

# FOR FARMERS' STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

## NATURAL HISTORY

(Contributed by the Pioneer Jack Miner League)

We have been writing of birds who are rare or classed as not common to P.E.I. This week we consider the mourning dove. This bird has been observed at different times and places but cannot be called a frequent visitor. Taverner describes it as breeding along our southern borders in Eastern Canada and wintering locally in the southern parts, and in the United States as far South as the tropics. We quote an article by Gilbert Pearson, written for the National Association of Audubon Societies, Educational Leaflet No. 2. He states as follows:

Years ago, before the Audubon Society was formed, I frequently accompanied a local hunter on his trips afield. My business was to retrieve the birds which fell before his double-barreled, muzzle-loading shot-gun, and to carry the shot-pouch and powder-horn whenever the sportsman found it necessary to advance in a stooping attitude while stalking his game. The bird most hunted was the Mourning Dove and many of these feathered beauties fell before his aim.

Late one summer evening, I recall, we tramped for two or three miles through the pine woods to a pond where we had been told the doves came of an evening to drink. Just before sundown they began to arrive. After a busy day passed in the woods and fields they came flying in to this small, sequestered body of water to refresh themselves before sleeping.

### Drinking Place of Doves

My companion never shot birds on the wing that was too difficult; so, on this occasion, he waited until they had alighted near the pond to drink from one of the little puddles where cows had stepped in the mud. I remember distinctly that he killed only one Dove that evening. I was not sure to fetch it at once, for fear that my presence might frighten away the other birds that were coming in. While he waited, I saw a white heron, a blue heron, a mallard duck, a pair of Canada geese, and a pair of mallard ducks. The herons were in the pond and the ducks were on the shore. The geese were in the pond and the ducks were on the shore.

### South Dove Shoots

Most of the hunting for Doves was done in the fall, when they would come in great numbers to the peanut-fields. It was an easy matter to creep along under cover of an old fall-fence, get two or three birds in line, and blaze away. This was a common practice in those days, indulged in by thousands of persons in the South, without a thought of wrong-doing until it was forbidden by recent wise laws.

In parts of Georgia and South Carolina large "Dove-shoots" used to take place every autumn. With this sport in view some grain was left standing, or else certain fields were baited by scattering seed over the ground. After a few days the birds were to be seen gathering to the deceptive feast by thousands. Then the hunt was organized, and on an appointed morning, many men and boys surrounded the field and began shooting. All day long the birds were flying in or out of the slaughter-pens, and frequently several thousands were killed before the sun went down. The number killed often far exceeded the local consumption, which meant that the surplus birds were thrown away, or were left for the hogs to eat.

The great excuse for regarding these doves as game, and shooting them in moderation, as their flesh, although dark, is palatable, and a young dove, taken a few weeks after it begins to fly, and nicely cooked, is a delicious morsel. But such slaughter as the "shoots" caused was a criminal waste, and no one can regret their stoppage when he considers the very great value these birds are to the farming interests of the country, and particularly to those of the Southern States.

Mr. William Dutcher, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, in writing of the feeding-habits of the Mourning Dove, has made the statement that follows:

### The Farmer's Help

Is there a farmer in the country who, after a hard day's work has not wished that some other means could be devised to prevent the rapid growth of noxious weeds, and, at the same time, emancipate him from the sweating brow, the blistered hands, and the aching back?

### Distinctions

The Mourning Dove has sometimes been confused with the White Passenger Pigeon, especially since the search for possible relics of that lost species has excited so much interest. It is about four inches less in length and seven inches less in spread of wings than was the Wild Pigeon, and has not the blue tint about the head, nor the reddish under-surface of that bird. It never gathers in great flocks for nesting-purposes, the small winter flocks breaking up in spring into solitary pairs. On the Pacific Coast the Band-tailed Pigeon might be mistaken for the Dove, but that bird is larger than the Dove, and has a square-ended tail crossed by a dusky band, and a notice-

Of the various grains eaten, wheat is the favorite, and is almost the only one taken when it is in good condition, and most of this is eaten in the months of July and August. Corn, the second in amount, was all damaged grain taken from the fields after the harvest, or from roads or stockyards in summer.

The principal and almost constant diet, however, is the seeds of weeds. These are eaten at all seasons of the year. They constitute 64 per cent of the annual food-supply, and show very little variation during any month. Some of the seeds eaten were so minute that it would seem that none but the smallest species of birds would eat them, and then only when driven to do so by lack of other food. Some instances of the vast numbers of seeds that individual birds consumed will be of interest. In one instance were found 7,500 seeds of the yellow wood-sorrel; in another 6,400 seeds of barn-grass or foxtail; and a third had eaten the following combination: slender joint-grass, 2,600; orange hawkweed, 4,820; hoary verain, 950; Carolina cranes-bill, 120; yellow wood-sorrel, 50; panicum, 620; and other weed-seeds of various kinds, 40; making a total of 9,200. None in the above written list is useful, and most of them are noxious.

### Enormous Consumption of Weed- Seeds

"The three Doves in question benefited the farmers, on whose land they fed, by destroying 23,100 prospective weeds. Is there a farmer in this land who would not welcome as a friend the man who would offer to uproot and kill 23,100 weeds? Yet, because the Doves go about silently and unobtrusively, and make no loud boasts about the good they are doing, they are thought of little or no value. In many parts of the country this valuable, harmless and gentle creature is considered a game bird, and is shot during a large part of the year. It is a question for the farmers to settle whether they will permit anyone to kill on their land birds that annually destroy tons of the seeds of pigeon-grass, rag-weed, smartweed, bindweed and many other noxious plants, and are thus worth so much as helpers on farms. The matter resolves itself into a question of figures, i.e. dollars and cents to the farmers. If three Doves, at one meal, destroy 23,100 weed-seeds, and thus prevent the growth of the same number of prospective weeds, how much good will all the Doves on a farm or in a State, or in the country at large, accomplish? Or, to present the case in another way, how much will it cost in time, labor and actual cash to destroy what the Doves will eat if they are protected and encouraged to remain on the farms? The farmers in the United States spent, in 1899, the enormous sum of \$365,305,921 for labor; how much of this was paid for killing weeds, and how much of it could have been saved if no Doves had been killed, and all had been protected and permitted to perform the work that the Creator designed them to do? The Dove is far too valuable an auxiliary to the agriculturist to have it classed as a game bird. Its value consists in its weed-destroying activity, and not in the few ounces of food it may furnish.

### Quick Growers

Few flowers grow as luxuriantly or quickly as morning glories. They are prodigious bloomers. Their dark and light blue, pink, rose and white colorings, produced in such abundance, will make a sheet of color on a fine summer morning that is as cheerful as the first peep of the crocus.

### Plant them for a quick cover for an unsightly fence, or to climb over a garage placed too much in the landscape. On a back porch, they will climb up wires or strings to the roof. They need no attention. For short trailing plants, portulaca is recommended. It is a free bloomer, likes a hot dry place and when once started thrives on neglect.

### Canadian Seed Trade Association

The Mourning Dove belongs to the Order Columbaceae and the Family Columbidae-Pigeons. Its scientific name is Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. This bird breeds in all the southern Canadian provinces and thence southward throughout the United States and Mexico. In winter it occurs from Oregon, Ohio and North Carolina southward to Panama.

## Canadian Garden Service

Tender vegetables are those which have been grown quickly. Especially with such things as radish, carrots and beets, is slow growth disastrous as the roots become woody and filled with objectionable fibre. But this rule also applies to everything used for salads. On this account experts advise pushing growth with frequent cultivation, which in addition to checking weeds also conserves moisture. Cultivation alone will often keep the vegetables going through a dry spell but of course a few pails of water or an hour or two with the hose at this time, will tend further and then only when driven to do so by lack of other food. Some instances of the vast numbers of seeds that individual birds consumed will be of interest. In one instance were found 7,500 seeds of the yellow wood-sorrel; in another 6,400 seeds of barn-grass or foxtail; and a third had eaten the following combination: slender joint-grass, 2,600; orange hawkweed, 4,820; hoary verain, 950; Carolina cranes-bill, 120; yellow wood-sorrel, 50; panicum, 620; and other weed-seeds of various kinds, 40; making a total of 9,200. None in the above written list is useful, and most of them are noxious.

### Insects and Diseases

Garden insect enemies are divided into two groups—those that eat holes in the foliage and those that suck out the juices. For the first-named, poison is usually applied, while the suckers are attacked with a burning spray which penetrates often when both are present, a combination of poison and something that burns, such as lime sulphur and arsenate, gives the best results. The damage from the biting insects is usually quite apparent, but the presence of the other kind is only shown at first by a wilting or withering of the foliage. For sucking pests, chief of which are the aphids or plant lice, spray with whale oil soap, a quarter pound of soap to a gallon and a half of water; nicotine sulphate, or "Black Leaf 40" or any other repellent secured from a reliable seed store.

### Fungus

When fungus attacks the plants, the foliage usually turns yellow or brown, or white spots like mildew cover the leaves. Fungus is most common in warm, murky weather. Spraying with Bordeaux Mixture, or dusting with specially finely ground sulphur is advised. Sulphur dust will also protect hollyhocks and phlox from rust, if applied when the disease first shows itself. An ordinary tin can with the top perforated like a salt shaker makes a good duster.

### Turtle in the Island

What does it mean? and who was Peter? asked one. The other explained that it meant "to come to an end," but left Peter unidentified. The term is, I think a mining one, possibly an early mining one. "Peter" is rock or stone, petra in Latin, with derivatives in some modern languages; and the phrase implies that the valuable stratum is thinning out to worthless rock, and so "coming to an end."

### Rainfall for May

The rainfall for last month was exceptionally heavy. My rain-gauge gave it as 5.26 inches, while the rainfall for May, 1935, was only .39 inches. That is, we had rather more than six-and-a-half times the rainfall of May, 1935. It has come at a good time for the hay crop!

### Good Street School Choir

I was delighted with the singing of the young choristers over the radio; and especially when they rendered the part-songs. I am not acquainted with their instructors, but I feel that she has inspired the young folk with confidence and enthusiasm, and a love for a better class of music; and I can fully appreciate the amount of labor she must have put into the choir to produce so desirable a result. The music was well selected; I had never before heard Handel's "Where'er you walk," and was very pleased with the way it was rendered. Why cannot we have programmes like this oftener? Instead of the feeble entertainment the radio often brings us.

### Satin Moth

The comprehensive report on this pest which appeared in last Saturday's Guardian calls our attention to the danger to our Golden Willows and other members of the Salix family. The young collectors of insects in the Province (who are quite numerous nowadays) would do well to include the Satin Moth among the injurious insects for their school fairs. I note that, according to the "Approved Common Names" of the Canadian Insect Pest Review, of Dec. 1, 1930, the scientific name of the Satin Moth is *Stilpnotia salicis*, Linn.

## NEWSY NOTES

### THE BLACKBIRD

A week or two ago the English "Blackbird" was briefly mentioned in these Notes; and on reading over the notice there came to mind a talk that the writer had with an officer in the Salvation Army who was stationed in Charlottetown, somewhere about twenty years ago. He was inclined to nature study, and kept a number of pets, among them some New Zealand red rabbits. He had kept an English blackbird for a number of years, he said, and liked its song. In response to my question he said that he bought it at a "bird store" in Toronto, and it cost him \$10, but he thought that when one considered the trouble of importing these birds, the price was not unreasonable.

### THE WOOD BETONY

During the past year or two I have distributed to readers both seeds and plants of the Wood Betony, the *Betonica officinalis* of Linnaeus, which the botanist Benjamin calls *Stachys betonica*. It has rather pretty leaves which are oblong and deeply crenate, and the red-purple flowers are in long whorled spikes. I am indebted to Mr. E. W. Hart, one of the botanists at the Central Experimental Farm, for some particulars of this plant. "The Wood Betony of Great Britain is no longer official in the Pharmacopoeia, but much has been written about it for a very long time. Antonius Musa, physician to the Emperor Augustus Caesar, wrote a book upon the virtues of Betony. The *Medicina Britannica* (1666) says: "I have known the most obstinate headaches cured by daily breakfasting for three or six weeks, on a decoction of Betony made with new milk and strained." Gerard tells us, among other uses, that Betony "preserveth the lives and bodies of men from the dangers of epidermal diseases. It helpeth those that loathe and cannot digest their food."

### SOME INSECTS OF P. E. ISLAND

The Order Hemiptera includes the true bugs, the scale insects, the plant lice, and a most miscellaneous array of other pests. These have been collected in the Province, but there are many many others awaiting "discovery." I try a wonderful plant—but I think you may discount fifty per cent of all these virtues.

### How to Control Cabbage Maggots

The cabbage maggot is one of the most serious pests of cabbages and cauliflower in Canada today. It also attacks radishes, turnips, and other plants of the mustard and cross family. The maggot attacks the roots and not only destroys the roots but bores into the tap root. Infested plants become stunted and wilt on hot days. Severely attacked plants turn yellow and die. The adults of the maggot are two-winged flies which lay their eggs on the stems of the plants about the time the European plum tree first comes into bloom in the spring.

### LONGEVITY OF CATS

My cyclopaedia gives the average age of a cat as ten years; nevertheless some have been known to live for twice that period. Our old cat, "Tom," who has just paid "nature's last debt," was eighteen years old, we figure; and a neighbor had a cat which attained the same age. In a popular magazine there was recently recorded the ages of two cats still living: one is at Banff, Alberta, and that cat was 22 years old last March. "Molly," owned by G. C. Warren of Charlottetown, is 23 years old this summer. Her son was sixteen years old when he was "put away" last summer. An old cat requires special care in feeding, as it is almost certain to lose its teeth, and this will un-

## Late Planting of Zinnias

They Resist the Hottest Summer Days

Zinnias do not make rapid growth until the weather is warm and they may be sown rather late in the season and still flower for a long season, making up in rapidity of growth during the warm weather for lateness in planting. Late planted zinnias are best sown where they are to remain to avoid the check of transplanting, planting three or four seeds to a hill 1-2 feet apart for the large flowering types and 18 inches for the dwarf sorts and then thinning to a single plant. They will make rapid growth especially if encouraged with a complete plant food and not much of their season will be lost.

The zinnias has developed into flowers of huge size and brilliant coloring that make it one of the most gorgeous of garden subjects. The dahlia-flowered strain is one of the finest, the curled petals relieving the formality and stiffness of the older types. The colossal still remains a favorite with its wide range of brilliant colors. The dwarf, smaller flowering sorts are gaining great popularity as bedding plants and for edgings. The double liliput or pompon strain being particularly fine for the latter purpose, the compact bushes being suffused with brilliant buttons of bloom.

### Several Recipes For Mosquito Dope

To workers in the open during the summer months and to campers in the woods, to fishermen, and to picnickers, existence is made uncomfortable by mosquitoes, blackflies, midges, sandflies and punkies ("bite-me-no-see-ums"), deer-flies, or dogflies, and horse-flies or "bull-dogs." Blackies and mosquitoes are the most numerous and most annoying. With regard to personal protection, various essential oils applied to the skin are of great value in warding off attack. None of the protective mixtures as yet evolved are absolutely effective, but several are of great value, especially when the insects are very numerous. The majority of the patent protective mixtures obtained at drug stores are effective but are usually rather expensive. Equally good ones can be made by the individual at lower cost, and the amount of the ingredients used may be varied to suit individual requirements, according to the sensitiveness of the skin. The following recipes, and many other methods of making mosquito "dope" are taken from the bulletin of the Dominion Department of Agriculture on methods of protection from pests of the forest. The bulletin may be obtained free from the Publicity and Extension Branch, Ottawa.

### Salary Or Percentage

DOMINION, N. S., June 11—Art Michaels, former first baseman of the Boston Royal Giants, baseball team, thinks that his new position as coach of the Dominion Hawks in the Cape Breton Colliery League is "better than playing percentage baseball." Michaels played in Cape Breton with the ever traveling Giants last year. In poor health during the winter he gave up active competition and came east to guide the 1936 edition of the Dominion Hawks, eastern Nova Scotia champions last year.

### Clydesdale Stallion PRINCE ORANGE

Reg. No. 26165

Will leave owner's stable June 2nd to Robert Frizzle noon, thence to William McDonald, Bonshaw, over night, through to Mr. Dart's Artye Shore, Wednesday noon then Alfred Cameron's, Hampton over night, leaving 5th for Owen McQuillan's noon, Lot 65, thence home over night. June 9th, leaves owner's stable for Duff's, Highfield, noon. John Roper's, 2:30, thence John McFarlane's Marshfield over night, thence through French Fort to Robert McCallum over night, thence home. This route will be repeated every fortnight during season. (Sgd.) Owner in charge. L-5103-5-30-6-6-13

### Black Percheron Stallion

N E R O REG. NO. 15462

Will stand for season 1936 at Mont Anear's, Lower Montague. JACK ANNEAR, In Charge. L4849-6-11-13-16-18-20-23

### Registered Stallion COLONEL AUBREY

2.10 2-5 Reg. No. 3940

Will make the season of 1936 as follows: Leaves home Monday May 25th, going through Carleton, Chelton, Lower Bedeque to W. N. Jenkins from 4 to 5; thence to Swithen McEwen's overnight, Tuesday, May 25th, through Fernwood to Mrs. James Connolly's, Middleton, noon; thence to Albert McKenna's, Emerald, overnight, Wednesday, May 27th through Shamrock to Cecil Trainor's, Kinkora at noon; thence home by Albany till the following week. Leave home to Argente Cove to K. W. Beswell's noon; thence through Hampton, Victoria; thence to James Flood's overnight, Wednesday, June 3rd through Kelly's Cross to Ralph Oakes', Westmoreland, noon; thence home by Gamble's Corner and Tryon. This route will continue fortnightly health and weather permitting. Mares at owner's risk. J. P. KEOUGH, Owner in Charge. Carleton Siding. L-5080-5-26-30-6-6-13

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The following feeding information, as given by one of Canada's many successful sheep breeders, may be of interest to farmers who still like to have a profitable flock of sheep included in their stock.

To begin with the ewes are wintered with an outside run having shelter from storms, and are fed ensilage and cut mixed clover hay. While oat sheaves are sometimes given for them, green oats and peas are preferred. Red clover and alfalfa makes very good feed, preference being given to red clover, especially in the feeding of breeding ewes. As lambing time approaches, and also to yearling ewes, the other feeds, oats, bran, and oil cake, about equal parts by weight, feeding about 1 lb a day to each ewe. Some sweet clover is cured for hay and found to be very good sheep feed. Their ewes, after lambing, have their grain ration doubled, getting about 2 lbs. per day. They are also fed turnips, considered almost indispensable as feed for sheep, and a small allowance of corn ensilage, but the latter would not exceed 2 lbs. per day. A creep is built for the lambs and they find their way into it very readily. Here they get some choice clover hay in a rack and a supply of oats, bran, and oil cake to eat at will. The show lambs are separated from the others as soon as they are weaned, and the feed for fitting and fattening them is composed of: 100 lbs. oats, 50 lbs. peas, 100 lbs. oil cake (pea size).

### How to Control Cabbage Maggots

The most serious pest of cabbages and cauliflower in Canada today. It also attacks radishes, turnips, and other plants of the mustard and cross family. The maggot attacks the roots and not only destroys the roots but bores into the tap root. Infested plants become stunted and wilt on hot days. Severely attacked plants turn yellow and die. The adults of the maggot are two-winged flies which lay their eggs on the stems of the plants about the time the European plum tree first comes into bloom in the spring.

### Some Insects of P. E. Island

The Order Hemiptera includes the true bugs, the scale insects, the plant lice, and a most miscellaneous array of other pests. These have been collected in the Province, but there are many many others awaiting "discovery." I try a wonderful plant—but I think you may discount fifty per cent of all these virtues.

### How to Control Cabbage Maggots

The most serious pest of cabbages and cauliflower in Canada today. It also attacks radishes, turnips, and other plants of the mustard and cross family. The maggot attacks the roots and not only destroys the roots but bores into the tap root. Infested plants become stunted and wilt on hot days. Severely attacked plants turn yellow and die. The adults of the maggot are two-winged flies which lay their eggs on the stems of the plants about the time the European plum tree first comes into bloom in the spring.

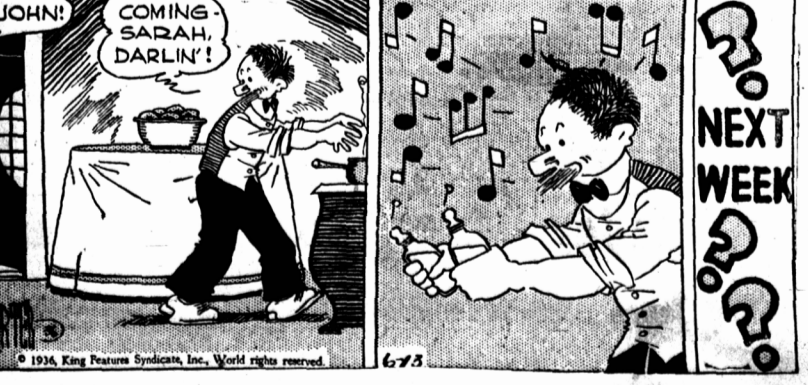
### Longevity of Cats

My cyclopaedia gives the average age of a cat as ten years; nevertheless some have been known to live for twice that period. Our old cat, "Tom," who has just paid "nature's last debt," was eighteen years old, we figure; and a neighbor had a cat which attained the same age. In a popular magazine there was recently recorded the ages of two cats still living: one is at Banff, Alberta, and that cat was 22 years old last March. "Molly," owned by G. C. Warren of Charlottetown, is 23 years old this summer. Her son was sixteen years old when he was "put away" last summer. An old cat requires special care in feeding, as it is almost certain to lose its teeth, and this will un-

## JUST KIDS



## JOHN! COMING SARAH, DARLIN!



NEXT WEEK

By Ad Carter