The Birds Are Now Coming in For Their Share of Investigations Also

The Bobolink is Proven Destructive, and Other Species are Cleared from Taint

Now that the beneficial species of birds are fortified by ample protective legislation, the importance becomes apparent of perfecting methods for protecting crops against damage by birds, says the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. A policy of bird conservation that will best serve the interests of the farmer ,he says, involves not only a thorough appreciation of the value of beneficial species but adequate attention to the control of troublesome ones. Following out this line of endeavor, investigations have been made of a number of species complained of as troublesome, and in some cases special rulings have been made under the migratory bird treaty act to permit control measures.

It has been determined that bobolinks, protected under the migratory bird treaty act, are as destructive as ever to rice when opportunity offers, and in order to control them an open season has been declared on bobolinks in Pennsylvania and the Atlantic Coast States from New Jersey southward to and including Florida. Certain species of wild duck, also protected under the act, were found to be destructive in the rice fields of California, and a special order was issued permitting rice growers to kill them out of season. In the Arkansas rice fields a special order had to be issued permitting the shooting of ducks at night. Meadowlarks in South Carolina were found to be inflicting severe damage to sprouting corn and oats. In order to afford proper relief, says the chief of the Survey, permission has been given farmers to drive the birds from the fields with shotguns, if necessary. Complaints were received from Louisiana that night herons were a menace to the frogging industry, and it was suggested to the bureau that permission be granted to shoot them. Investigation, however, showed that about 96 per cent of the food of night herons is crawfish; not a single frog was found in any of the stomachs examined.

Other birds, not protected under the migratory bird treaty act, were also reported to be inflicting severe damage in some instances. Red-winged blackbirds in Ohio were found to be very destructive of sweet corn and even of field corn. Poisoning methods effective for small fields, were devised, but it is necessary to discover more economical measures for large fields. Complaints of depredations by eagles were investigated. "It is evident," says the report of the chief, "that these powerful birds are seriously destructive at times and their unlimited protection is probably not warranted." This applies to both the golden and the bald eagle. Charges came from the South Atlantic coast that the brown pelican was responsible for reduction in the number of mullet and other food fishes. Examination of a quantity of regurgitated material showed that of 814 fish eaten only nine were of species valuable as human food.

POINTERS FOR POULTRYMEN

By H. Armstrong Roberts

Rearing young stock is the most troublesome phase of poultry keeping, because it requires the closest attention to details. Then, too, baby chicks seem like such helpless, frail little creatures that they are the object of much concern especially to the beginner. A certain mystery attaches to the undertaking. That probably accounts for most of the fears.

In reality artificial brooding is quite simple and it is almost sure of success, provided the stock is vigorous and a few elemental facts are borne in mind. However, there is comfort in knowing that once a chick is weaned from the brooder, which period lasts from four to six weeks. it is virtually as hardy as a mature fowl.

Hatch all the chicks you can during March, April and May, and the problems of brooding are greatly simplified, because conditions at this time are naturally favorable. The weather is on your side, also plant life, because it is fresh and appetizing.

Feed Little But Often

Proper nourishment is the secret of successful brooding. Chicks require a great deal of food in relation to their size, but do not mistake this to mean that you should simply pile the food in front of them . On the contrary, they must be fed in small quantities. Feed little but often is the slogan to be adopted in the brooder.

This is particularly important with chicks which are confined indoors, or an affection known as leg weakness is likely to result. Chicks on free range are not susceptible to this ailment. Leg weakness comes from excessive feeding without sufficient exercise; the bodies of the chicks become too heavy for the muscles and bones of the legs, consequently the chicks are unable to stand or walk.

As shown in a preceding article chicks should not be fed until the second or third day after they have hatched, or until they have had a chance to assimilate the yolk of the egg, which process is the last development in incubation, intended to sustain the chick until itis strong enough to get about.

The first meal should consist of bread crumbs andd hard boiled eggs, ground fine shells and all, johnnycake or pinhead oatmeal.

Foods moistened with milk are of great value in giving the chicks a good start, but the mixtures must be fed in a crumbly state, never in a cloppy condition. It is also important to feed these mixtures fresh. Do not mix up a large quantity and then allow it to stand around until it turns bad.

Many breeders are having good results by giving the chicks milk and no water for the first week or ten days. There is no objection to giving this food as soon as the chicks are placed in the brooder.

Sour milk should be fed just as it begins to thicken and before it separates, as the chicks like it better in this condition. Milk is more than a food; it contains lactic acid, which tends to prevent and correct diarrhea and kindred bowel troubles. It should be placed before the chicks in shallow pans or founts, so designed that the birds cannot wade in the milk or contaminate it.

Give light feeding at first, at intervals of two or three hours, so that the brood receives four or five meals a day. In three or four days, if the meals have consisted of soft food, gradually substitute a scratch grain mixture of cracked wheat, finely cracked corn and hulled oats in equal parts, to which may be added about 5 per cent of cracked peas or broken rice and 2 per cent of millet or rape seed. At the same time a dry mash should be started, which may consist of 10 pounds of cornmeal, 10 pounds of wheat bran, 2 pounds of bone meal and 1-2 pound of granulated charcoal.

Only as much of the scratching feed should be given as the chicks will scratch out of the litter in ten minutes. A surprisingly small quantity is ample. If the chicks have range the dry mash may be kept before them all the time in shallow troughs or hoppers. If the brood is confined indoors the mash should be accessible for about 15 minutes at each feeding.

If it is impossible to supply the chicks in any form add one-half pound of sifted beef scrap to the dry mash after the first week. Increase the proportion of scrap each week until it amounts to about four pounds at the end of a month.

Feed to Encourage Exercise

After the first week the number of feedings may be reduced to four a day and after the second week to three a day. In the morning the feeds are light so as to encourage exercise. In the late afternoon the heaviest feed is given so that every chick may go under the hover with a full crop This last meal should be given about an hour before sundown.

The best way to feed the soft mixtures is on boards or heavy sheets of cardboard. Tin plates or trays are also useful. Never feed the moist mixtures in the litter, where they are likely to absorb filth from the droppings. On the other hand, it is a bad plan to feed the scratch grains on a clean surface, once the chicks have learned how to hunt for them, because they are likely to gorge themselves, which defeats the idea of the scratch grains. Such grains should be scattered in the litter, where the chicks are obliged to dig and work for them.

Unless the chicks are given outdoor freedom, where they have access to an abundance of tender greens, they must be given green food in some other form, such as lettuce, sprouted oats, sliced onions and tops of ground vegetables, such as mangles or turnips. Never undertake to rear chicks without green food of some sort. To do so is to invite all sorts of troubles

Green Food Is Most Important

A plot of clover, alfalfa, rape, rye or some other plant life is a big asset, even if the chicks cannot be turned into this. The greenstuff can be cut at frequent intervals and fed in a finely chopped-up state. This portion of the diet supplies the brood with roughage for crop development, mineral elements to aid the digestion of concentrated foods, such as grain, and furnishes certain tonic properties which sustain the appetite In short, if chicks are given unlimited freedom on a grassy range they are almost certain to thrive, even when the rest of the feeding system is seriously defective.

Finely broken grit and oyster shells should be kept before the chicks at all times after they are a week old. As previously mentioned, the early feedings of soft food should be sprinkled with the grit; sharp sand will answer the purpose.

If charcoal is not included in the mash, it is well to keep this before the chicks along with the grit and shells, also a box of granulated bone or bone meal. The charcoal acts as an absorbent and aids digestion; it serves to keep the crop sweet.

A Spiritualist's Gift to His City

It Was Accepted With Dire Misgivings by Some

BY LEON ABRAMS

The dignified old clock and bell that have been doing service in Independence Hall (Philadelphia) tower for the last forty-four years are the gifts of a Philadelphia spiritualist to his native city.

The clock is in importance second only to the City Hall. The bell occupies the honored place in the tower where originally hung the Liberty Bell.

Both the clock and the bell were presented to Philadelphia in 1876 by Henry Seybert, a fervid believer in modern spiritualism. When Mr. Seybert offered to present the city a clock and bell his announcement caused a protest. It was not Mr. Seybert's belief in spiritualism that disconcerted the members of established churches. It was Mr. Seybert's explanation that the spirit of his mother had requested him to present the city with a clock and bell.

When Mr. Seybert's offer came before City Councils it caused a controversy. The church faction had lined up its supporters and a heated debate resulted. But a clock and bell were needed for the State House tower, and it was decided to accept the gift on behalf of the city.

The clock and bell were installed in Independence Hall tower in 1876. The clock cost $10,000 and the bell $10,000. The metal in the bell is composed of iron and steel of American cannons used during the revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War. It weighs 13,000 pounds, each of the 13 colonies being represented by 1000 pounds. It was first rung on July 4, 1876.

The clock is the largest Seth Thomas timepiece in the United States. It has a gravity escapement and is similar to the famous clock in Westminster Abbey. A clockkeeper is employed to keep it regulated.

For some time after the Seybert gift was installed many persons looked up at the tall tower with a feeling of dire misgiving. The circumstances under which the clock and bell had been acquired caused them to shake their heads wisely.

The clock has proved an excellent time keeper. Several months ago the bell struck shortly before the hour, and then again after the hour. This was due to erosion, inevitable, notwithstanding regular lubrication.

Henry Seybert died in 1883, at the age of 81 years. Shortly before his death he bequeathed to the University of Pennsylvania $60,000 for the endowment of a chair of intellectual and moral philosophy with the condition that the University should appoint a commission to investigate the subjec of modern spiritualism.

The commission appointed by the board of trustees of the University consisted of the provost, the Rev. G. S. Fullerton, the incumbent of the chair, Dr. Joseph Leidy; Prof. R. E. Thompson and Prof. George A. Koenig, to whom were later added Dr. Horace Howard Furness, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, Dr. J. W. White, Dr. Calvin B. Knerr and Mr. Coleman Sellers.

This body of men held an extensive series of seances with various mediums, and in 1887 published a preliminary report of their investigation. The report contained nothing favorable to modern spiritualism, nor anything enlightning on the subject. In fact, the greater part of the report was given to the exposure of cheap trickery perpetrated by charlatans and designing mediums.

The report of the Seybert commission attracted considerable attention and was summarized in newspapers throughout this country, Great Britain and Europe. According to nearly all of the press notices, the investigation repudiated the claims of modern spiritualism, the report of the commission being construed as denouncing alleged communication with the dead as mere legerdemain.

Shortly after the preliminary report of the Seybert commission had been made, a review of the report was issued by the American Spiritualists' Alliance. The review, published in the Banner of Light, was a scathing criticism of the members of the Seybert commission, and the manner in which they had conducted the investigation. The review stated that the members of the commission were incompetent to investigate psychic research or pass judgment on modern spiritualism. It condemned the report as misleading, accused the commission as having violated the condition of Mr. Seybert's bequest and charged the commission with delusive representation.

So much for the Seybert commission and the review .

The controversy eventually dropped. But with the passing of years an amazing growth in the belief of modern spiritualism has been witnessed. Today, with foremost scientists making psychic research their life work and endorsing modern spiritualism, the doctrine espoused by Henry Seybert receives far greater attention than it did in his time.

Money talks but nowadays a dollar only says about 50 cents worth.

The Cooperative Plan

The Workman is Making His Money Work

The growth of the co-operative movement is the most significant fact in the industrial world in America today.

Although the United States is 70 years behind the rest of civilization in co-operation, this last year has seen a tremendous step forward.

The lost strikes, particularly the steel and coal strikes are ,perhaps the chief reasons for this advance toward co-operation. Workers today instead of striking are putting their money into co-operative ventures—are using the positive weapon against the high cost of living.

Secretary Baker Helps League

The National Consumers' League, of which Hon. Newton Baker is president, has hitherto been working for the maintenance and betterment of labor standards, and largely because of Mr. Baker this nation was the only one which came through the war with no reduction of standards in the labor code. Its new ten years program, however, has several big constructive measures. It includes the minimum wage, the short working day, an honest cloth bill, a Federal regulation of food industries and the encouragement of the co-operative movement.

There is no short cut to cheaper prices. Europe has been showing the world the way out. In Switzerland one-half of the population is in the co-operative movement and in England one-third. In these two countries the co-operators' children were the only ones who had enough milk and butter during the war.

In this country, until a year ago, the co-operative movement had not made an impression.

New York Girls Run Summer Resorts

Today in New York 34,000 women and girl workers own their summer hotels, one of which they bought by paying $1 a piece for three weeks. They run their own public schools in the public school buildings.

The Amalgamated Garment Workers have $10,000,000 available for establishing their own bank, and a committee was appointed last February at Chicago, of five men to start twelve co-operative workers' banks in each of the twelve Federal Reserve Districts.

The workers have been building and buying office buildings on a large scale. The Railroad Engineers Building in Cleveland is a beautiful structure. The German hodcarriers have a fine structure in Chicago, so have the Surface Railway employes there

The railroad brotherhoods have been putting their money into factories. In Detroit they have a cap, an underwear, a uniform and glove factory.

In the West, the Rochdale movement seems to have taken hold, especially in Seattle, Wash., and in California.

Strangely enough the white, English speaking wage earner is the last to take up co-operation. This is probably due to the fact that he has not felt the pinch of need as strongly as the foreign born or descendent of the foreign born wage earners.

The Negro in the United States

The negro of the United States owns 20,000,000 acres of land, 500,000 homes, 389 newspapers and periodicals, 31,393 churches and $25,000,000 in church property. There are 3,000 colored physicians, 1,000 trained nurses, 2,000 lawyers and 500 authors and inventors.

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Serbs Studying Agriculture In the United States

Srboljub Todorovitch, Milan Divchevitch, Maria Yovanovitch and Zagoria Dobrosavljevitch, are now students in the West Virginia College of Agriculture. They recently arrived from Serbia, and the expenses of their college education are being paid collectively by several organizations of farmers and farm women throughout West Virginia. These students speak French and German readily, but as yet are unable to handle the English language. The two boys were formerly in the Serbian army, one of them having been held a German prisoner for almost a year. Inasmuch as the agricultural problems of mountainous Serbia and even the ideals of her rural people are somewhat similar to those of West Virginia it is thought that the instruction offered at West Virginia University will not only be of practical value, but also will tend in a way to bring about a better relation ship between the two countries.

Giant Turtle, 500 Years Old, Taken Off Maine Coast

Portland, Me., recently had one of the largest turtles ever in captivity, an 8-footer weighing many pounds. The creature was brought into port alive, having been captured off Sequin by fishermen on the Fanny Belle They were on a swordfish trip and were harpooning when they encountered this creature, whose size astounded them. They had some difficulty in capturing so enormous and powerful a turtle, but finally landed him. It was estimated by scientists who looked him over that he must have lived some 500 years. But captivity did not agree with him and in four days he became a subject for the taxidermist.

Speaking of divorce courts, many courtings eventually end there.

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Toilers Content Without Wages

Over in Hoboken, N. J., in a large surveying instrument factory, there is a colony of two hundred workmen who never receive wages, yet who are perfectly contented. They toil from early in the morning until late at night and their only recompense is a house fly or two a piece during day. They are spiders—large, black, energetic spiders—and they comprise probably the most indispensable part of the entire working force. It is their duty to spin the thread that is used for cross hairs in surveying instruments. During the two months of the year when they work they produce thousands of yards of the almost invisible but invaluable silk.

This spider web is the only material that can be used successfully for cross hairs in surveyors' telescopes. Human hair has been tried, but when magnified by the powerful lenses it has the general appearance of a mammoth dirty glass pillar, for human hair is transparent, and it is altogether too large for this delicate purpose. Platinum wire, finely drawn, is the best substitute for spider web, but it is too brittle. Spider web is not only small and tough, it is also very elastic.

The spider colony works only during August and September. A strike among them may sound amusing to the reader, but it is really a serious matter. For the purpose of urging the little workmen to their tasks four girls trained to expertness in their unusual duties, are employed; it is their task to coax the spiders to work whenever they show signs of reluctance.

Coaxing the spiders really means irritating them . The girl places one on her hand and pats or taps it until it jumps toward the ground, leaving one end of this thread behind. Before the spider can reach the ground the girl quickly attaches the thread to a wire-whirling frame, which she revolves in her hands. As the spider struggles to reach the ground she continues to wind, and in that way sometimes gets several hundred feet of thread from a single spider.

The factory mainfains a large cage for its spiders and feeds them on a succulent housefly. During the fall and early winter the spiders usually die, and so an entirely new colony must be recruited each spring. For selecting the spiders the company employs a number of boys, to whom it gives a course of instruction so they will know the right variety of spider to select.

Mother's Sentence

Let no day pass without some acknowledgment of your indebtedness to her. Study her outspoken wishes; receive her opinion with respect. Yield your will to hers with perfect sweetness. In all that she allows you to do show by your zeal and cheerfulness that, for her sake, the employment is delightful.—Exchange.

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