

MIGRATION OF BIRDS

Feathered Travelers Come South in the Spring.

THEY COVER MANY THOUSAND MILES

Modern Scientific Observation and Study Has Developed Information That Was Not Previously Clear.

The fall migration of northern birds to their winter homes in the south is now on by right and day. These migrations, according to the species and habits of the birds, are made by easy stages in flying, carrying the flyers over spaces reckoned in thousands of miles, resting and feeding by day and by long periods on the wing, covering day and night. Millions of over 250 species make this annual journey from north to south at the end of summer, and back again in the spring. Many pass the winter months in the gulf states or in Mexico. It is said some species penetrate the forests or valleys of Central America, while the swallows, it has been noted by ornithologists, fly on tireless wing over the whole tropical zone of Brazil and Argentina.

D. C. in Direct Pathway. The District of Columbia, according to the late Dr. John Burroughs, is located in the direct pathway of migratory birds, which should be of more than ordinary interest in the development of this important phase of nature study.

Recent investigation by the government scientists of the Smithsonian Institution and United States biological survey, compiled from a half million records of observation, covering a period of 25 years in the United States and Canada, have met popular notions regarding the migration of birds—that is, to the cause of this sudden departure of the feathered tribes from a given locality and their return in spring.

These scientists have been studying the autumnal and vernal flights of birds, and have reached the conclusion that the southerly fly south in the winter and north in the summer, in obedience to physiological laws governing bird life and not because of weather conditions or lack of food. It was noted that the southward flight of birds takes place in August and September, at a time when weather conditions are favorable for their comfort and the food supply most abundant.

Records of 2000 Years. For more than two thousand years the phenomena of bird migration have been noted, but while the extent and cause of the routes traversed have of late become better known, no conclusive answer has been found to explain fully the yearly flights.

According to an accepted theory of ages ago, the United States and Canada, swarmed with non-migratory birds long before the Arctic ice fields advanced south during the glacial era, rendered uninhabitable the northern half of the continent. The birds' love of home influenced them to remain near the nesting site until the approaching ice began to melt. The time to produce a winter—a period of inclement weather which reduced the food supply as to compel the birds to move or starve. As the ice approached gradually, now and then receding, these enforced retreats

at first only a short distance and for a brief time, increased both in distance and duration until migration became an integral part of the very being of the bird. In other words, the formation of the habit of migration took place at the same time that changing seasons in the year replaced the semi-tropical conditions of the pre-glacial eras.

Another Theory Advanced. According to the opposite migration theory, the birds' real home is the southland; all bird life tends to overproduction and overcropping, and at the end of the glacial era the birds, seeking in all directions for suitable breeding grounds with less keen competition than in their tropical winter home, gradually worked northward as the retreat of the ice made habitable vast reaches of virgin country. At the winter abiding place was still the home, and to this they returned as soon as the breeding season was over.

Having reared their young and taught them to fly, and having moulted and put on their winter feathers, the reticent birds start southward long before the frosty nights or frozen lakes and rivers make such flight necessary. In like manner, the return journey begins at a time before the northern woods and fields are suited to the purposes for which birds go north. Robins and bluebirds, blackbirds, and meadow larks, the skildee and the heron are among the early arrivals, and they often appear on sunny slopes on the southern side of forests before the snow has completely gone, when they must seek friendly shelter of evergreens and the densest thickets as a protection from the fierce of the cold nights. Besides, the birds arrive at their destination often during heavy storms, which they would naturally avoid if they were gifted with any such instinctive wisdom as has been attributed to them in popular belief.

Old Superstitions Explored. The old superstition that the early departure of summer birds, portends an early and severe winter, and the kindred notion that the moving of wild geese and ducks southward at high aerial altitudes is the forerunner of a storm are exploded by the investigations of government scientists. Birds may depart from northern latitudes because of a sudden drop in temperature, but they do not know it, and cannot know what the weather conditions will be en route or in the winter home to which they go. Disasters to bird life in the semi-annual migrations are proof of this.

A knowledge of the times of migration of birds is a basis for intelligent study of their economic relations and is equally necessary in the phase of nature study and in formulating proper legislation for bird protection—two subjects which form parts of the work of the United States biological survey.

Why Not a Big Time?—Asked a Trainee—"Please, ma'am, could you spare a copper?" "Here you are, my man," replied the housewife, offering a nickel. "But don't think I give you this because I think you need it; I do it simply because it pleases me to do so."

"Well, ma'am if that's how you feel about it, why don't you make it a dollar an' have the time of yer life," returned the trainee.

The Point of View. Blessed is the researcher, especially in the eyes of the under dog.—Detroit Herald.

MANY SEEK PIRATE GOLD

Tales of Buried Treasure Are Plentiful on Texas Coast.

Another search for the treasure which the notorious pirate, Lafitte, is supposed to have buried is to be made. This time the sands of Padre Islands which border the Texas gulf coast for 90 miles, are to be explored in the hope that the buried iron chests containing the legendary fortunes may be discovered.

Legendary accounts of buried treasure located in parts of Texas have lured in vain many seekers after these vast and perhaps mythical stores of hidden wealth. Numerous searches for buried treasure have been made on Galveston Island, where, according to tradition, Lafitte and his followers made their headquarters and sailed the waters along the coast of Texas and Louisiana, laying tributes on every craft that was unfortunate enough to make its appearance within their sight.

Vast quantities of gold, silver and jewels were taken, much of which is said to have been buried in obscure coves and inlets. Charts showing the location of buried treasure were made. According to tradition the burial was done by the captain and one man. The latter was killed and buried in the same hole above the iron boxes containing the treasure.

Symbols Cut on Trees. Much excitement was caused several years ago when it was reported that a chest containing thousands of dollars worth of gold had been discovered by workmen employed in dredging a channel at Constitution Bend, bordering Galveston Bay. The report proved to be unfounded. Upon the island facing the channel were several trees bearing strange symbols and inscriptions and it was believed that these markings indicated the location of hidden treasure. Many of the characters were partly obliterated and could not be accurately traced.

However, it is possible to trace a general design of the ancient symbols. On one tree was cut an arrow head pointing north. There were many figures above and beneath this arrow head. Following the point of the arrow head due north one hundred feet was found another tree on which was found another arrow head, pointing west together with many strange markings. About five feet from the latter arrow head was a tree on which there was a cross of arrows and much other inscribing. Another tree located 300 feet away bore inscriptions and figures. These markings were thoroughly examined and a careful watch was made for buried treasures, but nothing was found.

Many tales have been told of treasure buried along the ancient Santa Fe trail. In the early part of last century the Spaniards and Mexicans were said to have had rich mines of gold and silver in north Texas which they transported to Mexico over the Santa Fe trail. Most of Texas was then a wilderness inhabited by bands of Comanches and other Indian tribes. In hunting their treasure overland the owners were often attacked by savages. Rather than allow their wealth to fall into the hands of the enemy they would throw it into any stream or pool that happened to be nearby.

Ghosts Rout Treasure Hunters. One legend has it that a vast amount of gold and silver was hidden at the mouth of the Neches river. The story

is told of a citizen of Port Neches who came into possession of a chart purporting to show the location of much rich treasure hidden in the marsh near the mouth of the stream. It was said that the pirate vessel bearing the treasure was so closely crowded by the Spaniards that the thieves cut their cable and left their anchor. The man with the chart set out alone for the spot indicated on the chart. He found the place where the vessel was said to have left its anchor and soon was at the spot where the treasure was supposed to have been hidden. After digging a few feet some unseen power seemed to seize him and he fled from the place, returning to his home, where he died in a few days.

On another occasion two men, having obtained the chart, went in search of the treasure. They found the spot and the tools of the former fortune seeker. The two men took turns in digging. They discovered a human skeleton, which they removed. One of the men was resting on the edge of the hole, expecting every minute to hear his companion shout that he had found the booty. Suddenly the man who had been working climbed out of the excavation, his face drawn and pale, and clutching his companion's arm, said: "Come—for God's sake, let us get away from here!"

"What is the matter? What have you seen?" asked his friend. "I have seen hell and its horrors. Come away from here. It will haunt me the rest of my life."

No other explanation could be gotten from the man. He dragged his companion away and begged him, if he valued his life, not to dig there again.—New York Sun.

Braking It Gently.—A New York silk merchant went to the bank to get his note renewed.

"I am sorry," said the banker, "but it will be absolutely impossible for me to renew your note."

The silk merchant's face paled. After a moment of thought he looked up at the banker and asked:

"Were you ever in the silk business?" "Why of course not," answered the banker.

"Well, you're in it now," said the silk merchant as he picked up his hat and went out.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

BELT BUCKLE FOUND

Ornament Worn by Hessian Soldier During Revolution.

A Hessian soldier's belt buckle has been found by historical workers excavating the site of the Revolutionary war prison camp on the old Dyckman farm, near 203rd street, New York.

The buckle, of bronze, is in a perfect state of preservation and officials of the Field Exploration committee of New York Historical society, say it is one of the few Revolutionary relics of undoubted Hessian origin.

The buckle has been identified as part of the equipment of the Fuerst Frederick or Erb Prinz Regiment of Hesse, mercenaries brought over by the British to fight Washington's continental. On the front of the buckle is engraved the monogram "F. F.", surmounted by a crown. The original hook or belt holder is on the back.

The Fuerst Frederick regiment, originally 688 strong, took part in many engagements in the Revolution. It participated in the battle of Long Island, and was assigned to the left wing of Earl Percy's force at the battle of Fort Mifflin. Later the regiment was sent south and eventually was captured at Yorktown.

Upon the declaration of peace the survivors were returned to New York to await transportation home and during this period they were quartered in the hut cantonment on the Dyckman farm.

U. S. UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Body Will be Selected by Non-Com for Burial in Arlington.

America's "unknown soldier," who will find honored sepulchre in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va., will be selected by a non-commissioned officer from the American forces on the Rhine at Chalons-Sur-Marne the morning of October 24. The body will leave Havre late in the evening of October 25 on board the United States Cruiser Olympia.

Complete arrangements have been made for the removal of the body to the United States; it was announced by General Henry T. Allen, commander of American forces in Germany. At the request of the American government, elaborate plans formulated by the French government for receiving the

body in Paris have been abandoned. It will be sent direct to Havre from Chalons-Sur-Marne and the only formal ceremonies will take place just before it is placed on board the Olympia. The Dark Cloud.—It is not surprising that clouds come in for more or less criticism. They live high, are often dissipated, and can usually be classed with the wags.—Juplin Globe.

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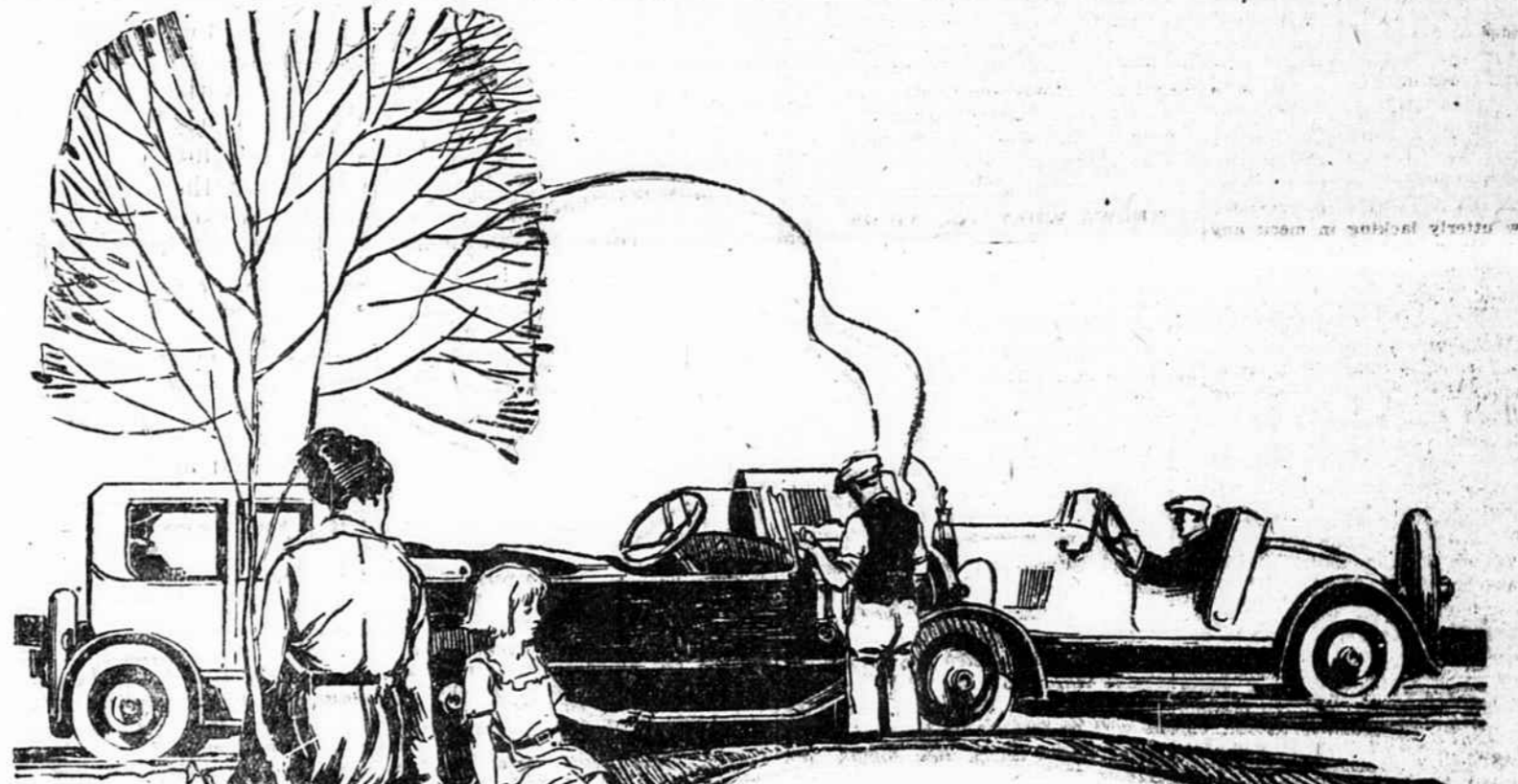
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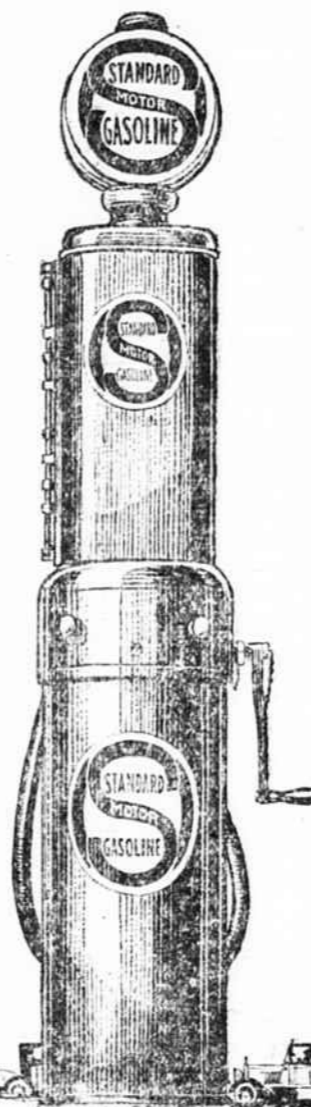
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