

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**WASH-AND-WAX PRODUCT** is claimed to be the first single product developed which washes a car and also gives it a visible, hard wax finish. A user simply pours a capful of the product into a gallon of water, applies the mixture, wipes it off and buffs remaining wax to a high polish.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**PANTS HANGER**, especially useful for drip-dry trousers, holds pants by inside of cuffs. User simply inserts hanger into cuffs and releases hanger's spring. Spring presses grips into cuffs. With this action, the hanger holds pants flat and straight.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**VERSATILE TABLE** is a rolling tea wagon when fully open. With part of the bottom shelf folded up, the unit forms an individual dining table. When half folded up, it fits against a wall as a book and knick-knack holder. Made of brass-plated frame and black shelves or in black finish throughout, the table folds flat for storage.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**SQUARED DOORKNOB**, shown in the photograph, is designed to be easy for very young and very old fingers to turn. Cast in bronze, brass, chrome or aluminum, the



knob is constructed for heavy traffic doors such as in schools and institutions, as well as in the home.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**SWIVEL BABY SPOON** is said to help baby learn to feed himself. The swivel action is designed to keep the spoon's bowl

level, even when the baby twists the spoon's handle about. The leveling action helps baby get the food in his mouth, not down his front. The spoon is stainless steel with a boil-proof plastic handle.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**PORCELAIN REPAIR KITS**, now available in 80 colors to match most standard plumbing fixtures, repair damaged porcelain. Each kit includes filler material and implements, activating chemicals and synthetic porcelain which is water, acid and heat resistant.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**TOY TOASTER** comes complete with burned "toast." The artificial toast pops up like the real thing. There are no electrical connections. The toaster is about three inches high.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960

**FM CAR RADIO-CONVERTER** may be used as a converter with an already installed AM radio or, with the simple addition of components, the converter makes a complete FM system. Slim, the radio extends just two and a quarter inches below the dashboard.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

### Twilight Birds

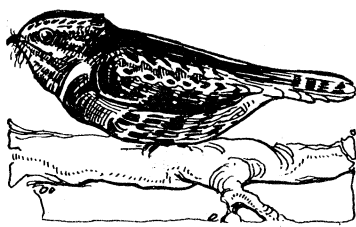
A SOUTHERN NEWSPAPER recently carried an article about the editor's hearing a whippoorwill in a pine thicket near his home. "A sure sign of summer," he wrote.

Sign of summer? Indeed not, at least not in that region where the whippoorwill is found only in winter and early spring. The editor described the melancholy call of his bird as "chip-married-a-widow."

Putting together the evidence of the late spring date of the bird and its particular song, it is clear that the editor had not heard a whippoorwill, but its southern cousin, chuck-will's-widow!

One must go farther north or west for the typical summer range of the whippoorwill. This bird, smaller than the chuck-will's-widow, can be heard in summer "up North" monotonously calling its three-note song whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will—the accent always on the last note.

One record-breaking whippoorwill sang his twilight song at least 1,000 times in



succession by actual count, with only about two seconds' interval between songs.

The southern chuck-will's-widow, on the other hand, has a very distinctive four-note song, the accent falling on the wid in "widow." Anyone who has heard both songs will never have trouble in telling the two apart.

These birds belong to a weird-looking tribe of twilight-loving birds called the goatsuckers. Because of their nocturnal ways, their fiery-red eyes when seen in reflected light, and their grotesque appear-

ance, the goatsuckers have won a place in many myths and ghost stories. The name of the group is derived from an ancient belief that these birds, with their great wide mouths, suck milk from goats and other domestic animals.

There are several members of this family in the United States, and even a greater number in the tropics. One well known, wide-ranging species is the nighthawk or bullbat. This hawk-like bird may be seen gliding and diving recklessly through the late afternoon sky over most of the country during summer. Its call is unique, and can only be described as a big, loud pee-unt!

The poor-will occurs in the West. As its name implies, its song is a two-noted: poor-will, or better, poor-jill. This bird is usually found in semi-arid country. It has been reported to undergo a type of hibernation in winter much as many mammals do.

The Pauraque, more typical of the American tropics, may be seen along the Gulf coast of Texas and the lower Rio Grande.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1960