

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 845. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **FIRE MAKER** for barbecue grills and fireplaces is a self-contained portable unit. Operating off flashlight batteries, the fire starter has an enclosed electric motor and rotary blower. It can be attached to any grill and will ignite charcoal in 10 minutes.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

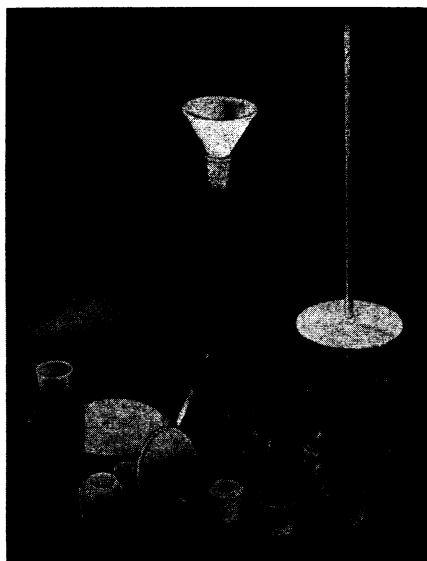
⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE CASTER** or *Glide* is also interchangeable. The double ball bearing caster is designed for leveling and stabilizing furniture or equipment used on uneven floors. No wrenches or locknuts are required to make the adjustment. A plastic glide can be used in place of the wheel type caster.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

⚙️ **LIGHTWEIGHT TENT** for the hiker and backpacking camper is highly water- and mildew-resistant. Measuring eight feet by eight feet, with a six-foot center height, the tent has an insect-proof netting door with a two-way zipper, a sewed-in floor and wide awning. Weighing 11 pounds, the tent is equipped with a telescoping aluminum pole and aluminum stakes.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

⚙️ **UNBREAKABLE LABWARE** molded of a polyethylene resin provides laboratories with virtually indestructible tools. The labware, shown in the photograph, is corrosion-resistant to most chemicals and affords maximum stiffness over a wide range of tem-



peratures. Thistle tube tops, powder funnels, funnel holders and stoppers are available.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

⚙️ **WOOD LATHE** for the home craftsman is a variable-speed, 12-inch tool. Adaptable to spinning, polishing, sanding, fluting and reeding, as well as all inboard and outboard turning operations, the lathe has

speeds of 340 rpm to 3,200 rpm. There are more than 50 engineered accessories available for the lathe.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

⚙️ **ELECTRICAL SYMBOL TEMPLATE** conforms to the new and revised graphical symbols prepared by the American Standards Association. Necessary in order to meet military specifications, the template is available in three sizes.

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⚙️ **MINIATURE SAFES** with combination locks can be installed anywhere. An anchored floor plate secures the safes and makes them a part of the floor. The safes are available in two sizes, five by six by 12 inches and four and one-quarter by five by six inches. The smaller weighs three and one-half pounds and the larger one, ten pounds.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

⚙️ **ETCHING-SOLDERING KIT** for home use is complete with solderer, electric pen and transformer. The pen can be handled like a conventional writing pen and will mark all soft, hard or hardened metals. The shockproof pen permits the home workman to do his own electric engraving. The units can also be operated on automobile batteries giving two, four or six volts.

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Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

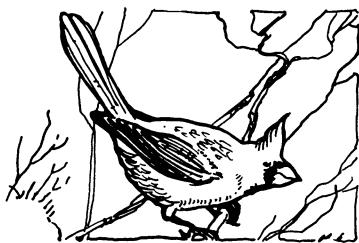
➤ THAT STRANGE RACE of human beings called birdwatchers often find all sorts of "new species" of birds during the late summer months—especially the beginning birdwatchers. Birds with astounding feather patterns suddenly crop up, while the early summer birds seem to vanish.

Actually, there are no "new species" on the scene nor have the old birds gone away. What the late summer birdwatchers are seeing are adult birds in the process of losing their old feathers for their new fall coat, and the young birds of the year gaining their first adult plumage.

Many startling changes appear in the bird life of an area as the summer wears on, with fall just around the corner. Most of the rearing of new families is completed, and the young birds are able to fend for themselves.

At this time, many of the best songsters

Summer Changes



cease their singing. Birds that were pugnacious defenders of their solitude during the nesting and rearing period suddenly begin to congregate in large sociable flocks, feeding and roosting together.

Even such a familiar figure as the cardinal, or red bird, may create a problem in identification during the molting period of late summer. Bright red feathers are

mottled with brown, creating a confusion of color—and each cardinal seems to be a little different from the other. Sleekness gives way to a ragged appearance, as old feathers become loose during the molting.

The cardinal, unlike many other song birds at this season, still retains his cheery song, and this keeps alive some of the waning brightness of bird life in an area.

However, the birdwatcher should be alert during the "dog days." His odd-colored birds may not be new to science, but they may be new species for his life list!

Many species begin random wanderings during the late summer weeks, traveling long distances from their birthplaces. This is not to be confused with fall migration, since the birds may fly north as well as south at this time.

It is during this period of wandering that many "exotic" species are found way off their usual beat—and perhaps in your backyard.

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