THE JASPER NEWS

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JASPER, ... MISSOURI

Pittsburg has seven more national banks than Boston.

Of course, that paresis germ is of the soft-shell variety.

A woman who has had a good cry is always in a lovely temper.

The French budgetry scheme for 1909 will provide for two Dreadnaughts.

The self-raising aeroplane invented in Russia, let us hope, has no alum in its composition.

A Swiss scientist has added one to the seven thousand or so sure cures for tuberculosis.

Man's dignity is never so ponderous as when the bartender insists he has had enough.

If Minister Wu remembers the answers to all the questions that he asks what a mass of information he must have.

Some statesmen are so conceited they can go home after their maiden speech confident congress is ready to adjourn.

A Wisconsin man has been arrested for carrying a satchel full of Bibles. Another instance of too much of a good thing.

Look to your liver. More suicides are caused by a bad digestion than by unhappy affairs of the heart or smashed finances.

Wu Ting Fang says that our prison system is too good for China, but it doesn't follow that it's any too good for the United States.

The bicycle is said to be enjoying a revival all over the country, though several cities have nothing to say against their street railway systems.

A French count has been arrested for dishonestly stealing a pearl necklace from an American woman in Paris, instead of marrying her and stealing it honestly.

Minister Wu Ting Fang has been given the honorary degree of LL. D. by the Iowa State university. He already had the honorary title of "Master of the Question Mark."

After being locked in a freight car for a week with nothing to eat but raw potatoes, the tramp who tried the experiment does not think enough of it to start a raw potato cult.

A New Jersey minister is advising the men of his congregation to allow their wives to have the last word always. And as this is one bit of good advice that is pretty likely to be followed.

Balloon experiments are attracting more than common attention just now, and no wonder, with the mercury in the nineties. Balloons can go straight up to where it is cool in less time than it takes to tell about it.

A conscience-stricken man in New Jersey has returned to Washington $40,000, representing the sum of $10,000 taken from the government some years ago, with interest up to date, thus making complete restitution.

The president of the Carnegie Institution promises a fortune and fame to the man who can introduce to the public bread that tastes less like cotton batting than the stuff that now passes for that article. Women should also be allowed to compete.

The feminine residents of Main Line, a fashionable suburb of Philadelphia, are wearing sandals because they say this footwear is "sensible and comfortable," but the wise public, reflecting that there never was a style adopted by women for this reason alone, will suspect that the sandals are really worn to show off the pretty feet of the wearers.

A lot of those silver cups, table casters and things given to Whitelaw Reid's daughter by the British nobility are in the class of what the everyday bride privately designates as junk because she can make no use of them. Miss Reid will not have the satisfaction enjoyed by other brides, however, of trading her gifts off for something she likes better. She will have to keep them and pretend to be delighted with them.

Justice Harlan at 75 has just run up against one of those rumors in the newspapers that he was about to resign. It makes him say somewhat tartly: "I cannot imagine how it is that two or three times a year a report is printed that I am going to retire from the bench. The fact is that I have never contemplated, much less considered, such a thing. I will retain my position as long as I keep my present good health, and I do not propose for these reports of my retirement to go uncontradicted."

TRICKY ACTS OF THE BLUEJAY

"NOISIEST CREATURE KNOWN TO ORNITHOLOGY" — ALBINO BIRDS OSTRACISED.

DOINGS OF THE ROBIN FAMILY

Nestlings Launched, Father Helping Two Strongest, Mother Three Weaklings in Their Effort to Make Flight a Su[illegible]

BY EDWARD B. C[illegible]

(Associate Member Ameri[illegible] ogists' Union.)

(Copyright, Joseph B. [illegible])

When it comes to a q[illegible] telligence, the Corvidae which belong the crow jay, must be accorded These birds have prac[illegible] haustless vocabulary an[illegible] ters are as many sid[illegible] Reynard, the fox, whi[illegible] much.

The bird lover who would get anything like an adequate knowledge of the bluejay should live in the middle west. For some reason or other, known to his jayship alone, the eastern bird is of rather a retiring disposition, keeping away from man and his haunts, or, if approaching them doing it stealthily and with much the air of a thief. The jay is a thief and his manner in the east fits his calling. All through the middle western country the bluejay is a bird of the doorstep. He is saucy and bold and apparently is unaware of the fact that his brilliant plumage makes him an easy mark for boys' target rifles and slingshots.

It is the very commonness of the bluejay in the cities and villages of the Mississippi valley which is his greatest protection. Familiarity with the bird breeds contempt in the small boy, and, with the English sparrow, it is left severely alone. The bluejay nests in the trees in the dooryard, steals things from the household and carries on war with the family cat.

It is hard to determine just how much damage the bluejay does by pilfering the eggs and murdering the young of the song birds. The difficulty in determining the damage arises from the fact that the jay is "bad in streaks." You may watch him for a month and never detect him in a single depredation, but turn your back and there is no certainty but that the next moment he may be dining from the new laid eggs of the robin or tossing the young of the chipping sparrow from their hair-lined nest to their deaths on the ground below.

From the standpoint of amusement there is more fun in watching a bluejay than in the observation of a score of his sweeter-voiced comrades of the field. A German living in a suburb of Chicago made some soap for home consumption. He patted it nicely into cakes and placed them on a board in the yard to harden. The suburb—it is called Highland Park—is about as full of bluejaws as it can be and still leave room for other bird families. When the German put his soap out all the bluejays of the neighborhood descended upon it. They ate soap for an hour.

The wonder is they did not die, but the diet did not seem to interfere with their digestion in the least.

When the owner of the soap found the thieving jays at their work he repatted what was left of the cakes,

Bluejay.

added some more material and again put the soap out to harden. This time he placed the board which held the cakes upon two barrels and mounted guard at some little distance to keep the jays away. They returned to their feast in a few minutes, and the angered soap maker, who was only a few yards distant, threw a cobble stone at them. The jays fled, but the heavy stone, striking one end of the board, turned it over and pitched all the soap cakes into a box of soft cement.

The foreigner doesn't take kindly to the ways of the American bluejay.

Young Robin "the Last to Leave."

As has been said, bluejays are thick in the suburbs of Highland Park. An Englishman living in the place had some gooseberry bushes which bore berries of extraordinary size and sweetness. The owner of the fruit declared that the bluejays ate his treasures, and securing his shotgun he destroyed several of the birds. The law in Illinois protects the bluejay, but there is a section of the statute which gives the right to kill birds which are preying on the crops. Friends of the bluejays said that the birds wouldn't eat gooseberries, and there was a prosecution started against the Englishman for killing them. The case was decided finally in his favor, and while scientists and bird lovers may hold otherwise the bluejay now appears in a "precedent case" as being a gooseberry gourmand.

The bluejay is perhaps the noisiest creature known to ornithology, though if danger is threatened he can maintain a graveyard silence. I was watching a pair of bluejays who were building a nest in a stunted pine tree. The two birds left the home site and disappeared behind a close board fence. In a moment I heard a racket. Every note known to the jay's jargon came rapidly from behind the fence. The noise continued for several minutes, and then, going to a point to the left of its source, I peeped over the fence. The two birds were on an ash pile in the alley, and between them lay an extremely dirty paper collar. There was little question in my mind but that they were disputing over the advisability of using the collar for nesting material. They scolded back and forth for some time, but Mme. Jay finally ended the matter by seizing the collar and taking it to the nest, where, after much difficulty, one end of it was woven into the structure, while the other end was left to flap with each passing breeze, making the home in the pine tree a conspicuous object to every passer.

The jay has a pertinacity that in some cases might be commendable. After the pine tree nest was completed and the eggs were laid the mother bird began sitting. There should have been young in the nest at the end of two weeks, but no young came. The bird sat steadily, with the exception of the time spent in seeking food, for 30 days before she gave up hope of offspring. After they had deserted the nest I examined the eggs. Each had a little dried-up kernel inside that rolled about like a pea.

Albino birds are not of great rarity. Perhaps it were better to say that birds partly albino are not rare. A pure white crow was recently in the possession of Animal Keeper De Vry of the Lincoln Park zoo, Chicago. Ruthven Deane, a fellow of the American Ornithologists union, has a mounted crow specimen that is as white as the petal of a syringa blossom.

There came under my personal observation a crow which had a large white patch in the center of its otherwise black back. I saw this bird on different occasions during two years. Save once it was always alone, and at the time marking the exception its company was a flock of its fellows, who were chasing it to drive it away from the neighborhood of their retreat. It is impossible to determine absolutely what the reason for the crow's persecution was, but of course everything points to the circumstance of its white back as the real cause.

The bobolink (dolichonyx oryzivorus) has been painted part white by nature, but I once found a bobolink that was pure white, barring two black streaks on his breast. It has been supposed that "freak" birds have some difficulty in procuring mates, but this white bobolink had a wife and an interesting family of young. It may have been nothing but accident, but the mated pair built their nest in a meadow where there were no other bobolinks, although the fields directly across the road were filled with their brothers and sisters. It certainly looked like bobolink ostracism due to the peculiarity of the albino's feathers.

It happens not infrequently that some nestling is smaller and weaker than its brothers and sisters. This is probably due to constitutional causes, for it is believed by most scientists and observers generally that the parent birds feed the little ones in rotation and show no partiality. It may be of course that through accident the more nourishing bits of food may fall repeatedly to the lot of two or three of the offspring, while the others get the food which has less strength-giving qualities.

The weakling of the brood is almost always the last to leave the nest. The parents lead forth the lustier young, but do not forget the needs of the little one left behind. They divide their duty between the occupant of the nest and its brothers, and sisters, who are trying their wings for the first time. I watched the departures of five young robins from their home on the top of a porch pillar recently. Two of the young robins were much larger and apparently stronger than their nest mates. The little home was filled to overflowing, and the two sturdier birds were perching on the edge of the nest for a day before they ventured forth.

Albino Crow.

Then the father robin coaxed them out. They followed him to a lawn directly across the street, and there he fed them and gave them lessons in flying.

The difference between the male and female adult robin is marked enough to make confusion of the sex in the observer's eye impossible. The father and mother of that brood divided their duties. Mr. Robin stayed with the two young which left the nest first, while Mrs. Robin attended to the nestlings left behind. These three stayed in the nest for two days after the departure of their stronger brothers. During that time the father did not visit the nest, nor did the mother make any attempt to feed the young which were in the father's care. When the three little ones finally gained strength enough to leave the home they flew to the same lawn to which the others had gone. I watched the family closely for a week, and the division of duty was maintained by the parent birds. The father fed the two lusty youngsters, while the mother looked after the three weaklings.

The father had much the easier task, but the mother made no complaint. Was there not something manlike in the way in which that male robin portioned out the work, and something womanlike in the patience with which the female robin accepted the dictum of her lord and master.

A New Rheumatism Cure.

Here's another sure cure for rheumatism: "See these," a man said, drawing three round sticks of some black substance from a pocket. "That's electric light carbon. Carried 'em six months now and never had a touch of rheumatism. Used to have it all the time before I carried the carbon. It beats a buckeye all holler."

NOT ONLY COULD, BUT DID.

Mr. Grandon Able to Bear Testimony to Wife's Accomplishments.

Sometimes there is a drop of regret in the cup of joy served by fate to the husband of a brilliant talker. "I should think it would be a privilege to sit at the table with your wife three times a day," said one of Mrs. Grandon's ardent feminine admirers.

"Only twice a day," said Mr. Grandon, with a bow. "I do not go home at noon."

"Too bad!" said the admirer. "We could not get on without her at club I'm sure. Why, I believe she could talk intelligently on a thousand topics!"

"She can—and does," said Mr. Grandon, and with another bow he slipped out just as his wife appeared. — Youths' Companion.

THE EFFECT OF WEALTH.

Billie—Who is that awfully freckled girl on the horse?

Tillie—Why, that's Miss Gotrox. She has several millions in her own name.

Billie—So? My! Aren't her freckles becoming?

CUTICURA CURED FOUR

Southern Woman Suffered with Itching, Burning Rash—Three Little Babies Had Skin Troubles.

"My baby had a running sore on his neck and nothing that I did for it took effect until I used Cuticura. My face was nearly full of tetter or some similar skin disease. It would itch and burn so that I could hardly stand it. Two cakes of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment cured me. Two years after it broke out on my hands and wrist. Sometimes I would go nearly crazy for it itched so badly. I went back to my old stand-by, that had never failed me—one set of Cuticura Remedies did the work. One set also cured my uncle's baby whose head was a cake of sores, and another baby who was in the same fix. Mrs. Lillie Wilcher, 770 Eleventh St., Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 16, 1907."

Tommy's Streak of Luck.

"Tommy," said a young lady visitor at his home, "why not come to our Sabbath school? Several of your little friends joined us lately."

Tommy hesitated a moment. Then suddenly he exclaimed: "Does a little red-headed kid by the name of Jimmy Brown go to your school?"

"Yes, indeed," replied the new teacher.

"Well, then," said Tommy, with an air of interest, "I'll be there next Sunday, you bet. I've been laying for that kid for three weeks, and never knew where to find him."

Laundry work at home would be much more satisfactory if the right Starch were used. In order to get the desired stiffness, it is usually necessary to use so much starch that the beauty and fineness of the fabric is hidden behind a paste of varying thickness, which not only destroys the appearance, but also affects the wearing quality of the goods. This trouble can be entirely overcome by using Defiance Starch, as it can be applied much more thinly because of its greater strength than other makes.

A Sensible Literary Chap.

"I'm not runnin' a ten-acre farm in connection with the literary business," says the Sweet Singer of southwest Georgia, "and so, the outlook is more cheerful. I hope to make enough cotton to have my poems published in a book and enough corn to feed the family while I'm waitin' for the public to buy the book. I also take contracts for the digging of wells, and these little side issues will enable me to show American literature just what I can do!"—Atlanta Constitution.

To Spread Temperance Cause.

Mrs. Katherine L. Stevenson has been commissioned by the International Woman's Christian Temperance Union to make a tour through China, Japan and Hawaii. She is to visit the most important educational institutions of the three countries and explain to the faculties and students the temperance measures adopted by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

With a smooth iron and Defiance Starch, you can launder your shirt waist just as well at home as the steam laundry can; it will have the proper stiffness and finish, there will be less wear and tear of the goods, and it will be a positive pleasure to use a Starch that does not stick to the iron.

We tarnish the splendor of our best actions by too often speaking of them.