Four members of the Science Service staff will attend the meetings, temporary editorial offices being established in the Schenley Hotel, Room 322. Staff members in Pittsburgh will be: Watson Davis, Director; Dr. Frank Thone; Robert Potter and Miss Emily Davis.

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