

## ORNITHOLOGY

**Cemetery Is Site of  
Bird Population Study**

➤ A SEARCH for the living among the dead was abundantly rewarded in the study of the bird population of a Madison cemetery, made by George E. Koehler, 17, a senior at West High School, Madison, Wis. His records, methodically kept over a four-year period, show that the 80-acre wooded tract has no less than 106 species of bird inhabitants—with 11 more species seen winging overhead for good measure.

Greatest number of individual birds seen on any one day was 688, on a warm June day. Low point was reached after a two-day blizzard, when the only birds he could find were two bluejays.

Mr. Koehler makes a complete count of birds found in the cemetery once a month, with weekly visits during migration seasons. Along with a record of bird species present and numbers of individuals counted, he takes note also of all weather conditions, then correlates his bird counts with the environmental factors.

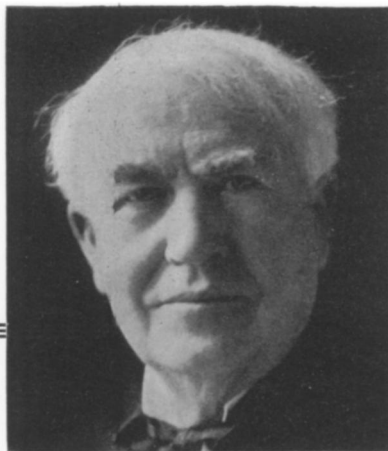
"The most significant result of these census projects," he states, "has been the amazing correlation between various weather conditions and the census figures: the effect a heavy snow will have upon the number of ground feeders present; the way a strong wind will drive the small species to the lower, more sheltered parts; the effect of the sun and the time of day on the amount of singing; and the amazing relationship between two graph lines, one representing temperature on each field trip and the other the number of individuals observed."

Together with his mother, who shares his interest in birds, Mr. Koehler has also made a detailed study of all nests found in the cemetery. In the course of his four years of observation he has found 466 nests representing 21 species. Bad weather during 1946 caused a sharp fall in the nesting population, he notes, but 1947, with weather more nearly normal, saw a comeback.

"I know that my scientific project has not added anything of great value to the science of ornithology," he concludes, modestly, "but it has added a great deal to my knowledge."

Mr. Koehler reports his bird studies in an essay submitted in connection with his participation in the Seventh Annual Science Talent Search.

*Science News Letter, February 28, 1948*



Thomas A.  
EDISON

## ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

THE Philosophical Library, *Publishers*, deems it a privilege to announce the forthcoming publication of *The Diary and Sundry Observations of Thomas Edison*, edited by Dagobert D. Runes, and presented for the first time in book form.

Thomas A. Edison was not a desk scientist. His mind was forever searching for new paths, new ways into the mysteries that surround us, and many a precious secret was he able to wrest from Nature. This study of Edison's observations and notes is like a fascinating trip into the unknown. Here was a great scientist and a great American.

From the Table Of Contents: *On Atomic Energy, The Wars Of Tomorrow, Harnessing Of New Powers, The Habit Of Forgetting, The Inventor's Lot, Economics Of Fear, The Mystery Of Life.*

The *Diary And Sundry Observations Of Thomas Edison* will be published on April 19. Due to present conditions, the edition will be necessarily limited. Your bookseller will take your order now for a copy to be delivered on publication. You may order, if you wish, directly from the publishers by sending your remittance of \$4.75 to the

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