

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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TIRE REFILLER CAN holds compressed air for inflating a flat automobile tire quickly so that the car may be driven to a service station. The refillable can is small enough to fit in the glove compartment. It is designed to avoid the hazard of changing a tire on a crowded highway and to prevent damage to tire, tube, rim, and wheel from driving on a flat.

Science News Letter, September 5, 1959

BAILER FOR ROWBOATS or dinghies is a six-inch-wide polyethylene plastic scoop with a handle on the back. The bottom of the bailer has a slight outward curve facilitating bailing in narrow spaces. The light-weight scoop will float. The bailer also makes a good dustpan aboard any boat.

Science News Letter, September 5, 1959

CARPENTER'S LEVEL is calibrated to show the angle and the inch rise per foot of the surface being measured. The two-inch-square precision level is enclosed in a shockproof plastic casing that is said to float in oil.

Science News Letter, September 5, 1959

MIDGET RACING CAR, shown in the photograph, for children has a two-horsepower engine and an impact-resistant body



of epoxy and glass fiber. The racer, available either as a complete car or in kit form, has individual wheel torsion suspension, an adjustable steering column, friction shock absorbers, and a tubular aircraft type frame.

Science News Letter, September 5, 1959

MEMORANDA HOLDER is a coil spring device designed to replace the dangerous spindle. By bending the spring,

which can be clamped onto the edge of a shelf, desk or vehicle dashboard, messages, cards, tickets or bills can be inserted or removed. One slip can be removed without moving the others.

Science News Letter, September 5, 1959

POCKET CALENDAR works for every year from one to 2400 A.D., with the change, in 1582, from the Julian to Gregorian calendar accounted for. The booklet has an index for the 20th century and one for all 2,400 years so that the calendar for a particular year can be quickly located.

Science News Letter, September 5, 1959

IMPORTED CUCKOO CLOCK is only eight inches in height. It cuckoos every quarter hour and is said to keep accurate time. Imported from Germany, the clock has a weight and pendulum and is hand carved with a walnut finish.

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CLIP-ON ASH TRAYS made of anodized aluminum fasten to any tubular furniture, such as the arms and legs of chairs or tables. The ash trays, available in four colors, have a snap-on outdoor top. They will not stain or discolor and can be cleaned with a damp cloth.

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Nature Ramblings



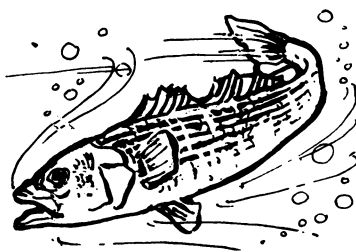
By HORACE LOFTIN

SOMETIME NEAR the end of the last century, English sparrows and starlings were introduced to this country from Europe. As immigrants, they certainly thrived in the New World and at the expense of native birds and the patience of long-suffering humanity.

Then there were also the rabbits which an English emigree imported to his new home in Australia for some Old World sport. In short order the rabbits increased tremendously on that island continent, becoming an agricultural scourge. It actually became necessary to introduce a virulent rabbit disease from Europe in order to bring them somewhat under control.

Such cases as these are rather exceptional in that the immigrants managed even to survive and hold their own, not to mention increase phenomenally. In most instances, attempts at introducing new species fail completely. The new animals usually are unable to meet the competition offered by the old established ones. It is also some-

Introducing Animals



thing of a rule that when imported animals do manage to take hold, they usually cause more damage to the environment than good.

There are some striking exceptions to both these "rules," however. The striped bass, beloved of sports fishermen, is an example.

In 1879 and 1881, yearling striped bass were taken from New Jersey waters and carried by rail to California, where 435 were transplanted in San Francisco Bay. Within ten years, striped bass were present

there in commercial quantities, and by 1899 fishermen took 1,234,000 pounds in California waters. They have since spread south of San Francisco and as far north as Oregon.

This successful transplantation has created a new and valuable commercial fishery on the West Coast. It has been a boon to sports fishermen and economically profitable to the people who cater to sports fishermen. So far as is known, the increase of the striped bass on the West Coast has had no important detrimental effects on native fishes. All in all, the case of the striped bass is a very happy exception to the usual unhappy results of transplantation of animals.

How and why the striped bass managed to increase and thrive is explained by their reproductive potential. They spawn in fresh water in spring. A small three-pounder may produce 14,000 eggs; a really big one, like the 50-pounders the sportsmen go after, may lay 5,000,000 eggs in one season. Even though many of these will never hatch, this is still a large number.

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