



COMMANDER - Col. Aaron E. Blewett, recently appointed commander of the Oregon sector, headquarters, Vancouver barracks, Wash., was scheduled to make his initial visit to local U. S. Army Reserve units today. Lt. Col. Delyle L. Seda, deputy commander, was to accompany him. Colonel Blewett returns as commander to the post where he first saw active duty with the Seventh U. S. Infantry regiment in 1939. He attended the University of Idaho and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. (U. S. Army photo)

Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn W. Watkins
(Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

Active Gnatcatcher Is a Beneficial Bird
If it lived up to its name, any bug besides a gnat would be safe abroad when the blue-gray gnatcatcher is out after a meal of bugs. This vivacious little bird takes insects as it finds them, any and all. Perhaps that person who first gave the bird its common name supposed that midges, gnats, black flies and punkies were its sole food intake.

But, actually, they are only a small part of the complete diet. Any worm, larva, insect or insect egg is food to this woodland bird. But gnatcatcher is the name.

Because this bird's diet does not adhere to a strict entomological classification, it is one of the most beneficial of birds having to do with insect control.

The blue-gray gnatcatcher is small, warbler-size with plumage softly tinted with white and gray. It has a black forehead and bill. The tail is long and slender, edged with white.

Active, Alert
Like the warblers, the gnatcatcher is very active and alert. Almost nervously, it darts from one part of a tree to another, but at the same time being careful to remain always in the upper branches. With every movement of the body the tail is jerked violently, while at the same time the wings seem to droop. This drooping, however, is an illusion, as there is nothing sluggish in its activities.

The notes of the song the gnatcatcher utters are very soft and low. One has to be very close to the bird to hear the song at all. Even a half dozen yards is out of hearing range. There can be a half dozen of the birds in a tall tree, and a listener on the ground may not hear a single note. The birds sing at their work, for in their quick dashes from a tree to a bush, or to another tree, they pick up insects on the way.

Migrates Each Year
This small, warbler-like bird migrates each year to Mexico or Central America for the winter, but returns in the early spring to the northern states to raise its family. It is known to nest at times in New England.

To discover the nest of the blue-gray gnatcatcher is to experience one of the most pleasurable rewards of the outdoors, for it is actually jewel-like. Some students say the nest is even more beautiful than that of the ruby-throated hummingbird.

It's really a large nest for so small a bird as the gnatcatcher. Its sides are so high that when the bird is on the nest, only the tip of her long tail shows above the rim. Cup-like, the nest is saddled to a tree limb, usually a pine. Shreds of bark, plant fibers and cobwebs form the body of the nest, and the outside is decorated with lichens. It is all patterned a little like the nest of the "tailor-bird" of India, to which family the little gnatcatcher of gnats belongs.

Washington - (UPI)—Industrial production rose to a record high in July and economic activity generally increased, the Federal Reserve Board has reported.

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