

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TRANSISTORIZED RADIO RECEIVER** is smaller in size than a king size package of cigarettes. The receiver, including batteries, weighs five ounces. It is said to have full broadcast band coverage from 550 to 1,600 kilocycles.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **CIRCUIT TESTER** can be used for both continuity and line testing in electrical wiring. The probes and cords are carried on a frame that fits into a coat pocket. The probe sleeves are made of a butyrate plastic. For continuity testing, it plugs into any 110-volt receptacle. For line testing, the probe cords plug into the insulated frame.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **PORTABLE TAPE-RECORDER** is a British product designed for home, office, factory, school and shop. It has a frequency response of from 40 to 14,000 cycles per second. The machine, which can be used with a loudspeaker, allows a recording to be made over a previous one without obliteration.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **ALUMINUM BUILDING UNITS**, shown in the photograph, can be assembled as carports, tool sheds or outdoor dressing



rooms. Shipped according to specified length, width and height, the units arrive ready for bolting together. All the necessary bolts and screws are included. The units can be disassembled for storage.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **RADIATION DETECTOR** is a small, lightweight aluminum cylinder that tells at

a glance the amount of radioactivity exposure from gamma or X-rays. The detector, which can be carried in a pocket or a purse, has a range of 200 milliroentgens.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **INFLATABLE MATTRESS** for this summer's camping is made of heavy canvas fabric. It is said to have three and one-half inch minimum air cushions at all points. There are no longitudinal tubes. The mattress can be blown up by mouth or pump.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **CAMPING OUTFIT**, designed to be carried on top of the car, provides three-quarter size beds, a tent with 107 square feet of floor space and an aluminum frame that eliminates stakes and ropes. The outfit weighs 35 pounds and can be set up by two persons in 10 minutes.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

⚙️ **DUST PAN** made of a high density polyethylene plastic is designed for "no stoop" sweeping. Seven horizontal grooves catch the dirt and trap sweepings. The pan is 11 and one-half inches wide and 15 inches high. It can be boiled clean.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

### Summer's Start

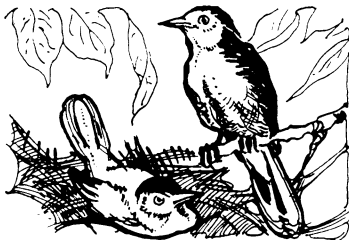
► DURING THE past winter, one city dweller used to gaze out of his second story office window into the naked branches of a maple. The stark finger-like twigs seemed as dead as the air was frigid. Then winter waned and spring became imminent.

The tree remained bare, but he seemed to note a swelling in the tree buds, as if the tree were straining to expand itself.

It was in May when the view from the window suddenly disclosed—overnight, it seemed—a tree that was a reddish color. The tree blossomed with tiny flowers. Thereafter, leaves grew larger and larger, acquiring their familiar green coloring, until the whole tree took on its June-time appearance.

Now, on the branches of this same tree, so bare a short while ago, there is a new nest being built by a busy pair of birds. It is the final sign that June has come.

While some "early birds," especially in the South, may begin nesting somewhat



earlier in the year, June is the big month for birds. Winter flocks have broken up into discrete couples who jealously guard their nesting territory from others of their kind.

The migrant warblers have come up from Central and South America to their old homes in the United States and Canada. Even the shore birds that winter as far away as Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego

have passed over the United States to begin their June nesting above the Arctic Circle.

In much of the nation, the spring flowers have come and gone, to be replaced by the first of the summer-blooming plants. Only where spring is late and brief, as in the northern and mountainous areas, does June find many of the typical springtime blossoms.

With June also comes the beginning of a new crop of insects, to create a good deal of mischief and to do perhaps even a greater deal of good.

Winged termites may be seen swarming out of bits of riddled wood, and hungry young generations of beetles and insects emerge from their pupal cases to launch an attack on cultivated plants. At the same time, other insects flit busily from flower to flower, transferring the vital pollen from one plant to another.

Other insects begin to feed hungrily on insect pests. June, it seems, is busting out all over.

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