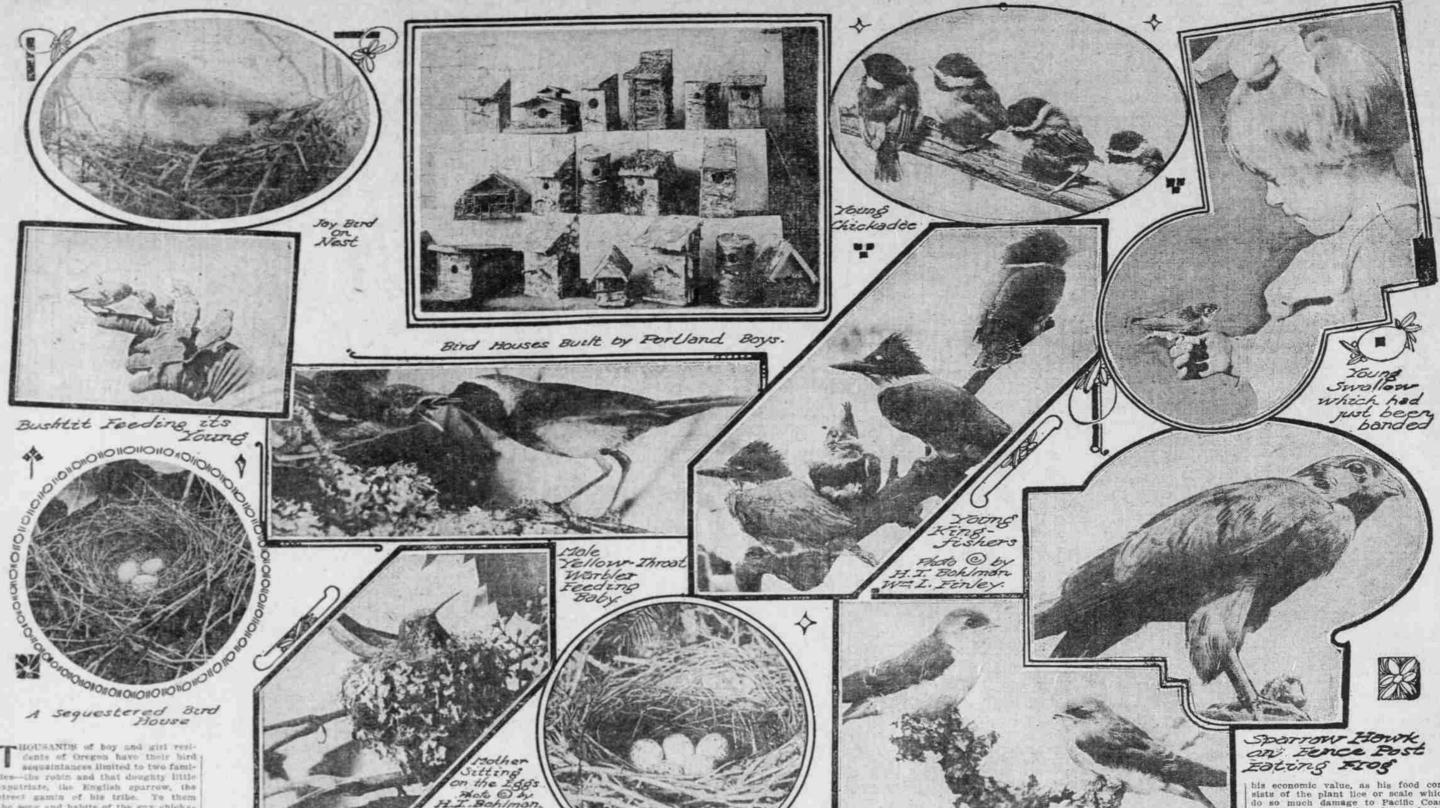
OREGON SCHOOL BOYS TO BUILD HOUSES FOR SONG BIRDS

Audubon Society and Public Schools Co-operate in Campaign for Bird Study and Protection.



exputriate, the English sparrow, the street gamin of his tribe. To them the song and habite of the gny chicks elce, the chatty little wren with its "eloquent tall," the sweet-voiced

his decision to require every schoolboy in the state of the intermediate grades to construct at least one bird house furing the year. The bird homes will be placed in public parks, private residence grounds and along the highways. They will be rented "for a song." Impetus to this new architectural venture will be given in some localities through the offering of prizes and the holding of exhibits, where

many of the handsomest and most am-bitious houses will be offered for sale. Last May the exhibit of houses built by boys in the Portland manual training schools attracted much attention and aroused no end of enthusiasm the boys themselves, between whom there was keen rivalry over both design and execution. Pascinating lit-ile bungalows executed in rustic strips of bark vied with quaint replicas of old-world inatched farm cottages; log cabins stood aide by side with dainly little homes wrought out in silvery growing artistically on the sloping roofs. The collection represented much ingenuity and skillful workmanship, and was the beginning of the state-wide plan to bring school chil-dren into closer relationship with their

bird neighbors. Teachers Enlisted in Course.

While the building of the bird house will, it is believed, fill the young architects with an increased sense of responsibility toward the protection of their feathered friends, and enlarge their powers of observation and intercet in bird life generally, it is but a small part of the plan of study, which will be directed by the Oregon State

The plan as adopted at the recent nesting of the Audubon Society alms to give systematic help to the teachers about the state in the forming of junior Audubon societies. The simple set of try-laws names the object of the orunimation "to learn all they can bout the wild birds and try to protect bem from being wantonly killed." money partly to cover the cost of the orinted literature which will be sent to

This literature will include a pam-let on "The Common Birds of Ore-n," by William L. Finley, president the society, and recognized as one of the foremost authorities on hird fore in the country, and it other edu-cational leaflets, all published under the auspices of the National Associa-tion of Audubon Societies, and written by well-known authorities, such as Mabel Osgood Wright, T. Gilbert Pear-son, B. S. Bowdish, W. L. Finley, etc. The list as announced in a recent re-port of the society, is as follows: "Com-

handed Gresbeak. All of the leaflets except the first bright red-brown on the back three contain beautiful color pictures lighter brownish breast with

reliagnest tall." the sweet-voiced meadow-lark, the shy thrush and even the bright-plumaged gresheak, are a classed book. They do not even know the bright plumaged gresheak, are a classed book. They do not even know the large table in the East and Middle West knows it, for in Oregon he sizys the Wister through and there is no will receive the magazine will be encouraged to collect vacated will be encouraged in the sale in the Fall to be placed in the sale in the Fall to be placed in the sale in the Fall to be placed in the sale in the Wister through and to impatient walling for his "cheer-up." which in many sections of the country means that Winter is to vanish and with it bissak shut-in days.

Through the co-operation of the Oreston and suddepones will be expected to hold at least one meeting a month, but it is not likely that class of young enthusiasts each with his own discoveries of huebird's nest or require every schoolboy in the etale of the intermediate grades.

Economic Value Studied.

Spots. The top of his head is slate rootoring. He builds his nest in a hole in a tree which may be used by the pupils for closed which had been accused to collect vacated will be encouraged to collect vacated to collect vacated will be encouraged to collect vacated to collect vacated the builds his nest in a hole in a tree the builds his nest in a hole in a tree will be builds his nest in the builds his nest in the

Economic Value Studied.

The protection offered the birds is of great economic value to the state, the tate biologist having gathered data to prove that many of the common birds of Oregon, frequently looked upon as cherry thieves and mischief makers, are the strongest ailles of both horticulturist and agriculturist and deserve not

alone protection but warm gratitude.

"A bad reputation in the bird," said
William Finley, in speaking of the condemnation often made of birds by farmers and orchardists, "Is as hard to liv often condemned on hearay evidence. Take the hawk. Among most people in the country there is a deep-seated feeling against all hawks. They have seem a hawk swoop down and carry off a chicken and they believe they do nothing else except fly about and wait for the chance. The farmer who has seen his chickens go salling off in the clutches of a hawk is mighty hard to persuade that a hawk is good for anything except a professional chicken thief. And under the circumstances be can't be blamed, for hawks are not easy to get acquainted with and it takes an expert to tell the different kinds. But it is well to understand something of the real economic value of hawks, for they are not all given to stealing chickens. "Years ago, when the farmers of

Pennsylvania saw hawks entching their chickens they concluded that all hawks and owls were dangerous to their poul-try pards. As a result a law was passed offering bountles for the bodies of these two species of birds. Before long the Department of Agriculture at Washington began to receive letters from farmers of Pennsylvania com-plaining that field mice were destroying their crops to an unusual extent.
A study of the problem soon revealed
the fact that the destruction of the birds of prey had destroyed the nat-ural check upon the harmful rodents. In interfering with Nature's balance the farmers had lost several million the farmers had lost several million dollars' worth of grain. Both hawks and owls are Nature's check against the great army of harmful rodents that inhabit our gardens and fields. The hawks bunt by day and the owls are especially equipped to supplement their work, having eyesight that is keenest during the early hours of the night and morning, when moles, gophers and mice are more active."

Sparrow Hawk Meritorious. The sparrow hawk is, according to Mr. Finley, one of the several unjustly maligned birds—even his name being against him, for he does not live upon sparrows, but on grasshoppers. A careful study has been made of this hird's food habits, and in the stomachs of 320 port of the society, is as follows:
mon Birds of Oregon, "Winter Feeding of Wind Birds," "Putting Up Bird
Houses," "The Song Sparrow," "The
House Wren. "The Blue Bird." The
Spotted Sandpiper," "The Tree Swalwing." "The Robin." The Cedar Waxwing." "The Bush-tit," and "The Blackheaded Grosbeak."

Seal bright red-brown on the back, with
black

esthetic standpoint no meadow is complete without this beautiful songster.

In Oregon the lark stays with its throughout the year, in sunshine, rain, snow, even in the dead of Winter, he can be heard calling in his own match-less way—that beautiful minor call to less way—that beautiful minor can to his mate as he whitrs over the harren field. Early in March or April, even before the other birds have returned, he has built his nest and with his quiet colored and faithful little wife reared

colored and fainful little wife reared a little family.

The nests are built on the ground protected by tufts of grass, some of them being completely arched over and covered by grass stems that make a ort of cave, from which the bird has t When feeding young, the parent bird will light from 50 to 100 feet from the nest and make a careful survey of the field before she creeps through the grass to her young.

Robin Relies on Human Friends,

Of all the common birds, none is more beloved than the robin, nature's optimist. He is the original exponent of cheer, and should be made an honorary member of the sunshine society. His very name suggests the approach of Spring, bursting apple blossoms, hope enewed. So confidently does he throw simself upon the protection of his huands building near their houses doing his family marketing on their lawns and teaching his fledglings the difficult art of flying under their very windows, it is small wonder their very windows, it is small wonder that he has established such friendly relation-ship with mankind. And yet even he is branded as a cherry thief and in many of the Southern states is killed as game during the Winter season. In one of the educational leaflets is-

sued by the Audubon Society a raid upon a typical robin's rocet down in Bedford County, Tennessee, is de-suribed. The robins gathered year after year a this same roost, congregatng by the thousands. The cedar trees from five to thirty feet in and at night were literally with robins. Hunting while loaded with robins. Hunting withey roosted was a favorite sport. they roosted was a favorite sport. A man would climb a cedar tree with a torch, while his companions with poles and clubs would disturb the sleeping bundreds on the adjacent trees. Blinded by the light, the suddenly awakened birds would fly to the torch-bearer, who, as he seized each bird, would quickly pull off its head and drop it into a sack suspended from his shoulder.

The capture of 300 or 400 birds was an ordinary night's work. Men and boys would come in wagons from all adjoining countles and camp near roost to kill robins. Many times or more hunters with torches and as would be at work in a single

"For three years this tremendous cult to sinughter kept up," says Dr. P. P. Claxitie fam-beauti- "and then the survivors deserted the or is a roost." This method was identical to that used by hunters in the last cen-black tury in killing the wild pigeon which

Mrs. Russell Sage is rendering finanial aid to the National Association of age of laws better calculated to protion holds that in every state in the the list of protected species and never be allowed to be killed as game. In Florida, robins may be killed at any time, and in the following Southern

reputation no one can cast a stone is that darling of the fields, the blue-

the first to arrive; and he does not seem to be particularly interested in house-burging until the arrival of the female. g until the arrival of the female the courtship begins without de when the courtship begins without de-lay, and the delicate puriling song with the refrain: 'Dear, dear, think of it, think of it,' and the low two-sylable answer of the female is heard in every orchard. The bullding of the nest is not an important function—merely the gathering of a few wisps and straws, with some chance feathers for lining.

need of a champion, for many persons advocate his being shot, charging that he destroys too many trout. Mr. Finley declares that along many of our streams he lives on fish that are of no value to man, and that in Oregon his favorite food is crawfish. Along some streams he lives on frogs, lizards and favorably with some of our other birds, but he was here before man came and should he not have the right to live a secluded life along our waterways? I wouldn't want a field without a meadow

less, both in supplying the nest with in sect food and attending to its sanita-sect food and attending to its sanita-tion; the wastage being taken away and dropped at a distance from the nest at almost unbilevably short intervals, proving the wonderful rapidity of di-

gestion and the immense amount of la-bor required to supply the mill inside the little speckled throats with grist." Mrs. Wright points out that it is not easy to tempt bluebirds to an artificial feeding place such as the junkos, chickadees, lays, etc., although in the Winter she has been able to coax them with dried currants and mill sweepings, the latter being scattered about the trees of their haunts. "Above all things," says Mrs. Wright, "the bluebird, though friendly and seeking the borderland be tween the wild and the tame, never be comes familiar, and never does he lose the half-remote individuality that is one of his great charms. Though he lives with us and gives no sign of pride relops him even us the apple blossom throw a rosy mist about his doorway, and it is best so."

There are six varieties of the blue-bird familiar to the biologist, the West-ern bluebird, familiar in Oregon, being of a deeper shade of blue with the fore back in part chestnut, while his Eastern brother is entirely blue as to back, wings and tail. Both the Eastern and Western blueblird have breast and sides of a rusty brown, that of the Western bird is his marvelous skill in nest-build-ing. In this he has no equal among the small birds. His nest is a long gourd-shaped one from eight to ten inches in length, with a side entrance bird being a brighter chestnut. He ranges from Northern California to British Columbia and east to Nevada. at the upper end. "Bushtits are great talkers," said Mr. Finiey, "but I have never seen a flock stop for rest. Their appetites never seem satisfied. A flock

Crow Is of Real Value.

but with a beautiful coal and a murderer is the bluejay. He has had a reputation as a robbet and a murderer is the bluejay. He has had a reputation for robbing nests and stealing nestlings for so long that a good many people think he does nothing the Winter, and many are killed by animals.

In writing of the bluebird Mabel

his economic value, as his food con-sists of the plant lice or scale which do so much damage to Pacific Coast fruit. Indeed, hunting for scale in-sects is said to be the bushtit's life work, and according to good authorities it would be difficult to find a small bird that is a more valuable asset to any farmer or fruit grower.

Of all the tiny vocalists that come into close touch with the human family none is more beloved than Jenny White Breasted he is denied the protection under the ation here in Oregon for stealing fruit Oregon laws. Two bluelays are com-mon residents in Western Oregon; the

Swallows.

Next to the blue jay in reputation is the American crow, with a reputation as black as his coat. "To determine the economic status of this bird," said

corn and the part destroyed

"The kingfisher," said Mr. Finley, "is

not a social bird, and from an econ-omic standpoint he may not compare

lark, even if it did raise a good crop of hay. It would be a desolate patch

of hay. It would be a desolate patch of woods with no chickadees. It would be a barren orchard without a robin or chippy, even if it did bear apples.

its interest if the kinglisher was not there. To my mind, the river can never be quite the same if the king-fisher does not nest in the bank."

Bushtits Marvelous Architects.

By the time the Oregon Junior Audo-bons are starting in on their work, the fascinating little bushtits will be

coming back to us from the South, where they stay nine months of the year. The bushtit is distinctly a Westerner, so much so that he is unknown in the East. A little larger than a humming-bird but more furfly in ap-

pearance, dressed in modest browns and grays and with a tall as long as his body, he is easily distinguished. He is as easy to make friends with

as a chickadee and possesses an un-bounded confidence in mankind. Mr. Finiey has made many intimate friend-ships among the busatits, the young fledglings being so tame they will feed while perching on the hand. One of

the accomplishments of this mite of a

forms a continual moving procession. A few always take the lead, bobbing along in a tipuling tight

into close touch with the human family none is more beloved than Jenny Wren. Her beautiful and persistent song is one of the Summer's joys and her departure in the Autumn after having reared from three to six broads is always a matter of regret. The House wrens are extremely sociable and take very quickly to nesting-boxes put up for them near the homes of their human friends. A house 4xx6 inches with a sloping roof to shed water and an opening two inches from the bottom and not more than one inch in diameter, will meet the family rerequirements of Johnny and Jenny Wren and keep out the usurping English sparrow. stellar jay, conspicuous for its long crest and deep blue coat; the California jay, which looks more like the bluejay of the Eastern woods in color, the type James Whitcomb Riley describes: "In them sassy baseball clothes o' his."

Mr. Finley, the Department of Agricul-ture has examined nearly a thousand stomachs of crows killed in every menth of the year all over the coun-Wrena Like to Return. The bird has been charged with "Above all things, the wren seems to causing injury to the corn crop, stealing fruit, robbing nests of poultry and eating young birds. On each count he was proven guilty. It was also shown that most of the corn eaten was waste esteem coziness," says Mabel Osgood Wright in writing of these birds, "and if a nook or an spartment has too high a ceiling they immediately de away with the objectionable feature by raising the floor. Make your houses of the right size," she admenishes, "and not one, but a dozen. Think out growing was only 3 per cent of the to-tal food. The destruction of fruit and eggs was only trivial, while on the other hand, the amount of harmful inand not one, but a dozen. Think out the location and see that they are at least partly protected from the sun. Do not put the houses too close together, for Madame Wren is a bad neighbor and her temper is as quick sects and mice caten rendered the final verdict in favor of the crow, for it was proven beyond doubt that he is of more real economic value than harm." The Kingfisher is another bird in

neighbor and her temper is as quick as her flight. At the end of the season clear the old nests from the house. A wren can carry and lay unbelievably long twigs, but to undo the work is too great trial of patience."

Once established in a locality, the wren clings to it, so the boys and girls who succeed this year in coaxing wren neighbors may look forward with a good deal of certainty to their return next year.

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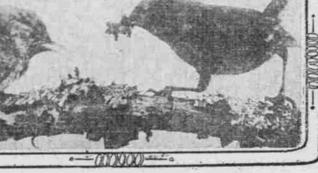
The black-headed grosbeak is another Western bird—a cousin of the rose-breasted grosbeak found in the East and Middle West. The Oregon grosbeak has a black head, a red-brown breast brightening to a lemon yellow under the wings and below. a black tail and wings with two white wing bars. The female is dressed demurely in dark brown and buff. The song is the rollicking carol of the Western robin or Western tanager. Birds in general are very shy about singing when on the nest, in fact they are afraid to, but Mr. Finley says that many times he has found the grosbeak mother singing a luilaby to her habies in the nest. The parents feed their nestlings on a diet of both fruit and insects, and although nature has given the grosbeak a large and powerful bill to crack seeds and kernels it seems not to be an inconvenience when feeding the babies. Mr. Finley tells of having once seen a father grosbeak distribute a whole mouthful of green measuring worms to his youngsters and the next time he came back from the garden, bringing one raspberry in his bill and coughing up three more, to be thrust clear into the wide-spread hungry beaks of the babes.

The grosbeak family discipline is built upon equal suffrage lines. One day the father local all the marketing for the family, while the mother hunts the food and feeds the family while the father bird sings in the tree tops and preens his feathers, hunting up only one mouthful of food to every six or seven brought by the mother, "I have watched a good many bird families," said Mr. Finley, "but I never saw the work divided as it is in the grosbeak family. I have watched at some neats where the young are cared for almost entirely by the mother and have seen others where the young are cared for almost entirely by the mother and have seen others where those duties were taken up largely by the father. Many times I have seen both parents work side by side in rearing

A few always take the lead, booking along in a tippling fight from tree to tree. Others follow rapidly, and when they take possession of a bush it looks as if the whole thing had suddenly taken wings."

Although so small the bushtit has liarly their own."

Many times I have seen both parents work side by side in rearing a family, but the grosbeaks seem to have a way of dividing duties equally, alternating days of rest and labor, that is pecularly their own."



The Winter Wren

Tegs of Stellers

today is practically an extinct bird in good Wright says: "As with many oth-Only Few Cherries Stolen,

Audubon Societies to secure the passtect the robin. The National associa-Union the robin should be placed on States the "open" season varies from one to six months; Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ten-

iand, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ten-nessee, Virginia.

In speaking of the complaints made locally against the robin as a cherry-enter, Mr. Finley says: "The earliest cherries are bothered most, while those that ripen later are not disturbed to any great extent, because of other fruits and berries that are ripe at this time. The averest complaints seem to ime. The severest complaints seem to some from places where there are just a few cherry trees in the locality, and to these all the robins came for a feast. In places where the cherry trees are abundant the loss is so scatlant a few Russian mulberry trees for the birds. In this way the more valuable fruit would be protected. One of the few birds against whose

With breast like the earth And back like the sky. Although he boards himself and his family about the farm and garden and consumes hundreds of green worms, caterpillars, grasshoppers and ants in a day's time he is not a menace to the crops, and is generally looked upon a day's time, he is not a menace to the crops, and is generally looked upon with high favor by the farmer and town dweller alike. Mr. Finley points out that the bluebird is one of the birds that has taken remarkably to civilization, and that while formerly he built his nest in some hole in an and the company of the barriers a highlouse. old tree, he now prefers a birdhouse erected for him in the back yard or about the barn, or nailed to a crotch in an orchard tree. They not only pay cent with their beautiful song, but