

H. S. Holden
Optometrist
7 DOUGLAS ST.
GUELPH
EYES EXAMINED
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HANDICAP
A plumber, doing some work for a friend of mine, grew expansive about his family. "My daughter's a fine girl," he said proudly. "She graduated from college last year and now she has a job at \$35 a week. That's a pretty good salary for an educated person." — From "Life's Like That" in the Reader's Digest.

Bird Habits Make Interesting Study

The study of birds can be great fun as well as being very interesting. For example there are several birds that display characteristics which many of us do not associate with our feathered friends. The tailor bird of Asia is an expert with her needle-like beak and can sew a fine seam with thread or bits of fibre or grass. The American Oriole is a specialist in the art of tying slip knots and could match any sailor.

Then there are the birds who are quite flightless. The rails found on islands far in the South Atlantic and the kiwi of New Zealand, who is such a sound sleeper that he can be picked up without waking, are another odd chap for he has toes on his wings which are used by the young birds to help them climb back into their nest after they have dived into the water for protection.

However there are many masters at the art of flight and probably the outstanding distance bird is the frigate, a sea bird, which can fly 10,000 miles non-stop. The albatross is another long distance bird although he needs a high wind to help him along and is almost helpless in a dead calm. The puffin, who lives in the far north can fly under water and the cormorants of Japan have been caught in crab pots 120 feet below the water surface. Most birds fly with their wings flapping together but the wood-moopoe of Africa flaps his alternately.

Birds vary in weight even more than humans. The European golden plover weighs no more than a single eagle feather and at the other end of the scale there are the giant pelicans with a wingspread of more than twenty-two feet. Birds also vary in their degree of affection. The male cardinal is considered the most affectionate of birds as it can be separated from its mate only by death or captivity. On the other hand, the crowned-hawk eagle makes its nest in the lofty yellowwood trees of South Africa, and is a vicious killer. "The bigger they are the harder they fall", says the North American humming bird and even the kingbird who attacks hawks and even eagles are afraid of this little fellow.

Most birds are individualists but there are some who break even this rule. The cedar birds, for instance, will line up on a limb and pass a piece of fruit back and forth from one to another. As with humans there are the pretty birds and the ugly birds. Top honors for the ugliest goes to the puffin, a bird common to Canada, although the pink flamingo with its still-like legs and snake neck runs a close second.

Another strange sight is the woodcock who has its ears in front of its eyes! The African secretary bird got its name from the curious crest it wears, resembling a secretary with quills behind the ears. The Australian mutton-bird yields oil sixty times richer in vitamins than cod liver oil. Then there is the toucan, a tropical bird, with a bill almost as big and as wide as its body, but it is even better known for laying an egg that is pure white in color.



Crop Improvement Association Plan Hus Tour

Plans are now under way, states C. F. Pickett, President of the Halton Crop Improvement Association, to sponsor a three or four day bus trip to eastern Ontario. Similar tours taken the past two years have been so popular that secretary J. E. Whitlock has been almost deluged with inquiries as to when and where of the 1951 trip.

Tentative plans call for the Halton tour to leave early the week of June 10th. While plans are not by any means complete, those responsible for planning the program have in mind such points as the Artificial Unit at Belleville; Old Fort Henry at Kingston; the Kempsville Agricultural School; the western Ontario Artificial Unit at Kempsville; the Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa; the Ottawa Dairy Farm where they have made a specialty of grass silage in recent years; the City of Ottawa; and other points of interest in eastern and Central Ontario.

It will be recalled the Halton Association sponsored a two day tour to western Ontario in 1949, and a four day trip to the State of Ohio in 1950. We understand that while these annual tours are sponsored by the Crop Improvement Association, any Halton farmer may participate providing those interested make application to the Milton office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture before the quota is filled.

Emergency Hay and Pasture Crops

Prospects for hay and pasture look promising in all sections of Halton. Nevertheless as a result of poor catches of seeds during the past two years and the consequent shortage of hay and pasture, many Halton farmers are planning to sow a few acres of annual hay or pasture crops this year. Sudan grass or sudan and oats are the most popular annual pasture crops grown in this section of Ontario.

These should be sown at corn planting time which roughly means between May 24th and by the end of the first week in June.

Sudan grass like corn is a hot weather plant and while it takes about eight weeks before it is ready to pasture, it will produce large quantities of palatable pasture until frost. The rate of seeding is 25 to 30 lbs. per acre and a drill set at two pecks of wheat will normally sow the latter amount.

The normal mixture of oats and sudan grass is two bushels of the former and twenty pounds of sudan grass. This mixture will be ready to pasture in about six weeks but in our experience will not produce as much total pasture throughout the season as straight sudan.

The popular practice on many farms is to sow half the area to sudan and oats and the other half to straight sudan. Then if an electric fence is used to divide the area a maximum of pasture can be produced providing fertility of the field and weather conditions are favourable.

Sudan Grass can also be used for hay, but it is rather coarse for this purpose and difficult to cure. The only other annual hay crop which occurs to us to be practicable at this late date is millet. This crop can be planted almost any time during June and under favorable conditions will produce a fairly heavy tonnage of roughage of somewhat similar feeding value to timothy hay.

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