

Birds display human traits

Last week we referred to the life and habits of birds and this is a perfect time to update our information of these garden friends.

Most birds return to their same living area year after year. Many birds mate for life — nuthatches, cardinals, pigeons and doves, for example. A bird has three sections to his wings just like our arms. The hand is the propeller. The wings are controlled by muscles, bones and nerves.

Nests are lined with fine materials for insulation like our overcoats. A bird's body heat is warmer than ours. The mother bird doesn't sit on her eggs until they are all laid so that they will hatch at the same time. The eggs are turned at various times by using feet and wing tips.

WE HAVE TOLD you in the past that the male bird is the only one to sing. How do they pass the word along? Crows delightfully have a conversation between each other. Research has indicated that there is thought transference between birds.

What are the perils of flight? Due to the enemies the smaller and weaker species fly at night. The heaviest night



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

movements comes on clear, calm evenings. The eyes of birds are approximately 10 times stronger than ours for sighting interesting objects.

The gentleman bird always migrates before the momma arrives. (It reminds me of a man being transferred to a new job in a new location and traveling ahead to secure the home site).

All mothers are alike. The mother bird is busy removing waste from the nest and after the shells of the baby birds are broken she hauls them far away so the nest can't be discovered.

Birds are hoppers and walkers — depending on whether they are tree dwellers or live chiefly on the ground.

TO DEVELOP garden design which

will be appropriate to your household. It is important to chat with your family members and ask them what they like in a garden.

Some men like to feel like specialists and "bring home the bacon" by growing choice vegetables. Children like to have a small spot they can call their own. Psychologically it is a good approach to have a child possess a garden in order to acquaint him with new vegetables.

Then there is mom, she likes a lot of showy flowers for the adornment of her household. It is important to have a garden which expresses pride.

Senior citizens can generally report accurately about the setting of their family garden many years ago. So you see it is important to develop beautiful home grounds for storing important memories for the future.

Cranbrook Gardens now open for visitors

Cranbrook Gardens are now open to the public for the 14th consecutive season with a changing panorama of nature's beauty.

Hours in May and September are daily 1-5 p.m.; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays in June, July and August; and in October, 1 to 5 p.m. weekends.

Featured during May will be Daffodil Hill, varieties of ferns, forsythia, and redbud flowering trees and rare wildflowers such as: baneberry, bloodroot, blue cohosh, columbine poppies, hepatica, herb Robert, columbine, feverfew, lady slippers, trillium and Jack in the pulpit.

Starting in May and early June will be tulips, flowering shrubs, dogwood, rhododendron, azaleas, peonies and a miniature Tufa Garden as well as lilacs, roses, lavender, Marguerite and Shasta daisies, plus the herb and Oriental gardens.

Admission to the gardens is \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for students and senior citizens. Charges for season passes (unlimited visits) are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for couples and \$20 for families (more than two children).

For information, call 645-3149.

Series closes season

A concert by the Emerson String Quartet at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Detroit's Orchestra Hall marks the close of the 42nd consecutive season of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit.

Menahem Pressler, solo virtuoso and member of the Beaux Arts Trio, will join the quartet for the Dvorak Quintet in A for Piano and Strings, Op. 81 and the Mozart Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478.

Also on the program is Bartok's Quartet No. 4.

Emerson String Quartet is the only quartet in the country in which the position of first violinist is shared equally.

For tickets or information, call Orchestra Hall box office 833-3700.

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