

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SELF-FEEDING PENCIL** automatically feeds lead at the correct writing length to prevent breaking of lead. No hand adjustment during writing is necessary, and the pencil is described as ideal for making carbon copies. The pencils are made with black, gray, red, blue and green barrels with erasers to match.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

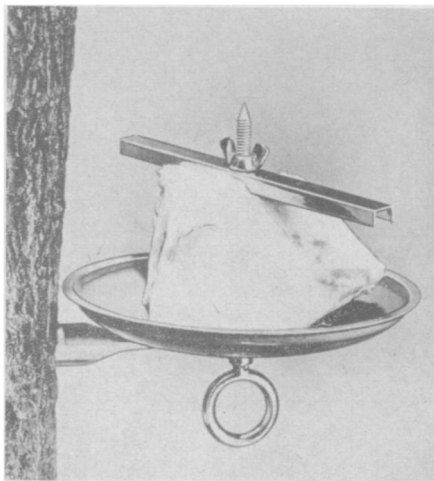
⚙️ **ILLUMINATED GLOBE** measures 18 inches in diameter and is equipped with a dial to show the time in all parts of the world. The globe is plastic and can be marked with a grease crayon and wiped clean. The lighted globe can be inflated by mouth and deflated for moving or storage.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

⚙️ **HEEL GUARD** protects the lady driver's shoe and hose heels from being scuffed or soiled. Made of a vinyl-coated fabric, the guards can be slipped and tied onto the foot so that the four and one-half inch back rubs against the car's floor rather than the heel of the wearer's shoe. Washable, the guards can be folded and purse-carried.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

⚙️ **SUET FEEDER** for bird lovers' use this fall and winter holds a large piece of suet, is easy to load, to clean and for birds to get



at. The feeder, shown in the photograph, is designed to be installed permanently and has an adjustable means for holding the suet down. Made entirely of aluminum, the tray is finished in green enamel.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

⚙️ **PHONOGRAPH ARM** for Hi-Fi enthusiasts is said to rest on a record as lightly as a sheet of tissue paper. The tone arm

places only one gram of pressure on a record. Equipped with a 0.7-mil diamond stylus, the arm is designed for use with a standard turntable, but not with a record changer.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

⚙️ **THREE-WAY COOKER** is described as doing the work of three pans. Divided into three compartments, the heavy-aluminum cooker has a large compartment that holds one quart and two smaller compartments that hold one pint each.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

⚙️ **DRAFTING APPLIQUE** made of translucent plastic still adheres to drawing paper after long periods of storage. The material will take pencil, pen or printing and can be used without the application of heat. In unprinted form, the material can be printed by standard offset equipment.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

⚙️ **TRACTOR SEAT** has a torsion rubber spring suspension system for taking the vibration and shock away from the driver. The smooth-riding seat is said to eliminate the need for farmers to stand while operating their tractors. It can be bought to replace tractor seats now in use.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ **THE CHANGE** from summer to fall calls forth a double migration—the birds migrate south and the bird watchers migrate to woods and marshes to watch their autumnal flight.

Bird students situated near the Gulf of Mexico are in an especially good place to observe the great waves of birds on their way to South American winter quarters.

It takes a "bad" day, with hard southern winds, drizzling rain and ominous sky for the best autumn bird watching on the Gulf coast. This kind of weather brings the south-bound birds to a halt in the pine and scrub oak trees that border the beaches. Otherwise, the fascinating variety of warblers and other migrants are likely to pass the land and move on over the Gulf in the dead of night.

In September, even before the height of fall migration, a small party of bird watchers took advantage of awful weather to see some 50 species of birds, including 15 different migratory warblers, holed up in

### The Autumn Wave



the woods of an off-shore island on the Florida Gulf coast.

At first, early in the afternoon, it was difficult to find any birds—just a few locals like the Carolina wren, towhee and Eastern kingbird.

However, about 2:30 the first flock was located flitting from pine to pine in the middle of the island. The majority of the birds were pine warblers, but unusual species for the area, like the golden-wing warbler and bachman's warbler, soon put in their appearance.

That first flock moved along faster than

the bird watchers could follow. Soon, however, another group was located. For some fifteen minutes, warblers and vireos were so plentiful that the naturalists could hardly focus their binoculars on one before another more interesting bird diverted their attention.

Not only warblers and vireos, but relatively rare birds such as the black-billed cuckoo, were added to the bird list that blustery September afternoon.

This day in the field was but a preliminary run of the great migration to follow as the shortening days and falling temperatures of autumn drive the migratory birds from their northern summer homes.

In October, the big event of autumn bird watching comes—the fall bird count, when bird lovers from all over the country turn out to witness and record the peak of the migratory flight.

In the north, this will mean fewer birds seen in the field. In the south, the total will swell—until the migratory urge carries numberless birds onward to their winter homes in the tropics.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957