

Here's a Coyote Yarn from Waukegan Region

Farmers in the territory between Wilson station and Gurnee report that coyotes have been killing poultry and have been costing the farmers considerable money by their depredations, according to Waukegan reports.

Plans are being made to trap the animals as there are reported to be at least a dozen at large in the west part of the county. In other communities predatory animals are also becoming a nuisance, it is said.

The farmers are planning to organize a hunt within a short time. Waukegan and North Chicago hunters will be asked to join, it is stated.

A PLEA FOR HUNGRY BIRDS

Under present winter conditions in Illinois birds are everywhere suffering from scarcity of food if not actually starving and the Illinois Audubon Society is asking that the widest publicity be given to this warning. The chief problem of the birds we have with us now is to obtain food under unfavorable winter conditions. With sufficient food most birds can safely confront the severest weather. Such birds as swallows, martins, cuckoos and the warblers that depend upon caterpillar food or insects on the wing, left the state southward bound long before winter set in. The ranks of those which stayed behind includes some of the seed-eaters and birds which, like the woodpeckers, find their food on the trunks of trees.

As Orpheus M. Schantz, field agent for the Illinois Audubon Society, points out, we need not concern ourselves greatly about the latter class of birds which includes the chickadees, nuthatches, brown creepers and titmice as well as woodpeckers, for they can nearly always find food in decayed trees, in bark crevices, or in insect infested tissue of twigs. They appreciate special attention never-the-less, and their presence about feeding devices delights all observers, but it is the seed eaters that are likely to be in trouble. When snows are so deep that they cover up the weeds that are their seed storehouses these birds have a hard time finding food. Here is where man with his stores of plenty may and should come to the rescue. His pensioners may include quail and pheasants and prairie chickens, juncoes, song sparrows, tree sparrows, red-polls, gold-

finches, horned larks, jays, cardinals and stray representatives of species that one hardly expects to see in midwinter, especially in the northern half of our state, this list including meadowlarks, robins, grackles, and even mocking birds.

In the forest preserves of Cook county the employees are maintaining shelters and feeding stations for the many game birds and varieties of small birds found in the preserves. The shelters are not so much for warmth as for protection from predatory birds such as Cooper's hawk. Stalks of corn are hung on trees where pheasants and partridges resort. From various parts of the state there are reports of farmers' making wigwams of corn stalks and scattering grain about them. Housewives everywhere can easily have an honorable part in this work by setting out scraps of food. A bit of suet tied to a tree, almost any kind of food is welcome. Nut meats, dried raisins, sunflower seeds, chicken feeds, all may be used. One who establishes a feeding shelf for the first time may have for his reward the delight of having for his guests many kinds of birds that he may not hitherto have suspected of being in the vicinity. The Illinois Audubon Society asks that all school children be encouraged to co-operate in this work.

Vast Siberia

Siberia has over twenty rivers that empty into the Arctic Ocean, three of which are longer than the Mississippi and drain an area greater than the total area of the United States.—The American Magazine.

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