

• 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 882. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **NEEDLE THREADER** that is automatic is housed in a plastic pod clipped to the top of a carrying case. Two finger strokes work the threader. The first causes the plunger to grab the needle, estimate its size and position and align it with the incoming thread. The second harpoons a loop of thread and rams it through the eye.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **PORTABLE ARC WELDER** of 200 ampere output weighs only 80 pounds. It is fan-cooled and equipped with a thermal overload switch to prevent transformer burnout. The portable unit will weld steel one and one-half inches thick and cut steel one-quarter inch thick.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **STEEL FASTENER** is an alloy of micronized steel and epoxy resin that can be used to "glue" steel and other broken machinery parts together without tools or drilling. Available in tube form, the bond withstands heat, moisture and most chemicals.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **PLANT COVER**, shown in the photograph, keeps young plants protected against light frost, bright sunlight, drying wind or driving rain. Designed for the first few weeks until transplants take firm root, the



covers are made of a plastic polyethylene in alternate panels of opaque white film and transparent film. They are available in different sizes.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **PLASTIC SEALER** for boat builders reinforces joints and seams to prevent spreading or opening under the most severe conditions. The neoprene sealer needs no

mixing, can be applied in any temperature, has a long open-pot life and can be applied with a caulking gun.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **DIAPER-PANTIES** are an adjustable combination equipped with snap fasteners. Designed to fit infants from birth to 18 months, the diaper-panties have six different adjustments on each side to accommodate baby's growing girth. An open end "pocket" allows insertion of an extra cloth for added absorbency.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **COMBINATION PICNIC BAG** provides separate glass-fiber insulated units for keeping foods hot or cold. Made of a plastic vinyl film, the unit can be used as one bag or three. Empty, the three bags weigh a little more than three pounds. The outer bag measures 17½ by 10 by 8½ inches and the two inner bags, 9 by 8 by 7 inches.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957

⚙️ **CHARACTER COUNTER** figures out elite and pica typewriter copy for you. A transparent center shows the actual number of characters in each line of typewritten copy. It can be used on ragged or squared-up copy, single lines or full page and covers full eight and one-half inch lines.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ THE MORNING was stormy, with a south wind and lots of rain. The bird watchers called a hurried field trip and the party left Tallahassee for the Gulf of Mexico, 43 miles south, while the heavens were still pouring.

At this season of the year, the ornithologists knew, migratory birds are constantly flying across the Gulf of Mexico from the nearest land to the south, Yucatan, Mexico. The stormy wind would speed them across the several hundred miles of water, but the storm would also drive them to shelter in the first woods they met on the U. S. coast.

The bird watchers were at Alligator Point in an hour. At the very tip of this low sandy peninsula which juts into the Gulf is a small, isolated belt of pine trees. This is where they intended to meet the birds returning from their South American winter vacation.

The rains had ceased when the station wagon reached the pines. Almost immedi-

Spring Interlude



ately one of the party spied a flash of red that disappeared into the underbrush. The brakes squealed, the doors flew open and out piled the bird watchers, field glasses primed and ready for action.

The flashing red soon proved to be a male orchard oriole. Then others, male and female, made their appearance.

Perched in the tops of the pines and on the telephone wires were dapper Eastern king birds, dressed in black with spotless white trimmings. They saw a goldfinch, a bird present all winter but which was

soon to leave for the north with the visitors.

A tramp through the pine scrub turned up a small assortment of warblers, chiefly the prairie warbler with his fine brown breast stripes and the saucy palm warbler, known by his constantly bobbing tail.

A cheerful song gave away the presence of a white-eyed vireo, and the bird watchers quickly had him in their glasses.

Certainly not dainty like these birds, but striking in their own right, were the green herons which flew in alarm with harsh squawks from pine to pine. An even larger night heron—species unknown—was seen briefly, then disappeared.

But the prize of the day—and of any day—was a male painted bunting perched on a scrub pine in colorful red, green and blue splendor.

The bird watchers reluctantly put away their glasses as darkness approached. They knew that in days or hours, these bright visitors to the Gulf Coast would be in their summer homes in the north.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1957