

### FEEDS UPON INSECTS

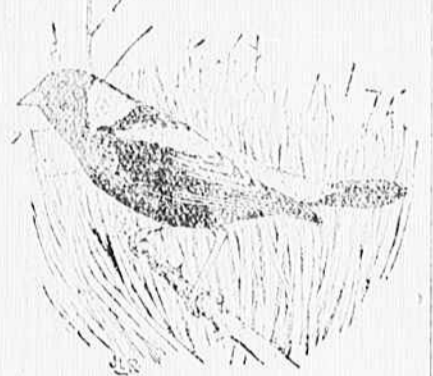
Bobolink a Common Summer Resident in Northern States.

### FEEDS MAINLY ON INSECTS

Also Devours Many Weed Seeds—Inaccurate Grading Cause of Much Loss to Western Wool Growers—Remedy is Suggested.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)  
The bobolink, rice bird, or reed bird, is a common summer resident of the United States, north of about latitude 40 degrees, and from New England westward to the Great Plains, wintering beyond our southern border. In New England there are few birds about which so much romance clings as this rollicking songster, naturally associated with sunny June meadows, but in the South there are none on whose head so many mischiefs have been heaped on account of its fondness for rice.

During its sojourn in the northern states it feeds mainly upon insects and seeds of useless plants; but while rearing its young, insects constitute its chief food, and almost the exclusive diet of its brood. After the young are able to fly, the whole family gathers into a snug flock and begins to live



Bobolink, Rice Bird or Reed Bird—Length About Seven Inches.

almost entirely upon vegetable food. This consists for the most part of weed seeds, since in the North these birds do not appear to attack grain to any great extent. They eat a few oats, but their stomachs do not reveal a great quantity of this or any other grain.

As the season advances they gather into large flocks and move southward, until by the end of August nearly all have left their breeding grounds. On their way they frequent the reedy marshes about the mouths of rivers and on the inland waters of the coast region and subsist largely upon wild rice. In the middle states, during their southward migration, they are commonly known as reed birds, and becoming very fat are treated as game.

Formerly, when the low marshy shores of the Carolinas and some of the more southern states were devoted to rice culture the bobolinks made great havoc both upon the sprouting rice in spring and upon the ripening grain on their return migration in the fall. With a change in the rice-raising districts, however, this damage is no longer done.

#### Co-operative Marketing of Wool.

Serious losses are often suffered by the flock master because of improper methods of handling the clip. Western wool growers are paid lower prices than foreign producers because of inaccurate grading. In recent years they have made some advancement in clipping and assorting fleeces as shown by cleaner clips being offered for sale in some localities. In the West some of the large sheep breeders' associations have officially recommended certain changes in the handling of wool by the growers. It is estimated that improper methods of preparing the wool for shipment cost the flock master from one to three cents a pound, for the manufacturer is frequently put to an extra expense, against which, of course, he protects himself by lowering the price to the grower.

To remedy this condition, some form of co-operation among wool growers in any given region is urged in a new publication of the department of agriculture, bulletin 293, "The Wool Grower and the Wool Trade." The individual alone can do little to improve matters, for his clip is likely to be too small to induce the buyers to make any alteration in their accustomed methods of estimating wool values. With co-operation, however, it should be possible to prepare the entire clip of any section so that the reputation of its wool would be enhanced and the growers obtain the full market value of their product. A sufficient number of wool growers should be included in each co-operative association to enable at least 4,000 or 5,000 pounds of each of the various grades to be marketed at one time.

Co-operation will, of course, do little good, however, unless the individual growers follow improved methods of handling the clip. An instance of the present low price of American wool as compared with foreign is given in the bulletin already mentioned. Two lots of wool of the same grade, one of them from Idaho and the other from Australia, were purchased by a Philadelphia manufacturer—the American at 18½ cents a pound and the foreign one at 28 cents

### ENGLAND SUGGESTS A COTTON POOL

As a Means of Equitably Distributing Cotton to Neutral Nations.

Washington, July 22.—Formation of a great cotton pool to handle exports to Europe under an agreement with the British government has been proposed informally to the state department as a means of equitably distributing among producers such cotton trade as Great Britain and her allies permit Americans to carry on with neutral countries without interference on the high seas.

Any arrangements of this kind would have to be made directly between the British government and the cotton interests without participation or approval by the state department.

Officials point out that to accede to any restrictions on trade between neutral countries in non-contraband would mean abandonment of the principle of freedom of the seas laid down in various notes to Great Britain, which is to be stated with greater insistence in another communication now in preparation.

It has been suggested that pending differences between the two countries, American officials might aid the cotton shippers and exporters informally in any effort they might make to facilitate their trade. It was announced recently that Great Britain would be willing to enter into an agreement not to interfere with cotton cargoes for neutral countries, provided no more were shipped to each country than the normal amount consumed there.

The British embassy has been active in negotiating for an arrangement to relieve the cotton trade and embassy officials express confidence that some practicable scheme will be worked out.

A remedy for women that will put an end to nervousness, headaches, sickness of the stomach, painful irregularities, languidness, bad breath, poor appetite, is that fine old regulator DR. SIMMONS' SQUAW VINE WINE. It is prepared for women only, being especially adapted to act on the delicate female organism. It banishes suffering, corrects weakness and the whole brood of distressing symptoms which follow disorders in the generative system. Price \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

#### GETS LOWER RATES.

City of Spartanburg Wins in its Fight Against Discriminatory Rates.

Washington, July 22.—Ocean-and-rail rates from Eastern points to Spartanburg, S. C., via Charleston, were found unjustly discriminatory today by the interstate commerce commission, in so far as they exceed ocean-and-rail rates to Charlotte. All rail rates from the East and from Ohio and Mississippi river crossings to Spartanburg were found unjustly discriminatory in so far as they exceed the rates to Charlotte. Rates from Buffalo and Pittsburgh and points in that territory and from Virginia points to Spartanburg were not found unjustly discriminatory.

The commission's report, in part, says:

"Regardless of how these rates are made, Spartanburg is entitled to the advantage of its location on the short lines from the West. We do not disregard the interests of lines that are competitive. We do not fix competitive rates with consideration only of the short line. The conditions here presented do not justify higher rates to Spartanburg than to Charlotte. We are of the opinion, and find, that the rates to Spartanburg from Ohio and Mississippi river crossings, and from points in Central Freight association territory, on traffic moving through Ohio river crossings and Asheville, are, and for the future will be, unjustly discriminatory against Spartanburg in favor of Charlotte in so far as the rates to Spartanburg exceed the rates contemporaneously maintained to Charlotte."

#### Picnic at Goodgion's Shoals.

On the afternoon of the sixteenth, thirteen girls of the Shiloh section of the county met and organized a club known as the N. B. A. Club, with Miss Minnie Wallace as its leader. The members of this club held their first meeting in picnic style on the beautiful Goodgion's Shoals, where in silent communion with the old mill wheel, so many hearts have been wooed and won. Unfortunately for us there was not a member of the sterner sex present to utter a heart thrilling word. We were not sad, however, on account of their absence, and we felt our independence to such an extent that we busied ourselves to make the afternoon pleasant for all. Several interesting games of "rook" were played after which delicious fruit was served. By this time the shades of the evening were falling, and after bidding farewell to all, we journeyed homeward with many pleasant memories of an afternoon well spent.

"One present."

# Farmers, Read This

## To the Farmers of the 4th District:

You will want rural credit and other relief from Congress THIS YEAR.

You will want to send to Congress the man who knows your needs and how to get what you want.

This aid will come through the committee on agriculture. A banker will try to get on the Banking and Currency Committee; the four lawyers would naturally like to go on the Judiciary Committee. I am a farmer and, if elected to Congress, will ask to go on the Agriculture Committee, where I can help YOU.

Listen! There are two vacancies on that committee. Of the twelve holdover democrats eight are lawyers, one is a manufacturer, one is a school teacher, one is a telegraph operator, and only one a farmer and he from Indiana. Of the six holdover republicans two are bankers, two are lawyers, one is a school teacher and one is a Hawaiian Prince.

Don't you think the Agriculture Committee could stand another farmer?

There are two democratic places to fill. If you send a farmer to Congress, don't you think one of those two places will go to him? And when I am on that committee and it is framing the rural credits system YOU will have a Southern farmer representing Southern farmers, with a voice and a vote in settling how and what Congress will give you.

THINK IT OVER! Vote for your interest, farmers of the Fourth District. I am the only farmer running and your only chance to get one Southern farmer on the Agriculture Committee.

# A. H. MILLER