

NATURE NOW

Fall's Many Wonders Fascinating to All

By LYDIA KING FRETHER Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Because you asked for them, here are more "Pebbles" from my nature pocket. This morning a towhee and a white throated sparrow spent a leisurely half hour under our wild grape vine while they made a breakfast of their share of the grass seed we had scattered over the back lawn. Twice during the last week we have heard a fragment of the sweet minor call of the white throat, which is typical of his song during the fall migration period.

We last saw our wood thrushes on Sept. 29. Dinner as usual was under the snowberry bush with many quick trips to the adjoining wild flower bed for choice tidbits such as red berries contributed by Jack-in-the-bush.

The brief warmth of Indian Summer days sees the last of the warbler migration. Almost unrecognizable are the various species, their bright summer dresses exchanged for dull travel suits.

THEY FLY BY night and make daytime stop-overs for feeding. Last week I sitting under a brown and golden beech, we watched a flock of these. And a good dinner they had, for many small branches of the tree were alive

with cottony masses of "mealy" bugs, a variety of scale insect. Each bug secretes its own covering of waxy filaments which give it a mossy appearance as though it were covered with fine white flour. With my hand-lens I could make out how these extend like a fringe along the body with two longer filaments waving from the posterior end.

For a warbler, this treat must be comparable to a little boy's delight in an unlimited feast of ice cream cones.

A month ago the U. S. Forestry Service predicted a brilliant autumn. They answer an old repeated question: "What makes the leaves bright or not-so-bright?"

But somewhere along the line small errors may creep in. The beginning of a sentence may be tacked to the end of the preceding one. An entire line may go astray. A single letter mis-read or miswritten may cause a whole new meaning to be given to a sentence.

Now, the "frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder is in the shock" THE PUMPKIN is a berry belonging to the gourd family. It is to know even though it contributes nothing to the flavor of the pie.

And corn, we must keep reminding ourselves, is first of all a grass and its seeds are one of our most valued grains. It is a monocotyledonous plant which means that it has separate male and female flowers.

The former are the tassels at the top of the stalk, the latter are the ears, after each grain is fertilized by the falling pollen.

Man's humane interest in our feathered friends was attested by two recent editorials, one in the New York Herald Tribune and another a day later in the New York Times.

It is the column tree or yellow 'make up' parts of it to add interest. Whatever is here set down is as accurate and as true as a lifetime of serious study and experience and constant observation in the field can make it. The conscientious writer considers and re-considers her choice of material, checks and rechecks the facts, writes and rewrites her copy. She is alert to nature at every hour of the day and night, but she is not infallible.

THEN FOLLOWS the actual printing of the column. Before it reaches the reader, it must pass through the hands of typists, editors, printers and proof-readers, all trained to do painstaking work. But somewhere along the line small errors may creep in.

THE SCARLET OF THE MAPLES comes in the form of a red color. It is a signal for their departure. Scientists have advanced many theories. Birds have an acute sense of time and of place. They may be sensitive to sun light or to violet ray content. Winter is the end of winter for their part.

Now every gust of wind adds its quota to the leaves that are piling up on the lawn. Time to fold up the writing table, to gather up the books on the shelf and to move both inside to the upstairs study. Autumn, the most poignant and

TIME LAST WEEKEND for a final trip to the North woods. Time to hear the soft chirp of a flock of purple finch and the loud hammering of the pileated woodpecker. Time to feel the words of Bliss Carmen echoing and re-echoing in the heart.

The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry of bugles going by. Now every gust of wind adds its quota to the leaves that are piling up on the lawn. Time to fold up the writing table, to gather up the books on the shelf and to move both inside to the upstairs study. Autumn, the most poignant and

COMMUNITY HOUSE CALENDAR. Thursday, Oct. 29. 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scout Troop 278 Hal- loween Party. 7:00 p.m.—Buffet Supper (by reservation). 8:00 p.m.—First Aid Class. 8:15 p.m.—Bridge Class. 8:30 p.m.—Creative Writing Class. 8:45 p.m.—Self Improvement Class. 9:00 p.m.—Drawing-Painting Class. 9:15 p.m.—Chorus Class. Friday, Oct. 30. 9:11 a.m.—Children's Theater. 9 a.m.—12 noon—Scout Class. 10:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.—Senior Workshop. 1:15 p.m.—Cooky Dance Class. Saturday, Oct. 31. 10:11:30 a.m.—Junior League Xmas Bazaar. 11:30 a.m.—Children's Theater. 12:30 p.m.—League of Women Voters. 2:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 3:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 4:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 5:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 6:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 7:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 8:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 9:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 10:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 11:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 12:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 1:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 2:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 3:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 4:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 5:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 6:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 7:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 8:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 9:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 10:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 11:30 p.m.—P.E.O. Meeting. 12:30 a.m.—P.E.O. Meeting.

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