

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☞ **NEW FISHING REEL** combines the most popular features of spinning and spin casting reels. Completely anodized and corrosion proof, the reel has a touch control disc that automatically releases the line onto the casting finger, and an oscillating spool for even spooling. A half twist of the handle controls drag tension.

• Science News Letter, 81:16 January 6, 1962

☞ **ALL-PURPOSE WATER REPELLENT** in an aerosol can provides water repellency as well as resistance to water-borne stains when sprayed on furniture, luggage, awnings, clothing, etc. It contains no waxes to impair the air circulation through treated surfaces.

• Science News Letter, 81:16 January 6, 1962

☞ **NO-STIK SPATULA** designed for Teflon, enamel and porcelain coated cookware, has a chemically treated wood blade tapered for easy handling of food. A polished stainless steel shank and a handle with molded-in design available in different patterns are featured. Handles are stain- and impact-resistant.

• Science News Letter, 81:16 January 6, 1962

☞ **LABORATORY BREEDING BOX** made of polypropylene plastic, highly resistant to impact, breakage, mildew and bacterial growth, can be repeatedly steam ster-



ilized under pressure. Available in two sizes, the box, shown in the photograph, has a lip around its edge so it can be hung from brackets. Metal covers are available separately.

• Science News Letter, 81:16 January 6, 1962

☞ **MINIATURE MUFFLER** suitable for right- or left-hand drive cuts down engine noise of go-karts to a range of 72 to 76

decibels at 50 feet. Measuring four inches across and weighing only about one pound, it can be installed in five minutes. Each unit comes boxed with aluminum mounting castings, bolts and gaskets.

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☞ **BORING TOOL** with replaceable low cost blades and pilot screws provides complete safety and unimpeded work for the user without worry of costly breakdowns. The boring tools are available in sizes ranging from 1¼ to 3¼ inches in diameter.

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☞ **FIBER GLASS MASONRY SIDING** composed of pulverized natural stone combined with plastics resembles stone siding and is practically indistinguishable from regular masonry, while lower in cost. Light and easy to handle, it is vermin-proof, waterproof, and highly resistant to fire and weather.

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☞ **SILICONE PASTE** for industrial sealing, patching and caulking applications on metals and other surfaces can be used in temperatures from minus 75 to above 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Having properties particularly suitable for use with caulking guns, it does not sag or flow during application.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► **ONE BIRD** that summers in eastern North America is the only one of its kind to do so. This is the ruby-throated hummingbird, easily identified by its shimmering green feathers and a ruby red throat patch.

It is one of the smallest birds of the Western Hemisphere, measuring three and three-quarter inches in length. But size in no way hampers activity, for the ruby-throat spends the better part of each day in the air.

Such activity requires nearly constant feeding and, in turn, such feeding necessitates being on the wing during most of the day, searching for nectar or insects. This bird can remain in a horizontal position above a flower, while probing for food, by beating its wings 55 times a second. By increasing the wing beat to 75 times a second, the hummingbird can dart off to other sources of food at a speed of nearly 60 miles an hour.

Hovering and flying by the speeds of its wing beats take lots of energy. To hover, the energy used is nearly six times greater

Ruby-throated Hummingbird



than when the little bird rests. And the energy used during daytime intervals of rest is more than that recorded for any other animal.

At night a hummingbird lapses into a state similar to that of various hibernating animals. During the dark hours the energy consumed by this bird is only one-twelfth the amount required during a daytime interval of quiet. In fact during its nighttime rest, the little bird becomes so cold and so nearly immobile that it cannot fly.

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Less than nine percent of the U.S. labor force is engaged in producing food and fiber.

Corrosion in gasoline storage tanks is due to the water and oxygen in the gasoline.

Aluminum retains its ductility and shock resistance and actually becomes stronger as the temperature descends towards absolute zero, while steel becomes brittle.

A 13-inch burrowing lizard from Borneo can see with its eyes closed.

Nickel is the only metal that has proved satisfactory for coinage in its pure state.

The X-irradiation is capable of killing or inactivating melanocytes, the cells in the skin that produce the pigment.

Sonic booms, which result from shock waves generated by aircraft in supersonic flight, can sometimes cause damage to ground building structures.

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