## Animal Curiosities.

STORIES **ABOUT** 

Clever Trick of a Sheet The Crows That Could Count. A Rat's Fondness for Sparrows Pigeon Sense vs. Hawk Sense. A Dog That Meets the Train

Spiders That Catch Birds.

W. J. Rainbow, an Australian naturalist, gives a description of the large bird-entrapping spiders of his country. Representatives of this genus gions. Their webs are composed of pany of boys was camped. One day abound in tropical and subtropical reingly viscid and elastic; the other white, dry and somewhat brittle. The latter is used for the framework flapped away when to woods. They latter is used for the framework of the web, the guys and radii, and the

former for the concentric rings. These snares are at varied heights, nes within reach, again ten to twelve feet from the ground, but always in a position exposed to the rays of the sun. The diameter is also vartable, from three feet upward. One seen by Graffe in the Fiji Islands constructs a web 30 feet in diameter. These snares are strong enough to entrap small birds. In the author's opinion the web is not set for such game, and the spider does not feed on her ornithological victim. In the case where she has been observed with her fangs in the body of the ensnared bird, it is probable that It is for the purpose of hastening the death of the bird in order to prevent its Lajuring the web in its struggles to escape. Spiders of the genus Nephila are easily tamed. Although exceed-ingly voracious, they can exist for many days without food or water.— San Francisco Chronicle.

Clever Trick of a Sheep.

Two years ago a lamb owned by a gentleman whose farm lies close to Lough Foyle was left motherless. A wardman in charge of the flock nursed and fed the little orphan. She became In a very few minutes there were a very tame and was much petted by her master's children. Last year she had grown into a young sheep, with, count twenty-six, but numbers beran through the pasture grounds, and frightened flock scattered and fled through the field, which was a large one, sloping toward the shore. The yardman, Aleck, banished the intruders and collected the sheep, as supposed, into safety.

An hour or two afterwards the pet sheep rushed past the dwelling house, apparently in great distress. With piteous bleatings, she went to the lodge gate, when Aleck was sitting noonday meal, and, coming close to him, seemed to seek his help. 'As he rose from the table she ran out of the house and straight through the pasture to the shore. He followed cote by a large hawk. The pigeons her and soon saw the cause of her knew that if the hawk once got above lamb, terrified by the dogs, had fled to a little peninsula would go to make the hawk a meal, among the rocks, which the incoming tide had transferred into an island. Of course, it could not cross the strait, In the rising game they were no and the mother could not save it, therefore she applied to the power and sympathy of her human friend. Her lowed their laborious movements. trust in his help was not disappointed, and she and her rescued offspring were soon reunited .- London Specta-

### The Melancholy Cuckoo.

mer visitor, coming about the first of chase of them. When it got down to Florida. Unlike the English cuckoo. ours builds its own nest and raises its parent. We have two species in this country, the yellow bill and the black bill, the latter being best known in Pennsylvania.

Both are smaller than the old world species and differ from it in color, being greenish olive above and bluish beneath, while the European bird is black winged. The American cuckoo has a tail longer than its body, which gives it a hawk-like appearance, and the plumage is soft and silky like that of the owl, which enables It to fly without making any noise, so that we often hear its call without be ing able to see the bird.

Burroughs says: "This call of the cuckoo has - a solitary hermit-like cound, as if the bird was alone in the world and called on the fates to witness his desolation." He has never neard the call answered nor has he ver seen two birds together. The call is heard most in cloudy weather and pefore a rain, from which the bird gets the name of rain crow.-Pittsburg

The Sapient Crow. From the Chicago Record.

A naturalist who is much interested In birds says that the crow is the visest of all feathered animals. He has made a number of experiments urily well educated crow can count to

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\*\*\*\*\*\* twenty and that he has found a sen tinel crow, very old and very wise, that can count to twenty-six. He

made these discoveries in a very in-

teresting way. Last summer he spent much time in the mountains, where a cadet com-So he hid himself in the old shanty and waited, but they would not come back. Then he went out and walked on up the mountain, and they all settled down again to the feast. That afternoon he took four boys from the cadet camp with him, and the five marched into the little building and waited. No crows came back. Two of the boys went out. Still no crows. Then the other two went out and only the naturalist remained. But the old sentinel crow had evidently counted them when they went in, and he knew they had not all came out. So This experiment was repeated a number of times, with varying number of boys, but the crows kept count and would not come down until the building was entirely empty.

At last a whole platoon of the cadets, twenty-six boys in all, and the The crows did not stir. panions that the men had not all gone. Then the twenty-sixth cadet marched away, leaving only the naturalist. number of hopeful caws and a fispping of wings and the crows returned. The old sentinel could evidently yond this puzzled him. The experiment was tried several times more, and it was found that the crows could keep the count without difficulty up to twenty, but beyond that they were uncertain. This shows that the crow is a very wise old bird.

Pigeons Outwit a Hawk.

The Southern Sportsman told recently about a flock of pigeons that measured brains with a hawk and came out on top in the contest. H. S. Edwards owned a flock of pigeons which one day were cut off from their them, one at least of their number and so up they flew in circles, perhaps hoping to go higher than the hawk. match for the hawk. The latter kept under the pigeons, and leisurely fol-Then came a curious and unexpected sight to pigeon closed its wings, when they

appeared to be the size of sparrows, at a terrific rate. That astonished the hawk. It actually dodged the dropping birds, and missed half a dozthe porch, two in the well house, and Soon after daylight the had been outwitted completely. It is a question how the pigeons managed to check their fall, as they did not slacken up till they were about sixteen or twenty feet above the ground. when they scattered in all directions

An Octogenarian's Horse Story.

"This is not a fish story," the story teller remarked. "It's a horse story. with a schooner attached. I ceard it coming in on a train from Connecticut, and, as the man that told it was at least 80 years old, and had no reason for telling anything except the truth, at that time of life, I suppos it is true. We happened to be seated together, and, after talking about one thing and another, something induced him to ask, 'Did you ever hear of horses almost capsizing a schooner? thing like that, and I replied accordingly

continued, 'a schooner came to the town where I lived for a load of horses that had been picked up for the city. The skipped rigged up a lot of stalls on deck, and at high tide the horses were driven on board. It was late in the afternoon before the last one was barred in, and, being about feeding time, the crew opened a bundle of hay and fed the horses first on one side and then on the other. Then the strangest thing happened. The horses were hungry, and they were not long in sticking their heads into the feed. Those that had been fed began to

eat first, of course. "In a few minutes the schooner began to roll from side to side, and the crew ran about like wild men. They didn't know what to do, and the horses kept on eating. It was this way, you see: Every time the horses on one side of the vessel held their heads down for hay, the horses on the other side, as it happened, held their heads up while maunching, and vice versa. The center of gravity changed every time a horse moved, and as the horses were eating quickly the upward and downward motions affected the ves-sel so much that we thought she would capsize. Queer, wasn't it?' 'What did they do?' I was obliged to ask. 'I don't know,' the old gentleman re-'I had to leave then, but I heard they thought of taking away

A Dog That Meets a Train. "It is the little things in traveling that makes it interesting," said Prof. Gregory Amann, of Portland, Ore., at the Shoreham. Prof. Amann is connected with the State University of Oregon, and is now starting abroad on person can get as much enjoyment, and possibly more instruction out of the little incidents he encounters en route than he can from the stupend-

"I have made the trip across the ken. His words are these: "You do ontinent several times. It always not know how thankful I am for havcontinent several times. change of engines in a suburb west

farewell. A short time later the port-er told me about the dog. He said that about three years before the dog had had his leg broken by his train. The men took pity on him and nursed him, taking him along in the cars for

would be there to get the food he always saved for it. By-and-by the train stopped there only four times a week, for it had become a through train. The little yellow dog soon learned of the change. He would invariably be at the station when that particular train arrived, though no one could be found that ever saw him there at any other time. Another strange thing was that he would never approach nearer the car tracks than the little grass plot on which I saw him, and that was two -Washington Times.

The Sea Gull Is a Benefactor.

and pestilence.

naturalist, marched into the old build-ing. Then slowly twenty of them alists. One man boasted a year ago produced a thrust, we will say, of Two more, four more, live more went, in a single season with his own gun, or 42 pounds, but the old sentinel warned his com- and an order was given and executed. At that tin soon disappear altogether.

others which follow their example, on mankind. Sparrows clear the gutters and places where they inhabit from a vast quantity of scattered fragthese unsavory morsels would soon be-come dangerous to human life and difficulties were encountered in buildhealth.-Spare Moments.

A Rat's Fondness for Sparrows. is the latest novelty on the west side. Under a sidewalk at Twelfth and through the air. So when the machine Loomis streets lives a rat. From the was finished, the very best I could do size of the rodent and his gray hair and cheese and bread for his living, but

prefers a nice, juicy sparrow. On the corner stands a building octhe proprietor's free lunch and lager beer. As a result the pavement is thickly strewn with oats pushed out of the feeding sacks by the hungry of the feeding sacks by the feeding sacks by the hungry of the feeding sacks by the sacks and the feeding sacks by the sacks and the feeding sacks by the sacks and the feeding sacks are sa Mr. Edwards. Every of the feeding sacks by the hungry its wings, when they horses.

and down they came past the hawk tracted to the place, and each morn-The rat having cultivated a taste woodpecker tribe, and is only a sum- en wing strokes before it got in full for sparrows, now has one for break-June and leaving early in the fall for the barnyard not a pigeon was in the place have come to watch the sight-some were in the cote, some in | maneuvers of the rat every morning. one was in the kitchen. The hawk make their appearance, and the rat slyly crawls out of its hole. After looking around to see that the coast is clear, the rat selects a plump sparrow, and while the little bird is busy and secures its prev.

The bird is dragged under the siderat until the next morning, when he pert has the rat become that those kill a bird as cleverly as a cat.-Chi-

The Great South American Remedies Ave Specifics That Cure Always-A Merrickville Lumberman Prostrated With Nervous Debility, Regains His Old Strength by the Use of South American Nervine -Mrs. J. Hallam, of Berlin, Ont., Cured of Kidney Disease of Eighteen Months' Standing by South American Kidney Cure-Bedridden for Five Months, South American Rheumatic Cure Effects a Complete Cure.

With the great South American Remedies it is not the case of occasionally hitting the mark. These remedies are specifics for indigestion and nervous prostration, kidney trouble and rheumatism, and taken by those suffering in this manner are sure to cure. NERVOUS DEBILITY-Mr. E. Mer-

ritt, lumber merchant and mill owner, of Merrickville, Ont., became complete. ly prostrated by nervous debility. "I from them. Having seen South American Nervine advertised I decidel to give it a trial, and can truthfully say I found beneficial effects. Before taking it I had not only to give up business, but I could not sign my own name, either with a pen or pencil, my nervous system was so badly out of kilter. Today, after taking two botties, I am as strong and healthy as

KIDNEY DISEASE-Few worse cases of kidney disease are on record than that of Mrs. J. Hallam, wife of a well known flour and feed merchant of Berlin, Ont. At times the pain suffered was so intense as to produce fainting spells, and it was dangerous to have her left alone in the house She says "I doctored, and in fact tried everything, but nothing seemed to relieve me for any length of time. I saw South American Kidney Cure advertised, and purchased a bottle. Relief came in a few days, and the second bottle cured me of all kidney trou-

RHEUMATISM - At 120 Church street, Toronto, there resides Mr. W. J. Tracie, who was a great sufferer from rheumatism for many years, and was entirely bedridden for five months. ous structures built by man or the Nothing did him any good until South American Rheumatic Cure was ta-ken. His words are these: "You do waited out at one side of the track. name in any way you like

"The engine bell rang, the porter gave the dog a pat on the head, and ran and caught the already moving train, and the canine wagged him a Experiments of Prof. Langley. Hiram Maxim's Letter to the London

As the experiments with flying machines by Prof. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, seem to him, taking him along in the cars for a few days. When the leg began to heal he was again left at the same station where we saw him.

"The porter's car came along every day at that time, and each day the dog would be there to get the food he always and the same to have excited a great deal of interest in this country, I think some description of what has been done with that particular type of flying machine of which Prof. Langley is an advocate cannot fail to be interesting to the British rubble.

on which I saw him, and that was two artificial flight. The machines which rods from them. It never missed the I experimented with were, however, train. If it was late, he would wait about ten times as heavy as those exor it, but he was never late himself." perimented with by Prof. Langley, his machine carrying a weight of about four pounds, and mine about forty pounds, and while he carried about The Sea Gull is a Benefactor.

250 pounds per horse power, I was only able to carry about 133 pounds. tor of man. It not only follows the plow (on farms near the sea coast), ilar, this seemed to point to the fact in order to eat the freshly turned that there was, as Prof. Langley exgrubs, but is scours the surface of pressed it, an unknown factor as reknew they had not all came out. So the sea near the shore, and frequents lates to size which was unfavorable he sat on a dry pine stump and said, harbors to seize on floating garbage, to large machines. In both cases the he sat on a dry pine stump and said, "Caw, caw," quite derisively. At last the naturalist left the building, and straightway all the crows returned. The service of these birds have saved many a sea port town and village, the propelling power being a round which they hover, from plague screw. We were able to measure with a great degree of accuracy not only Yet every year they are massacred the thrust of the screw, but also the by thousands for idle and cowardly sport or for the sake of their wings as well as the lifting planes, at all to be used in millinery. Their eggs angles. The best that I was able to are plundered wholesale for museums do was to lift about fourteen times that he had killed 4,000 kittiwake gulls three pounds, I could lift 14 times 3.

from one London house for 10,000 pairs that if large machines could be made of wings. At this rate gulls must to work as economically as small ones the making of a flying machine that size. However, I went on and built a very large machine, having a total Though too small to be seen, engines that actually worked up to ing this large machine.

It was found necessary to stay it A Rat's Fondness for Sparrows.

A rat that catches and eats birds it required a great deal of force to drive the ropes and framework through the air. So when the machine drive the whiskers it is evidently an old resident in the neighborhood. Unlike some lifting effect was about 10,000 pounds at other rats it does not depend on a speed of 45 miles an hour, and as this expense the mine was accordingthe machine, with water and crew, weighed about 8,000 pounds, it left a cupied by a saloon, and in front of the above the weight of the machine saloon is a watering trough, where Moreover the engines were only made. teamsters allow their horses to slack in the first instance, to give a screw part of his holding, leaving a balance their thirst. The teamsters also find thrust of 1,000 pounds, so that it may the place a very convenient one to be considered that when they were feed their horses while they sample working up to a screw thrust of 2,- \$12,000 a month. ALL THIS FROM

Prof. Langley experimented with a being about as 1 is to 1,728. In my experiments with a large machine I extending over a field of 1,800 feet in length, but Prof. Langley obtained a house-boat, and placed track on the roof of the boat. This was anchored in still water, and he made his experiments by allowing the machine to run along the roof and off into the water. If the adjustment of plunge, it fell into the water and was not broken. After a great number of walk and nothing more is seen of the experiments with numerous adjustments he at last succeeded in getting comes out for a fresh victim. So ex- a machine that would practically steer itself, but with my large mawho have seen it say it can catch and chine it was not possible to make these fine adjustments, as the least accident meant three months for repairs and an expense of about £1,000.

Prof. Langley has experimented from recent engravings that he ploys two systems of aeroplanes with vertically moving rudders, that it is driven through the air by two screws revolving in opposite directions, and engine. In all these respects it is ex actly like my large machine, and engravings of it might well pass for en- known before. gravings of the large machine madby myself at Baldwyn's Park. The wooden model of my machine

now on exhibition at the Auto-Car Exhibition, Imperial Institute, is in appearance almost a counterpart of the Langley machine, and almost exactly the same size. When I applied a patent on my machine in the United States of America my application was rejected on the ground that the machine was not provided with a gas bag, and consequently had no means of lifting itself, and, therefore, was not, in the eye of the law, a us ful invention. They demanded that I should furnish them with a working model in order that they might tried," said he, "several doctors, and everything in the shape of proprietary and flys without the use of a gas bag. In regard to the future of flying machines. I would say that if machines are to be made plane system small ones will be found to work much better than large ones. Should Prof. Langley increase the size of his machine sufficiently to be that the building material, which is steel and aluminum, is not relatively so strong for a large machine as for

He will find that a large machine, in order to lift, has to be propelled at a much higher speed than a small one. He will find that whereas small aeroplanes may be made light and thin and require no supports, large strength and supported by wires, and every bit of material which has to be driven through the air consumes a great deal of power. In my experi-ments I have found that a piece of three-inch tubing eight feet long held the machine back fourteen pounds when running at 42 miles an hour.

I think I am safe in asserting that until a very recent date the greater part of experimenters on flying machines have been little better charlatans and mountebanks. only recently that men of science have taken the matter in hand, and during the last six years a great deal of valuable information has been obtained, not based upon theory, but upon actu-al experiments. I feel sure that it happened that I went through Burlington, Iowa. The train stops for a Cure. For years I had suffered, sufing tried South American Rheumatic al experiments. I feel sure that it is now possible to make a successful fered intensely, and could get no re- and practical flying machine which of the city. The last time I went lief, until I was influenced to use this will at least be a valuable adjunct to there one of the porters from the remedy. How great a sufferer I was the offensive and defensive powers of dining-car got off and carried a plate is known to hundreds of citizens in highly civilized nations who are able of food to a small yellow dog that Toronto. You are at liberty to use my to make and operate delicate and



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less aware of the profits to be made have \$5,000,000 in sight, thus insuring At that time we were both agreed enormous successes that are so made. TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN-VESTED IN OBTAINING GOLD

The carrion crow, the raven and others which follow their example, more or less, confer an immense boon to the comparatively simple matter, out we both had our misgivings as regards to the comparative of of more than a hundred feet, and with one, nevertheless. Let us look at a

Three years ago Mr. A. E. Emory of Salt Lake City, purchased onein every direction with numerous wire fourth interest in the Silver King Mine for \$4,000. That mine had \$50,and framework 000 worth of ore reserves in sight at the time of purchase, but required was to lift five times the screw thrust. about \$15,000 worth of machinery to work the property at a profit. With ly developed and brought to such a very narrow margin of lifting effect high state of perfection that Mr. Em-

very much smaller machine than my amar, of New York City, was able tracted to the place, and each morning the pavement is covered with the foot, and the volume occupied by little fellows eating their breakfast. for \$250,000 in cash. Mr. David Mofprovided myself with a railway track fet, the richest man in Colorado, had an option on this property, but was unable to make it good, because of bank. Mr. Delamar took a million dollars from this mine and then sold filling its crop the rat makes a spring the machine was such as to make it it to an English syndicate for \$2,165,-They capitalized it at \$5,000,000. and it has since paid 2 per cent a month on the capitalization.

With part of the proceeds from this sale. Mr. Delamar purchased what is now known as the Great Delamar Mine, in Idaho, which for the with many machines, but it appears last two years has paid \$170,000 per month. Last week a solid mass of gold, weighing 1,500 pounds and worth over \$275,000 was taken out. This source of power is a steam is to be exhibited in New York City, as nothing like it has ever been

Six years ago Mr. Delamar was not popularly supposed to be worth enough to buy a rowboat; he is now building a million dollar yacht.

Judge Silent, of Los Angeles, was the owner of what is now known as the "United Verdi Mine" of Arizona with \$150,000 of ore in sight, he begged pleaded and coaxed for \$10,000 to buy necessary machinery for working of the same, but could not raise the amount, and was obliged to dispose of the property, selling it for \$50,000, which only \$5,000 was cash, the balance was to be taken out of the

The purchasers have taken \$5,000,-

These are a few of the numerous successes that have been derived ment, and legitimate mining is the

You cannot make a fortune buying stock in a company which has capitalized a claim for a hundred times more than it is worth, for, even if the property proves valuable, the difference between what it is worth and what you really paid for it has to be made up before your profit comes in.

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> then place on ice, when it will open sparkling, cool and delicious. The root beer can be obtained in all drug and grocery stores in 10 and 25 cent bottles to make two and five gallons. ywt

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