

Native Shrubs No. 1 Bird Allure for Yard, Garden

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Write These Wild Life Articles

Wild Geese of Barnlot Have Owner Puzzled

The goose, wild and tame, has been the subject of song and story for centuries. Few birds so greatly stimulate imagination or have so much romantic appeal as the wild goose which every spring and fall wings his migratory way across the sky lanes.

Larry Bauer, who every week contributes a sparkling column under the heading of "The Sportsman," recently added the following interesting account to the already large volume of literature on this subject. He says:

"Much has been written about the wild Canada goose, but this yarn concerns its semi-domesticated state. Down in what formerly was good goose shooting country along the central flyway is a flock of a dozen of these birds once used as decoys on the sandbars.

"All of them are more than 10 years old. Only two pairs are mated. The other female geese make nests and lay each spring, but their eggs are not fertile.

"Last spring one of the unmated geese made her nest atop an old straw stack. She took great interest in the job, too, spending a couple of days on it.

"Start of the period of incubation was noted by the farmer who owns the big birds. On the day the eggs should have hatched the goose deserted the nest and never returned.

"How did this bird know the eggs were not fertile? A chicken hen would have 'set' on them all summer unless pulled off.

"One of the mated geese pushed two eggs from her nest during the early period of incubation. Examination disclosed both were bad. How did she know these eggs would not hatch?

"These geese have not had their wings clipped for several years. They are not penned up and they often fly around their pond. Why don't they join their wild fellows during migrations?

"In spring and fall they make the night hideous with their honking and it is no strange sight to see wild ones on the pond next morning.

"Not being a naturalist or wild life wizard, we cannot answer these questions and merely report our observations.

KEEP SENTINEL POSTED

"During the years these geese have been on the place only two have left, both of them young birds. These usually are killed for the table or sold.

"While feeding in the green wheat fields or meadows these geese maintain the wild tradition by keeping a sentinel posted. They're alert at night, too.

"Old time waterfowl hunters are full of stories about the wary birds. They say if you kill either of a pair of mated geese the survivor will return in quest of its life partner.

"Maybe that story is true; maybe not. Anyway, while hunting we saw a gunner kill one greater snow goose out of a flock. For two days a lone snow goose flew about the vicinity and finally was shot by the same hunter."

600,000 ANGLER LICENSES

More than 600,000 fishing licenses were issued in Michigan this year. Those fishing in the Great Lakes and their connecting waters are exempt. The cost of the license is 50 cents.

Fishing Scene on Chetco River in Curry County



Here's the moun or Chetco river, which is said to be one of the finest fishing streams in the state. Brookings boosters map plans to lure anglers from all parts of the Coast to their stream.

Wants Oregon Farm Boys to Raise 'Chinas'

Oregon boys will have an opportunity to raise pheasants for the state if Game Supervisor Frank Wire's recommendations are accepted by the commission. Whether to seek co-operation of the Boy Scouts or the 4-H clubs is a question Wire has not yet decided.

This is not an entirely new idea. The experiment was started this year by the state of Washington. There it was the 4-H clubs that undertook the work. The results were said to have been so satisfactory the game department intends to continue the work.

MORE EGGS TO BE DOLED

Henry M. Walker, state agent for 4-H club work in our neighboring state, says the number of eggs released to boys in his state will be double that of 1935. The eggs will be obtained earlier and it is believed even better results will obtain as the hot season will be escaped by the earlier-hatched birds.

An earlier report from the state game department was to the effect that Washington hunters would not have a chance to shoot any birds raised this year by the boys. It was announced all these would be held over by the game department and liberated in the spring in counties where they had been raised.

Clubs in the various counties are called "4-H Wild Life Propagation and Conservation clubs." The purpose is to go further than merely raising pheasants. Members are taught fundamentals of game conservation.

BOYS ENTHUSIASTIC

Besides raising the birds the boys are required to follow some other phase of wild life conservation. Walker reports the young farmers accepted the project with enthusiasm and he expects to see other counties added to the list of ten which undertook the experiment last season.

Wire believes Oregon can profit by the Washington example. In commenting on the plan, he said, "Of course some eggs would be lost but this loss would be more than compensated for by the increased interest in game conservation by the youngsters. There will never be any problem of game law observance on the part of these boys—either now or in later years. Therein is the main value of any project of this kind."

Brookings Gets Big Idea

Curry County Town Plans Airport as Mecca for Eager Devotees of Silverside and Trout

How would you like to swish a fly at a Silverside and hook him? Of maybe you'd prefer trout fishing.

Well, that's going to be possible when the 1936 season opens, for down at Brookings, a little town in Curry county, near the California line, an airport is being constructed with a view of attracting sportsmen from various parts of the Pacific Coast.

Brookings airport boosters are satisfied that the Chetco river,

which is 65 miles long and has four miles of tidewater, is just about the best fishing stream in the state.

Tidewater fishing starts in March, sometimes late in February, when the Silvers start their run up stream. In March and April they take the fly.

Not only are Brookings boosters out to lure sportsmen to their town, but other vacationists. The coastline in Curry county is regarded as one of the most beautiful in the country.

Champion Tells How

Dr. E. Raymond Driver of Central Point, Or., undoubtedly is the state's champion feeder of wild birds. Indeed, he probably is in line for national honors.

All about the Driver country home, known as "The Pines," are various forms of bird-feeding devices or service stations. That they are patronized is evidenced by the fact that food by the ton is consumed in one fall and winter, from September 1 to May 1, he fed 136 pounds of suet and 5300 pounds of baby chick feed.

In his report Dr. Driver says: "Not one bird in captivity. All as free as the air."

His most popular form of suet feeder is made by taking one half an oak log about 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Holes 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 or more inches deep are bored in the log. A peg is driven into the log just below each hole to serve as a perch. When the holes are filled with suet and the device

hung from the limb of a tree it is ready for use. The birds can only obtain a bill full at a time. He has logs with from two to 10 holes.

Another simple device he finds popular is a large ordinary flower pot saucer attached to the dividing wall of a double window by means of a metal holder constructed by a local blacksmith. A perch is fastened to the ring holding the saucer and a circular tin cover wide enough to protect the food is supported by a standard cemented to the middle of the saucer.

Dr. Driver says he also has some of these hanging from tree limbs.

For those interested in knowing the kind of food to offer the songsters, Dr. Driver recommends the following combination: Ground rabbit barley, peanuts ground with the shells, ground rolled oats, a little baby chick feed and some sunflower seed.

High Mesas of Cattle Sector Curlew's Home

On the high plateaus and cattle ranges of Eastern Oregon lives the largest shore bird found in North America. A curved bill, five to seven inches long, a mottled brown body about the size of a pigeon and daddy-long-legs are the main marks of identification. The calling of the curlew is the call of the open plateau, as typical as the song of cowboys and the bawling of herds. Sickle-bill or brown curlew is the common name in different localities rather than long-billed curlew. Among some of the specimens recorded, the bill of the female is almost an inch longer than that of the male.

Among experts the curlew is known as a shore bird. He spends his winter months flocking along the southern coast and hunting the shores of bays and inlets. The real home is where you find the bird in spring and summer, the high plateaus and cattle ranges throughout the West. It is a surprise to find this bird often nesting a long distance from water.

FOND OF BEETLES

Long legs and a bill of such proportions might indicate that this feathered freak could hunt and gather food only by wading and probing in the shallows, but this is not the case. The summer food is black beetles caught by overturning pieces of dung in pastures, crickets, locusts and other dry-land insects.

The nest is a little hollow lined with a few grasses out in the wide stretches of alkali or salt grass. One might wonder how a bird of this size protects itself from enemies. The mother sitting on the eggs might be seen quite a distance off, yet her first protection is always the male that stands guard. At the approach of a hawk, raven or any animal that may be on the hunt, the enemy is met a long way off by the male launching an attack in the air with a shrill call and wings set in a crescent.

FREEZING ATTITUDES

The female crouches low on the nest in a freezing attitude, the color of her brown body melting into the surroundings. One may approach to within a few feet and yet miss seeing the bird on her nest.

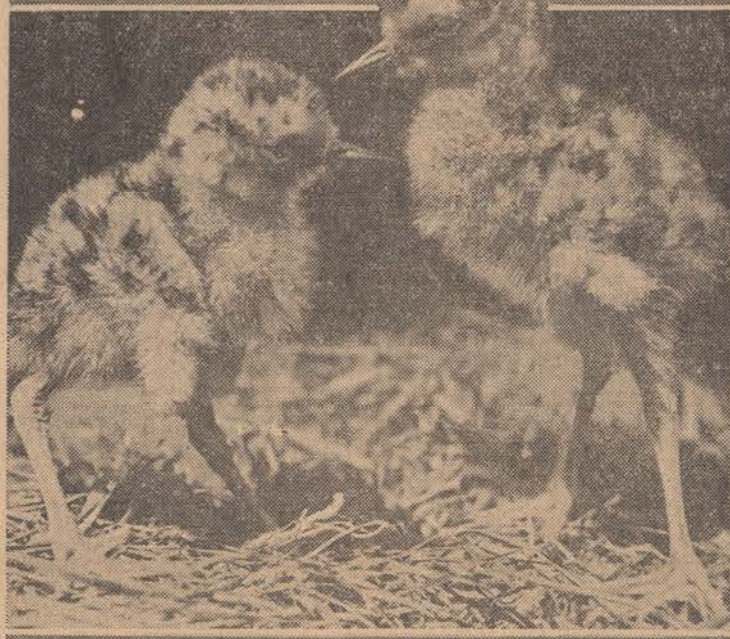
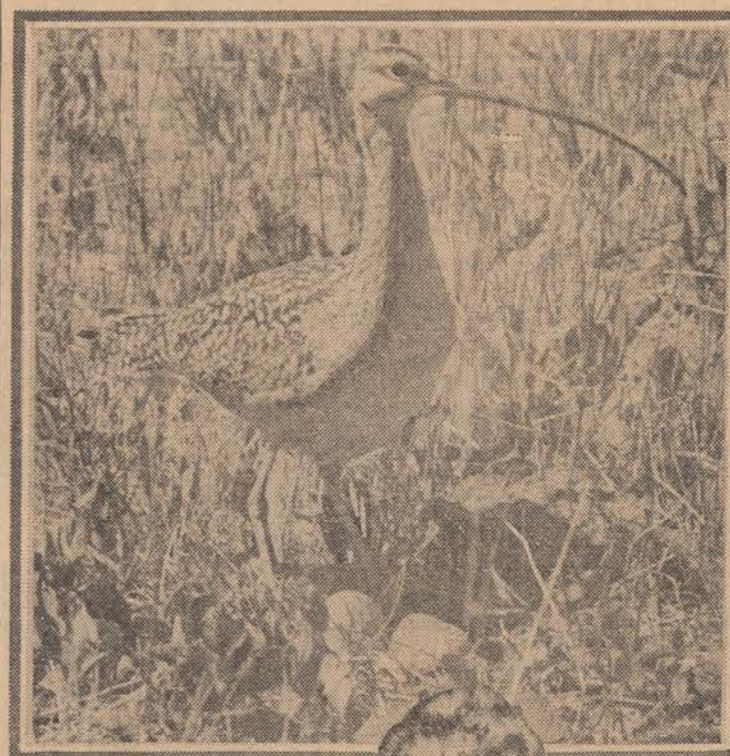
The young curlew in the first stages is covered with soft down, mottled with dark brown and cream colors. This mottled stage is an adaptive coloration deceiving to the eye when the youngster drops motionless in the blended monotone of turf and dry grass. There is no sign of the unusual long bill in the curlew nestlings. This lengthens as the bird grows older. The young birds are so expert at hiding that no experts have succeeded in finding them in the various stages of juvenile plumage.

Studio Put in Zoo

An innovation reported by officials of the London Zoo is the establishment of a studio for artists within the zoo's boundaries. A 10-year annual grant of £500, guaranteed by the L. C. C. higher education committee and the Middlesex county council, makes this possible.

The main studio is to be erected directly opposite the main offices of the zoo and will accommodate 25 students and such large models as lions and tigers.

Shore Bird Lives Inland



The long-billed curlew, the largest shore bird in North America, has its home on plateaus and cattle ranges in Eastern Oregon. Above is an old bird and below a pair of young.

Michigan Joins Hue, Cry

Hunters and fishermen from one end of the land to the other are raising their voices in protest against the great number of roads and trails being constructed by CCC workers. Michigan is the latest state to be heard from on the subject.

According to the Detroit News the CCC boys are opening up every bit of virgin wilderness in that state and depriving sportsmen of hunting and fishing isolation.

It is contended there should

be a limit to these operations and that some of Michigan should be left in its wilderness state so it can be reached only by those willing to hike to these areas.

The Detroit paper goes on to say that road building has been one of the main projects of these camps and that in many cases even the most impenetrable swamp areas have been opened up, allowing anyone who knows how to drive a car into the secrets of its former fastness.

Thicket More Enticing Than Food Stations

More birds can be attracted to yard or garden by means of growing shrubs than by bird boxes. Native shrubs should be used as far as possible because our birds are familiar with these. Now is a good time to make selections and plantings.

Anyone having a large estate should not delay following the advice of the biological survey. That is to establish "a thicket of raspberry, dewberry, dogwood and elder, grouped about some taller sumac, juneberry, serviceberry and juniper." This according to the survey, will supply food for the birds throughout the year.

One of the shrubs recommended is Amelanchier anifolia which is the scientific name for the common and well known serviceberry. In some sections this also is known as the Juneberry or shadbush.

This is a native bush growing along water courses in every part of the Northwest. The fruit ripens from June to October and will attract bluebirds, purple finches, grosbeaks, ruffed grouse, orioles, robins, and woodpeckers.

Wild cherries also are highly recommended by the bureau. An imported variety called the European bird cherry often is used to save commercial cherry crops from the robins. It fruits at the same time.

The Oregon choke cherry should serve the same purpose as it greatly resembles its imported cousin. The common red cherry growing wild throughout the Northwest also serves to protect the commercial variety.

More than 22 species of birds seek the fruit of these cherry bushes and trees. Their cultivation should be encouraged and they should occupy a large place in every sanctuary.

Other shrubs will be discussed in these columns in succeeding issues.

316 Varmints Bite Dust in November Kill

Government hunters operating in Oregon killed 316 predatory animals in November. This information is contained in report of Roy Fugate, district supervisor of predatory animal control for the U. S. bureau of biological survey.

The kill included 292 coyotes and 24 bobcats. Charles Glasgow, working in Klamath county, topped the list with a kill of 21 coyotes.

O. A. Philbrick of Fossil, who since 1914 has been the government's protector of flocks in Wheeler county, has accounted for 2946 predatory animals during that period. So well has he done the job that his monthly take from year to year is no longer large.

During the month just closed he caught six coyotes and two bobcats. By getting these few animals that drift in from the surrounding territory and thus preventing an increase in the predatory population, stockmen of Wheeler county feel Philbrick is rendering an invaluable service.