

## ODDITIES OF BIRD AND ANIMAL LIFE

Here are some bird and animal stories picked up in different parts of Vermont, all of which are vouched for by the New England Ornithological and Audubon society:

H. W. Russell, who lives in the village of Hinesburg, Chittenden county, heard a commotion in his garden late one night a week ago, and, taking a lamp, went out to investigate. He had hardly stepped off the stoop when a good-sized black bear walked up to him and emitted a loud "woof, woof." Being in night attire and having no gun handy, Mr. Russell hove the lamp at the animal and disappeared within the house, where he remained until morning. He was telling the story next day, when he learned that Mrs. T. Beaupre, a neighbor, had seen the bear. She heard it in her back yard and thought it was a dog after her pet cat. She walked right onto it and was about to slap it with a broom, when she found her visitor was a bear. Earl Jackson heard her shouts for help and arrived on the scene with a 32-calibre revolver. He fired three shots, all of which took effect in the animal's flank. Bruin cast a look of reproach at his tormentor and disappeared in the darkness.

A woodchuck with tree-climbing tendencies, has been killed at the foot of Mt. Graylock, near the village of Fowal, Bennington county. The hero of this adventure was a dog owned by J. Wells Thompson, a druggist, of Pittsfield, Mass. Thompson and the dog were out in the woods, when the canine spied the woodchuck running for a stone wall and took after it. He had chased woodchucks many times before and was therefore, greatly astonished when the pursued bolted up a tree. Mr. Thompson was so surprised that he stood stock still. The animal ran out on a limb like a gray squirrel, leaped to another tree and then proceeded to another. Finally, he missed his footing and the dog made short work of him. Upon examination it was found that, while his head and body resembled a woodchuck, his claws were like those of a feline.

For the first time in the history of the state a flock of prairie horned larks have been found here. They were discovered a few days ago by William Eastman, of Wells River, who was harrowing on his father's farm. One of the birds arose from a furrow and flew straight up for a distance of 200 feet. There it balanced, sang delightfully and then soared over the field. It was soon joined by a dozen more and Eastman got his gun and

### INDIAN WILL PREACH.

One of the First Converts of Jason Lee to Talk at the Fair.

White Swan, chief of the Yakima tribe of Indians, will speak at the Methodist Episcopal congress in Portland in July. White Swan is a living monument to the mission to Oregon

shot one. It will be stuffed and presented to the state.

Essex Junction has a bird that is a cross between a robin and whippoorwill. It looks and sings like both, and is creating a great deal of interest. The bird made its appearance some weeks ago and tried to find a mate. It sang like a robin at that time, and soon paired off with a thrush of that species. The couple began to build a house and had nearly finished when the male perched on a roof and shouted "whippoorwill, whippoorwill," at the top of his voice. Mrs. Robin was horrified and deserted without the formality of getting a divorce. She would have nothing more to do with her Jekyll-Hyde partner and took up with a spouse who would stick to his own language. The first husband made an awful fuss when the newly mated pair took up an abode in the home he had helped construct, but after he had been whipped a couple of times he accepted the inevitable. Persons who have watched him with opera glasses say he is as much whippoorwill as robin.

William McDonald, of Bennington, was playing golf on a local course last week when he saw a big turtle over by the side of a bunker. He went over to where he was and discovered the words "Griswold Art" engraved deeply on the shell. It developed that a long time ago a man named Griswold had the turtle in his art store at the village and cut the words in his shell. One night it got away and had not been seen since.

Jerome Thornton of Brownington Centre, set his dog onto a fox two weeks ago and an hour later he stopped baying. Thornton went home, thinking the dog had left the scent. "If he has," he said, "he will get well thrashed for quitting." But the hound didn't return. Two days later the young man set out after him, but he couldn't find him. A week went by and he gave the animal up for lost. Ten days after the chase began the dog crawled into the house, a living skeleton. When he had been fed and got rested he made a great fuss until Thornton followed him up the mountains. In a lot of rocks was a fox hole, and it developed a rock had fallen over the entrance after the dog had gone in, and it took 10 days for the canine to dig his way out.

George Brown, of West Clarkston, has a hen of which he is greatly proud. It has laid a number of mammoth eggs, but this week broke all county records by presenting the owner with one measuring six and a third by eight inches.

of Jason Lee, the father of Christian Endeavor in the Willamette valley, where his wife and little child died and were buried away back in the last century, says a Portland paper. Jason Lee built a little church up near Salem, and there preached the gospel among the Indians and such of the whites as had then braved the

journey to the valley. Among the converts to the faith of this pioneer missionary was White Swan, chief of the Yakimas. When the plan for a congress of the Methodist churches of the Northwest was launched a letter was written to White Swan, asking him to attend. He consented and will speak to the assembled brethren of the faith from the pulpit of the Taylor Street Methodist Episcopal church during the session of the congress from July 11 to 21. He will speak through George Watterson, a converted Indian, who will act as interpreter. Watterson will be accompanied by his wife.

### MORTUARY STATISTICS.

Tuberculosis First, Accidents Second, as Causes of Death.

From the statistics prepared by the head clerk covering the past biennium some very interesting facts are shown, says the Modern Woodman. For instance, during the two years, out of a total of 7007 deaths, 5604 were what are termed "short-term" deaths; that is, they were deaths from those who had been members of the society less than five years.

Another interesting fact is that during the two years there were 885 accidental deaths, making the risk from accident next to the greatest in that society.

The largest number died from tuberculosis, 1036 dying from that disease. During the two years 246 committed suicide, 493 died from typhoid fever, 558 from heart disease, 354 from cancer, 407 from Bright's disease, and 746 from pneumonia. Appendicitis caused the death of 174; apoplexy had 165 victims; 111 died from diabetes, and 155 from stomach trouble.

The fact, however, that accident was the second largest factor in causing deaths is a subject of much interest.

### HOOD RIVER ELECTRIC PLANT.

Will Furnish Light and Power and Cost \$15,000.

The Hood River Electric Light, Power & Water company, is expending \$15,000 in the construction of a dam in the stream of Hood River; a suspension bridge for carrying a five-foot pipe line, and a power house for developing electrical energy, says the Hood River Glacier.

The dam will be built a short distance above the city, at a point about midway between Johnson's point and the present power house. A five-foot pipe line crossing the stream on a suspension bridge will convey the water to the power house on the east side of the river, about 2000 feet below the dam. This will give a fall of 50 feet, and developed 600 horse power.

A portion of the power will be used in operating the box factory of the Davidson Fruit Co., also the recently constructed lee factory and cold storage plant. The balance of the developed power will be for the use of manufacturing plants yet to locate here.

### TO WORK ON CANAL.

Eight Carloads of Machinery to Mindoka.

Messrs. Hubbard and Carlson, the contractors, are loading eight cars today with scrapers and grading machinery, to be shipped out Saturday, for Mindoka, where they will begin work next week on their government contract, says the Boise Capital News.

The firm has a contract for completing 34 miles of canal on the Mindoka project and will complete the first mile of canal work ever done in Idaho at government expense. Mr. Hubbard said today that 100 men and an equal number of teams will be employed right away. This force will be augmented later on by the addition of one or two large steam outfits. The canal they are to dig will result in the removal of a million yards of earth, and represents about one-third of the work that is to be done there. The canal will be from five to seven feet deep with a width on the bottom of 35 feet. The very latest designs in excavating machinery will be used, Mr. Hubbard said, as the intention is to complete the work at the earliest possible moment.

### SUFFOCATED IN JAIL.

Insane Prisoner at Republic Sets the Building Afire.

Spokane, June 23.—A special from Republic, Wash., says:

George Harrigan, awaiting examination on a charge of lunacy, set fire to his cell at 2:30 this morning, and before help could reach him, had suffocated. He had previously shown suicidal mania, having pulled down the heating stove and having wrapped the electric light wires about his neck in an attempt to hang himself.

The sheriff removed him to another cell entirely of wood, where he perished in his last attempt. Harrigan was a section hand.

The last year's faculty of Monmouth Normal college were all re-elected. The last meeting of the board of regents added a five year course to three and four year courses, which places it on the "accredited list" with California, as it already is with Washington.



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