

## Professor To Study Blue Finch

A feathered songster which "summer resorts" in Michigan is the subject of a scientific study to be conducted this year by a Wayne State University professor.

Armed with a motion picture camera, binoculars and a tape recorder, ornithologist William Thompson is observing the behavior, recording songs and call notes and making detailed notes on the habitat of the indigo bunting (scientific name: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) to the Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

THOMPSON is on a three-year study supported by the National Science Foundation.

He hopes to find out what behavioral differences exist between the indigo bunting and two other closely related species, the lazuli bunting and the blue-winged teal. The two latter are strikingly different in plumage from the indigo and are not found in Michigan.

SO NAMED because of the brilliant deep blue color of the male indigo bunting may be found near the edges of fields and in thickets. It feeds largely on insects and weed seeds.

## Spare a Half Hour And Seed the Grass

The first time you can spare a half-hour is the best time to get the seedling job done and you put the fertilizer right on top of the seed.

Many people unknowingly let seedling grass starve. Don't do it. Grass needs food the minute it starts to grow.

After all, a lawn is not a one-season thing. It is something you want to be proud of and to enjoy for years. Maybe for a lifetime. It doesn't take very much to maintain a good lawn.

But you can't have a good lawn until you use the right grass seed, the foundation of the lawn.

## B'field Hills PTO Schedules Plans

The Bloomfield Hills High School PTO board met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Shepard June 28, to make tentative plans for meetings during the 1952-53 school year.

Officers are Mr. and Mrs. Shepard, presidents; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pittsley, presidents-elect; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Anderson, recording secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Earl D. McConnell, corresponding secretary; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morrison, treasurer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lifsey and Mr. and Mrs. William B. Calhoun will head the membership and hospitality committees, respectively.

CHECK evergreens. If shrubs

## The Birmingham Eccentric Features

### DOWN TO EARTH Driveway Planning Aids Lawnmowing

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The illustration in our picture provides the home gardener with two points of study.

Notice the driveway treatment, with bricks mortared to provide a durable curb for automobile drivers. The flat surface at the top provides the lawn cutter with an edge for his equipment so he does not have to hold clip.

The second lesson gleaned from studying the picture is the arrangement of the trees and shrubs.

Plants are growing into them, you may have to do some drastic pruning or remove the deciduous plants, as evergreens will shed their needles and lose their contour beauty if they aren't "king beated."

This grading of evergreen profiles is very important with your young evergreens which have such a large potential diameter and height.

Plant material is not static. It will be effective for 10 or 15 years. Pest control problems will increase as trees and shrubs become older. Size, scale, texture and color must be considered as you develop a landscape picture. It is difficult to bring back an overgrown evergreen.

RECENTLY, gardeners were invited to share the beauties of the Carl Gaither's at 1818 Lakeside Road. There they were greeted by a large perennial garden near the driveway.

Their splittail fence was well selected for the site appropriate and use and the vegetable garden was beautiful with its "goodies" ready to eat. The Gaither's had a swamp area and judiciously made a beautiful lake from a liability.

THIS IS the day to walk into your garage and look over all of the containers of half-used fertilizer and insect and disease sprays. Stored away, they won't pay dividends when you have trees, shrubs and perennials which are just crying for attention.

KEEP THAT flower-bed edge busy these days. From this corner, I hold the point of view that the best way to begin to clean up a flower bed is to edge an area perhaps six feet wide. Then clean thoroughly right through the depth of the flower bed. It is very frustrating to have a run-down garden and fly from area to area, trying to make a dent on the hours of the flower bed.

If you have 15 minutes to enjoy relaxation away from people, select a six-foot area to edge and clean up to perfection.

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## NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Freese  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

### Life in the Marsh Is Vari-Colored

All winter, life in the marsh lies dormant; hidden under the frozen water, retreated to the security of earth in root-stalk or bulb, hibernated in soft mud or resting quiescent in larval case or encased seed.

The water itself is populated with myriads of microscopic plants and animals which furnish the food supply for many small insects and their larvae.



Mrs. Freese

Hovering over and resting on its surface are flies, mosquitoes, water striders, aquatic beetles and a host of other insects which are part of the food supply for the birds and reptiles living in the marsh.

THE MASSES of jelly-like eggs of the frog and toad have hatched and the young have absorbed their rudimentary tails. Dragonflies and damsel flies, which began their life under water, have left their nymph cases on some dead reed and are darting about in the sunlight displaying their iridescent wings.

Moths and butterflies are balanced with delicate feet and wings on the flowers whose nectar they are seeking. Earthworms and crayfish here into the soft wet earth. Garter and water snakes inhabit the borders of the marsh or sun themselves on nearby logs. Here dwell such rodents as the rabbit and the muskrat who enjoy the succulent greenery of the marsh. Here the turtle begins his slow journey.

THESE LOW AREAS are filled with aquatic plant life. Delicate liverworts, mosses and ferns vie for supremacy with the coarser horsetails, sedges and grasses. Wild iris and calla, pickerel weed and mud plantain, arrowweed and skunk cabbage stand with their feet in the shallow water. Cattails and the hardy composites outline its margins. Such shrubs as reed, rose, sumac and elderberry live on its fringes.

Birds are the daytime voice of the marsh. Of these the red-winged blackbird is the showiest in voice and color. The bittern and the blue heron live here in the larger stretches where water is deep enough to supply them with a dinner of fish.

DUCKS AND GESE nest in the low hummocks at king's edge. Others make only a stop-over on their way to more northern nesting grounds. Hawks circle the marsh, flying low to pounce upon an unwary toad, frog or snake.

Life in the marsh expresses itself in many ways. The law of the universe is for a living balance; the seed must be set and the hungry mouth must be filled. So the mosquito larva sifts the microscopic plankton from the water. The mosquito is eaten by the frog who makes a tasty bit for the garter snake who in turn falls prey to the hungry hawk.

VOICES OF THE marsh change with the season. On a spring night, the frog blows out his baggy throat to release his bellowing call. The lesser frogs and spring peepers add their pleasant voices. Night birds fill the summer night with their cries. It is a time of rest and silence before the happier voices of morning take over and another day begins for all that is alive in the marsh.

STRICTLY FRESH

The trouble with some self-made men is that they keep trying to give everyone the recipe.

In some offices, the go-getter is the fellow they send out for coffee.

Generally speaking, smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics.

It is said that even though two and two equal four throughout the world, to some it means a bridge game.

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## B'ham Home Owners Outnumber Remers By All-Time City Margin

Home owners outnumber renters by a considerable margin in Birmingham.

Some 5,971 local families, approximately 78.3 per cent of the total, now own the houses in which they live, setting an all-time record in the city.

Also, according to Government findings, the houses are in better condition today and contain more of the comforts of modern living than they have in the past.

FACTS AND figures detailing these and other aspects of local housing are brought out by the Census Bureau in a series of reports, just issued, based on its 1950 Census of Housing.

The 78.3 per cent home ownership record in Birmingham compares favorably with the 61.9 per cent ratio shown for the United States. In the East North Central States it is 66.7 per cent.

Out of a total of 7,524 locally occupied housing units, 5,971 are owned by their occupants.

## Named Air Force ROTC Professor

Maj. Roger B. Sonneborn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Sonneborn, 3045 Kirkland Court, Bloomfield Hills, has been named assistant professor of air science at the Air Force ROTC detachment at the University of Detroit.

The appointment will become effective Sept. 1. Sonneborn is a graduate of Ohio State and returns this year to this country after having spent the past two years in the Far East. He, his wife and a daughter live in Pontiac.

THOSE WHO HAVE been in their own homes for some time have been spending large sums on additions, repairs and improvements. The average owner-occupant of a one-family house in the United States spent \$283 in 1950 for such purposes, the figures show.

The total outlay in the one year for the nation as a whole, amounted to \$13 billion plus. It was only \$1 billion below the \$18 billion spent for new housing construction.

Expenditures of this kind, made by property owners in Birmingham during recent years, have raised the general quality of local housing.

AS A RESULT of better maintenance and of new construction, the proportion of houses found to be "sound" and equipped with all plumbing facilities was high. Some 83.8 housing units out of 2,928, or 63.3 per cent, were so rated.

It compares with 73 per cent in the United States and 76.1 per cent in the East North Central States.

## Plan All-Day Festivities For July 4th

By CO ABATT  
Special Writer

Len Kell is the new president of the Greenfield Beverly Improvement Association's annual Fourth of July celebration.

The all-day event includes a morning parade and an afternoon picnic at Dodge Park of Beverly.

"We're putting special emphasis on events that interest teenagers," Kell said. "Two new events will include a volleyball game and a teenage soft ball game."

The Dodge Park picnic will open at 1 p.m. Games for children and adults will start at 2 p.m. as will the teenage soft ball game.

The annual soft ball game for fathers will start at 3 p.m. in the field behind Beverly School. The refreshment stand, the pony ride concession and the game booths will operate during the entire afternoon.

The parade will begin in the parking lot of Our Lady Queen of

## Completes Course

Pfc. Frederick R. Widdlone, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Widdlone of 9201 Kockingham Rd. Birmingham, was graduated recently from the nine-week Aviation Structural Mechanic School at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn.

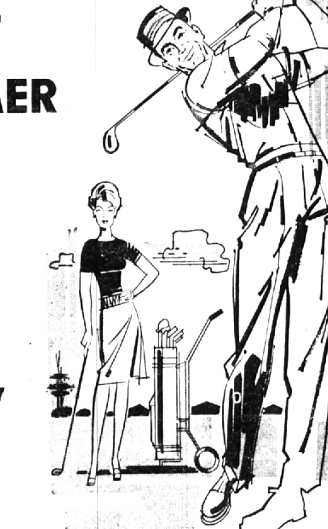
Although Savings Bond drive have the basic purpose of providing the government with working capital, they also achieve an ever greater purpose: they enable millions of Americans to save systematically for worthwhile goals.

The University of Michigan's new Dearborn Center was made possible by a private gift of \$2 million and one-half million for the campus buildings. State funds pay for the operation of the center.

Martyrs' Church at Pierce and Dunblaine at 10:15 a.m. and will be in five categories: best decoration, most beautiful costume, most patriotic, most humorous and best float.

A trophy is given annually for the best float entry. In each of the other categories, one first prize, two second prizes and three third prizes will be awarded.

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