

Nature Equips Birds For Winter Weather

By Lydia King Frelse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

On my desk is a letter from Jane, aged 10. She is concerned about how the birds are going to keep warm and what they are going to eat now that winter is here. The casual observer looking out on a January landscape sees a bird against the bare whiteness of ice and snow and shares

titmouse, sparrow and nuthatch. Among the winter visitants are the brown creeper, junco and winter wren. In years of unusual cold, rare birds like the great snowy owl and the pine grosbeak may drift down in search of food. The winter bird count is therefore conditioned by the extremes of any given season.

The bird population of any area is largely determined by the food supply and there is considerably more food available than meets the eye. Birds that include animals in their diet such as owls, eagles, hawks, grouse, gulls and ducks may be placed in one group. Some of these prey on rodents, mice and rats, birds smaller than themselves or poultry.

Water birds in this group may include fish, frogs and mollusks in their diet. Representative of those species which depend largely upon food

IN ORDINARY winter weather, birds protect themselves by finding a little shelter in a clump of weeds, shrubs or in the crotch of a tree. The grouse tunnels under the snow of the forest floor. Woodpeckers and owls find refuge in the holes and hollows of trees. Crows and starlings congregate by the thousands in deep pine forests or other sheltered areas.

At night, quail form compact groups in fields. Winter birds must and do consume larger quantities of food to maintain a higher body temperature. Unless you are actively interested in observing birds in winter, you may see only a few sooty sparrows, or the black wing of a crow against the snow. However, the winter bird count for this locality averages between 60 to 70 species. These may be divided into permanent residents which live here throughout the year, and winter visitants which breed further north but come southward during the cold.

In the former group are such common birds as hawks and owls, woodpeckers, (hairy and southern downy) bluejays, starlings and crows. In our city backyards we may find the cardinal, chickadee,

provided by plants are blue jays, quail, grouse, sparrows, cardinals and juncos.

The power of plants to produce fruit and seeds (including nuts) in phenomenal numbers has been previously discussed in these columns. Without this abundance many birds would go hungry. While they are feeding themselves, they are at the same time destroying tons of destructive weed seeds. They also make good use of the waste grain left in harvest fields.

BIRDS LIKE the downy and hairy woodpecker, tufted titmouse, brown creeper and nuthatch are insect eaters. They are the busy-bodies of the winter bird family. It is always amusing to watch them scrutinizing every part of a tree, prying into crevices, poking under bark to uncover a hibernating insect or to dislodge its cache of eggs or larvae. These foragers are also keeping at bay the destructive insect hordes which would otherwise overrun our summer world.

To those of you who feed birds in winter, may I suggest that you do your job consistently? Every area has just so much potential food and birds map out their living territory accordingly. If you increase their numbers by artificial feeding, you have brought in extra birds which may starve unless you keep up your bounty.

Better than an artificial feeding station, is the wise planting of trees and shrubs to encourage the birds to live permanently in your locality. Suitable shrubs are especially essential since they afford a maximum decorative effect and at the same time provide birds with

a rich food supply, a refuge from enemies and weather and a place to rest, play and nest.

I HAVE ON my desk another letter from a friend 84 years of age, who now lives in Chevy Chase, Md. Confined to her room, she has begun to study the birds which come to feed at her window sill. Would I recommend a book for the beginner? I would and I did. Of all earth's creatures, birds hold first place in the interests and affections of men. It matters little if one is 10 or 84, time will never pass for him who watches their ever-changing ways.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

State Botanical Club To Meet At Cranbrook

Prof. S. G. Bergquist, head of the department of Geology and Geography at Michigan State College, will present an illustrated lecture to the Michigan Botanical Club 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

The subject of his talk will be "The Glacial Evolution of the Grand River", a pictorial story of the development of this extensive ancient waterway. This is an interesting phase of past glacial activities in Michigan which have been such an important factor in the formation of the topographical features of the State. The meeting is open to the public.

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19 From B'ham Treated at Kenny Polio Center

Records of the Elizabeth Kenny Foundation's polio hospital at 1075 Telegraph Road, Pontiac, disclosed today that 19 Birmingham infantile paralysis sufferers were treated there during 1952.

The treatments are made possible through funds raised in the United Foundations Torch Drive. The Birmingham patients were Amelia Falke, Robert Wakeman, Weston Jordan, Earl Parcel, Doris Russell, Waldemar Roehler, Linda Hughes, Donald Rohmser, Donna Fischer, Emily Shakit, Joseph Salinas, Donald Jordan, Tracy Southworth, James Morse, Leonard Bernard, Gary Perkins, John Donaldson, Cynthia Cummings and Doris Donaldson.

THERE WERE 270 polio sufferers treated at the hospital during

the year. At one time 82 patients were at the center, although capacity is 40 beds. More than 70 are receiving treatment at present. The United Foundation allocated \$120,820 to the Michigan Chapter of the Elizabeth Kenny Foundation at the beginning of the year. The severe polio epidemic during 1952 led to additional grants of \$10,000 and \$21,000 which were made to cover deficits.

The hospital provides polio sufferers with free treatments using the famed techniques developed by the late Sister Elizabeth Kenny. The Kenny Foundation pays hospital costs of polio patients and trains therapists at the Minneapolis headquarters where they learn to administer the Kenny treatment.

CHAIRMAN of the medical board of the Michigan chapter is Dr. John C. Montgomery, Detroit pediatrician. Dr. Frank H. Purcell, Detroit orthopaedic surgeon, is the hospital's medical director. Dr. Ethel T. Calhoun of Birmingham is medical superintendent at the hospital. She has a staff of six Kenny therapists and five registered nurses.

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CONDITION

	December 31, 1952	December 31, 1951
ASSETS		
Cash on Hand and in Banks	\$1,009,472.87	\$ 417,288.88
U. S. Government Bonds	525,000.00	527,485.81
Federal Home Loan Bank Stock	150,000.00	100,000.00
First Mortgage Loans	4,303,277.64	3,889,996.01
Loans on Savings Accounts	49,188.66	81,297.16
Other Loans	1,229.64	
Properties Sold on Contract	61,123.76	63,733.50
Real Estate Owned and in Judgment	15,233.34	
Office Building and Equipment (less depreciation)	141,398.14	140,575.42
Deferred Charges and Other Assets	2,454.27	3,445.87
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,243,144.98	\$5,289,055.99
LIABILITIES		
Savings Accounts	\$5,860,381.96	\$4,795,071.52
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank		100,000.00
Loans in Process	48,472.00	76,860.96
Other Liabilities	1,890.46	2,112.17
Specific Reserves	3,132.85	3,798.79
General Reserves	279,767.71	211,212.55
Surplus	50,000.00	50,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$6,243,144.98	\$5,239,055.99

State of Michigan / ss.
County of Oakland)

I, Walter L. Moreland, President of the Birmingham Federal Savings & Loan Association, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

WALTER L. MORELAND, President.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of January, 1953.
HAZEL E. LAWLER, Notary Public.

My Commission Expires January 11, 1953, Oakland County, Michigan.

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