

HOMES FOR THE BIRDS

Directions for Attracting Singing Feathered Friends.

DESTROY THE SPARROWS

They Should Be Killed Remorselessly. Houses for Martins, Wrens, Bluebirds—The Value of Shrubby.

By EDWARD B. CLARK. Associate Member American Ornithologists' Union.

It would be grateful to the writer of these few summer articles upon birds to know that his words had stimulated interest enough to induce some of his readers to welcome the birds to their homes when the spring comes once again and the feathered army is marching, with the north star as a guide.

Whether you live in city or country you may have the birds as companions if you will but prepare for them the houses in which they like to dwell, or see to it that conditions of surroundings of yard, garden or orchard are made congenial. Some of this has been said in a previous article, but the attempt will be here to give specific directions for the attracting and holding of our tuncful friends.

GET RID OF SPARROWS. It may be a shock to some of our humanitarians when it is said that the necessary step of preparation for securing robin, wren, bluebird, oriole, martin and other feathered neighbors is the getting rid of the companionship of the pestiferous English sparrow. But a considerable feathered pirate, the "avian rat" of our domestic life. Call him what you will, there is no harm too harsh and no name which in the description of his utter worthlessness and savagery can go beyond the bounds of truth.

I have seen the English sparrow kill our native birds; I have seen him rob the young of the food which their parents and too timid parents had brought them; I have seen him tear to pieces the laboriously built nests of the robin and the wren. He deserves no mercy, and he should be shown none. If you wish song birds about your doorstep, kill this murderous little thief with the rusty hinge creek in his throat, and in the killing make the world better by the loss of a pest and add to your lives the music of the birds whose ways are loving and whose companionship is sweet.

This coming winter arm yourself with a small rifle, and use cartridges filled with a few bird shot. You won't harm your neighbors with this kind of a charge, neither will you make noise enough to bring you into discredit. If you simply wish to keep your own premises free from sparrows kill four or five of them a day for a week and when he starts to sing you can't get one of the cunning rascals to come within sighting distance of your yard. If after a month they show a disposition to become bolder kill a few more, and if it at odd intervals well into the spring.

THE POISON PLAN. If you wish to do all your neighbors a service go to work systematically to kill the sparrows. Frank Bond, now connected with the government biological survey and formerly a resident of Wyoming, rid Cheyenne of English sparrows in a single season, and when he started out there were thousands upon thousands of the savage little aliens in the city streets. Mr. Bond used poison. In fall and winter the sparrows feed in great flocks. Find out one of their favorite feeding grounds, a large spot near by a house, and sweep up the remaining poisoned grains and destroy them.

Here is a recipe for the stuff: Mix a drachm of strychnia with three quarts of boiling water. Let the mixture boil until the poison is dissolved. Put enough wheat into the poisoned water to absorb it; then put the mixture aside for forty-eight hours. The wheat will be found to have swollen greatly. Spread it over the back of a pan and place it in an oven to dry, but be sure it does not scorch. The sparrows will like what prepared in this way. There is no cruelty in their killing. Death is swift and painless.

After having killed your sparrows get ready to welcome your friends of the spring. If you live in the city, and have large grounds, you may hope to have nearly all the feathered friends about you that your country friends can claim, but if you have merely the ordinary city back yard your visitors will be few, though they are likely to be interesting. If you live in a flat you can have but one kind of bird neighbor, and he will be a roof dweller, for whom you must prepare a box, and make certain that the tenants of the flat building will not interfere with his housekeeping arrangements.

BOX FOR PURPLE MARTINS. The purple martin (Progne subis) is a housebuilding bird, and something of his habits have been told before. If you have a good sized yard, put your box on a pole about twenty-five feet high. If it be necessary to go aloft for the site, rent a house about four feet above the roof. You may provide as many apartments in your martin house as you wish. The birds live in colonies, and as a matter of fact with the martin it seems to be a case of the more the merrier. Have each compartment about seven inches from front to rear, at least six inches high and five inches in width. The entrance hole, preferably, should be made midway between the top and bottom of the front, and it should be about the size of a silver half-dollar. Keep the sparrows away and the chances are that in early April pioneer martins will be examining the premises, and if satisfied with the arrangement you

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HOME FOR THE WREN.
 Persons who have yard room and some shrubbery can get the wren and the bluebird as neighbors if they will make a preparation for them the coming winter. The wren will nest in almost any kind of box, but, of course, he likes to have things well arranged. A small keg such as anchovies are sometimes packed in makes a good wren home. A wren is a mite of a creature, but he likes considerable room, and his apartment should be slightly larger than that provided for the martin. Do not expect, however, two pairs of wrens to live in the same box, even though it be divided into compartments. They won't, or if they do they'll be so busy fighting that they'll forget to lay eggs.

Make the entrance hole into the wren home midway between the top and bottom of one end of the box or keg. Make it exactly the size of a silver quarter. If you do this the wren is safe from the attacks of the bluebird and English sparrow.

It is nothing short of cruelty perhaps to give the wren too big a box for his home. He and his wife seem to feel in duty bound to fill with twigs whatever place they choose for their dwelling, and if you gave them a dry goods box they

be weaving his nest at the tips of the swaying tree boughs.

You may have the robin and the phoebe (these birds when certain they will not be disturbed, love to build on the top of the porch pillars under the cover of the roof.

Plant shrubbery in the corner of your yard and don't keep it too well trimmed. Heap a pile of brush in one corner. You can make the rest of your yard so attractive that people will forgive a bit of seeming neglect. The brush makes a good hiding place for the birds. Sink a pan into the turf in the center of the yard and fill it with fresh water twice a day. Do these things and it makes little difference where you live, the birds will find you out and stay with you, and if the same conditions prevail, they will come back each spring with the south wind and sing at your window.

EDWARD B. CLARK.



would probably work from April to October in the effort to fill the thing up before they gave a thought to matter of progeny. Do not put a perch outside the hole of the wren's home. The bird doesn't need it, and the perch affords a resting-place for the English sparrow, who can get his head through the entrance and do some mischief, even though his body is too big to follow. If you don't like music, incessant music, don't invite the wren to be a neighbor. He will sing from 3 A. M. to 8 P. M. all through the nesting season, and his last note at night is likely to have a touch of complaint in it, that he's too sleepy to sing any longer.

BLUEBIRD, ORIOLE AND ROBIN.
 The bluebird will bring a bit of the sky to you on his back in the early spring. If you will but bid him welcome. This bluebird likes an ordinary starch box for a dwelling place. It is better, however, to build him a box of hard wood and make it rain and storm proof. He needs a larger entrance than does the wren, one about the size of a silver half-dollar, and it is better to make it in the front, and it should be about the size of a silver half-dollar. If you have trees you may be able to induce the gleaming oriole to swing his cradle above your roof tree. If you catch a glimpse of his livery of black and gold in the early March days, throw out bits of string and yarn where he may find them, and ere long this beauty may

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GAY WEEK AT HOT SPRINGS

Two Richmond Belles Figure Prominently There.

A BABY DRESS BALL

A Unique Affair in Which the Gowns Were Infantile, and the Entertainment Ended With a Plunge in the Swimming Pool.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 HOT SPRINGS, VA., Oct. 3.—This has been a very gay week at the Virginia Hot Springs, and two young Richmond belles have figured prominently in all the social life of the resort. They are Miss Ella Boshier, who has lately returned from Europe, and Miss Kate Harsh.

On Tuesday Mrs. James Ross Todd, of Louisville, gave a coaching party to the Cascade, where her guests had tea on the rocks. Some of them went in the coach, while a large number followed on horseback. Miss Kate Harsh had the box seat of the coach. Others in the party were Miss Boshier and Lewis Ginter Young, of Richmond; Minister Christopher Hauke, of Sweden (from Washington); Miss Ethel Lewis, of Philadelphia; Mr. Mrs. J. Bradley Cummings, Mr. Linzee Blagden, Mr. Rudolph Neeser, Mr. Dwight W. Taylor and Mr. Cecil Barrett, of New York; Mr. Joseph Burnett, of Cambridge; Miss Laura Smith and Mr. Dallas Hyatt, of Philadelphia; Miss Kate Harsh, of New Orleans, and Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Steery.

Miss Ethel Lewis, of Philadelphia, gave a fancy dress ball Tuesday night at the club house, when the guests, all dressed as "babies," Miss Harris and Miss Boshier were the prettiest "little girls" of the party. They wore white dresses hanging to the ankles, with sashes, and hair in loose curls. Miss Boshier wore a "baby" of white lace. The others wore ridiculous costumes, one of the funniest being that of Miss Laura Smith, of Pittsburgh, who represented "St. Hopkins." Mr. Lewis Ginter Young was dressed as a girl, carrying off his head and walking well. Mrs. Henry Lewis chaperoned the party, and a number of prominent guests were present. After the refreshments and dancing the participants went to the swimming pool at midnight, where the guests, all dressed as "babies," swam for a half hour before dispersing. The whole thing was quite original, and a duplicate of the party given by Miss Lewis at Narragansett Pier last summer.

STAUNTON WEDDINGS

Well-Known Young People Join Hands for Life.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 STAUNTON, Va., Oct. 3.—Mr. J. P. Kiser, of this county, and Miss Little

of Rockingham county, were quietly united in marriage in this city Tuesday night, at the residence of and by the Rev. J. C. Garber, of the German Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Kiser will make their future home near Mt. Scion, where the groom is in business.

Mr. Elmer E. Hall, a prominent young man of this city, and Miss Ella J. Eye, daughter of Hamden Eye, of the county, were married at the Methodist parsonage by the Rev. Isaac W. Cantler, pastor, Wednesday night. The marriage was a quiet one and only the most intimate friends of the contracting parties were present. Mr. and Mrs. Hall will make their future home in this city, where the groom has a position at the Putnam organ factory.

Mrs. Harriet T. Barby, of this city, has issued invitation to the marriage of her daughter, Miss Mary Katherine Barby, to Mr. Alexander Waddell May, and the ceremony will take place at the residence of the bride-elect at 10 o'clock of the 14th instant. The marriage will be a quiet one, and no cards are issued in the city.

Miss Lightfoot Hobson has returned from a visit to Patrick Springs. Miss Beulah Jones has returned to the city from South Boston, where she has been spending the summer.

Mr. William H. Zeigler and Miss Gertrude M. Huffman, of the county, were married at Jennings Gap Wednesday. Miss Huffman is well known in this section, and is an attractive young lady with many charming ways.

Invitations are out announcing the approaching marriage of Miss Jessie May Bowling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bowling, of this city, to Dr. Glasgow Armstrong. The ceremony will take place at "Sherwood," the beautiful home of the bride's parents, on the 14th instant, at 10:30 A. M. Dr. Armstrong is a successful and prominent physician of Staunton. This will be the principal society event of the season.

The Music Master. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 BRISTOL, Va., Oct. 3.—Professor Utermoehle, the accomplished musician, who was formerly director of music at Martha Washington College, Abingdon, Va., has been elected to a similar position in the faculty of Sullins College for Young Ladies in this city.

He is expected to enter upon the duties of the position next week.

RICHMOND PEOPLE

Mrs. Albert Young and her daughter, Miss Arents, of Richmond, have been at the Homestead for the past week. Miss Arents wears some exquisite gowns. As is usually the case with Virginia women, Miss Arents is a fine horsewoman. (She is niece of the late Major Ginter, I believe.)

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Potts were here this week from Richmond, where Mr. Potts is passenger agent for the Chesapeake and Ohio road. He was given a drive in the coach of Mr. James Hobart Moore.

Dr. L. M. Cowardin has been here all summer, with his family, from Richmond. They own a handsome country home here. Dr. Cowardin will leave for Richmond Sunday, to be followed by his family a week later.

Mrs. Robert Newell Groner, of Richmond, is visiting at the cottage of General D. V. Groner, of Norfolk. A number of the young set called at Mrs. Groner's "at home" Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Frank A. Davenport, of Richmond, is at the Homestead, where he arrived Thursday morning.

Former Secretary Hilary A. Herbert, of the navy, is a conspicuous figure here. He and his wife, Mrs. Hilary A. Herbert, are also Mr. and Mrs. Barish Wilkins, Mr. Wilkins, owner of the Washington Post, has been in poor health for the past six months, but is slowly recovering.

CHARITY BALL IN DANVILLE

The Washington Marine Band to Furnish the Music.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 DANVILLE, Va., October 3.—One of the swellest events that has happened in Danville for many years is promised next Tuesday night in the grand charity ball and band concert. The Washington Marine Band has been engaged, and will give a concert at the Academy of Music, which will be followed by a grand ball in Municipal Hall. It is expected to make this a very swell affair, and the proceeds will be applied towards the furnishing of the new Danville Hospital.

The various committees having in charge the Masonic Bazaar, which will be given here November 18th to 28th, are getting down to work, and the bazaar is almost an assured success.

A cotton club has been organized and will give their first german this week. The new club will use the old armory, and it is expected that there will be a great deal of pleasure derived from it this winter. It is proposed to hold german weekly.

Miss Annie Lee Penn, who has been spending the summer in Alaska, has returned to the city for the winter.

Miss Mamie Basley, an attractive young lady of South Boston and a great favorite in Danville society, is in the city.

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BIGGEST TRIBUTE TO WATER MELONS

Darkies from Church "Take" Them and Sing "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Out at Richmond College Thursday night Dr. W. R. L. Smith, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, told a good story which he had heard from Dr. Charles H. Ryland, secretary of the college.

Dr. Ryland has a flourishing little church out in the country and Sunday mornings he goes out there and preaches, returning in the afternoon. Last Sunday as he was making his way comfortably back to the city in his buggy, he overtook a wagon loaded with colored people, of almost all ages. They were evidently returning from church. People who live in the country know that darkies go to morning services about 12:30 P. M. and come away between 3 and 5 o'clock.

The wagon in front of the Doctor was jogging along and evidently he had seen the minister. Presently a watermelon patch came into view. The colored people stepped out of the wagon and were soon gathered up several of the largest and best. Dr. Ryland was amused. He was astonished, as well, when, as soon as the melons were safely out of sight in the wagon, every man and woman in the wagon, to the top of his voice, "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

TRINITY COLLEGE

Southern Association to Meet There in November.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 TRINITY COLLEGE, DURHAM, N. C. Oct. 3.—The Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Southern States will hold its annual meeting at Trinity College, November 4th, 5th and 6th. The officers of the association are: President, R. H. Jesse, University of Missouri; Secretary, Chancellor James H. Kirkland, Vanderbilt University. On account of the absence of Chancellor Kirkland, who is in Europe, Dr. Edwin Mims is acting secretary. A large number of Southern institutions will be represented. An interesting programme has been arranged.

A very complete equipment for the draughting room has been purchased and is now being arranged. This equipment is being installed on the second floor of the Duke building. Mr. W. C. L. White, a graduate of Pratt Institute, is giving a course in mechanical drawing.

Professor Edwin Mims has in preparation the life of Sidney Lanier for the American Men of Letters series, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Lanier is the third southern writer to be included in this series, the other two being Poe and Shims. The American Book Company will publish in a few days an edition of Carlyle's Essay on Burns, by Professor Mims. This is one of the Gateway series of English classics, edited by Henry Van Dyke.

Smith and Lamar have just brought out a volume on southern writers. The study of Thomas Nelson Page, is by Professor Mims.

Professor J. S. Bassett is preparing a life of Andrew Jackson for Doubleday, Page & Co. During the past summer he made special investigations in the Congressional Library at Washington. He has had access to some very important letters not hitherto printed.

The archive staff for this college year is: Editor-in-Chief, W. P. Hudd, Durham, N. C.; Business Manager, Z. P. Beachboard, Bell Buckle, Tenn.; Assistant Editor, W. S. Lockart, Mohon, N. C.; Literary Department, G. H. Smith, Elizabeth City; Exchange Editor, H. C. Satterfield, Roxboro; Editor "At Home and Abroad," Department, B. S. Womble, Newton, N. C.; Y. M. C. A. Editor, Zensky Hinojara, Hiroshima, Japan.

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Owing to the excellence of Syrup of Figs, the universal satisfaction which it gives and the immense demand for it, imitations have been made, tried and condemned, but there are individual druggists to be found, here and there, who do not maintain the dignity and principles of the profession and whose greed gets the better of their judgment, and who do not hesitate to recommend and try to sell the imitations in order to make a larger profit. Such preparations sometimes have the name—"Syrup of Figs"—or "Fig Syrup" and of some piratical concern, or fictitious fig syrup company, printed on the package, but they never have the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of the package. The imitations should be rejected because they are injurious to the system. In order to sell the imitations they find it necessary to resort to misrepresentation or deception, and whenever a dealer passes off on a customer a preparation under the name of "Syrup of Figs" or "Fig Syrup," which does not bear the full name of the California Fig Syrup Co. printed on the front of the package, he is attempting to deceive and mislead the patron who has been so unfortunate as to enter his establishment, whether it be large or small, for if the dealer resorts to misrepresentation and deception in one case he will do so with other medicinal agents, and in the filling of physicians' prescriptions, and should be avoided by every one who values health and happiness. Knowing that the great majority of druggists are reliable, we supply the immense demand for our excellent remedy entirely through the druggists, of whom it may be purchased everywhere, in original packages only, at the regular price of fifty cents per bottle, but as exceptions exist it is necessary to inform the public of the facts, in order that all may decline or return any imitation which may be sold to them. If it does not bear the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of every package, do not hesitate to return the article and to demand the return of your money, and in future go to one of the better class of druggists who will sell you what you wish and the best of everything in his line at reasonable prices.

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key business. The bar-rooms of the city are confined within a radius of five blocks, directly under the eyes of the police. There are none near a church, theatre, park or any public place of worship or entertainment. They are also closed at midnight.

TERRAPIN FROM JAPAN

Over There They Are Raised in Pens and We Want to Know How.

The United States Fish Commission has sent an expert to Japan for the purpose of studying terrapin culture as practiced in that country, where they seemed to have succeeded in breeding the turtles by artifice.

It is true that the Japanese terrapin is not the same species as ours, but its habits are similar, and there is reason to suppose that like methods of culture might be successful in the United States.

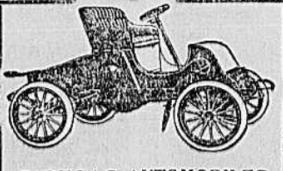
The matter is of no small importance, inasmuch as our terrapin is on the verge of extinction. It used to be vastly numerous, especially in the neighborhood of the Chesapeake, and in 1850 diamond-backs sold in Baltimore for 12 1/2 cents apiece.

But they have been literally hunted almost to the point of extermination, and at the present time they fetch \$60 a dozen.

The Japanese species, which is said to be equal to our own in flavor, is known as the "suppon," and like the American terrapin, is an inhabitant of tidal rivers and salt marshes.

Artificial pens with a muddy bottom, are employed for rearing purposes, with a low fence to prevent the turtles from escaping. The pond is shallow, and at low tide the water is very warm. The females climb out on the bank, scratch a shallow hole and deposit their eggs, finally covering them up and leaving them to be hatched by the heat of the sun.

Nets are spread to prevent birds from digging up the eggs.—New York Herald.



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