

Travel to Smith

Two Birmingham residents are among 125 Smith college alumnae attending the college's development program and Alumnae Fund conference in Northampton, Mass. yesterday and today. They are Mrs. Truman Eustis, 371 Linden road, who is committee director of the fund committee, and Mrs. Howard H. Robinson, 435 Waddington road, an area chairman for the program.

Have You Met

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Conner, who are living at 1150 Fairfax, is controller of the Mount road plant of Ford Motor company, and both he and Mrs. Conner are Indiana university graduates. Former residents of Park Ridge, Ill., the Conners, who have a daughter, Emily, 3, have become members of the Birmingham Presbyterian church.

NATURE NOW

Essential Hungers Concern Nature

By LYDIA KING FRESHE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Nature, for the most part, is not a spectacular performer. Much of her activity centers around the satisfaction of life's essential hungers and these in some ways are very similar to our own.

So it is that many of the notes in my nature journal are of the common every day, happenings—breakfast, noon, and evening meals. This overlooks the wild flower garden and the alley. The latter we have dedicated to the birds, who make good use of it for here they have planted their own food supply. This includes blackberry and raspberry bushes and a mulberry tree.

The wild flower garden and a wild grape vine, which festoons

as a half-dozen are wrestling on the garage roof, waking on the telephone wire or playing hide-and-seek with a teasing dog who is grounded at the foot of the tree. The fox squirrel is the largest of his kind sometimes weighing as much as three pounds. He makes a tempting target for the hunter who is out in the woods with another reason than that of seeing the display of autumn colors.

Some 20 years ago, when our suburb was sparsely settled, a family of chipmunks lived under our back porch. The young were particularly cunning with their flat tails and their plump and vividly striped bodies. But as poultry cats increased, these handsome little mammals vanished, never to return.

NOW AT mid-afternoon I look through the breakfast window as I write. There is no apple yet. The leaves drift down like a belittling returning to earth that which they have taken from it. Soon on some still and moonlit night we will bear the wild geese flying over. Then the wide will turn loud and chill and frost will wear the earth like a fire, erasing much that we see today. But the naturalist does not look at a bird or a squirrel, a leaf or a seed, as such. He does not see life as a series of separate objects or adventures. He does see unfolding around him a continuing pattern of birth and life and death so that life itself may begin all over again.

MIGRATING birds make brief stopovers on their journey south. On Oct. 5 we saw our first hermit thrush. We observed this bird for a week but whether or not it was the same individual or others of his kind we could not tell. At this season his beautiful blue is washed but he is again we remember his springtime song, the sweetest to come from any throat.

In autumn the junco returns to us from his northern breeding grounds. On Oct. 19 a flock of these alighted in our wild flower garden feeding atop a tall weed which rises above the snow-covered ground. On Oct. 20 a single white-throated sparrow came to feed in the midst of a flock of English sparrows which we have seen always. But the white-throat is a special treat.

Sometimes he will give voice to a remnant of his spring song. This will be only a few low notes, omitting entirely the thrilling high and minor strains for which we listen at lilac-time.

ON OCT. 23 we saw our first cardinal, a male, who came to feed on the usual sun-flower seed fare. He had just put out. For the last several years we have had a pair with us all winter long and we are hoping his mate will reappear. Nothing so warns a snowy day as the sight and song of this brilliant bird.

Our oak woods furnish abundant food and shelter for a host of noisy bluejays who lend their beautiful color to all our seasons. Now they are quieter and less belligerent than during mating time and busy themselves mostly with hiding acorns. Some of these are cached in the crotches of trees. Others get only a superficial burial in the ground and some are merely covered ceremoniously with a single dry leaf.

Although the bluejay is the racial of our bird community, there is no more beautiful bird in all our avifauna. Now he is at his best, perched on a bronzed oak the picture framed in a patch of autumn sky.

WE SELDOM look out the windows, without seeing at least one fox squirrel. Sometimes as many

Chairs Job Program
Gordon M. Forbes, an Amherst College senior, from Birmingham, is student chairman of the fall Christian Association conference for students in colleges and universities in the Connecticut Valley. What's in a job? is the theme for the conference scheduled for Oct. 29-31 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass.

As vice president of the Christian Association at Amherst, Forbes is prominent in the many projects sponsored by that organization.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Forbes, 18211 Buckingham road, Birmingham, and is a graduate of Mount Hermon School, Mount Hermon, Mass.

Have You Met
The Henry Metcalfe who has moved to 1848 Banbury? Metcalfe, an insurance man sent here to open the new office of Chubb and Son, is a stamp collector in his free time. Mrs. Metcalfe is a graduate of Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. Their children are Nancy, 3, and Cheryl, 5.

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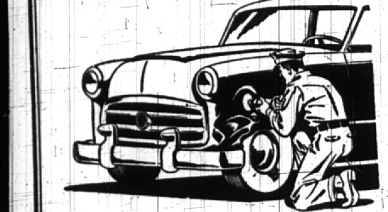
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