

Commission Reports on '53 County Road Work

A summary of the aims and accomplishments of the Oakland County road commission for the year of 1953 was released this week by Robert O. Felt, chairman of the commission.

Felt stated that with two exceptions all contemplated projects are completed. Sodding remains to be done between the strips of pavement on Greenfield road where a 22 foot concrete pavement was laid to provide a divided highway.

Also to be completed is the resurfacing of Orchard Lake road from Eleven Mile to Grand River. This stretch of road was widened during late fall months.

DURING THE PAST construction season, some new concrete pavement was placed and many miles of old concrete roads were resurfaced with bituminous concrete to preserve and add to the life of the road.

Another feature of the past year's construction program was the widening of some of the existing driving surfaces. Many of these concrete surfaces are 16 and 18 feet wide.

These have been widened to 20 and 22 feet wide. As an instance, Orchard Lake Road was, in most places, only 16 feet wide but it is now 22 feet wide except that part which is a State Trunk Line and under jurisdiction of the State Highway Department.

DOWN TO EARTH Greenhouses Provide Year-Round Garden

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many people in Birmingham enjoy having a greenhouse on their property as a hobby center.

The Edward Hammers who live at 2053 Dorchester built a greenhouse as a part of their garage structure. It receives the benefit of light from the room is approximately six by ten feet and is heated by electricity. The temperature is maintained between 50 and 60 degrees.

This young couple enjoy raising African violets from seed as their primary "crop". There is also space for cyclamen, different bulb, and some foliage plants. Keeping the right light, humidity, and temperature provides a daily challenge.

Another call was made to the greenhouse of the Roger Emmerts at 343 Berwyn. This structure is designed as a conservatory. The temperature here is kept around 64 degrees.

ON ONE of the stationary benches in the center of the greenhouse Emmert has built two, five-foot cabinets for his orchids. Walls are made of heavy plastic instead of glass and doors move on an aluminum track.

Inside more than 60 orchids rest on a wire rack placed over a bed of gravel. Emmert likes to keep a candle burning for the air within the orchid house is heavy with humidity.

This grower, who uses the greenhouse as a hobby center, has had many years experience with the growing schedules of plants and so late-season cyclamen and carnations were colorful. It was the end of the season for the standard mums, which were five feet tall.

Large pots of calla lilies were at the entrance and looked very dignified with their large leaves.

Mrs. Burlingame likes to keep a candle burning for the air within the orchid house is heavy with humidity.

By and large it is the general consensus throughout the County that a good long range construction program has been arranged and that results are proving highly satisfactory.

A LEMON TREE is in bloom

eyed towhee, infrequently seen in this region; the northern shrike, seen only in winter; and the Virginia rail, coot and marsh wren, which normally seek the Gulf coast for winter quarters. Two northern birds, the shrike and the pine siskin, appear here only in winter time and then infrequently, but this year siskins were numerous. The purple finch, reputedly a vagrant and unpredictable wanderer, maintained his reputation by appearing after an absence last year.

THE DETROIT Audubon Society anticipates for the 1954 count a larger response from feeding station operators in the area, anticipated accurate and cooperative reports from a small percentage this year.

Some of the more interesting 1953 results, according to ornithologists, include: 2,412 English sparrows, 1,306 starlings, and 1,956 tree sparrows, all birds commonly found in large numbers in this area. Running second were 552 goldfinches, 387 slate-colored juncos, 265 Mallard ducks, 233 black ducks, 19 sparrow hawks, 17 red-tailed hawks and six coopers' hawks.

Among the more unusual types for this time of year were 38 robins, seven kingfishers, 60 pine siskins, and seven bluebirds. The robins, if ever seen in winter varieties include a Virginia rail, a coot, a long-billed marsh wren and two killdeer.

Nickell conducts bird walks at the peak of the return migration season, between the first and middle of May, for members of Cranbrook Institute of Science. Open to the public at a nominal fee, membership offers such other benefits as lectures, movies, books at reduced rates, and activities conducted by the Institute itself.

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