

The Birmingham Eccentric Features

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Waxwings Spotted In Rochester Area

On a recent visit to our bird-feeding station in the Rochester area we observed a flock of seven bohemian waxwings. This is an unusual find for the bird is very sporadic in its appearance in our range. On a recent Audubon field trip two of these birds were seen. Waxwings take their name from the terminal hooks on the shaft of their inner wing quills which look as if they were dipped in red sealing wax. The term "bohemian" does not refer to a country but to the unpredictable habits of the bird.

Another bird rare in our winter landscape, the purple Finch, it was perched on a young poplar tree adjacent to the hedge where we saw the waxwings.

The Finch is the largest of our bird families including the sparrows, buntings, siskins, grosbeaks, towhees, redbirds and crossbills. The purple Finch is best described as a deep raspberry color with brown striped wings and lighter underparts. At this season it is somewhat faded in color.

BREEDING GROUNDS were originally in the opening of northern forests but the bird is also seen around manmade clearings and occasionally it invades poplar residential areas where evergreens grow.

During the breeding season, you will hear the male sing from the top of the tallest evergreen, accompanied frequently by an elaborate courtship dance.

Their favorite foods are weed seeds and wild fruit. As such they usually benefit the farmer by destroying 50 million dollars worth of crop. (See WAXWINGS, 6-D)

ON THIS PARTICULAR Sunday (March 16) as we observed the shrubs just beyond the feeder we saw the flock of waxwings eating the haws on a hedge of Florida Yew. These birds are more influenced by the food supply than by the climate. They also eat insects on the wing and in summer depend largely on fresh fruits.

The bohemian waxwing is slightly larger than his better known cousin the cedar waxwing. He is characterized by his rich brown tail coverts, his gray "all-over" appearance and the white markings and yellow edging on his wings. His breast is gray instead of yellow and the area around the eye is reddish-brown.

PREFERABLE BREEDING areas are the coniferous areas of the north but they range as far south as California and the Carolinas. Their winter territory is scattered irregularly throughout the United States.

The nest is found from 4-50 feet about ground in a corner of tree or even in muskeg. It is a flat surface of twigs held together with lichen and grasses and is usually placed on a horizontal branch near the trunk of the tree. It holds 4-5 pale blue eggs dotted and lined with black.

The bohemian waxwing's voice is a series of fine penetrating notes which produce a chatter rather than a song.

Waxwings are true artists' birds; their beauty stemming from harmony, design and contour. They have created heads and charming plumage patterns making a sleek well-tended look which is very appealing.

ON THIS SAME DAY we spot-



Unique Indian

A newly discovered species of tiny primitive man? No, he's made of beeswax, one of more than 100 beautifully detailed figures in 13 educational dioramas on American Indians created and on display at The University of Michigan's Exhibit Museum in Ann Arbor.

DOWN TO EARTH

Here Are Some Hints On Caring for Lawns

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Men especially are talking about lawn care these days so here are some items to make our King Gardeners sound like authorities.

GRASS SEED QUALITY: Is it important to buy the more expensive grass seed on the shelf?

If you want to get the most for your money the answer is yes. The seeds of Kentucky Bluegrass are small and for one pound you will have approximately 2,250,000 seeds. The inexpensive seeds which have most of the weight made up of annual type will have approximately 200,000 seeds per pound.

Read the label on your package and compare the number of square feet the seed will cover. This will be the second indication of the efficiency of the coverage of the more expensive seed.

Remember the other day that I told you that your seed will go further if you use a hand spreader which you operate like a coffee

mill instead of a spreader which you will pull along the ground.

CRAB GRASS: Here are some pointers to help you conquer this pest. Should you pull up the remnants of last year's crabgrass? No, they will hold your lawn seed from erosion.

If my neighbor has crab grass, what are chances of my crab grass free lawn developing it? An early spring application of control will make you independent of your neighbor's poor quality lawn.

Most crab grass treatment does not eliminate dandelions. Another mixture is used for dandelions.

Crabgrass treatment will stop action of moles and grubs on your yard.

When should the crabgrass treatment begin? Plan to apply this preventive program before the third grass cutting.

Be sure and read the crabgrass control package to be sure that you can apply lawn seed soon after applying the contents.

HODGES GARDEN, Maryland: This garden is in the northwest part of this southern state. There are many acres on a lake with a constant show of callenias, tulips, azaleas, jasmine, redbud, dogwood, and many rare and unusual shrubs and trees. (See HINTS, 6-D)

Letters Open Many Doors To Careers

Letters are a good way to get your feet inside the door during job hunts, so use them well, career counselors say.

Letters of application "are" the applicant and they affect employers by their appearance.

THOUGH PEOPLE rarely hand jobs by letters alone, they are a means of getting interviews.

Applicants should try the personal touch, addressing letters by name rather than to the firm. They should be typed, neat, devoid of errors and on a single page. State why you want to work for the firm and point out your qualifications, but, be direct, concise and modest.

Request an interview, indicating whether you plan to be in the area, or inquire about meeting a company representative in your area. Include a one-page autobiography—a good one makes an indelible impression, career counselors add.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW, keep these letters in mind; follow up, "stall," acceptance and rejection letters.

In follow-ups, restate your interest seven to 10 days after the interview, adding details to clarify statements made. End it with suggestions for further action.

"Stall" letters postpone action. Refer to the action calling for the letter, state continued interest, and indicate time needed for a decision.

Write acceptance letters when you take a job, but do not assume you have an offer until it is in writing. Mention work conditions to avoid misunderstandings and name the date you can report for work. Decline offers with rejection letters, but keep the door open—your chances of making a lifetime career of your first or even second job are remote.

Severe Anxiety In Young People Sign of Trouble

Severe and continued anxiety is one of the chief symptoms of emotional illness in children, according to psychiatrists at The University of Michigan Medical Center.

In the opinion of John P. Kempf M.D., anxiety "represents some kind of conflict that is going on underneath... that causes a child to feel extremely uncomfortable, anxious and fearful."

He distinguished between "realistic fear" in which the child reacts to a clearly defined treat, and "anxiety" which usually is the fear of something unknown.

"WHEN ANXIETY persists for several weeks although there is nothing at home or in school known to produce it, we start thinking of it as a symptom of some underlying difficulty, particularly if it interferes with the child's ability to get along with other children and adults."

An individual customarily develops some kind of defense against anxiety, the U of M psychiatrist said, "because it is probably the most painful experience that man goes through."

AMONG THE DEFENSES, he listed: purposeful forgetting, reaction formation and projection. He said these defenses create personality traits and if the trait is too unusual or bizarre or if it interferes with the child's functioning in society, the psychiatrist will view it as a "neurotic disorder."

Dr. Kempf presented his views on Prescription For Health, a state-wide radio program prepared by the U-M Broadcasting Service under the auspices of the State Medical Society.

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When should you buy Life Insurance?

The best time is when you are young because then annual premiums are low. But many young married men face a dilemma. They decide to postpone the purchase of life insurance till their family situation creates a greater need. However, they find later that premiums are higher and in the meantime, they run the risk of being uninsurable. Here's a sound formula for meeting the problem. It's Manufacturers Life's "Security Graph plus G.I.B." — Security Graph helps avoid costly postponements by setting up a plan for buying insurance according to future needs and ability to pay. G.I.B. is a new policy rider that enables the buyer of a new policy to purchase more insurance at regular rates at specific dates in the future — regardless of changes of health or occupation.

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SAFE KITE FLYING

CONSTRUCT the kite frame of lightweight wood. If nails or pins are used be sure they are covered to eliminate chances of cuts, scratches or torn clothes.

CONTROL the kite with stout, dry, silk-line cord. Avoid metallic threads or wire in kite control. They can shock if touched against electrical equipment.

CHANGE attitudes in kite flying by letting out or reeling in cord. Prevent trips and falls by keeping cord off ground, wrapped tightly on a spool or stick.

PILOT a kite with alertness. Sudden gusts of wind may cause loss of balance or pull the control cord quickly through the hands leaving a bad burn.

SELECT a kite-flying site away from trees, highways, railroad rights-of-way and overhead lines. Kite flying is most fun without all these obstacles.

ABANDON any kite that gets tangled in a high tree or overhead wire. No attempt should be made to retrieve it.

NEVER FLY KITES NEAR ELECTRICAL WIRES AND TV ANTENNAS
NEVER USE METAL OR METALLIC STRING
NEVER CLIMB POLES