

For the Boys and Girls

THE CARE OF BIRDS.

Most girls enjoy owning birds, but not many understand how to choose them, how to win their confidence, what food to give them or how to care for them when they are sick.

When you buy a bird make sure that you get one that is young and healthy. If it is a canary, unless you want one that has already learned to sing, choose a long, slender bird less than one year old, with smooth, thick feathers that lie close to the body, and rosy, transparent feet. For a singer choose a male bird that is ten months or a year old, and that has a variety of low notes.

Make the cage comfortable and keep it clean. Place the perches so that the bird has room. Do not use a painted cage, for your bird is likely to eat flakes of the paint. Clean the cage and scald the perches frequently. Since birds that have nothing else to occupy their attention will sometimes pull out their own feathers, arrange a few playthings in the cage to divert the bird's attention from itself. A key on a ring or a clothespin will serve. Parrots are easily amused by a small wooden ladder with a bell attached to the top rung; they like to climb up and ring the bell.

When you have settled your bird in a sanitary, comfortable cage teach it not to fear you. The best time to gain its confidence is in the morning, when you clean the cage and feed the bird. Talk and whistle to it and accustom it to seeing your hands and face close to the cage; but move gently. If you move suddenly or joggle the cage, you will frighten the bird.

Then accustom it to being handled. Catch it every morning by removing the upper perch, putting one hand inside the cage, and following the bird with the other hand from the outside. When you have caught it let it rest comfortably and give it a lettuce leaf or a slice of apple. After you have done that a few times, try holding a piece of lettuce just outside the open door of the cage; the bird will soon hop to your hand.

Next teach it to fly round the house, that will give it healthful exercise and a sense of freedom. Open the door of the cage every morning; the bird will readily return to it when it is tired.

Cleanliness and proper diet are essential to the health of all caged birds. Make your bird bathe every day. It will do it more readily if it is allowed first to fly round the room. If it still seems opposed to taking a dip, place a fresh lettuce leaf in the bottom of the tub; it will jump in to investigate and probably will bathe willingly. Parrots, however, detest bathing. If you have one that refuses to take a bath, spray it occasionally with an atomizer.

Do not feed your bird on seed that has a sharp taste or that is gritty. Rape seed, which tastes sweet, is the best, with an occasional lettuce leaf or a slice of apple and plenty of fresh, cold water. See too that a cuttle-fish bone is fastened to the cage; the bird will sharpen its bill on it and probably nibble at it, and the salt taste will stimulate the appetite. Scatter bird gravel in the cage and renew it three times a week. A bird's gizzard grinds the food that the bird eats, and the gizzard cannot do its work without gravel. The proper food for canaries is a mixture of seeds—four parts of Sicily seed, three of German rape, two of India millet and one of Turkish maw. Watercress, plantain, chickweed, a fresh fig or the yolk of a hard-boiled egg with cayenne pepper sprinkled on it are relished by canaries and, given from time to time, will make sufficient variety in their diet. Never feed hemp seed to canaries; it fattens them, causes them to molt out of season and impairs their singing powers. Parrots and macaws need a stronger and more varied diet than canaries require. Crackers and bread—dry or soaked in condensed milk and water in the proportion of one-half teaspoonful of milk to half a cupful of water—are good for them, and so are apples, lettuce, celery tops and an occasional lump of sugar. A sweet red pepper or an onion is an excellent tonic for a parrot.

Do not hang the bird cage out of doors in warm weather; sudden changes in the temperature may bring upon house birds colds, bronchitis or pneumonia. At night cover the cage with a light cloth; sleeping birds are peculiarly susceptible to the cold. Birds sometimes suffer from sprains or rheumatism. To cure them bathe and gently rub the affected parts with warm water with which a few drops of arnica have been mixed. If your bird has inflammation of the feet and legs, the probability is that the perches are too small or that the bird's claws are too long. If the

fault is with the perches, buy new ones; if it is with the nails, clip them. Hold the bird in one hand, and with a pair of sharp scissors clip outside, and away from, the small red vein that you will see in each claw if you hold the claw against the light. Trim each nail smooth. If you clip the nail too close, dip the foot in warm salt water, which will check the pain and the bleeding.

Another menace to the health of caged birds is the presence of small red insects, mites, which, if they are not exterminated, sap the life of the birds. If you suspect that your bird is troubled with mites, remove it from the cage, scour the cage with kerosene and scald the perches. Air the cage thoroughly, then sprinkle mite exterminator in it, and take care to fill all the crevices with the powder. In the evening place a piece of cotton flannel, with the furry side in, over the cage. Mites leave the bird at night and return to it at daylight; remove the cloth before daylight, and you will find the insects clinging to it. Use the cloth every night, and scald it every day, until you have got rid of the mites.

If your bird is in good health, its feathers will be smooth and thick and will lie close to its body; its eyes will be bright, and it will move briskly. If it is not well, it will sit in a corner of the cage with its feathers puffed out, and with dull eyes. Never let a sick bird lie on the floor of the cage; it needs a soft nest. Place it in a padded box and cover it with a warm, light cloth.

Few caged parrots are kept by their owners in the healthy, cleanly condition that results in bright plumage and vivacious monologue. The failure is frequently owing to ignorance rather than to carelessness on the part of the pet lover.

For example, dealers have been known to tell the purchasers of parrots and cockatoos that birds of those species do not require water either to drink or for a bath, yet one of the most necessary requirements of Polly's existence is cool fresh water in generous supply. There should be a separate cup for it in the cage, and the contents should be renewed at least twice a day.

It is true that parrots seldom are willing to take plunge baths, but some kind of bathing is necessary to their health, and many birds enjoy the gentle shower from an atomizer. Apparently it recalls the heavy night dews that in their tropical birthplace provide the usual means for their ablutions.

Regular diet is most important. The breakfast should be crackers well softened in milk. A half teaspoonful of condensed milk in half a cup of water makes about the right mixture. Condensed milk is less likely to sour in the digestive process and is therefore preferable for birds of the parrot family, the digestion of which is slow.

For the seed cup mix one part of hemp with three parts of sunflower seed, and fill the cup anew every day. Avoid giving much hemp or raw meat, for both of them are heating foods and are likely to lead the bird to pull out its feathers, which is a habit of parrots.

A bit of fruit each morning should be included in the dietary. The greater the variety the better. An occasional raw carrot will be appreciated, too.

During the afternoon the bird should have a dry cracker and a few nuts of any sort at hand. A sweet red pepper is an excellent tonic. If the parrot will eat it, a morsel of raw onion now and then is an excellent specific against colds and other disorders.

Tropical birds especially must be carefully protected against draughts and sudden changes in the temperature. Never leave the cage of a parrot out of doors at night even in mid-summer. Parrots are extremely susceptible to bronchial pneumonia. The cage should hang in a room of even temperature, but anything above seventy degrees is too warm.

A cuttle-fish bone hung in the cage is helpful at molting time as well as useful in sharpening the bill.

Few lovers of pets are aware that besides learning to talk a parrot can be taught a number of tricks: to shake hands, ring a bell, climb a ladder, kiss its master or mistress, and so forth.

In teaching a bird remember how extremely nervous the creature is with which you have to deal. Unvarying kindness and patience are necessary. You will find the parrot much more receptive after breakfast than before it. Accustom it first of all to being released from the cage; then to perch upon your finger or hand.

Never squeeze a parrot in handling it.

After each lesson reward it with a piece of some fruit and talk to it in a low but cheerful voice. To teach it to climb to your shoulder pin to your coat or dress something that the parrot likes to eat.

A Morning Wish.

The sun is just rising on the morning of another day. What can I wish that this day may bring to me? Nothing that shall make the world or others poorer, nothing at the expense of other men; but just those few things which in their coming do not stop with me, but touch me rather, as they pass and gather strength:

A few friends who understand me, and yet remain my friends.

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would feel the poorer.

A return for such work small enough not to tax unduly any one who pays.

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazing.

An understanding heart.

A sight of the eternal hills and un-resting sea, and of something beautiful the hand of man has made.

A sense of humor and the power to laugh.

A little leisure with nothing to do.

A few moments of quiet, silent meditation. The sense of the presence of God.

And the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to know them when they come.—Canadian Teacher.

The World's Biggest Parks.

Hyde Park, London, is considered large by most people, although it shrinks to small proportions when compared with Richmond Park. But it is on this side of the Atlantic that one finds something really big in the way of parks. Jasper Park, for instance, between Yellowstone Pass and the Saskatchewan River, contains 5,000 square miles, whilst Yellowstone Park, in Wyoming, runs to 3,575 square miles.

The large size of these parks can be realized when it is stated that the English Lake District, which some day may become the National Park of England, does not exceed 500 square miles.

It would be difficult to determine where the most beautiful National Park is situated. The Yosemite Park in California excels all others in the height of its trees, the depth of its waterfalls, and its 2,000ft.-high cliffs; while the Yellowstone includes a lake 7,788ft. above sea-level and four times as big as Windermere.

New Zealand's Southern Park attracts thousands of tourists, for it is situated amid scenes of wonderful natural beauty. Yet it may be doubted whether Revelstoke Park in the Rocky Mountains, dominated by snow-capped peaks and fast-running rivers, does not win the prize.

The White Kitchen.

If yours is a white kitchen, you will find it easier to wipe off soil and grease as they appear, rather than when they accumulate until extreme measures are required to remove them. It is easier on the paint and it means a neat, clean kitchen all the time, not just following housecleaning.

London may have begun life as the port of St. Albans, which was, centuries ago, the great British stronghold of Verulamium.



By DOROTHY ETHEL WALSH.



The Sun Room.

The sun room was the fourth room in the group we have described in the two articles preceding this one. We have demonstrated how a number of rooms may be tied together by introducing some color common to all. The bride should remember that this will bring about the best results in decorating her home. Never should she select the furnishing for each without taking the others into consideration.

To-day's illustration shows the sun room, which was situated on the west side of the living room. Because warm colors were used in the living room some warm colors

had to be introduced into this small one which opened off it. But because its exposure was west and it was restricted in size, it was thought best to have the decorations neutral in tone. The dining room offered the cool color, but green could not be repeated too often throughout the group. Therefore the furniture was made gray, sand colored curtains with green bands were hung at the windows and green cushions were placed on the chairs. All four rooms described are in relation to each other. We will give a detailed description of their decorations in our next week's articles and explain to the bride to be how furnishings can be made to balance.



The "big brothers" of the Chatham Boy Scouts are the members of the Chatham Lions and Rotary Clubs. Recently the boys challenged the Club members to a game of indoor baseball. The challenge was accepted, the game was staged in the local armories and the final score was 22-19—in favor of the Scouts.

The Scouts of the 1st Tillsonburg Troop were recently the hosts of the Sunday school teachers of the Avondale Presbyterian Church and their wives, at a sumptuous banquet served by the boys themselves. The boys took hold of all arrangements like veterans and carried through the whole affair in splendid style. Mayor Rennie, one of the speakers, expressed keen interest in the Scout movement and stated that he was ready to give the boys his support any time in any way they could make use of it.

Scoutmaster Rev. E. A. Slemin of the 1st Stayner Troop was recently the recipient of a fine arm chair, a present from the Scouts and Cubs of Stayner in recognition of his work with them.

Renfrew is another Scout town receiving fine help from the Rotarians. There are three troops there and one member of the Rotary Club attends

each weekly troop meeting prepared to give the boys a ten-minute talk on some subject of interest, often about their own businesses or professions.

The Wolf Cubs of Prescott have a skating rink of their own. The Scouts of the 2nd Prescott Troop helped them to put it into shape.

Ottawa now has a Rover Scout Troop. A letter from Dominion Camp Chief Rodney C. Wood, read at the opening meeting of the new troop, expressed his regret at being unable to attend, but expressed his gratitude that the troop was being started. "Rovering," he wrote, "is sweeping through Britain and continental countries and other parts of the Empire and is providing a programme of really splendid activities for young men."

Owen Sound now has a "Women's Auxiliary to the Boy Scouts Association." And it is everything that the name implies. For each church or organization in Owen Sound which boasts of a Boy Scout Troop or Wolf Cub Pack, the Auxiliary has named a Convener. Each Convener finds her own Committee to assist in any undertaking of a social character or such like intended to promote the interests of the Troop or Pack in her church or institution. Membership in the Auxiliary costs 25 cents per annum. To aid the Owen Sound Boy Scouts Association financially the Auxiliary is now working on a musical play to be produced shortly.

The new 1st Portsmouth Troop was presented with its charter on one of the stormiest nights of the winter by the officers and boys of the 1st Kingston Troop, who tramped to Portsmouth for a joint meeting with the new troop. There was a full attendance of both troops. Honorary Field Secretary C. R. Temperton, of Toronto, was also present and gave the boys an interesting talk on "Loyalty." Scoutmaster Hall of the 2nd Kingston Troop conveyed to the Portsmouth boys the best wishes of his troop.

My Task.

To love someone more dearly every day,
To help a wandering child to find his way,
To ponder o'er a noble thought, and pray,
And smile when evening falls,
This is my task.

To follow truth as blind men long for light,
To do my best from dawn of day till night,
To keep my heart fit for His holy sight
And answer when He calls,
This is my task.

And then My Saviour by and by to meet,
When Faith hath made her task on earth complete,
And lay my homage at my Master's feet
Within the Jasper walls,
This crowns my task.
—Henry VanDyke.

Charged with begging in a London street, a young man was reported to have "made up" his face with theatrical grease-paint to appear as if he was frozen with cold.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



—H. Wellington