

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 937. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **STATIONARY DRUM REEL** for fishermen works on ball bearings and silent helical gears. A British development, the reel is made of an aluminum alloy rust-resistant casing. The drum holds 250 yards of nine-pound breaking strength nylon monofilament line.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **THERMOMETER-PEN COMBINATION** is designed to save time and energy. The metal encased pen is a ball-point type. The thermometer is housed at the opposite end, well-protected against damage.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **STERLING MONOGRAM JEWELRY** for Dad offers a choice of any two letters on an item. Made of heavy gauge silver, each piece is individually cut out, hammered, formed and hand-rubbed. Buckles, tie clips, cuff links, key chains and rings are available.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **JUMPING SHOES** for junior permit him to bounce along his merry way. The spring-based shoes, shown in the photograph, are equipped with protecting caps and are adjustable to fit over any conventional shoe. Rubber shock bumpers are also provided.



The bouncing shoes are designed for boys and girls, ages six to 12 years.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **LAWN RAKE** that weighs less than one pound is molded of a polyethylene plastic. The rake has 18 flexible prongs. A re-

inforced bar holds the prongs in shape. Unaffected by temperature changes, the rake will not corrode and is highly resistant to lawn chemicals and fertilizers.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **TRANSPARENT BANDAGE** is designed for wear on the face, under hose and on other exposed body areas. The medicated, non-stick pad that is placed next to the cut or bruise is flesh color. The bandages are available in a re-usable transparent plastic case.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **FISH PHONE** is a listening device to help anglers locate fish. To use it, a hydrophone is lowered into the water and the volume amplifier set. By listening through earphones, the angler can listen in on fish in the area. The bearing or direction of the fish can also be found.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

⚙️ **SYNTHETIC BONE** for Fido is made of a plastic nylon resin. Designed to provide chewing exercise, the ersatz bone is impregnated with a hambone scent not discernible to humans. The bone can be sterilized by boiling without affecting its scent.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

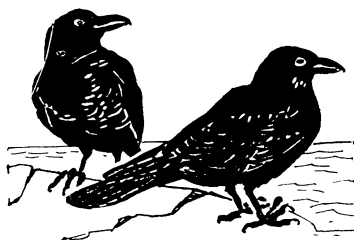
➤ MEN have never gotten along well with crows, although these black birds thrive well enough near the company of humans. The reason may lie in the stiff competition that crows give us.

Henry Ward Beecher once summed up the matter by saying that if men wore feathers and wings a very few of them would be clever enough to be crows.

There are undoubtedly many more crows in the United States now than before white men came with their axes and plows. Many forest and water fowl have retreated before the advance of civilization, but not the crow.

This black rascal thrives on the farmer's seeds and tender plants and the refuse of cities. He is responsible for a certain amount

### Black Rascal



of damage to songbirds and waterbirds because of his penchant for stealing eggs.

From the point of view of human economics, the crow probably qualifies easily for the title of "pest."

On the basis of both economics and game

management principles, crows remain high on the list for control. Their numbers are expanding out of proportion, to the detriment of our other birds, and limited reduction of the population is probably warranted.

However, the crows will have something to "say" about this matter. They have been successfully pitting their intelligence against men for thousands of years. They very likely will hold their own against any modernized scarecrows, explosives, electronic devices or other attempts by men to reduce their numbers significantly.

This may not be so bad, after all. Of all the species of birds, perhaps the crows are the greatest individualists. They are often a source of pleasure and interest to watch.

Maybe we should accept the crow—he has certainly accepted us.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958