

Farm

Tribune

With
Binoculars
And
Camera

By Edg & Betty Pegg

A familiar sight at this season of the year along wooded lanes, fence rows and the farm woodlot is the busy little black and white Downy Woodpecker. The males' red spot on the back of the head readily distinguishes him from the female. The Downy and the Hairy, who is much larger are the only species of Woodpecker with a white back.

It would seem that Woodpeckers were born just to bang their heads against tree all day. They are the only living creatures able to locate and eradicate the hordes of insects found beneath the bark. By stopping the spread of these pests to sound trees nearby, Woodpeckers are tremendously important to our woodland economy. Full protection is given to all 21 species in America.

In a way that is uncanny, Woodpeckers can locate a borer or a colony of Carpenter Ants. To aid them in their search they have very special equipment. The beak is joined to the skull by a spongy tissue which acts as a shock absorber. The tongue is most extraordinary. It can be extended far beyond the bill; is very sticky and on the end are barbs which act like fish hooks. When a borer is located the tongue is snaked along its runway and the grub pulled from its hide-out. The tail acts as a prop. The inner two feathers are very stiff and when in a moult these two stay put until all others grow in.

Beside the Downy and Hairy we have seven other species in Ontario.

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The television series continues on Wednesday and Thursday. Beef and swine are the topics. The programs start each day at 10:30 and an hour of up-to-date practices, methods and opinions follow. I think each program will justify letting the chores wait for awhile and doing some farming in the living room with the T.V. and a cup of coffee.

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Crop Improvement Meeting At Victoria Square Hall

GARDEN GUIDE

By JOHN BRADSHAW

Everyone can now have a rose garden, regardless of where they live, with the development of the new strain of miniature roses. Recent breeding work has produced them in the traditional bush, climbing and tree forms.

Miniature roses make it possible for apartment dwellers to become rose growers for the first time, provided there're five or six hours of sunshine daily, a miniature rose garden can be created in a window box or in pottery, clay or wood containers. Indoors the new fluorescent tubes which emit 95 per cent sunlight will provide the necessary light conditions for year 'round growth.

Fluorescent substitute for sunshine is not the only requirement for success in growing miniature roses indoors. The air surrounding the plants must contain plenty of moisture at all times. Otherwise, the very tiny and thin leaves will dehydrate rapidly in the dry air found in most homes and apartments. Keep in mind that the air in the average centrally heated apartment or home is drier than that above the Sahara Desert.

The pressing problem of getting sufficient moisture into the air surrounding miniature roses can only be solved by placing a mechanical humidifier close by. These sell for as little as \$20 for the one-room size. I'd also strongly recommend that you syringe the leaves with water at room temperature two or three times a day. There's an excellent plant syringe on the market which sells for \$7.50.

Seeds of many of the flowering annuals that need to be started in January, such as lobelia and snapdragon, should be ordered now. Tuberous begonia seeds sown under fluorescent lights at the end of December will produce flowering plants by May. Unless you're growing house plants under fluorescent lighting, don't give nearly as much water or food for the next month or so when the light intensity is at its lowest point of the year.

Calla lillies can be started into growth in the next two weeks by feeding and watering liberally. They make excellent house plants because they don't need a great deal of light, and thrive in warm, centrally heated homes or apartments.

Amaryllis bulbs make excellent Christmas presents. For the person who has done little or no gardening in the past, be sure and select a bulb with a bud showing. Many of them are erratic bloomers and a bulb without a bud may not flower until March.

To maintain winter bloom in geraniums the use of one of the new spectrum fluorescent tubes is must. They also need a temperature of 70 to 75 degrees and plenty of moisture. The old idea that geraniums should be grown on the dry side has now been completely disproved.

After every snow storm this winter, tramp down the snow around the trunks of fruit trees, shrubs and evergreens, to foil the mice which make runs under the snow.

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Satisfaction comes from the dealer attending to service problems that are bound to arise from any new automobile after it has begun its useful life. If the dealer is as ardent with his service as he was making the sale, the chances are good that the buyer has made a good deal.

The simple reason this ideal solution isn't universal is that while the sale of the car is likely to be profitable by itself, service on the new car often is not.

The reasons are complicated, but generally hinge around factory and dealer warranty agreements that fail to provide for dealer compensation for diagnosis and the remedying of non-warranty faults without charge.

But the dealer must supply these services if he is to keep his customers loyal and satisfied with their new car. It eats away a substantial portion of his sales profit, but it is also an investment in future sales through the goodwill generated.

New car shoppers soon learn that they can buy their new car at comparable prices at numerous dealerships. What they don't know is how much of the satisfaction they look forward to that they will actually receive. It's a human evaluation. They must shop for the dealership and service as well as the car.

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Two Downy Woodpeckers consume their noon-day lunch from a feeder outside the home of Betty and Edg Pegg, Claremont, R.R. 2.

Betty Pegg

Feature Farms On T.V.

UXBRIDGE — Ontario farmers will again have an opportunity to keep abreast with the latest developments in farming when the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food presents their series "This Business of Farming" over the C.B.C. Network, January 9, 10 and 11 at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The program has been divided into three sections covering three important aspects of Agriculture.

On January 9, the topic will be "The Fences Are Coming Down." The program deals with dairy cattle outlining some good sound principles in breeding, feeding, housing, health and management. Some pictures from the farms of Mr. Earl Wilson's new dairy barn near Uxbridge will be shown on this T.V. program.

The topic for the program on Wednesday, January 10 will be "No Sacred Cows." A critical look is taken at Ontario's beef-cow-calf operations, including breeding, feeding, housing and management. Some pictures from the farms of Mr. Edgar Ward, Claremont and Charolais Enterprises, Brooklin will be shown on this broadcast.

The topic for Thursday, January 11 will be "A Beats C." This program examines the "jigsaw puzzle" of success in swine farming, which includes breeding, feeding, housing, health and management.

Specialists in each of the above topics from the O.A.C. and the Department of Agriculture and Food, will participate in the program.

Fish For Fun

By A. W. Leman
(District Forester)

Around this time of the year, the ice fisherman gets his fishing tackle in shape and puts a fresh coat of paint on the old fish hut.

The south end of Cook's Bay on Lake Simcoe froze over last week so it won't be long before that area is dotted with fish huts.

From past records we predict that there will be the usual number of daring individuals who will venture out on thin ice which is not strong enough to carry the load.

Some equipment will be lost, some fishermen will get wet and some likely drown. In the early part of the season a few snowmobiles go under and later on a car or two. If the occupants are lucky they may get out before the vehicle sinks. How-

ever, generally speaking, once a vehicle goes under the ice, the broken ice fills the hole and very few people ever make it back to the surface. So, we say: BE CAREFUL! Don't venture on ice which is not safe. A few fish are not worth the risk of losing your life or expensive equipment.

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EVENING CLASSES PICKERING DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

REGISTRATION for Winter
Semester January 9 and 11, 1968

at

DUNBARTON HIGH SCHOOL Principal - A. W. Munroe 889-1125

PICKERING HIGH SCHOOL Principal - D. J. Kettle 942-4761

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Landscaping

Typewriting — Elementary

Business Machines

Auto Mechanics

Woodworking

Welding

Archery

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Golf Instruction

Fees : \$10. for a course offered 2 nights a week
\$5. for a course offered 1 night a week
\$7.50 for a course offered 1 night per week
for 3 hours

For certain courses there will be an additional charge for materials used.

Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings, commencing January 9 and continuing until March 14. For further information please contact the High School offices.

D. G. Worley
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