

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**GARDEN SPRAYER** eliminates tiresome pumping, yet guarantees accuracy of the solution mixture being used. The tank-type sprayer operates on pressure of a home water system. Enough force is generated to deliver a spray in a fine mist or stream of liquid up to a distance of 60 feet.

• Science News Letter, 78:96 August 6, 1960

**FURNITURE POLISHING CLOTH** takes the work out of dusting. Waxes and silicones are in the cloth, and it dusts and polishes with one wiping. The cloth is washable and can be used over and over again to clean, polish and protect any wood surface.

• Science News Letter, 78:96 August 6, 1960

**MATCHED TOOLS** are a set of three individual portable electric workshop tools—drill, sander and jig saw. The three come in a polystyrene crib with exactly fitted spaces for safe storage of the tools and accessories such as drill bits, saw blades, jig saw table, sander sheets and buffing pads.

• Science News Letter, 78:96 August 6, 1960

**FOLDING NUT-FRUIT TRAY**, shown in the photograph, is made of hand-carved walnut wood, imported from India. Encircled in gleaming brass, it is designed for



serving fruit, nuts, candy and appetizers. When open, the tray stands 10 inches high, 1 1/4 inches wide; folded, it is an attractive ornament.

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**LIQUID PICTURE DUPLICATOR** will duplicate any illustration—a magazine cover, a work of art—in minutes and transfer it in full color to any material. Just brush on the special formula, soak it in hot water, transfer the resulting film to book covers,

sweaters, lamp bases, and many other surfaces.

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**FACE-FITTING ELECTRIC RAZOR** has floating heads designed to give a smoother, more comfortable shave. It is said to be the first contour razor, as its heads "float" to fit the contour of the face. The shaver also has a voltage adjuster that makes it usable almost anywhere.

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**METAL CAR KITS** permit construction of models of famous cars. Long-lasting and durable, the completed model can be finished in automotive lacquers. Each kit contains a die cast body, chassis, running gear, detailed motor block, plastic seats, accessories and other realistic parts.

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**LIQUID LOCK WASHER** secures nuts, bolts and screws. One drop of the new sealant will tighten and lock any new or worn threaded connection on metal or wood fasteners. Applied where nut meets bolt or screw meets wood, it forms a tough plastic bond, preventing "fall-out" of nuts, bolts and wood screws.

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## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

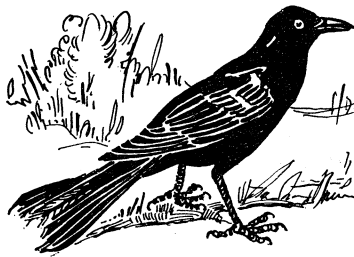
IT WAS ONLY a few short weeks or even days ago that every tree seemed to have its pair of nesting song birds. Music filled the early summer air as the males tunelessly proclaimed their territories. Wings flashed everywhere as busy parents hunted food for their demanding offspring. Then the fledglings appeared, swelling the ranks of the birds for a while.

But now, over much of the nation, the birds are relatively scarce, except for some summer-flocking species. The midsummer stillness is seldom broken by song. The nests are empty. The birds that are seen are furtive and listless by comparison with their springtime ways. Even their coats appear ragged and bedraggled.

For most species, the breeding season is over. This generally means the break-up of mating pairs. Territories have been abandoned and so has the territorial song.

A few "early" birds—probably those that were unsuccessful in nesting—start soon for their wintering grounds. Several rec-

### Where Are the Birds?



ords of northern-breeding song birds were made in Florida as early as late June this year.

The birds that remain north later in the summer may be solitary wanderers or they may join others of their kind for a post-nesting fling. It is common among many species for the males and females to form separate flocks and to make their southward migrations separately. The young birds may form their own flocks and are often among the latest migrants.

All of our birds have a complete molting of feathers at least once a year, the period following breeding. As old feathers are shed for new ones, the birds seek privacy for the change. It is during the period of molting that many species keep to the deepest shadows and thickets. For some, such as the starling, this "post-nuptial" molt is the only major feather change during the annual cycle.

Other birds have a "nuptial" molt in spring, by which the male gains his showy breeding plumage. But this bright coat is invariably lost in late summer or fall. The ptarmigan, with three or even four molts per year, is more or less in the process of replacing its plumage all year long.

Late in the summer you may hear a half-hearted song once more from a springtime singing post. With some birds, such as the mocking bird, there is a brief reawakening of the urge to sing with the approach of fall. But this is short-lived and, like summer itself, will soon fade away.

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