

Everyone wants to talk baseball, it seems, particularly, the Americans who've come to Man and His World, and the interest in the Expos has been outstanding."

BALLOONS FOR THE BIRDS

They're flying balloons at the Central Experimental Farm this year to scare birds away from precious grain fields.

Dr. Lorne Donovan, a corn breeder at the Ottawa Research Station, is hanging imitation hawks from strings tied to white, helium-filled balloons. "We're hoping that the hawks will look realistic enough to keep flocks of red-wing blackbirds away from our corn hybrids," Dr. Donovan says. "If the imitation hawks scare the birds as well as real hawks that occasionally float over the fields, we should be able to cut down on the noise-makers we ordinarily use," he adds.

In past years, measures to keep away birds have incurred the wrath of local residents because the scientists were depending heavily on noise-makers —



Dr. Lorne Donovan prepares to launch a balloon with an artificial hawk attached to scare away birds from crops.

generally blanks fired by shotguns and an electronic device.

"At times we were forced to use real buckshot because the birds just got so brave that they moved right into the test plots despite the noise," Dr. Donovan says.

Besides imitation hawks floating under balloons, noise-makers and shotgun blasts, the scientists will be trying a commercial bird repellent this year.

SITUATION BECOMING SERIOUS

Birds have been creating an increasing problem for corn growers in many parts of Ontario and in some cases threaten to drive producers out of business.

The problem is much more serious at the Ottawa Research Station because some of the hybrid lines currently being developed will result in new varieties for Ontario farmers — varieties that will be worth millions of dollars in increased production. Seven of the top hybrid corn varieties available to farmers in eastern Ontario this year, for example, were developed at the Ottawa Research Station. Also some of the new varieties currently being tested "promise to create a sensation" in the North American corn-growing industry.

"We simply cannot afford to lose this crop to birds," Dr. Donovan says. "We do hope, however, that we will be able to reduce the noise level this year because we want to keep everyone but the birds happy. "If the trial balloons work, we'll be out there flying them like kids at the midway."

NATIONAL FISHERIES MONTH

Because October is usually a month when inventories of seafood products are at their peak as a result of heavy summer fishing activities, it has again this year been declared national "Fish 'n Seafood Month".

Canada has a strong interest in advancing the development of its sea and inland fisheries. Fishing is important both in a varied, healthful diet and in forming the basis for profitable industrial activity.

As its contribution to the "Fish 'n Seafood Month", campaign, the Department of Fisheries and Forestry will make a national distribution of photo-recipe releases to newspaper editors and food publicists generally. A four-minute color film, called *Take a Pack of Frozen Fillets*, will be sent to television stations, and a new recipe booklet bearing the same title will be released nationally. Special short scripts will be provided to radio food commentators.

The home economists of the Department, who constantly test and develop fish recipes, will supply restaurants and institutions with a number of newly-tested quantity recipes. They will make personal appearances throughout the country, on radio and television to tell consumers how to prepare fish. They will also be available to assist in local activities sponsored by the fishing industry.