

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⊗ **SHOWER DOOR KIT** for the do-it-yourself enthusiast is available ready to install. Included with two shatter-proof heavy plastic shower doors are a top and bottom rail, two side rails, cement and screws. The doors can be easily removed to get at the tub.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958

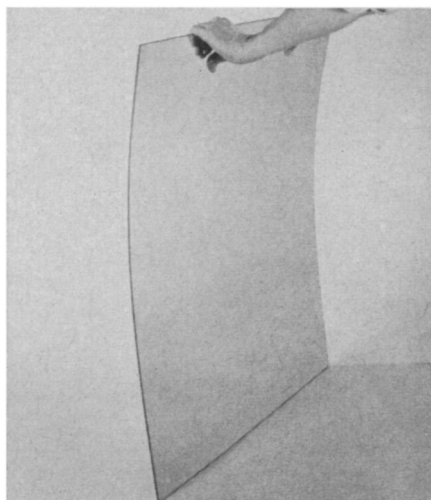
⊗ **MAGNETIC TAPE INDEX TABS** permit the tape fan, amateur or professional, to log his tapes. A tab is pressed to the desired spot for future identification. Subject and time are then posted on a pressure sensitive label of corresponding color and number, which can be placed directly on the reel of tape. The tab is removable.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958

⊗ **MICROFILM MACHINE** is a fully automatic viewer-enlarger-processor that produces 18-inch by 24-inch working prints from unitized microfilm. One button push delivers stabilized prints in one minute. The finished print can be on standard weight or translucent paper. Magnification is 20X for viewing and 15X for enlarging.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958

⊗ **INDUSTRIAL WINDOWS** bend, but do not break or crack, when struck. If jarred loose from their frames, they can be



reset with an adhesive. The safety glazing material is a laminate of a rigid plastic vinyl sheet. Available in the form of clear or mottled translucent panels, the material, shown in the photograph, is semi-flexible, light in weight and easy to install.

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⊗ **ERLENMEYER FLASKS** with screw caps are available in four sizes: 125,250,500 and 1,000 milliliters. The flasks are fitted

with a black plastic screw-cap containing a sealed-in rubber composition liner. The flasks themselves are made from chemical and heat-resistant, low expansion glass.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958

⊗ **PAINT SPRAY GUN** can be attached to a standard household tank or canister-type vacuum cleaner. The gun is equipped with two nozzles, one for medium and the other for heavy materials. An air hood adjustment controls rate and flow of spray. The gun's glass container holds one quart.

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⊗ **TRANSISTOR RADIO KIT** makes up into a radio only slightly larger than a cigarette package. Operating on a penlight battery, the radio requires headphones and an external antenna. The kit comes with plastic case, all parts, transistor, wire, solder, battery and instructions.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958

⊗ **GOLF CANE** holds 14 clubs and six balls. Designed to replace the golf bag, the aluminum cane can be carried on the arm and will not drag on the ground. Weighing one-eighth that of the conventional bag, the aluminum carrier has a pointed end for holding it upright in the ground.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ EVERY YEAR about this time, jokesters ask their birdwatching friends this question: "Aren't there more birdwatchers than birds in the woods when you fellows make your Christmas bird census?"

Well, last Christmas season, there were 6,543 bird enthusiasts out braving the cold during the 57th annual "Christmas count" or midwinter bird census. But these hardy 6,543 observed and identified 18,815,680 individual birds in 535 areas over the United States and Canada. This is considerably better than one bird per birdwatcher!

Here is an interesting point, though: while 485 different species of birds were identified in the census, just four of these species accounted for about 14,000,000 of the more than 18,000,000 individuals seen!

Evidently the most abundant winter bird in the United States is the redwing black-

### Counting Beaks and Bills



bird. The Christmas census takers counted 8,368,490 of these birds last year, and they occurred in more than half of all the areas where censuses were taken.

Second in numbers was the handsome purple grackle, with 2,526,490 individuals seen. This bird occurred in 168 of the 535 census areas.

Oddly enough, the most universally seen bird is an immigrant to the United States, introduced into this country from Europe in 1890. For in 464 of the 535 census areas, the starling made his appearance, with a grand total of 2,163,852 individuals.

Perhaps more pleasing news than that of the starling's success is the counting of 1,043,525 mallard ducks during the census. This fine game bird was seen in 370 of the census areas.

At the other end of the scale, only one individual was seen of each of 25 species. Some of these birds are hard to find at any season of the year, such as the gyrfalcon of the Arctic and Wurdemann's heron of the Florida Keys. Others, like the black tern and the wood peewee, are abundant in the warm seasons but should now all be far south of the border. These midwinter rarities are the spice of the Christmas bird count!

Science News Letter, January 4, 1958