

Correspondence Column

Trying for Prize at County School Fair. Dear Editor, I certainly was delighted to find my name on the prize list this week, and was furthermore delighted when my prize came. Thank you ever so much for it. It was a very nice one and I am sure you will find it needed, for I certainly am beginning using it early, don't you think so? I am going to try for the prize at the County School Fair, and have written a great many original stories, but haven't decided on any one yet. I would like very much to see in print I certainly would like to get a medal and am going to try hard for one. Before I got a prize I said I would give anything just to win a prize, but now I have won a prize I say I would give anything for a medal, and hope I shall get my second wish, by making you again for my prize. I am your member, Mathews, Va. GENEVIEVE C. BURKE.

Like's Prize. Dear Editor, My prize came a few days ago and I like it fine and send many thanks for it. We are having pretty spring weather now. Everything is so pretty, the flowers and the fruit trees that are in bloom are especially pretty. I think the page is fine, and the words that Curtis Elder sends is especially good. Our school will close the 31st of May, and I'll be glad when that time comes, Stuart received his badge Friday and likes it fine. He is very much pleased with a prize, too. I must close now. I hope you and all the members spent a joyous Easter. With best wishes, CHARLOTTE COBBLE BEAL, Box 51, Tunstall, Va. P. S. - Am sending the answers to V. P. R. Ruffin's art puzzles. C. C. BEAL.

Arithmetic and May Basket. Dear Editor, - As I was kept busy with the Audubon contest for the week I failed to write. Yesterday (May 1) we gave our schoolteacher, Miss Baugh, a beautiful May basket. It was decorated in lovely flowers. Now some other children are going to give their teachers a May basket, too. Our arithmetic is "three," I am sending you a little book (which was made by my mother) called "Birds." It took me real long to make it, but I hope you'll enjoy reading it. I am sending a story, "The Birds of Killingworth," which took me the longest time to write. I will be terribly disappointed if it does not appear in print Sunday. Also, there are two birds and a puzzle. Tomorrow (Friday) there is going to be a play at school - like my composition. It is called "The Birds of Killingworth" to celebrate Audubon's birthday. Wishing success to all, I say "Au revoir." Your member, REBECCA R. COOPER, 231 Halifax Street, Petersburg, Va.

Went With Jim Ted to Fries. Dear Editor, - Yesterday my father had to go to Roanoke, and Jim Ted and myself wanted to take him to Fries, Charlie was going to drive the coils and take duds in the buggy, but we begged him to let Charlie take the car, and he told Charlie to go with us and we could go with him. We started and stopped to get my cousin, Sallie Rose. When we got to Fries almost every body had gone to church. We ate dinner and in a little while the train came up and duds left. Then we started home. We went around by the Island Ford. Charlie had to go to work and had to go about two miles back before he found it. Sallie Rose and myself returned actually had our faces and arms were blistered. We stopped a good many times to gather flowers. We had lots of fun telling jokes and gathering flowers. There are so many vines along the river banks and little streams. We drove up the river for about two or three miles. The road runs along right by the shores of the river. The reason they call the place Island Ford is because where you ford the river right in the middle of it is a large island, about half mile long. I don't know how wide it is. It was covered with oaks and as green willow trees grow all around the edge, it is a beautiful place. I will close for this time. Thank so much for my prize. I was so proud of it. Your member, MARY FULTON BRUDY, Independence, Va.

A Story About Birds. Dear Editor, - I am sending the story about birds today. I hope you will check your office before you have planned out your page. Wishing you and your members much success. I am your true member, PATRICK INGRAM, R. F. D. No. 2, Crews, Va.

Wears Her Badge on Coat. Dear Editor, - I was once a member of the T. D. C. but have not written for so long that I reckon you have forgotten me. I still have my badge and wear it on my coat. I go to school and am in the seventh grade. As summer is coming on I will have more time to write. I am sending an original story, which I hope to see in print. I remain your old member, MARY ELLEN BURKE, Mathews, Va.

Sends Piece on Boy Scouts. Dear Editor, - Please send me another badge, as I lost mine. I am sending you a piece on "Boy Scouts" hoping you will find a place for it. I am sure you will. Dear Editor, I've had the mumps. You ought to have seen my face. Please excuse my writing as my ink is all red and I would like very much to win a prize. MASTER FRED HARRIS, Box 7, Dumbarion, Va.

Having Delightful Weather. Dear Editor, - We are having delightful weather here today. I am sending a drawing of a duck in the water. You can find a place to send birds, so I looked in a reference book and it said that poultry was sometimes called birds, so I am sending the drawing and hope it will reach its intended time for the paper. Please try to find a space for it. I send my drawings of ducks on Monday of Tuesday before Sunday will be in time for the paper? I remain, your loving member, ELISE W. LILLIAN, 12 King Street, Newberry, N. C.

Will Try to Send a Story. Dear Editor, - I am a little girl eleven years old. I want to enter my name as a member of the T. D. C. I want to send in a story before the 31st of May. Yours respectfully, LUCY W. WALKER, 100 Tenth Avenue, Lynchburg, Va.

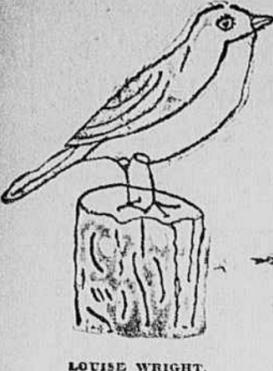
Had to Help Mother. Dear Editor, - My father has been very sick and had to help mother in the house and has not had time to write to you. We are sending some drawings. The little black and white pig, it does not look good after eating. It is all right. We did not get the pig, but we send you another if you can. We will write again soon. From your little friends, ETHEL AND JAMES NEATHERY, Box 6, South Boston, Va.

Two Prizes Awarded. Dear Editor, - We celebrated John J. Audubon's birthday on Friday, and there were two prizes awarded by the Audubon Society for the best composition on birds. I think I certainly is one for the girls and one for the interested in birds. The prize was not sent yet. I am including you and your picture, and hope you will like it. I have sent some more around my home than I can bear. The birds are all in the nest. They make a lot of noise early in the morning. I read "The Little Sister of the Bird" and it was very interesting. Your loving member, LYRA VIRGINIA RANSON.

Genevieve Burke Her Debutante. Dear Editor, - I was once a member of the T. D. C. but have not written for a long time. I hope this little story, which I composed just in print, Genevieve Burke, the girl who got the last week's prize, is an original story. She is my dearest friend and I would like to have a page in the seventh grade. I am your devoted member, LUCY HITCHFIELD BEAR, Mathews Courthouse, Va.

School Has Closed. Dear Editor, - I am sorry but I know my story and drawings will not be in time for May 1. My school will close May 7, and I hope I will have more time to write to you. I am sending you some drawings of birds and some flowers. I hope you will like them. I have sent some more around my home than I can bear. The birds are all in the nest. They make a lot of noise early in the morning. I read "The Little Sister of the Bird" and it was very interesting. Your loving member, LYRA VIRGINIA RANSON.

Marian Motley. Dear Editor, - I am sending you a drawing of a bird. I hope you will like it. I am your member, MARIAN MOTLEY, Lapezton, Caroline county, Va.



LOUISE WRIGHT.



HELEN BROADRUP.



MARATHA WATSON.



H. R. SHANDS.



EDITH ANDERSON.



DIX SUTTON.



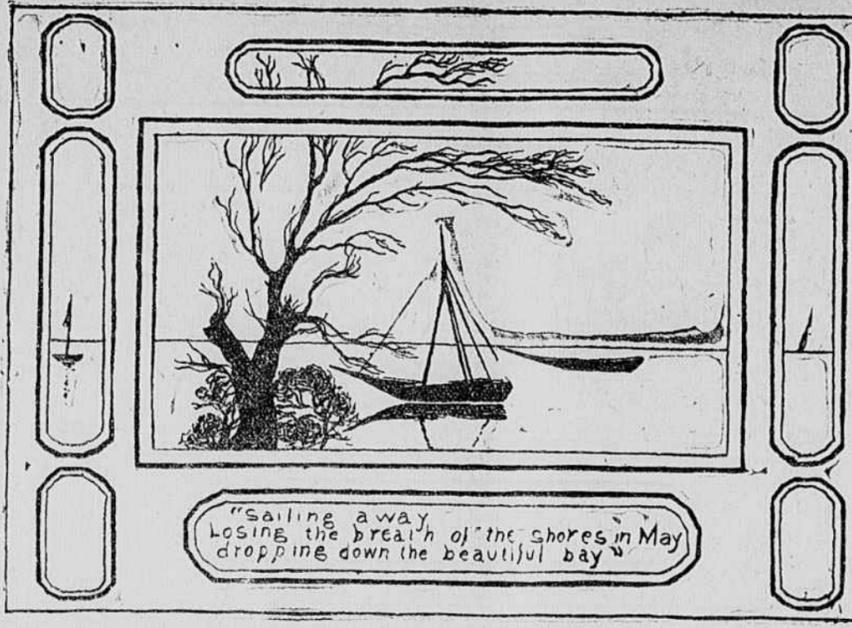
THELMA TIGNOR.



HELEN A. TIGNOR.



MARY E. PAXILL.



"Sailing away losing the breath of the shores in May dropping down the beautiful bay"

Editorial And Literary Department

Campaign for Better Health Conditions

My Dear Girls and Boys: May has brought sunshine and lovely weather as a prelude to summer, which will soon be here. Now I wish you to make this summer a little different from others. I should like it to mark a distinct advance for your page over summer that have gone before.

All boys and girls are interested in questions and conditions that affect health. The importance of conditions bearing upon health are taught in schools to-day and impressed upon the minds of young people. But to be effective, must be like "bread cast upon the waters." Members of The Times-Dispatch Children's Club have publicly paved a way and led sentiments many times during the years that have passed since their organization. Now they have an opportunity to begin a campaign for better health conditions.

Suppose you write me all you have been taught regarding the house fly and the trouble he spreads, the mosquito and the malaria his bite causes. The things you tell what remedies you think should be used in houses and places, in markets and other places where food is offered for sale, to keep wares free from the contamination of the house fly.

The interesting letter published today regarding the "Scouts" dwells upon the necessity of boys being trained to be good citizens. Boys and girls, too, are interested in whatever concerns the good of the community in which they live, so I hope to have some good letters from you and some good drawings to illustrate your "Better Health Campaign."

The State Board of Health needs all the help you can give, and if you are in earnest, that will be a great deal. Justify to this board and to others watching the confidence put in you by YOUR EDITOR.

THE WEEK'S PRIZE WINNERS. Master Fred Harris, Dumbarion, Va. Miss Edith Allen, 235 1/2 Venable Street, Franklin Street, city. Miss Jean Frances Craig, 507 East Franklin Street, city.

MEDALISTS FOR THE MONTH. Miss Edith Anderson, Louisa, Va. Master Andrew Hettinger, 2226 Barry Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

THE WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS. Aldridge, Gladys; Anderson, Edith; Allen, Edith; Bowles, Gordon; Real, Stuart; Baker, Frances; Blackburn, C. J.; Blakenship, J. M.; Banks, R. P.; Burke, Mary E.; Burke, Genevieve; Beal, Charlotte C.; Cooper, Rebecca R.; Craig, Jean F.; Diggs, Myrtle; Drinker, Virginia; Deans, Lucy L.; Elch, Gertrude; Hill, Elizabeth; Hopkins, M.; Harris, Fred; Harris, Ida; Harris, Annie; Hurt, Algonon; Hargrove, Gladys; Ingram, Ruth; Irwin, Susan; Jackson, Rose G.; Keith, Marian L.; Wright, Lucille; Lundson, Alice; Lundson, Gladys; Loving, Irene M.; Motley, Marian; McDaniel, Mary; Neathery, Ellen; Page, Mordcaid; Pannill, Mary E.; Pannill, Amy H.; Pockington, Walter; Proctor, Margaret; Robertson, W. C.; Rhudy, Mary F.; Ranson, Lyra V.; Scott, Marian L.; Sutton, Stephen C.; Sutton, Dix; Shands, H. R.; Tignor, Helen A.; Tignor, Thelma; Winston, Elizabeth; Watson, Helen E.; Wright, Louise; Wallman, Elise; Walker, Lily W.; Williams, John; Jackson, Rose G.; Watson, Paul J.; Keith, Marian L.; Watson, Martha; Wright, Lucille.

HOW THE ROBIN RECEIVED ITS RED BREAST. Do you know how the robin received its red breast? Long ago in the far north, where it is very cold in winter, there lived in a small tent a father and his son. They did not have much, for they were very poor. All they had was a little fire which kept the tent warm. One day the father was taken very sick and so the fire was left to the small son. But in the night the boy fell asleep. During this time a big bear came and put the fire out. But the little robin, whom the people had fed, saw this, and when the bear was gone she came down quickly and flapped her wings over the place where the fire had once burned and now had only one spark. But as she continued to flap her wings she made it real red, and so this is how the robin received its red breast. JEAN FRANCES CRAIG, 507 East Franklin Street.

CORN. The plant grows from four to twelve feet high, according to the kind. The stalks are jointed, dark green in color, and concave on one side. The ears grow from the axils of the leaves. The plant has two kinds of flowers. Those growing from the top are called the tassels, and bear the stamens of the flower.

The other kind of flower is located on the ear, and is called the "silks," and bears the pistil. A field of corn, when "tassled out," is a very beautiful sight. There are many varieties of corn. The most important kinds are flint, dent, sweet, corn and popcorn. The flint corn has a small stalk and a small ear, on which the grains are hard and compact. Dent corn is the most important, and contains the greatest number of varieties. It is grown all over the corn belt of the region, and furnishes nearly all the corn raised in this country. Sweet corn contains a larger proportion of sugar than other varieties. Popcorn takes its name from the fact that the kernel when heated bursts open. When heated from the inside through the coating and the kernel turns itself inside out.

EDITH ALLEN, 2235 1-2 Venable Street, Richmond.

ROY SCOUTS. The Boy Scouts is an organization with the purpose of character building, eligible to boys between the ages of twelve and eighteen. It is an effort to get boys to understand and appreciate the things about them and to train them in self-reliance, manhood and good citizenship. The boys live out of doors as much as possible, camping, "hiking" and learning the secrets of woods and fields.

The Boy Scouts were started in England in 1908 by General Sir Robert Baden-Powell. The Boy Scouts idea was first started in America early in the year 1910 and the growth has been remarkable.

The boys of our country want to be the very best kind of citizens, and they can be helped in this greatly by the Boy Scouts of America. FRED HARRIS, Dumbarion, Va. Age ten years.

THE HUMMING BIRD. Though least in size, the glittering monarch of the hummingbird entitles to the first place in the list of birds of the New World. It may truly be called the Bird of Paradise, and had it existed in the Old World it would have claimed the title instead of the peacock.

The bird which has won the honor to bear it, is darting through the air almost as quick as thought. It is within a yard of your face in an instant gone. Now it flutters from flower to flower to sip the silver dew. It is now a ruby, now a topaz, now an emerald, now all burnished gold.

The tongue of the hummingbird is formed much like that of the woodpecker, being curled round the head under the skin, and thus capable of being darted to a considerable distance. Like many other little creatures, the hummingbird is remarkable for its assurance and impudence. It is easily tamed for that very reason, and has been known to domesticate itself in an hour from the time of its capture, and even when released it has returned again to partake of the dainties which it has tasted during its captivity.

There are an immense number of species of these exquisite birds, varying from the size of a swift to that of a warbler.

The nests are very neat and beautiful, and as may be imagined from the diminutive size of the little architect, exceedingly small. They are composed of down, cotton, etc., and are fastened on the outside with mosses and lichens.

ELIZABETH WINSTON, 1211 North Twenty-ninth Street, Richmond.

THE BIRDS OF KILLINGWORTH. Spring was coming. The trees were swelling with buds. The bluebirds were singing in the trees. The robins were stealing cherries from the farmers' orchards. The black crows were looking very hungry. Very often they would fly into the orchards and steal some corn.

The farmers detected these birds. The reason was this: the birds stole from their orchards. The farmers decided to call a meeting to see what should be done about these birds. First came the judge out of the white house that had a red roof. He was very proud. Then the minister came. As he walked on he killed the daisy underneath his feet with the head of the white fescue during his dings.

Occasionally he looked at the birds on the trees. At the meeting the judge said: "These birds are worthless. What good do they do? Steal the cherries and corn out of the orchards. They are worthless, I say. We can make a law to pay any one who brings us a dead crow." All the farmers liked his speech.

The teacher rose to make his plea. "Hear me," he began. "You cannot possibly know what you are saying when you say that birds are worthless. Why? Is it because the crow steals a handful of corn and the robin a cherry? Who lightens your darkest hours with their music? The birds do. Who would kill the worms and snakes in your orchards if there were no birds? Why do you wish to kill them? How do you expect me to teach your children if I have you no birds for the beautiful birds and their young ones? Please let them live."

When the teacher finished speaking the farmers nodded their yellow heads and smiled. "Well, not listen to that crazy fellow, but to the judge," they said. So they kept their word. When they would see a crow in the orchard the bird would soon be dead.

Sometimes the mother bird would fly down from her nest to get some worms for her young. Then she would get wounded. The poor thing would lay on the ground dying while the young birds would starve. When a woman would come by a tree a worm would drop on her hat or gown. Then there was a scream.

One year passed, and the farmers were sorry that they had killed the birds. There was no one to keep the worms out of the orchard. One day a wagon came through Killingworth with many cages in it and little birds in them. The farmers shouted and set free the little prisoners. From that day the people of Killingworth loved birds.

Composed by REBECCA R. COOPER, 231 Halifax Street, Petersburg, Va.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S KINDNESS TO A BIRD. In the early pioneer days, when Lincoln was a young attorney and "rode the circuit," he was one day traveling on horseback from one town to another with a party of friends. The road was rough, and led across woods and prairies. As they passed by a grove where the birds were singing sweetly they saw a baby bird which had fallen from the nest, and lay fluttering by the road. Mr. Lincoln had gone a short distance Mr. Lincoln said: "Wait for me a moment. I will soon rejoice you."

His friends watched him. They saw Mr. Lincoln return to the helpless bird, pick it up and tenderly lay it in the nest. When he joined his companions one of them said: "Why did you bother yourself and delay us with such a trifle as this?"

Abraham Lincoln answered to be remembered. "My friend," said he, "I can only say this: that I feel better for it. I could not have slept to-night if I had left the helpless little creature to perish on the ground."

MARY McDANIEL.

BIRDS. Birds are one of our most common living fowls. There are large and small birds. Some live in the far South, some in the North, and many more in the temperate zone. The largest bird is the condor of South America. The eagle is the largest bird of the United States. It lives mostly in the mountains. The English sparrow is the most common of birds. It is very bold, and makes its nests under the eaves of houses. Some birds go South in the winter and stay until spring, when they fly back. Some of our birds that stay here in winter are the snowbird, the blue and redbirds and the cedar bird. There is but one bird that has learned to talk, and that is the parrot.

Birds have very mysterious ways of protecting their nests and young birds, which they guard very carefully. MARGARET PROCTOR.

OUR NATIVE BIRDS. The people of Virginia are blessed by having so many beautiful birds. I think the mockingbird cannot be equalled as a songster.

The robin represents the farmer's friend, but the English sparrow is his enemy. The bluebird and the cardinal bird are among the prettiest. The hawk, crow and owl catch the farmer's poultry.

On summer nights we may hear the whippoorwill's cry from some night-boring tree. The snipe is one of the birds that move around by night. Among the many birds that are good to eat are the wild duck, goose and turkey and the partridge.

Most of the birds go South in autumn and come again in the spring, but the faithful snowbird stays by us.

An afraid man would find this a dreary world without his feathered friends. ELIZABETH HALL, King and Queen Courthouse, Va.

BIRDS I HAVE SEEN ABOUT MY HOME. One day I was going through our pantry, when I heard something hitting against the window. I looked up and saw a cardinal flying against the window, striking with his beak. He kept that up nearly all day, and did the same the next day. The third day he came with his mate and stayed around home two or three days. Then he went away, and we have never seen him since.

There is a robin that has been building his nest in the same tree in my front yard for two or three years. We have all been very much interested in this bird.

On our front porch in the Virginia creeper there was a little house sparrow's nest. My brother wanted to see it, there were any eggs in the nest, so he climbed up on the banister and put his hand in the nest, and found three eggs. The bird never came back again, and we all were very sorry.

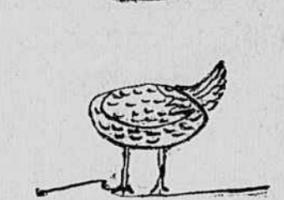
Composed by LUCY W. WALKER.

Puzzle Department

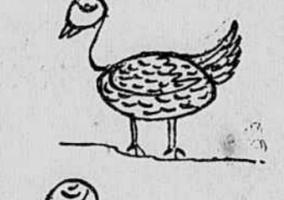


HELEN BROADRUP, Lorraine, Va.

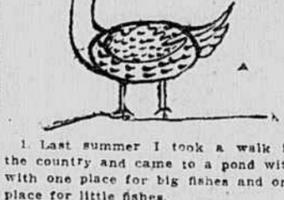
What Do I Find in the Country?



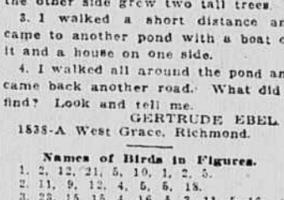
STEPHEN C. SUTTON, FRANCES BAKER.



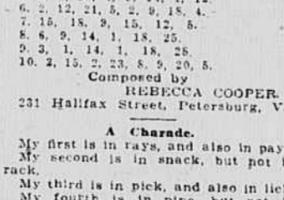
LYRA VIRGINIA RANSON.



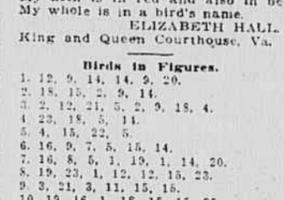
ETHEL NEATHERY.



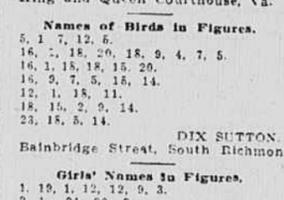
IDA HARRIS.



LUCY W. WALKER.



ROSE GARNETT JACKSON.



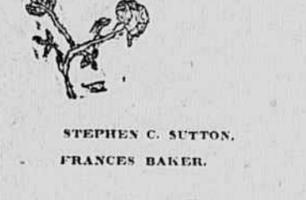
IRENE M. LOVING.



AMY H. PANNILL, ANNIE HARRIS.



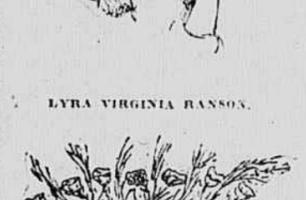
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ETHEL NEATHERY.



IDA HARRIS.



LUCY W. WALKER.



ROSE GARNETT JACKSON.



IRENE M. LOVING.

1. Last summer I took a walk in the country and came to a pond with one place for big fishes and one place for little fishes.

2. On one side grew a bush and on the other side grew two tall trees.

3. I walked a short distance and came to another pond with a boat on it and a house on one side.

4. I walked all around the pond and came back another road. What did I find? Look and tell me.

Composed by GERTIE EBEL, 1835-A West Grace, Richmond.

Names of Birds in Figures.

- 1. 2, 12, 21, 5, 19, 1, 2, 5.
2. 11, 9, 12, 4, 6, 6, 18.
3. 22, 15, 18, 4, 16, 8, 3, 11, 5, 15.
4. 13, 16, 3, 11, 9, 14, 7, 12.
5. 3, 1, 18, 4, 9, 14, 1, 11.
6. 2, 12, 21, 5, 2, 9, 18, 4.
7. 18, 18, 9, 15, 12, 5.
8. 6, 9, 14, 1, 18, 25.
9. 2, 1, 14, 1, 18, 25.
10. 2, 15, 2, 23, 8, 9, 20, 5.

Composed by REBECCA COOPER, 231 Halifax Street, Petersburg, Va.

A Charade.

My first is in rats, and also in pigs. My second is in snack, but not in rack.

My third is in pick, and also in lick. My fourth is in pipe, but not in type.

My fifth is in red and also in bed. My whole is in a bird's name. ELIZABETH HALL, King and Queen Courthouse, Va.

Names of Birds in Figures.

- 1. 12, 9, 14, 14, 2, 20.
2. 18, 15, 2, 9, 14.
3. 2, 12, 21, 5, 2, 9, 18, 4.
4. 23, 18, 5, 14.
5. 4, 15, 22, 5.
6. 16, 9, 7, 5, 15, 14.
7. 18, 8, 1, 12, 19, 1, 14, 20.
8. 19, 23, 1, 12, 12, 15, 23.
9. 3, 21, 3, 11, 15, 15.
10. 19, 16, 1, 18, 15, 15, 23.

Composed by ELIZABETH HALL, King and Queen Courthouse, Va.

Names of Birds in Figures.

- 1. 1, 7, 12, 6.
2. 1, 18, 20, 18, 9, 4, 7, 5.
3. 1, 18, 18, 15, 20.
4. 9, 7, 5, 15, 14.
5. 1, 18, 11.
6. 18, 1, 2, 5, 14.
7. 18, 5, 14.

Composed by DIX SUTTON, Bainbridge Street, South Richmond.

Girls' Names in Figures.

- 1. 19, 1, 12, 12, 5, 3.
2. 1, 21, 20, 8, 14.
3. 8, 5, 12, 5, 14.
4. 2, 5, 19, 19, 9, 5.
5. 12, 21, 4, 19, 5.

Composed by STUART BEAL.

Jumbled Names of Birds.

- Wrospa, Lwo, Love drth, Pdsapenne, Gmcookin rihd, Nctra, Ate Irdb, Nbiob, Karl.

Answers to Virginia P. H. Ruffin's "Art Puzzles."

- 1. Mill.
2. Rosenthal.
3. Sanderland.
4. Lohrichen.
5. Ruyadael.
6. Vanderlin.
7. Bonheur.
8. Boughon.
9. Adan.
10. Kowalsh.
11. Geoffroy.
12. Geoffroy.

Composed by CHARLOTTE C. BEAL, Box 63, Tunstall, Va.

BIRDS.

The time of the singing of birds has come. I can hear them singing so sweetly! I love to find their nests. I have been looking for them already. The quail is so shy when you begin to hunt for its nest, it runs on the ground and pretends that its wing is broken. The wren loves to build in old houses.

My sister found a bird's nest in a hollow of an old apple tree the other day, and we have been watching it nearly every day.

Composed by RUTH INGRAM, Crews, Va. R. F. D. No. 2.

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3. 22, 15, 18, 4, 16, 8, 3, 11, 5, 15.
4. 13, 16, 3, 11, 9, 14, 7, 12.
5. 3, 1, 18, 4, 9, 14, 1, 11.
6. 2, 12, 21, 5, 2, 9, 18, 4.
7. 18, 18, 9, 15, 12, 5.
8. 6, 9, 14, 1, 18,