

# Is That So?

By Eugene Burns  
Ranger-Naturalist

Ever wondered at the hard-covered egg — the bewildering complexity and variety of backboneed animals hatched from it? It's an awe-inspiring parade.

The participants range from a tiny 1/10th ounce hummingbird to a 300-pound African ostrich.

From a ribbon-like water snake to a fearsome 33-foot python.

From a small lizard to the lumbering 20-foot long crocodile. From a small box turtle to a half-ton tortoise.

Even more remarkable, two warm-blooded animals are hatched from eggs, yet they are suckled on milk — the spiny anteater and the platypus, who live Down Under and have only gained the lowest rung on the mammalian ladder.

Even larger creatures were born of hard-shelled eggs. In ancient days, the multi-ton dinosaurs were born of eggs — they were first discovered by Andrews in Mongolia; and, in more modern times, the skeleton and eggshells of a ten-foot high elephant bird have been discovered in Madagascar.

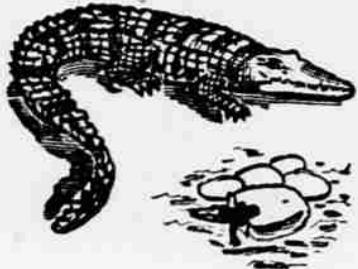
Among these groups of animals, not all are born of eggs. In a few snakes and lizards, young may be born alive; too, in some amphibians such as in salamanders; but in birds, there are no ifs, and, or buts — every bird emerges from a hard-shelled egg.

The smallest of all eggs, no larger than a tiny pea, contains the hummingbird; the largest also contains a bird — the ostrich. In size, the ostrich egg is roughly the equivalent of two dozen hen's eggs. But there were bigger eggs. The recently-discovered elephant bird's eggs dwarf the ostrich's. They con-

tained the equivalent of two gallons of egg whites and yolks.

## Other Eggs Smaller

In contrast to birds' eggs, those of reptiles and other animals run much smaller. The great crocodile's are about the



size of a goose egg; the long python's is only slightly larger — although most snake eggs will not exceed the size of a chicken's; and that of the giant Galapagos tortoise is about the size of a tennis ball. As for the two mammals, the 18-inch long platypus lays an inch long egg; the 14-inch spiny anteater lays about a half-inch long egg, something like that of the tiny sparrow.

In birds the shell is always composed of carbonate of lime and is hard, though brittle in crocodiles and alligators, too, the egg has a hard shell — in fact, the shell of the common land tortoise is sometimes so dense that it is quite difficult to pierce. However, in snakes, the shells are leathery-rubbery — drop a fresh egg and it bounces; and more surprisingly, some snake eggs grow as much as a third before the young emerge. The egg of the platypus has a tough yet flexible shell; the spiny anteater's is thin and leathery-like.

Reptile Eggs Unglazed  
Reptile eggs are usually unglazed, of a dull whitish color

while those of birds are frequently beautifully tinted — the delicate washes oftentimes further enriched by darker spots, streaks and blotches.

Size of clutch varies: Birds lay from one to 20 eggs, depending in part upon the number which the hen can sit upon and brood. The platypus lays one, two, or three; the spiny anteater, one. Reptiles lay from 50 to 100, some turtles upping the number to 250.

With the reptiles, eggs are usually deposited within a few hours; in birds which lay more than one egg, the process is longer — usually an egg is laid one-a-day except for some of the big predatory birds, hawks and owls, which generally lay an egg every other day.

Some snakes brood their eggs, others do not, and as for birds, one bird never knows its parents. But we'll discuss later the incubation of eggs and the care of the young — or the lack of care of the young.

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San Francisco paid \$41,000,000 for the Crystal Springs Water company properties in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties, in 1930.

# Mississippi Mayor Bows to Kids' Demands for Chimes

Jackson, Miss. — (U.P.) — Mayor Allen Thompson bowed to demands of five determined youngsters Saturday. He said it would be all right for ice cream vendors to have chimes on their wagons "as long as they aren't too loud."

The decision saved him the threat of a "trillion dollar" lawsuit.

A city ordinance states that "no vehicle shall have a bell or any other device for attracting attention which would tend to disturb the peace and quiet."

"I don't think music disturbs

the peace," 10-year-old James Conner Halfacre said.

Thompson met with the youngsters Friday and agreed to amend the ordinance on a 60-day trial basis on two conditions — the chimes must be toned down to a "more soothing" level, and the kids accept the mayor's invitation to an ice cream party Saturday night with orchestra leader Guy Lombardo furnishing the music.

Lombardo, whose band has scheduled a concert here, wrote a letter to Thompson inviting the children to hear his orchestra if the mayor would supply the ice cream for that matter."

Young Halfacre was joined in his threatened suit by Garland Richmond, 10, Buddy Lowther, 7, Sandra Richmond, 9, and Ann Shaddock, 8.

# Sheriff of Douglas County Quits Post

Roseburg — (U.P.) — Douglas County Sheriff Cal Baird Saturday announced his resignation effective April 18 to accept a position with the U.S. Justice Department.

Baird did not say what the position was but said he would move from this area. He has been sheriff since Jan. 1, 1953.

A successor will be selected by the Douglas County Court before April 18.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

# Albany Boy's Dog Returns After Year

Albany, Ore. — (U.P.) — Jerry McDonald, 14, was the happiest kid in town Saturday and his dog, Taffy, was probably the happiest canine in the state.

About a year ago Taffy wandered away from the McDonald family car at Triangle Lake, 70 miles away. He couldn't be found.

This week, Jerry's mother was in downtown Albany when she saw a dog investigating various cars, perhaps looking for his own. It was Taffy.

Mrs. McDonald said someone apparently had taken care of the dog since he disappeared since his collar had been changed.

The original "safety nets" used by firemen were not nets at all but "catch canvas."

# Folsom Sends More Troopers to Area Of Railroad Strike

Montgomery, Ala. — (U.P.) — Alabama Gov. James E. Folsom Saturday ordered reinforcement of the state Highway Patrol in the strike-bound Birmingham area to "protect human lives and property."

But Folsom said, "I do not intend to use the state militia as a strike-breaking organization."

The Birmingham industrial area, one of the largest in the South, has been plagued by repeated clashes between pickets and non-striking workers, by cutting of telephone cables and dynamiting of non-striker's homes.

A half dozen strikes, including the 27-day Southwide walk-out of 50,000 employees of the Southern Bell Telephone Company and the strike of non-operating engineers of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, are in progress in the area.

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Wed., April 13	• "The Other Side of Death." What lies ahead in the great beyond? See vivid colorama and screen slides that will move your soul.	• "Hidden Treasure." Epic color film on fantastically beautiful scenes from God's book of nature.
Fri., April 15	• "Greatest Prophetic Date in This World's History." What is it? See it revealed on the colorama board.	• "The Neighbor Next Door." A dispute between neighbors leads toward trouble until love wins out in the end.
Sat., April 16	• "Medford's Great Shame." Every person in Medford should hear this lecture.	• "Seal Island." Beautiful Disney nature film in color.
Sun., April 17	• "79 Signs of the Coming of Christ Seen in Medford." What are they? They're being fulfilled before our eyes.	• "I Beheld His Glory." Tremendous color film on the life of Christ.

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