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Neglected car uses more fuel

By Penny Wright
special writer

MICHIGAN Energy Administration officials fear motorists are neglecting routine car maintenance and wasting gasoline supplies.

Most drivers know a well-maintained car uses less fuel. Yet energy professionals are fearful that the combination — increased use of self-service stations and lower gasoline prices — has led to less regular car maintenance.

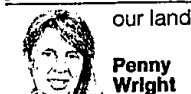
"With over 70 percent of gasoline purchased at self-service stations, drivers often neglect proper maintenance," said Terry Black, Energy Administration director.

"Spotting problems early and doing routine maintenance can improve fuel efficiency and prevent costly breakdowns later."

MAGGIE VANHAPEN, an Energy Administration spokesperson, noted that a well-maintained car can save an owner up to 20 percent in fuel costs.

"So much attention has been focused on saving energy in the home. Very little attention is given to saving energy through reduced gasoline purchases," he said.

Savings through proper car maintenance can be substantial. The Car Care Council, a non-profit information group, estimates \$7 billion could



our land

Penny Wright

be saved nationwide if drivers kept their cars in good condition.

CAR CARE Council staff person Laurie Dick related car condition to energy waste:

- A car needing a tune-up can use 11 percent more gas than normal.
- Under-inflated tires can increase energy consumption by 5 percent.

- Front wheels that are 1/4 inch out of alignment reduce energy efficiency by 2 percent.

- A cooling system thermostat stuck in an open position can increase gasoline waste by 7 percent.

Dick indicated the Car Care Council is stressing the need for preventive maintenance to save fuel, increase driving safety, and reduce air pollution. "Self-service stations are a major cause of increased car neglect. People aren't looking under the hood," said Dick.



Car Care Council

BASIC CAR maintenance tips to save energy:

- Checking the oil level and changing the oil and oil filter on a regular basis.

- Checking the anti-freeze/coolant level and adding fluid when low.

- Replacing filters when dirty.

- Replacing belts and hoses, and

replacing them when worn, frayed, or bulging.

- Keeping tires inflated to the recommended pressure and checking for excessive or uneven tread wear.

- Checking spark plugs and replacing when worn out.

- Ensuring carburetor is adjusted properly.

nature

American success story: starlings

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

IN 1890 fewer than a dozen starlings were introduced to New York City's Central Park. It has taken less than 100 years for *Sturnus vulgaris* to move across the United States.

Although today they are one of the most common birds in the United States, starlings actually are native to Europe, Eurasia and Africa. There are approximately 107 different species of starling in the world.

Many species have bold color patterns that give them striking appearances. Supurb starlings that I saw in Kenya have an iridescent black chest, a chestnut belly and a white band between the chest and belly.

OUR STARLING is not as spectacular, but its plumage does exhibit some interesting characteristics.

When spring arrives in southeastern Michigan, starlings have a black iridescent plumage, red legs and a bright yellow bill. If you look closely, you'll see that females have a yellow ring around the iris of the eye. Otherwise males and females are identical.

Contributing to the success of the starling around the U.S. is their ability to raise two broods of young per year.

Young starlings seen feeding with the adults are a dull gray and generally nondescript. They may be easily confused with young brown-headed cowbirds, which are similar in color.

AS SUMMER draws near, both the young and adults undergo a molt of their feathers. Molting of feathers in birds is a gradual process so that it doesn't affect the survival of the individual.

By late summer, the black adults of spring have turned to a speckled black and white, as have the young of the year. Their new feathers, which will last them through the winter, have white tips.

During winter, as they brush against tree branches or rub against the entrance to a tree cavity, they will wear away the white tips. Light-colored feathers tend to wear faster than dark-colored feathers.

When the breeding season arrives in spring, the white tips will be gone, their plumage will be black, and hormones will change their bill and feet colors.

Lucas to aid Brock

Republican gubernatorial candidate William Lucas will join two state Senate candidates in a county-wide literature drop Saturday, Oct. 25.

At 9:50 a.m., Lucas will be at the headquarters of Frank Brock, Senate candidate in the 15th District, at 24109 10 Mile, Southfield.

They will greet volunteers and precinct delegates, then walk door-

to-door in a Southfield precinct, county GOP Chairman Joe Knollenberg said. Brock is seeking to unseat Democrat Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills.

At 9 a.m. that day, Lucas will be at the headquarters of state Sen. Rudy Nichols at 4950 Highland Road, Waterford Township. Nichols is seeking to hold the Senate seat he won in 1984 after the tax-revolt recall of Phil Mastin.

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