



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The Ground Dove Is Easy Prey

The petite little bird known as the ground dove actually does spend at least 90 per cent of its life right on the ground. The little thing is so earth-bound that it appears reluctant to fly at all.

Living as it does, right on the earth, its enemies are many; all its life is spent in the "danger area," where predators are constantly prowling.

Nature compensated somewhat by making the ground dove a somber colored little bird. If it had the vividness of some song birds that live in tree tops, it would have been exterminated a long time ago. Its lack of color makes it less conspicuous and thereby extends its life.

Ordinarily these tiny doves are very tame and trusting. It is usually possible to approach to within a few feet of them! With a little human tolerance they will eat from one's hand. This inherent trust and lack of fear makes them easy prey to marauding house cats, and predatory animals of all kinds.

Pigeon Family
The ground dove is the smallest member of the pigeon family found in the United States or in North America. They are common throughout most of the southeastern states, including the Florida Keys; abundant in southern Texas.

This tiny dove has very short, flesh-colored legs and feet; he walks with a dainty step that is almost dignified. Although gentle and trusting in nature, he will fight desperately when aggravated and has been known to attack bluejays, blackbirds and mockingbirds that are twice his size. Especially is this true when the other birds come down from their higher levels to the ground where the tiny doves have located food.

Frequently the ground fight among themselves but seldom seem to hurt one another. Before a serious situation develops, one or the other will wisely and nonchalantly walk away as if nothing had happened. The dignified manner in which the vanquished walks away would extend but a small measure of satisfaction to the winner. The loser always acts as though he were the winner.

Flimsy Nest
This little dove constructs a flimsy nest of twigs and grass stems in a low bush or

on a stump and never lays over two eggs; but it will repeat the process several times each year. In some sections of its range it is called the "turtle dove." Although its gentle call does not sound as sad as that of the mourning dove it is, nevertheless, a very plaintive voice, low-pitched and as dainty as the bird itself - a soft, cooing call that is repeated with a gentle persistence.

Perhaps because of its call, many superstitions have been built up around this little ground-walking dove. In many parts of the south an old belief has persisted for generations that to kill a ground dove was to invite bad luck. Perhaps this old myth has helped save the ground dove from destruction. These tiny seed-eating doves, barely larger but a little plumper than an English sparrow, must of necessity depend on man's tolerance in order to continue to survive in a world too plentifully supplied with enemies.

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Executive Charged With Embezzlement

Portland — (UPI) — A Portland real estate executive was arrested Friday shortly after the grand jury returned five secret indictments charging embezzlement of a half million dollars.

Lloyd F. Moore was arrested by Multnomah county detectives at his home. Bail was set at \$100,000, according to Keith Burns, deputy district attorney.

State Representative Dies in Portland

Portland — (UPI) — Portland attorney Joseph E. Harvey, a member of the Oregon house of representatives for six sessions, died Friday from a heart ailment. He was 74.

Harvey was en route to his office when stricken. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Portland Sanitarium.

Harvey was first elected to the legislature in 1942 and served until 1952.

Rockdale, Iowa — (UPI) — An Illinois Central freight train caved in a bridge near here Saturday, dumping 12 of 15 cars into Catfish creek. No one was injured.

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