



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Flamingo Brings Thoughts of Romance
Few wild creatures have intrigued the romantic mind of man more than that strange and beautiful wading bird called the flamingo. Even the thought of this bird conjures in the mind visions of tropical islands when palm trees sway, and where wide, sandy beaches are edged with the emerald green of the running surf.

At one time in the remote past, flamingos lived and nested in the southeastern United States. At least, fossil remains uncovered in recent years would indicate this possibility. Today the nearest nesting area is in the Bahamas and on some of the small islands north of Cuba.

The flamingo is one of the world's largest birds of brilliant plumage. It is described most correctly by the words "flame-feathered." At the approach of the nesting season the feathers grow more colorful until they reach the hue of a tropical sunset.

They are related to the herons, and like them nest only near water. The flamingo never builds a nest in a tree, however, but constructs a chimney of mud in the shape of a tall column. These nest-turrets, sometimes a foot and a half tall, are probably an instinctive act on the part of the bird to raise the actual nesting platform above the water should a high tide inundate the area. The birds do not straddle the turret, but fold the legs underneath the body, letting the elbows, or more rightly the knees, stick out behind.

On top of the turret a single egg is laid. Both parents share alike in incubation, a period lasting about 34 days. When the chick is hatched, another logical reason for the chimney-like nest becomes apparent. The heavy rains of a tropical rainy season seldom reach the baby; he stays high and dry.

For many years captive flamingos refused to build

their nests. It was rather puzzling at first, but it was later discovered that the birds insist on a certain kind of mud. When at last the right kind was supplied, the birds got busy and heaped the mud up into the turrets that every flamingo demands for its nesting platform.

The flamingo is peculiar too, in its eating habits. Here again things have to be just right; no half measures will do. When feeding, the bird performs a strange sort of dance. It raises and lowers its webbed feet in order to stir up the bottom mud. When properly stirred, the bird lowers its head into the muddied water.

The bill has a peculiar dip, and it scoops up the mud from between the treading feet. When feeding, the head is actually upside down. In this position the bill points backward, and is parallel to the muddy bottom. And all the time the two feet continue to stamp up and down. From the mud they secure the tiny mollusks on which they feed.

There are areas in the Everglades National Park suited to the flamingo. Perhaps it can be encouraged to make its home there, and live in its wild, natural state.

There have been instances recorded when flocks of these exotic birds have migrated into Florida, where they waded majestically along the lonely shores or stepped daintily over the tidal flats. But they never stay long; neither do they ever attempt to build a nest. Somewhere, back in the remote recesses of their minds, there still must be the memory of unpleasant things that happened to their ancestors many years ago.

The retention of instinctive fear must be instilled like a poison in their brains, for the birds with the flame-colored feathers launch themselves back into the air and return to their diminishing island homes.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)



PROPOSED BRIDGE—This is an artist's impression of a section of the proposed 25-mile-long English Channel bridge to link Great Britain and France. The bridge would be 110 feet across, having a five-lane motor highway, two railroad tracks and separate paths for cyclists and motor-

Graphite Rolls Up Like Window Shade

London (Science Service)—The lubricating properties of graphite are due to microscopic layers, inside the graphite crystal, that roll up like window shades and act like roller bearings, recent research indicates. This modifies the older explanation—that the graphite layers slide over each other like a slippery deck of cards.

Dr. W. Bollmann and J. Spreadborough of the Battelle Memorial Institute, Geneva, found the tiny rolls by using an electron microscope which magnified graphite samples 24,000 times.

The lubricating quality of graphite changes with varying conditions of temperature, pressure and humidity. These changes are more easily explained by the roll-up theory than by the slide theory, the investigators reported here in the British scientific journal Nature.

If the layers actually slid over each other, they could become "locked" together by foreign atoms. If this ever happened, graphite would be no good as a lubricant.

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Morton J.—I want to do freelance work.

Lee J.—I don't want the kids to suffer because of him.

Morton J.—My wife and I have been married 17 years and have four children, ranging from 9 to 15. Lee has been working full time for the past three years.

She went to work because an unfortunate venture of mine had gotten us into debt. I am a commercial artist and went into related business with a supposed friend of mine. Within a year the business was no more, my "friend" had disappeared and I hadn't received a cent for my work.

Since then I've been working at a low-paid job that only uses a small per cent of my ability. I want to freelance and feel sure I can make more that way. If Lee will only hold on to her job until I get established I'm sure all will be for the best. But she seems to think I'm trying to

use her as a workhorse while I loaf.

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Lee J.—In all these years while I've had to run the home and hold down a full-time job, Mort has done nothing about a single piece of freelance work. He complains that he can't make contacts during his working hours, but I feel sure that there must be some way for a talented man like him to get a little extra work.

If Mort had consulted me in the first place we would never have been in this fix. I never trusted his friend and I knew the business wasn't set up on a sound basis. But whenever Mort is shaky about anything he does, he hides it from me. I only find out when the worst has happened.

I don't want our children to suffer because their dad hasn't a business head. I want them to get an education and the only way I can be sure of it is for us both to keep on working.

The Council: Many wives have a better business head than their husbands, but the smarter ones don't make an issue of it. They learn how to help and guide by indirect methods and never, never glory in their shrewdness and their husband's lack of it.

Nothing so destroys a man's ego as being shown up as an inadequate breadwinner. Men today are more accustomed to seeing their wives go to work than they were at one time. But that doesn't mean they enjoy it—especially when the wife does it in an angry spirit and doesn't fail to remind her husband of his errors, it must indeed be a bitter pill.

We cannot determine whether Morton should or should not take the risk of free-lance work. We can only point out some factors in the situation Lee appears to be overlooking. It is important for her to remember that her husband is not eternally in the wrong simply because he made one mistake. The free-lance idea may not be bad. We don't say it is good, but merely that it is worth looking into more carefully and more objectively. Many artists do make good salaries at free-lance work. Perhaps Morton and Lee should talk to some of these men and learn more about the problems.

We get the impression that Lee looks at the past in a bitter angry way and the future in a frightened way. But she doesn't think the present is of any importance. It is. She should see what she can do to inject some sweetness and joy into her family life. This is more important to her children than the material benefits she has in mind.

If Lee were calmer and kinder in her approach to the family financial problems perhaps Morton would confide in her more and she would be able to influence him in the right direction.

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Wife Grabs Phone, Then Belts Hubby

Baltimore—When Angelo C. Pistoli hit his wife during a domestic argument she picked up the telephone, police report.

But she didn't call anyone. She socked him with it. Then, officers said, Pistoli's sister-in-law, Mrs. T. A. Tomasino, clobbered him with a mop.

After five stitches were taken in his scalp, Pistoli was booked for assault and disturbing the peace. The complaint was signed by his wife, Marie, and Mrs. Tomasino.

Space Studies May Help Tame Bomb Radiation

Washington—(Science Service)—Man-made satellites probing space within the solar system may glean information leading to new ideas for the control of fiery H-bomb reactions.

This could be one result of the inner solar system's having become a "vast laboratory," Dr. John A. Simpson of the University of Chicago reported here. One of today's major problems in physics, he said, is discovering how electromagnetic fields originate in stars and space and speed up particles to such high energies that auroras, cosmic rays and other effects result.

In a report on solar system physics by the National Academy of Sciences' Space Science Board, Dr. Simpson said this problem is already under investigation with satellites and space probes. The report, "Physics of Fields and Energetic Particles in Space," is one of nine chapters in the Academy's survey of "Science in Space."

Energetic particles are believed to exist throughout the universe, so that understanding of their behavior within the solar system should also lead to knowledge of such questions as how galaxies developed. In the solar system, the sun, a star shining by its own light, is a fundamental energy source for generation of magnetic fields and acceleration of particles. The method by which the sun's energy is transferred is not yet understood.

However, its extreme brightness is more a consequence of its large mass than the fact the sun is burning up its substance, by turning hydrogen into helium. If a comparable mass of living, breathing humans composed the sun, they would generate 5,000 times as much heat as the sun, Dr. E. N. Parker, also of the University of Chicago, reported.

He described the "solar wind" as a stream of gas flowing continuously from the sun at 300 miles a second and carrying with it a solar magnetic field. Solar winds may account for auroras and magnetic storms in the earth's atmosphere, he said.

Dr. James A. Van Allen of the State University of Iowa reported on the present knowledge of trapped radiation in the earth's magnetic field. He believes this radiation is concentrated in two large belts around the earth, Mars and Venus, but not the moon, may also have such trapped radiation, he said.

Year-Round Eggs Sought from Turkeys

St. Paul, Minn.—(AP)—Scientists are trying to convince turkeys they should lay their eggs the year around, not just in the spring.

As things now stand, turkeys do their mating and egg-laying in the spring, which means most turkeys grow up after hatching to reach marketing size in late summer or fall.

This is fine for the Thanksgiving rush. But the farmers would like to have more turkeys for sale the year around and spread out the profits a little.

Scientists at the University of Minnesota have tackled the problem. They believe the amount of light that shines on a turkey may have something to do with its mating habits.

Experimenters R. H. Shoffner, Elton Johnson and R. E. Burger are experimenting with all sorts of light intensities and lengths of exposure to see what will happen.

LOOK What A Penny Will Buy at MATLACK'S

Matlack Super Market has made arrangements with Mr. Wm. F. Thompson of Medford, to display part of his coin and currency collection Friday through Sunday, April 15, 16 and 17. Mr. Thompson will be on hand to give information on coins. Anyone desiring to dispose of old coins or bills see Mr. Thompson at the coin display.

PENNY SAVERS

<p>First 25 customers with 1955-S penny Friday, Saturday gets size 303 DOUBLE LUCK</p> <p>Green Beans 1¢</p> <p>Your 1911-S penny Buys 4-27c cans 2 1/2 cans VAN CAMP Pork & Beans 1¢</p>	<p>Your 1909-S Lincoln Buys 3.00 Toward Any Any Meat Purchase 1¢</p> <p>Your 1924-D penny Buys 7 Cans 303 3 Sisters WK Corn 1¢</p>	<p>Your 1931-S Lincoln Buys 21 Cans of Sego or Garnation Milk 1¢</p> <p>Your 1914-D penny Buys \$11.50 Toward Your Grocery Order 1¢</p>
<p>Your 1861 penny Buys 1.39 King size Tide 1¢</p> <p>Your 1869 or 1870 penny Buys 20 Lb. Bag Frisky Meal or Cube 1¢</p>	<p>Your 1864 penny Buys Any Pint of Ardens Ice Cream 1¢</p> <p>Your 1871 or 1872 penny Buys \$4.25 Toward Your Easter Ham 1¢</p>	<p>Your 1866, 67, or 68 penny Buys 7 Cans Bagley No. 2 1/2 Size Freestone Peaches 1¢</p> <p>Your 1877 penny Buys \$14.10 Toward Your Grocery Order 1¢</p>
<p>Your 1908-S penny Buys 6 Lbs. of Your Favorite Coffee 1¢</p> <p>Your 1884 nickel Buys 32 Oz. Can Joy Liquid Detergent 5¢</p>	<p>Your 1909-S Indian penny Buys 17.50 Toward Your Grocery Order 1¢</p> <p>Your 1886 nickel Buys 4.50 Toward Your Your Easter Ham 5¢</p>	<p>Your 1857 or 1858 F.E. penny Buys 1.00 Toward Any Produce Item 1¢</p> <p>Your 1939-D or 50-D nickel Buys 6-5c Candy Bars 5¢</p>

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1865	.15	DIMES	
1873, 74, 75, 76	.60	1892-S	4.50
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