

### Willow Ptarmigan

Eskimo have to keep a sharp lookout when they are hunting Willow Ptarmigan, for the birds are clever at concealing themselves. When snow covers the ground, they're mostly white, with just a little black on their tails. After the spring thaws, they turn partly brown to match the summer landscape.

Splotches of brown, mixed some black, cover the male's neck, up-



©1952 National Wildlife Federation  
Willow Ptarmigan

per breast, and sides. The rest of the summer, is mostly white. His tail is dark brown. The female is about the same color, but paler,

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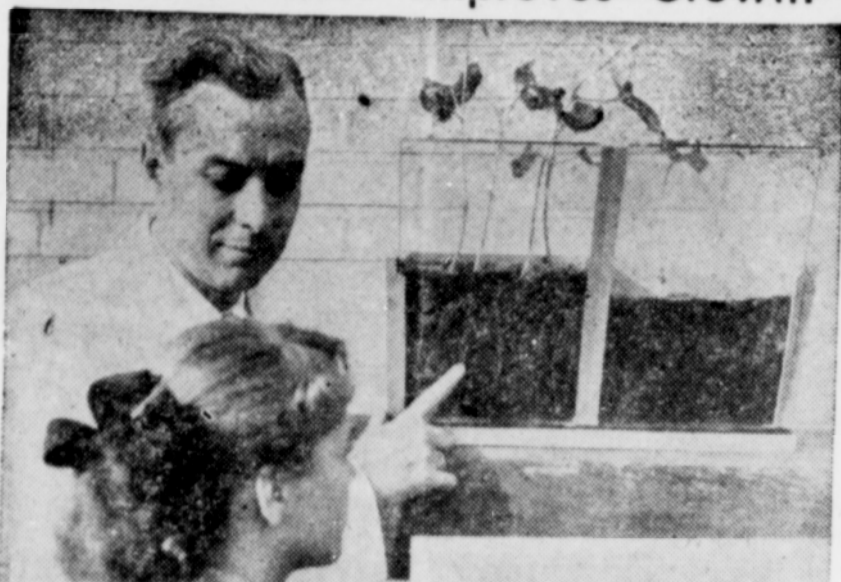
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### Soil Conditioner Improves Growth



A synthetic soil conditioner that converts non-productive into productive soil in a matter of hours, is now being produced for western gardens in the Long Beach plant of the Monsanto Chemical Company. \*

Initial production of Krillum, the original synthetic soil conditioner, is being devoted to a special formula developed for home gardeners which keeps the product dry and free-flowing and makes it easier to mix with the soil.

The new chemical, announced by the company last December, is now being produced in sufficient quantities in the Long Beach plant to supply the western market.

Examples of treated soil, top left and untreated soil, top right, points up dramatically the difference in yield. During a ten day laboratory

experiment, only one out of five kidney bean seeds grew in the shrunken-untreated soil, while all five planted in the Krillum treated soil showed excellent growth.

Basic research shows that more and larger tomatoes, above left, and carrots, above right, can be expected from poor soil treated with the conditioner, since the new chemical radically improves the structure of the soil by formation of soil aggregates which allow the soil to absorb more water and makes it easier to work during the planting season.

and there is more white on her head.

Most people in the United States never get to see the changeable birds, because they stay so far north all year. The National Wildlife Federation says that Willow Ptarmigan make their summer homes from Greenland to Alaska. In the winter they come down to central and southern Canada, and only a few of them venture into the northern fringes of our country.

So hardy are the Willow Ptarmigan that they build their nests on the bare ground of the treeless Arctic plains. In a hollow lined with a few feathers, leaves, or bits of grass, the female lays from six to fifteen large eggs. The eggs are a deep, reddish-cream color, with splotches of purple-brown.

After the female keeps them warm for 26 days, the eggs hatch sometime in July. Both before and after the young birds appear, the male stays near to protect his home against fur-bearing animals and birds of prey.

Getting food for the nesting family is another problem for the parents themselves are big, and the young have hearty appetites. In the summer, while they are still in the far north, they eat the leaves of bushes and trees, together with some insects now and then. For winter meals, they like berries and the tips of tender twigs.

Though they sometimes have trouble in finding enough food, Willow Ptarmigan grow to be large birds—measuring seventeen inches from bill to tail. They are

plump, too, and this is much to the liking of the Eskimos, who make many a meal of Ptarmigan.

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### Obituary

MILDREN M. WILSON

Mildred M. Wilson, 53, of Brookings, passed away en route to the Crescent City hospital Thursday. The remains were forwarded to Bellingham, Washington by Roy H. Brown Mortuary, for services and interment there.

Mrs. Wilson was born in Atchison, Kansas, October 6, 1898. She came to Brookings with her husband, Earl, about 1½ years ago. Surviving, besides her husband are a daughter, Mrs. Betty Tweit and two grandsons, Stephen and Gregory Tweit all of Tacoma, Washington.

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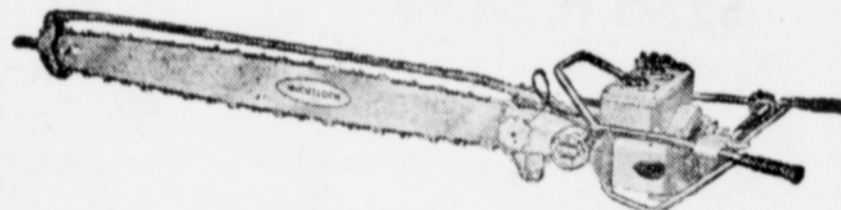
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