

NOT A FRUIT THIEF

It is Also Denied That Bluebird Preys Upon Crop.

IS A HARBINGER OF SPRING

In Selection of Food Bird is Governed More by Abundance Than by Choice—Insects Form Important Part of Its Diet.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Although the bluebird frequents our orchards and gardens and builds its nests in cavities of trees, there seems to be no evidence that it is a fruit thief. Neither does the bird seem to prey upon crops.

The eastern bluebird, one of the most familiar and welcome of our feathered visitors, is a common inhabitant of all the states east of the Rocky Mountains from the Gulf of Mexico to southern Canada. In the Mississippi valley it winters as far north as southern Illinois, and in the East as far as Pennsylvania. It is one of the earliest northern migrants, and everywhere is hailed as a harbinger of spring.

It is evident that in the selection of its food the bluebird is governed more by abundance than by choice. Predaceous beetles are eaten in spring, as they are among the first insects to appear; but in early summer caterpillars form an important part of the diet, and these are later replaced



Bluebird—Above Azure Blue, Throat and Breast, Cinnamon, Belly White.

by grasshoppers. Beetles are eaten at all times, except when grasshoppers are more easily obtained.

So far as its vegetable food is concerned, the bluebird is positively harmless. The only trace of any useful product in the stomachs consisted of a few blackberry seeds, and even these probably belonged to wild rather than cultivated varieties. Following is a list of the various seeds which were found: Blackberry, chokeberry, juniper berry, partridge berry, greenbrier, Virginia creeper, bitersweet, holly, strawberry bush, false spikenard, wild sarsaparilla, sumac (several species) rose haws, sorrel, ragweed, grass and asparagus. This list shows how little the bird depends upon the farm or garden to supply its needs and how easily, by encouraging the growth of some of these plants, many of which are highly ornamental, the bird may be induced to make his home on the premises.

Two species of bluebirds inhabit the western states—the mountain bluebird and the western bluebird. In their food habits they are even more to be commended than their eastern relatives. Their insect food is obtainable at all times of the year, and the general diet varies only in the fall, when some fruit, principally elderberries, is eaten, though an occasional blackberry or grape is also relished. Grasshoppers, when they can be obtained, are eaten freely during the whole season. Beetles are eaten and comprise mostly harmful species.

The new Farmers' Bulletin (No. 630) of the United States department of agriculture describes this and other American birds useful to the farmer. It may be had by dropping a post card to the Editor Division of Publications, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

CHOLERA IS GERM DISEASE

Domestic Animals, Such as Dogs and Cats, and Also Birds Are Frequent Carriers of Infection.

Hog cholera generally is recognized as a very contagious, infectious, germ disease. It is caused by an organism described as small enough to pass through any kind of filter and still retain its disease producing power.

No one has been able to identify the germ which is the specific cause of the disease. It is contained in the blood of sick animals, and is given off in the urine; thus contaminating the yards and pens in which such animals are kept. It may be carried by streams, on the shoes of persons who enter the yards or pens, or by horses or cattle from one farm to another.

Dogs, cats, rabbits and birds also are frequent carriers of the infection.

Value of Agricultural Crops.

According to government reports, the value of agricultural crops of Iowa for 1914 was \$350,000,000; Illinois was second with \$319,000,000; Texas had \$288,000,000; Kansas, \$287,000,000, and Nebraska came next. Pretty good for the Mississippi valley, when three are in the five highest producing states are in that section. Of course Texas gets into this class on account of its size.

Slugs in Home Garden.

Slugs are always more or less of a nuisance in the home garden. The poison bran mash for cutworms is a good remedy, or cabbage leaves can be dipped in dripping fat to which is added one teaspoonful of lead arsenate, and scatter about the garden. Sacks, boards, etc., are hiding places for these slugs, where they may be trapped and destroyed.

Planting Tender Vegetables.

Don't plant the tender vegetables until all the danger of frost is over. If, however, frost does get the early planting, don't waste time re-planting.

OWN REGISTERED LIVE STOCK

Practical Knowledge of Business Should be Obtained Before Starting With Pure-Breds.

The desire to own registered stock is praiseworthy, but until a man is well fitted by experience and inclination to handle registered stock he will find it better to go cautiously until he has gained a practical knowledge of the business.

There is no mystery regarding the breeding and management of pure-bred stock, still they require materially different treatment than is usually afforded the common scrub stock. These improved animals do not require pampering or babying but they do require good care and enough to eat and that they cannot obtain when wintered around straw stacks and fence corners.

The farmer who has made good success with a grade herd or flock will not find the transition to pure breeds very difficult. If a man knows absolutely nothing about breeding registered stock he will do well to gain the necessary experience by grading up his scrub animals before he invests in pure-bred stock. At least he should gain the actual experience in some way before he makes the plunge.

There are many men who buy pure-bred stock who should never be in the business and the result is that their stock is a byword and a derision—a very disgrace to the name pure-bred. Some men have jumped suddenly into fame by breeding improved live stock, but usually we will find that these men gained a practical knowledge of the science of breeding while handling their grade animals, that made their success possible.

CELERY FOR SMALL GARDENS

As a Rule It is Only Moderately Profitable Crop—One of Most Delicious of Vegetables.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

Celery is a fairly good market crop, but there are many other crops that pay better. In the famous Kalamazoo district in Michigan, where the crop is grown exclusively on hundreds of acres by experts, it is stated that the average profit after rental of land, growing and marketing expenses are paid does not exceed \$100 per acre. Occasionally we hear of a phenomenal crop, but as a rule celery is only moderately profitable.

It is a fine crop for every farmer to grow because it is one of the most delicious vegetables produced. It is not difficult to grow celery. It requires exceedingly rich land, some commercial fertilizer and great care in cultivation and bleaching.

In the Kalamazoo district, where very fine celery is grown, the soil is a very black, rich, spongy sort of loam, but good celery is grown on sandy land and on clay loam.

The ground must, however, be put into thorough cultivation and very



Excellent Crop of Celery.

heavily manured; in fact, it ought to be well fertilized for at least two years before being planted to celery.

To prepare the ground for celery, rows should be made about four feet apart, and a light application of well-rotted stable manure and nitrate of potash placed in the furrows.

The plants taken from the seed bed should be set about eight inches apart in the row and great care should be observed in placing the roots in their natural position without crushing and doubling them up. The soil then must be drawn firmly about the plants and all weeds must be kept down.

Insect Pests and Diseases.

To know the habits of the common insect pests and diseases and some useful remedies or preventives is necessary for the gardener. If he would have maximum crops, radishes, turnips and onions are damaged a good deal with small white maggots that are difficult for the commercial man to hit, but are easier for the small gardener. Powdered tobacco at the time when the seedlings are beginning to show through the ground is recommended, also kerosene one pint and sand three gallons, applying a small handful along the rows early in the season.

Drill in the Seed.

Do not broadcast small grain. It does a large portion of the seeds are not covered or are likely to be covered only slightly. More seed will be required and the chances for a good stand will not be good. Drill in the seed. That is the modern, up-to-date method. You can't afford not to drill in your seed, for economy's sake and a larger yield at harvest time.

Indicates Poor Driver.

Do you know that jerking the bit or yelling or slashing annoys a team and indicates an incompetent driver? Good drivers are quiet, patient and kind and have little use for the whip. No horse should ever be struck unless he knows why and never unless clearly necessary.

FRAUDULENT MEASURES ARE DESTROYED



San Francisco had a clean-up of fraudulent weights and measures recently and vast quantities of them were destroyed. The picture shows 8,000 milk cans being dumped into barges to be towed out to sea and given a watery grave.

ALL HIS COMRADES LOST



James M. Hoggett, electrician, only survivor of the crew of the American submarine F-4. He was on shore leave when the vessel started on her fatal trip at Honolulu.

GEN. L'ARHS MELLOUL



Gen. L'Arhs Melloul, commander of the Legion of Honor and possessor of many decorations, has proved his loyalty to France by sending to the front several of his sons. Recently he visited them in the trenches. He is one of the best-known personages in Algiers.

Dodge War Bread With Cake.

Those who have been unable to adapt their appetites to the new style of bread now in use in Germany have taken advantage of the rule allowing a certain percentage of white flour to be used in cake, and are eating so much of the latter that the mayor of Berlin has had to issue a warning to them.

He declared that the permission to use flour in cake does not indicate a permission to use cake without restriction and says that this substitute for bread must be eaten sparingly. The continuance of the habit of using cake without limit, he says, will be followed by action on the part of the authorities.

TOWELS FROM OAK LEAVES

Another Triumph for American Ingenuity in Utilization of Virtually Waste Material.

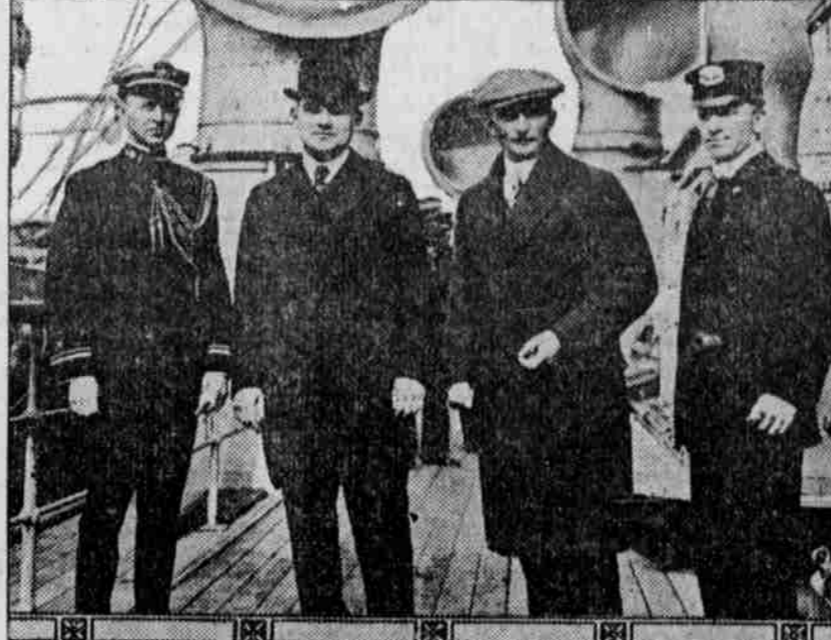
The proverbial leaf which started the first spring fashions in dress in the Garden of Eden has now appeared in a less artistic role as a bath towel for the cultured descendants of Adam and Eve. Instead of the fig leaf, however, it is oak leaf from the miles of waste woodland in south Jersey

GOVERNOR WHITMAN A PROUD FATHER



Governor Whitman of New York with his recently born son, Charles Whitman, Jr., photographed in the executive mansion at Albany.

WATCHING THE KRONPRINZ WILHELM



This photograph, taken on the deck of the German cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm which put in at Newport News, shows, left to right, Lieutenant Courts, U. S. N., Collector of the Port Hamilton, Captain Thierfelder of the cruiser and Lieutenant Crons, U. S. N.

STRAUS MEMORIAL DEDICATED



Thousands attended the dedication of the Straus memorial fountain in New York and paid tribute to the memory of Isidor Straus, the merchant philanthropist, and his wife, who perished side by side in the Titanic disaster three years ago.

MORDECAI BROWN DESCRIBES RECORD GAME



"I've played in and watched a good many ball games in my time," says Mordecai Brown, the noted pitcher, now with the Chicago Federals, "but the record game of them all was staged in St. Louis last season. I was working against Seaton. In the twelfth inning, with the score tied, Brooklyn came up and made seven runs. It got so bad that the last two men struck out on purpose to end the game before darkness, or we might never have retired the side.

"Then, with that seven runs handicap and Seaton pitching, we came in and made eight runs with two still on and only one out. We could have made three or four more, and I believe they would have done the same. Yet there are people who try to dope out this blooming game."

ONLY A FEW VETERANS LEFT

Twenty-four of the 330 Players Who Figured in War of 1902 Still Remain in the Big Arena.

Although only 24 of the 330 ball players who figured in the American and National league races of 1902, the last year of the American league baseball war, still remain in the big arena, a team composed of these veterans, all of whom have been in the game upward of 14 seasons, would be capable of holding its own, with any that might be selected today.

All of these players are far above the average in intelligence, which accounts for their remaining in the game so long, are excellent fielders, great batsmen, and with one or two exceptions, grand base runners. This all-star team would line up as follows:

Matthewson, Plang and Hess, pitchers; Breenahan and Doolin, catchers; Lajoie, first base; Evers, second base; Wagner, shortstop; Wallace, third base; Callahan, left field; Leach, center field; Crawford, right field.

The manager for this team could be selected from among John McGraw, Fielder Jones, Clark Griffith, Hugh Jennings, Wilbert Robinson and Fred Clarke, as all of these former stars were in the game in 1902, Griffith and McGraw being pilots, as now.

LIFE-LONG JOB FOR WAGNER

"Flying Dutchman" Can Play With Pittsburgh Pirates as Long as He Likes—His Career.

Honus Wagner can play with the Pittsburgh team as long as he likes. Barney Dreyfuss, president of the Pirates, recently made this announcement. Barney says that when the big shortstop is too slow for a regular position he will be used for pinch hitting and when he is no longer able to deliver pinch hits he will be used as a coach for young players. Wagner is growing old, but he is far from being all in as a ball player. He should be good for two or three seasons more at the least. He is a well-preserved ath-



Honus Wagner.

lete and always takes good care of himself.

Wagner, familiarly known as the "Flying Dutchman," was born in Carnegie, Pa., February 24, 1874. He played professional ball for the first time in 1895 with the Steubenville (O.) team, and later in the same season joined the Warren team of the Iron and Oil league. The following year he joined the Paterson (N. J.) team, where he played two seasons. In 1897 he broke into the big show as a member of the Louisville National league team.

During the three years he was with Louisville he was shifted from first base to third base, and finally to the outfield. In 1900 the Louisville team was transferred to Pittsburgh. Honus has been a member of the Pirates ever since.

PLAYERS ARE POOR BARBERS

Stuffy McInnis Will Never Again Allow Harry Davis and Larry Lajoie to Shave Him.

Larry Lajoie is making good at second base for the Athletics, but he isn't qualifying as a barber at all. Stuffy McInnis will vouch for that.

On a recent storming trip of the Athletics Stuffy needed a shave badly. The hotel barber shop was full. Lajoie and Harry Davis volunteered as barbers.

Lajoie stuffed a towel under Stuffy's chin. Davis applied the lather. Then Harry shaved McInnis. The shave didn't meet with the approval of Larry. He insisted upon going over Stuffy's face again.

He used an upstroke where Davis had used downward strokes. Davis wasn't satisfied until he had turned the trick once more. McInnis was game and, in spite of the way his face smarted and burned, he stuck it out to the finish.

Two days later, however, McInnis wouldn't accept another shave from the Davis-Lajoie combination. "Never again," said Stuffy. "I want to keep my face."

Worries of Boston Braves.

"The Cardinals and Cubs will be out worries in chief; we do not regard them lightly." This is the summing up of the 1915 National league proposition as expressed by "Rabbit" Maranville of the champion Boston Braves.

Adept With Billiard Cue.

Comstock of the Red Sox, who is a much bigger boy than he looks, is quite an adept with the cue, and according to report plays a skillful game at billiards. He is not so keen for a pool.

JOHNSON PREDICTS HOT RACE

President of American League Tells of Loss to Athletics and Bracing of Other Clubs.

President Ban Johnson looks for a great race in the American league next season. Says Ban: "The addition of Eddie Collins to the White Sox, the loss of Mack's veteran pitchers and the retiring of Baker, if he really quits; the strengthening of the Red Sox and the general bracing of the clubs will make the race a hummer. The Athletics have been virtually shot to pieces. This will make every club in the league hustle for a good bit of the fear which the old-timers



President Ban Johnson.

caused in the younger players will be missing. Then the western clubs will be stronger this year. The race should keep the fans on their toes all of the time."

Radical Cure for Shy Batter.

Manager Stallings says a man shy at bat, a man who steps away from the plate when a fast one comes shooting up should take a fast one in the back and then he never again would be shy at the plate. He also says it does not hurt any to get hit by a pitched ball. He can have any and all of that practice he wants. There are certain flingers who can serve the ball so hard that some people had rather be hit by one of those German fort destroyers.

Operation on Lou Criger.

Lou Criger, veteran American league catcher, and famous as Cy Young's battery mate, who has been a cripple for a year past at his home in Indiana with tuberculosis of the knee joint, resulting from an old injury, submitted to amputation of his left leg at a hospital in South Bend on March 27. The operation is said to have been successful from the surgeon's point of view and a hope is expressed that Criger may as a result soon be able to be up and about.