

A FIELD

by JIM MOONEY

It is true that birds are supreme in the air, but bats, which are our only flying mammals, have also acquired the art of free flight.

Bats have always been associated in folklore with myths of goblins and witches and have been the cause of much superstition. Perhaps the most common beliefs about the animals is of their imaginary habit of flying into womans hair, a thing they will never do, unless by accident. Their search for insect life may explain such an action.

Bats are truly creatures of the night and so it is not easy to capture them or study their habits unless one finds them in their daytime resting places. They sleep most of the day gathered in dark places. When at rest they usually suspend themselves by the claws of their hind feet and hang head down-

ward. They vary greatly in size, some being smaller than a house mouse. However, a species inhabiting Java has a wing spread of nearly five feet and a body the size of a small cat.

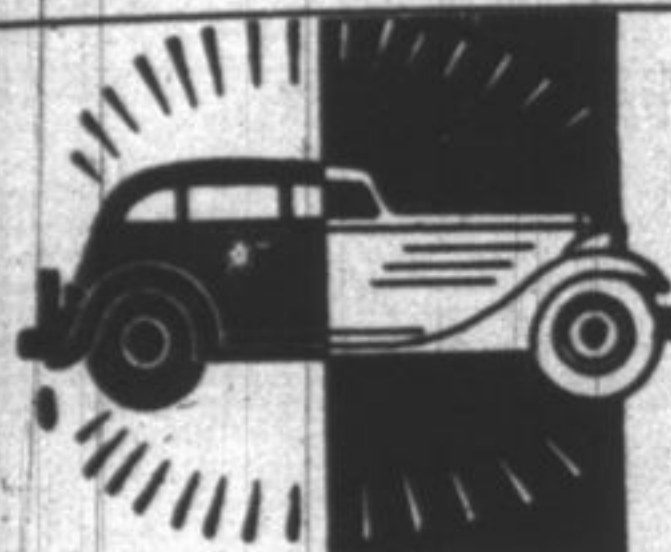
The membrane of a bat's wing, which is almost transparent, is covered only by very fine hair and is unique not only as a means of flight but is a protection to them while in the air. These Flitter Mice, as they are termed in England, possess a wonderful tactile sense enabling them to avoid objects while in flight, one thing concerning them that scientists do not understand. When released in a room they will dodge objects as if by magic. They seem to detect the nearness of obstructions by the air pressure on either their ears or wing membrane. Bats that have been blindfolded have avoided numerous objects placed in a room, missing with ease silk threads which formed a net work in the path of flight.

I have often found some of these creatures hiding under the bark of trees and under boards loosely attached to homes. Bats should not be killed as they eat a vast number of flying insects. They are very beneficial to mankind and deserve all possible protection.

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Boy Scout News

LIBERTYVILLE SCOUTS WIN AGAIN

The first aid team of Troop 59 of Libertyville, representing the North Shore Area council, won the second in a series of first aid contests to determine the champions of the mid-die-west. Teams from all over the four states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan are competing in the largest first aid contest ever held in the United States among Boy Scouts. The second contest was won last Thursday evening at the Evanston Boy Scout headquarters and was won against the winning teams of the Evanston, Northwest Suburban and Oak Park Area councils. Tomorrow night the Libertyville Scouts will travel to Oak Park to compete in the divisional meet with the winners from four other sectional contests. Should they again prove victorious they shall represent the North Shore Area council in the final contest held in Waukegan on April 25 at the Waukegan high school. The team has been trained by Mr. Louis Faulkner. This is the first year that the final contest has ever been held anywhere but in Chicago.

GEORGES VISIT CAMP

The camp directing Georges, George Bersch and George Ryan, camp director and assistant of camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, the scout camp of North Shore Area council spent last week-end at the camp, filling up their lungs with the good air of Langlade county and getting all set for the coming season. A few necessary details were taken care of and the grounds were inspected to see how the camp withstood the hard northern winter.

SCOUTMASTERS MEET AT THE CABIN-IN-THE-WOODS

The scoutmasters and commissioners of the North Shore Area council met Tuesday night of this week to discuss the spring program of the council and of their troops and to make plans for the coming season at Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. Chuck Clark, assistant scoutmaster of Troop 15 of Winnetka reported that they would have between thirty and forty scouts at camp this summer and already over twenty had registered for one or more periods. Jack Davis, scoutmaster of Troop 33 reported at least twenty-five from his troop. Other scoutmasters indicated that they would have large groups of their scouts going this summer and more troop leaders are going with their scouts than any previous year. Plans met general approval. After the meeting refreshments were served consisting of hamburgers and coffee.

CAMP REGISTRATION PAST CENTURY MARK

Registrations for Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan are coming in every day and the number of periods reserved to date exceed the 125 mark by quite a few. The camp will be limited to not more than 160 boys for each of the three periods and from indications, the first period will be filled very soon. Registrations show many more boys are planning to stay for more than one period than in any year of the camp. Scouts can stay from two to six weeks and the program is varied so that the scout who does stay longer can get a well rounded camp experience. Sign-up now.

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SCOUTERS SEMINAR SUNDAY

The Region 7 Seminar will be held at the North Shore hotel in Evanston for all scouters of the Chicago metropolitan area. Four of the national office men will take charge of the four main groups, senior scouting, camping, finances and council activities. The four men are: Thomas J. Keane, national director of senior scouting; Harvey Gordon, national camp engineer and the man who set up the camp site for 30,000 scouts at the National Jamboree camp; Chas. F. Miller, assistant director of the division of operations; and Lorne Barclay, the national director of the activities service. The Seminars have been arranged by Dwight M. Ramsay, regional scout executive and will be conducted in six other locations in Region 7.

INDIAN LORE ADDED TO CAMP ACTIVITIES

Bob Bowditch, a student at the University of Illinois has been accepted as a member of the camp staff of Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. He is a new-comer and will specialize in the teaching on Indian lore and Indian ceremonials. Under his leadership scouts can make their own Indian costumes and Indian accessories. He has had quite a bit of scout camp experience and comes well qualified to teach the subject to scouts. He will also be available for camp fires, and Indian pageants.

Rifles were so scarce in the Russian army during the World war that soldiers were sent into battle unarmed, with instructions to arm themselves with the guns of comrades who had been killed.

"See new Ford V-8 body styles — convertible touring sedan and club cabriolet—on display in Chicago for first time at Women's Pageant of Progress, Navy Pier, April 18, 26.

Harry Skidmore To Pitch for Wildcats

Northwestern University's hopes of being a contender in the Big Ten baseball race this spring will rest upon three sophomore pitchers all of whom have shown promise of developing into first string hurlers.

If this trio, composed of Fred Stromme, a right hander from Coopers town, N.D., Jack Kaufman, a left

hander from Evanston, and Harry Skidmore, another port sider from Highland Park, a former Deerfield prep star, continue to display the form they have shown to date the Wildcats should be in the thick of the championship.

In the opening game of the season against North Central college these three newcomers shared the pitching duties and yielded only two hits.

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