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Natural Oddities

A FASCINATING COLLECTION TRUE CARTOONS ABOUT NATURE

VOLUME ONE

by Gus Mager

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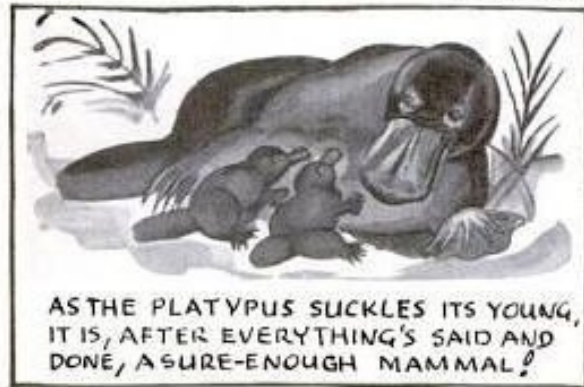
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PERHAPS THE STRANGEST, MOST CONTRADICTIONARY ANIMAL THE WORLD HAS EVER PRODUCED, IS THE PLATYPUS OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA. THIS WEIRD CREATURE SPORTS A BILL AND WEBBED FEET (FOREFEET) LIKE A DUCK, THOUGH IT IS CLOTHED IN FUR, LIKE A MOLE!

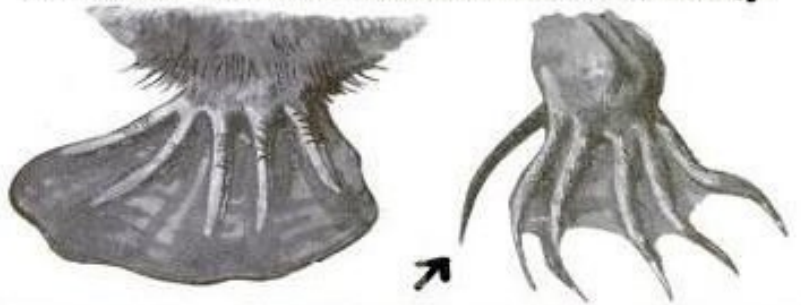


THE PLATYPUS LAYS EGGS (RIGHT) LIKE A TURTLE? YES, SOFT-SHELLED EGGS, JOINED IN PAIRS? AND TO FURTHER MESS UP NATURAL HISTORY, THIS FREAK ANIMAL BROODS IN A NEST LIKE A SELF-RESPECTING FOWL!

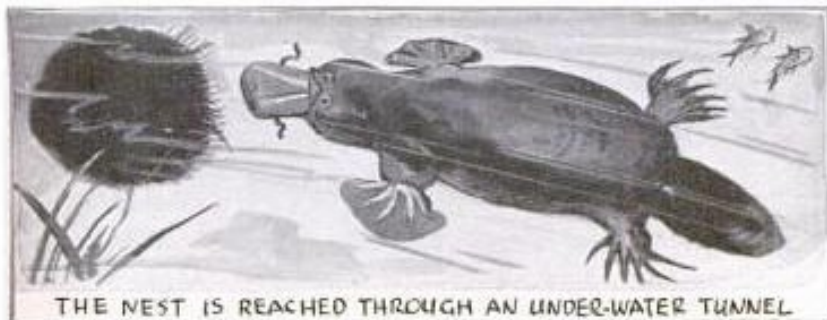


AS THE PLATYPUS SUCKLES ITS YOUNG, IT IS, AFTER EVERYTHING'S SAID AND DONE, A SURE-ENOUGH MAMMAL!

ON THE HIND FEET OF THE MALE PLATYPUS ARE CURIOUS HOLLOW SPURS, CONNECTED WITH GLANDS NEAR THE ANKLES, WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO CONVEY POISON INTO THE WOUNDS WHICH THEY MAKE!



IN THE LIVING ANIMAL, THE SCHNOZZLE PRESENTS A VERY DIFFERENT ASPECT FROM THE BLACK, DRIED, OLD-SHOE EFFECT OF THE STUFFED SPECIMEN. THE BILL, IN LIFE, IS SOFT, PINKISH, AND PLIABLE — AND VERY SENSITIVE!



THE NEST IS REACHED THROUGH AN UNDER-WATER TUNNEL.



THE POLAR BEAR'S SMALL, WEASEL-LIKE HEAD, LONG, SLENDER NECK, AND BRISTLE-SOLED FEET MAKE HIM A FREAK AMONG ALL OTHER BEARS! YES, HE WEARS STIFF-HAIRED BRUSHES ON THE SOLES OF HIS PAWS, TO GIVE HIM A Foothold ON THE SLIPPERY ICE!



AND THIS CUTE LITTLE ORNAMENTAL BUNCH OF GREEN FEATHERS—TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT—IS A CATERPILLAR FROM THE TROPICAL JUNGLES OF BORNEO!



THE NATURAL WAY FOR MOST PARENT BIRDS TO FEED THEIR YOUNG IS TO PUSH THE BEAK DOWN THE YOUNG BIRDS' THROATS, BUT THE PELICAN FEEDS ITS FLEDGLINGS JUST THE REVERSE — HE OPENS HIS GULLET CAFETERIA, AND THE YOUNGSTERS REACH FAR INTO THE THROAT AND HELP THEMSELVES TO THE FISHY FREE LUNCH, SWALLOWING THE FOOD BEFORE WITHDRAWING THEIR HEADS

THE SEA HORSE! THE FISH WITH A HORSE'S HEAD AND A MONKEY'S TAIL. BUT WHAT A SISSY NATURE HAS MADE OF PAPA SEA HORSE! DADDY SEA HORSE IS A LIVING BABY CARRIAGE. HE HAS A POUCH IN HIS ABDOMEN, IN WHICH MAMMA SEA HORSE LAYS HER EGGS, AND IN WHICH PA CARRIES THEM UNTIL THEY ARE HATCHED — IMAGINE!



THE SQUID HAS FOR COUNTLESS AGES USED A "SMOKE SCREEN." IT EJECTS AN INKY FLUID TO HIDE ITSELF AND BAFFLE ITS ENEMIES OF THE BRINY DEEP!



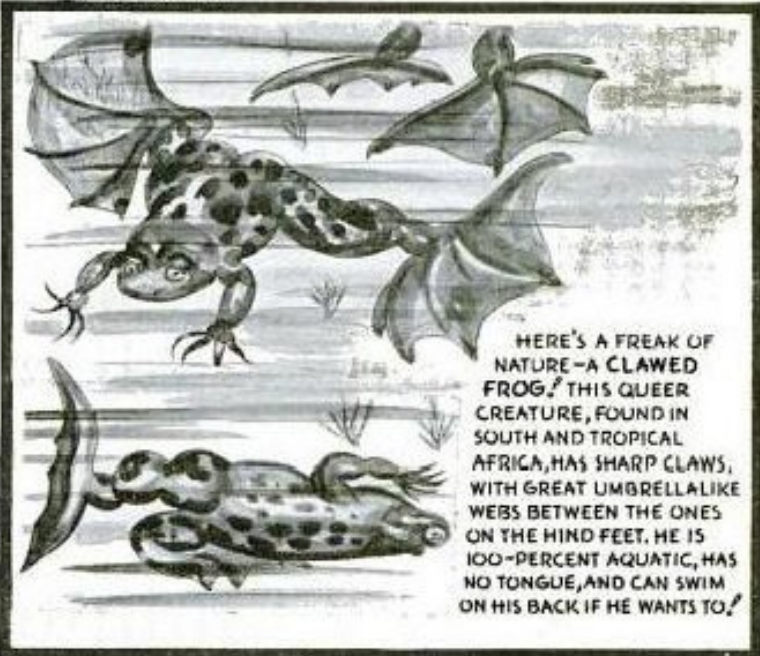
IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT TOBACCO WAS UNKNOWN OUTSIDE OF AMERICA BEFORE IT WAS INTRODUCED INTO ENGLAND BY SIR WALTER RALEIGH AND OTHERS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY. HOWEVER, IT IS NOW CLAIMED THAT THE SOOTHING WEED WAS KNOWN AND WIDELY USED IN NEW GUINEA, MALAY ARCHIPELAGO, AT A MUCH EARLIER DATE.



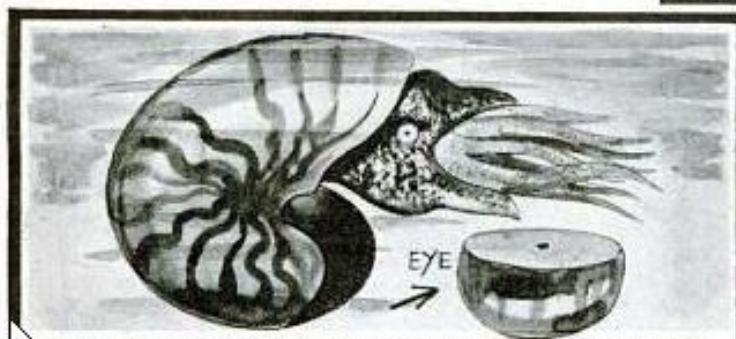
FATHER LOVE IS THE RULE IN THE FAMILY LIFE OF THE EMU OF AUSTRALIA. ALL MRS. EMU DOES IS LAY THE EGGS. HER SPOUSE SITS FAITHFULLY AND BROODS THEM FOR SIXTY DAYS, THEN REARS THE YOUNG ALL BY HIMSELF — EVEN CHASING THE FEMALE AWAY IF SHE TRIES TO INTERFERE. TALK ABOUT HENPECKING!



SEA LIONS ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO VIBRATIONS IN WATER. IT IS SAID THAT EARLY IN THE WORLD WAR, BEFORE UNDERWATER LISTENING DEVICES HAD BEEN PERFECTED, ALL THE PERFORMING SEA LIONS IN ENGLAND WERE CONSCRIPTED TO STAND GUARD AGAINST SUBMARINES. MOORED AT INTERVALS AROUND THE COAST, THEY WERE TAUGHT TO BARK VIGOROUSLY WHEN THEY SENSED THE APPROACH OF U-BOATS.

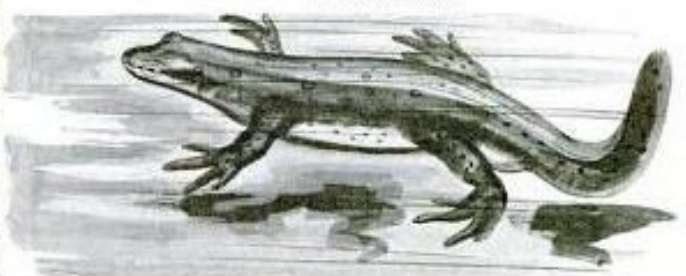


HERE'S A FREAK OF NATURE — A CLAWED FROG. THIS QUEER CREATURE, FOUND IN SOUTH AND TROPICAL AFRICA, HAS SHARP CLAWS, WITH GREAT UMBRELLALIKE WEBS BETWEEN THE ONES ON THE HIND FEET. HE IS 100-PERCENT AQUATIC, HAS NO TONGUE, AND CAN SWIM ON HIS BACK IF HE WANTS TO!



THE EYE OF THE PEARLY NAUTILUS IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF ANY OTHER CREATURE. IT HAS NEITHER PUPIL NOR LENS, YET THE MOLLUSK HAS PERFECT VISION. THE EYE RESEMBLES A KETTLEDRUM, WITH A THIN MEMBRANE STRETCHED ACROSS IT. IN THE CENTER IS A TINY HOLE THAT ADMITS SEA WATER TO THE CAVITY TO TAKE THE PLACE OF A LENS.

OUR COMMON NEWT (*DIEMYCTILUS VIRENS*) LEADS A DOUBLE LIFE. SOON AFTER REACHING MATURITY IT QUITS THE WATER, DONS A VERMILION DRESS, AND LIVES THE LIFE OF A LAND CREATURE. AFTER TWO OR MORE YEARS IT RETURNS TO THE WATER, RESUMES ITS GREENISH-BROWN COLOR, AND SETTLES DOWN WITH A MATE.

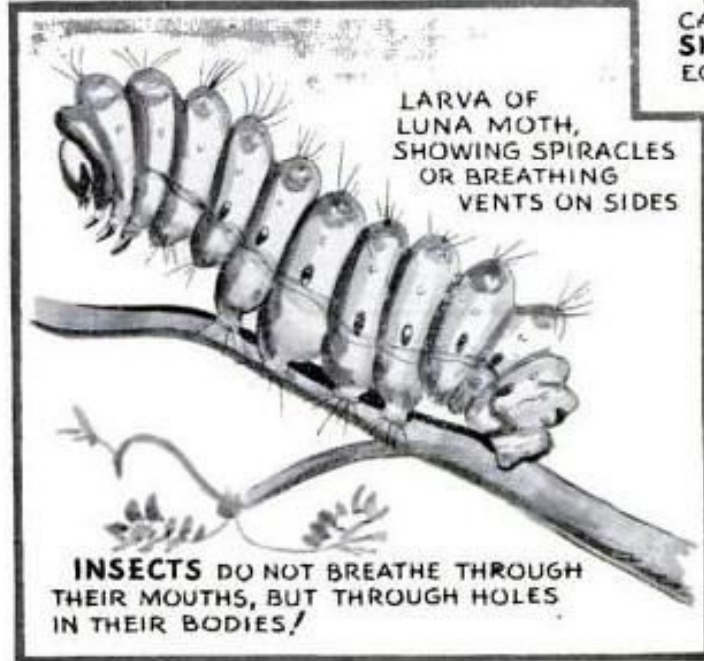




MANY KINDS OF **BATS** HAVE A NARROW, CONELIKE MEMBRANE IN THE EXTERNAL EAR! IT IS BELIEVED TO INTENSIFY SOUNDS AND AID THEM IN BLIND-FLYING!

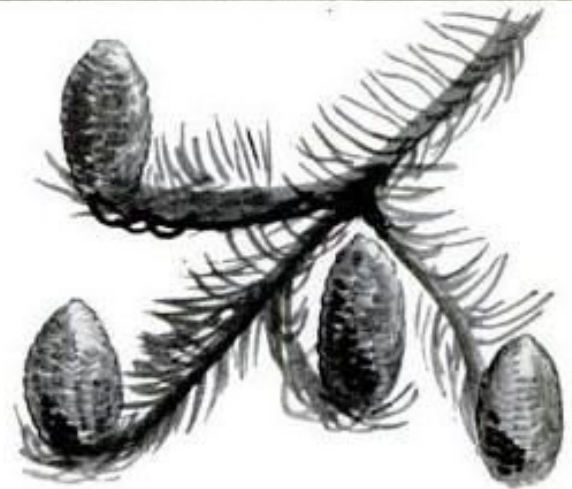


THE MOST LIGHT-FINGERED PICKPOCKET CANNOT MATCH THE FINESSE WITH WHICH **SKUNKS** HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SNEAK EGGS FROM UNDER SITTING HENS!



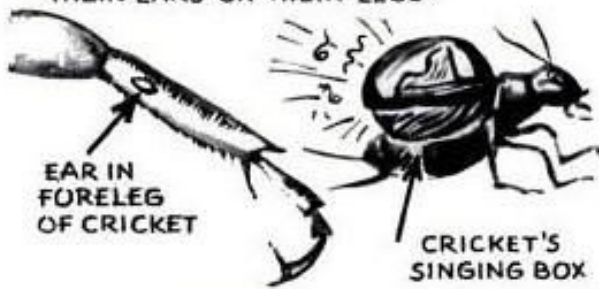
LARVA OF LUNA MOTH, SHOWING SPIRACLES OR BREATHING VENTS ON SIDES

INSECTS DO NOT BREATHE THROUGH THEIR MOUTHS, BUT THROUGH HOLES IN THEIR BODIES!



WOULD YOU KNOW A **FIR TREE** FROM ALL OTHER CONIFERS? THE FIR IS THE ONLY TREE BEARING LARGE CONES THAT CARRIES ITS CONES ERECT!

NEITHER DO INSECTS SING WITH THEIR MOUTHS! THEY HARMONIZE WITH THEIR WINGS, OR WINGS AND LEGS! AND THE ORTHOPTERANS, INCLUDING THE **CRICKETS**, GENERALLY CARRY THEIR EARS ON THEIR LEGS!



EAR IN FORELEG OF CRICKET

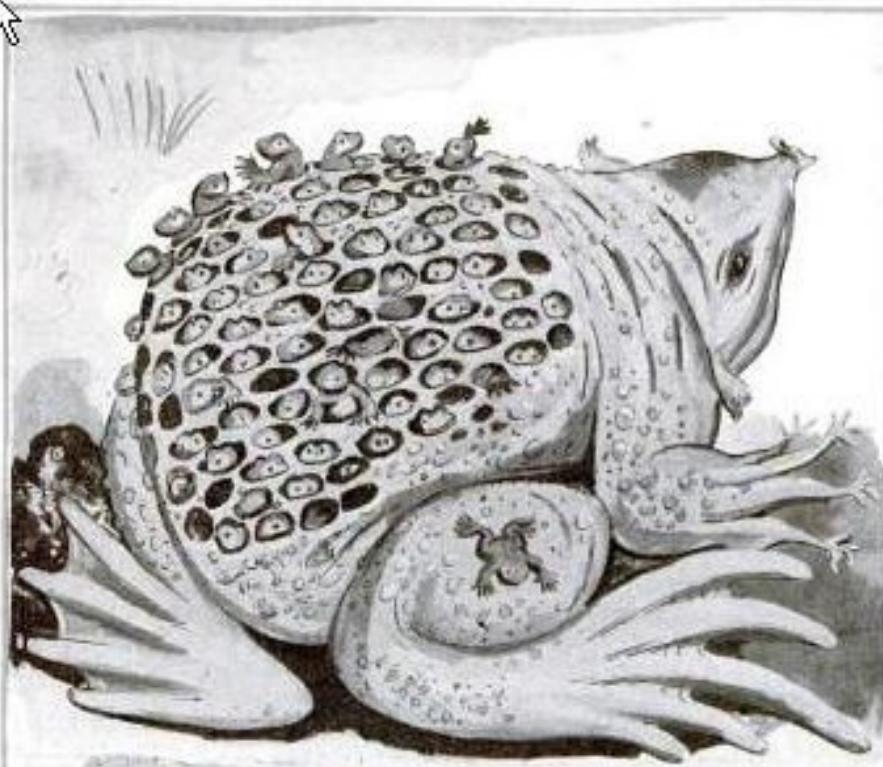
CRICKET'S SINGING BOX



RASP OF KATYDID



BIRDS ARE SO ACTIVE THAT THEY GET VERY HOT—TEMPERATURE NORMALLY 104°! SINCE THEIR FEATHERS WON'T LET THEM SWEAT AS WE DO, THEY PERSPIRE INTERNALLY!



THE SURINAM TOAD (DUTCH GUIANA AND OTHER AMERICAN TROPICS) SOLVES THE HOUSING PROBLEM! THIS CURIOUS CREATURE IS A LIVING APARTMENT HOUSE! ITS PROGENY HATCH, AND ARE REARED, IN SINGLE ROOMS, OR CELLS, ON THE FEMALE'S BACK.



HERE IS AN ASTOUNDING FISH, **THE CLIMBING PERCH** (ASIA) THAT CLIMBS STEEP STREAM BANKS, AND WALKS OVER DRY LAND, PROVING THE OLD SAYING OF "A FISH OUT OF WATER" IS THE BUNK.



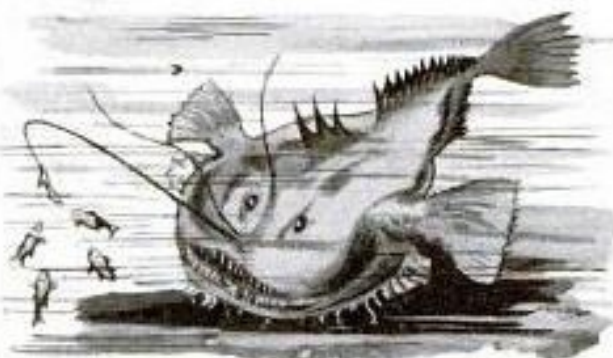
BIG ROBBER CRAB (ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS) BREATHES DRY AIR. IT CLIMBS COCO PALMS AND BREAKS OFF THE NUTS WHICH IT OPENS FOR FOOD WITH ITS GREAT CLAWS!



THE ELECTRIC EEL IS POSITIVELY SHOCKING!



THE MANATEE - THE STRANGE MAMMAL THAT GAVE RISE TO THE MERMAID LEGEND AMONG THE ANCIENTS, PROBABLY FROM ITS HUMANLIKE HABIT OF ELEVATING HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE WATER SURFACE!



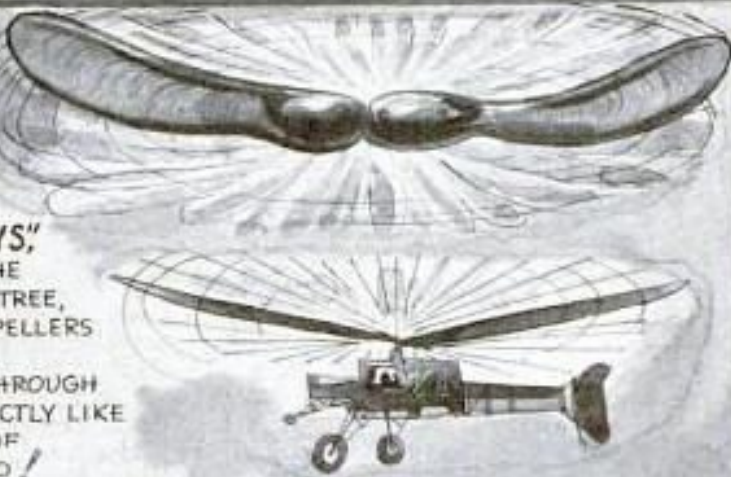
PIPE THE MARINE IZAAK WALTON, **THE ANGLER FISH**, FLOURISHING AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS ROD AND LURE, TO CATCH HIS DINNER!

To SEE what a good inventor old Mother Nature is, just look at some of the ingenious schemes she has worked out for broadcasting the seeds of plants—many of them anticipating modern human means of locomotion!

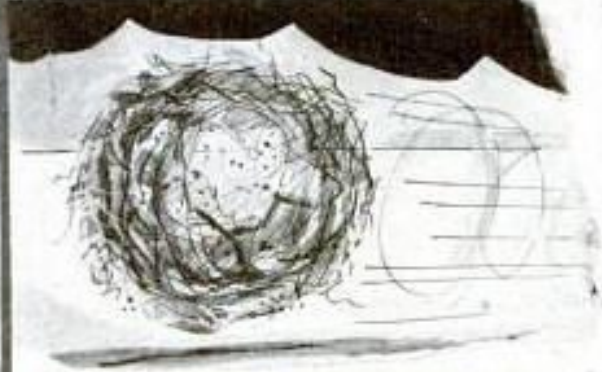


MANY SEEDS TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES AS STOWAWAYS ON THE FEATHERS AND FEET OF BIRDS, OR AS HITCH-HIKERS IN THE FUR OF ANIMALS. OFTEN THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL HOOKS, AS ON THE **BURDOCK** AND **BEGGAR-TICKS**, FOR CLINGING!

MAPLE "KEYS," CONTAINING THE SEEDS OF THE TREE, ARE TINY PROPELLERS THAT SPIN DOWNWARD THROUGH THE AIR, EXACTLY LIKE THE VANES OF AN AUTOGIRO!



THEN, THERE'S THE **TUMBLEWEED**, ROLLING ACROSS COUNTRY IN THE WIND WITH THE SPEED OF A HIGH-POWERED CAR, TO CARRY ITS SEEDS TO FAR-AWAY PLACES!



THE **DANDELION**, LIKE MANY OTHER PLANTS, SENDS SEEDS UP IN THE WIND LIKE BALLOONS, TO COME DOWN AGAIN LIKE MINIATURE PARACHUTES. ITS STEM STRETCHES FAR ABOVE THE SURROUNDING GRASS TO GIVE THE AERIAL TRAVELERS A GOOD TAKE-OFF!



BIG COCONUT SEED PODS SAIL THE SEVEN SEAS LIKE SHIPS, CARRIED BY OCEAN CURRENTS. THE CARGO OF SEEDS IS CAREFULLY STOWED IN AN AIR-FILLED HOLD AND PROTECTED FROM THE ACTION OF SALT WATER BY THE FIBER COVER!



THE **JEWELWEED** IS THE ORIGINAL POPGUN! IT **SHOOTS** OUT ITS TINY SEEDS AT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH OF THE LITTLE TRIGGER AT THE END OF THE CAPSULE!

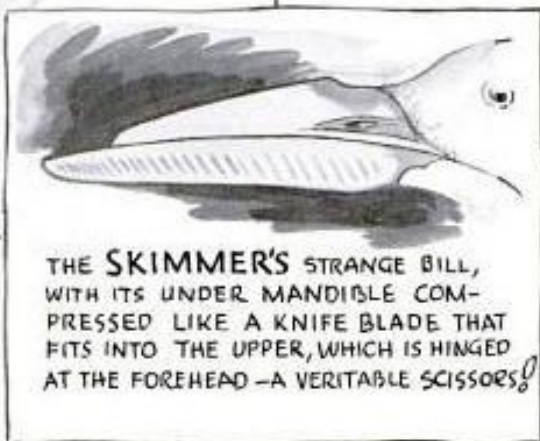




OBSERVE THE **FALCON'S** TERRIBLE HOOK FOR KILLING AND TEARING.

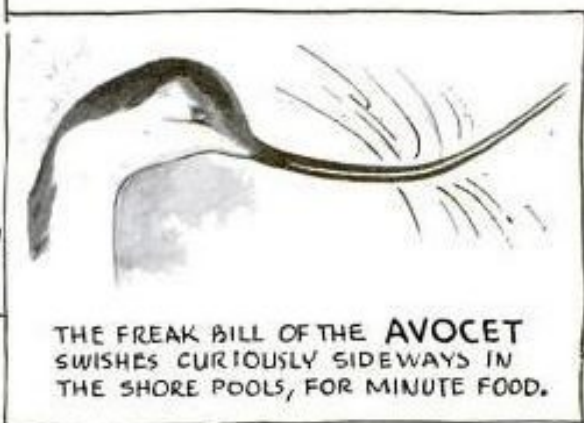


THE **PELICAN** TOTES AN ENORMOUS SACK, TO CARRY HOME THE FISH IN!



THE **SKIMMER'S** STRANGE BILL, WITH ITS UNDER MANDIBLE COMPRESSED LIKE A KNIFE BLADE THAT FITS INTO THE UPPER, WHICH IS HINGED AT THE FOREHEAD - A VERITABLE SCISSORS!

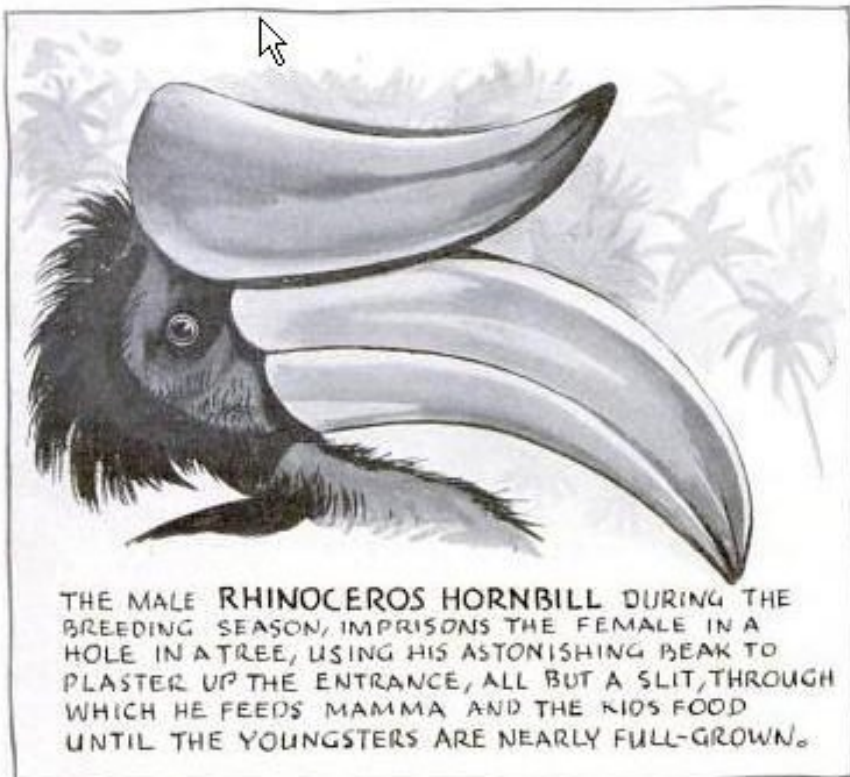
HERE'S A **SPOONBILL'S** BILL, FOR SIFTING SMALL CRUSTACEANS AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU OUT OF THE MUD!



THE FREAK BILL OF THE **AVOCET** SWISHES CURIOUSLY SIDWAYS IN THE SHORE POOLS, FOR MINUTE FOOD.



THE **PUFFIN'S** STRANGE "DURANTE" IS USED AS A SCOOP AND FOR AIR-TRANSPORTING SMALL FRY!



THE MALE **RHINOCEROS HORNBILL** DURING THE BREEDING SEASON, IMPRISONS THE FEMALE IN A HOLE IN A TREE, USING HIS ASTONISHING BEAK TO PLASTER UP THE ENTRANCE, ALL BUT A SLIT, THROUGH WHICH HE FEEDS MAMMA AND THE KID'S FOOD UNTIL THE YOUNGSTERS ARE NEARLY FULL-GROWN.



FOR STRIPPING MEAT OFF BONES, THE **LION** HAS A COARSE RASP OF A TONGUE, SO ROUGH THAT IT WILL BREAK THE SKIN OF A MAN!



MOTHER NATURE HAS EQUIPPED HER CREATURES WITH AN ALMOST ENDLESS VARIETY OF TONGUES! THE **HUMMING BIRD'S**, FOR INSTANCE, IS DOUBLE-BARRELED --- TWO THREADLIKE TUBES PLACED SIDE BY SIDE AND USED AS SIPHONS TO SUCK NECTAR FROM FLOWERS!



ROUGH TONGUES RUN IN THE CAT FAMILY --- EVEN THE **HOUSE PUSS** HAS ONE! KITTY'S TONGUE ALSO RESEMBLES THAT OF THE LION AND TIGER IN FORMING A CUP TO SCOOP UP LIQUID IN DRINKING!



THE **FROG** HAS A TONGUE LIKE A STICKY RUBBER SLING, WHICH IS ROOTED IN THE FRONT OF THE MOUTH AND SHOOTS OUT WHEN AN INSECT COMES INTO RANGE. AT REST, THE TONGUE POINTS BACK INTO THE THROAT!



A HANDY GRASPING TOOL IS THE TONGUE OF THE **GIRAFFE**! IT CAN BE STRETCHED OUT LONG AND THIN TO CURL AROUND LOFTY TREE BRANCHES, OR MADE SHORT AND THICK FOR RETRACTING!

MANY **FISHES** HAVE NO TONGUES AT ALL, OR IMPERFECT ONES WITH NO MUSCLES TO STRETCH OR RETRACT THEM!



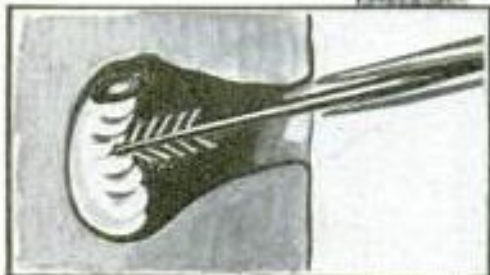
SNAKES ARE BELIEVED TO HEAR THROUGH THEIR FORKED TONGUES, WHICH COME OUT OF THEIR SHEATHS AND SERVE AS FEELERS. THEY ARE KNOWN TO BE VERY SENSITIVE TO SOUND VIBRATIONS!



LIKE A RADIO ANNOUNCER, THE **ANTEATER** EARNS HIS LIVING WITH HIS TONGUE! THE THIN, TAPERING GADGET, EIGHT OR NINE INCHES LONG AND AS STICKY AS FLY PAPER, IS DESIGNED FOR PROBING ANT HILLS AND CAPTURING ANTS!



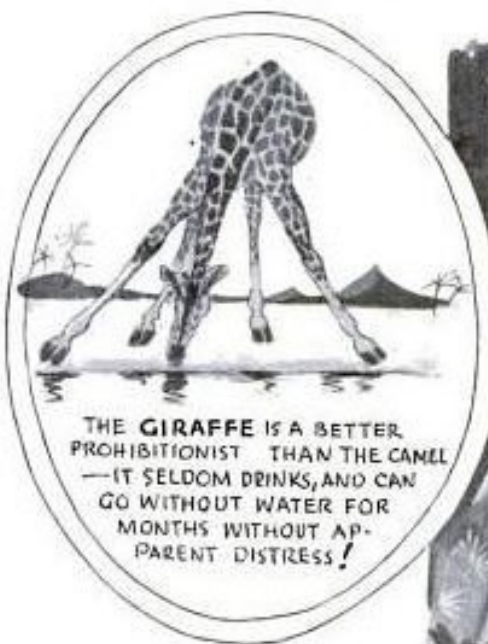
PARROTS ARE THICK-TONGUED! WHEN HUMANS ARE THAT WAY, THEY CAN'T TALK WELL, BUT IT DOESN'T BOTHER POLLY! THE TONGUE IS VERY NIMBLE --- HANDY FOR EATING AND IN MANY OTHER WAYS!



THE **WOODPECKER** HAS A SHARP TONGUE IN HIS HEAD --- NOT FOR SCOLDING, BUT TO SPEAR BORERS AND DRAW THEM OUT OF HOLES IN TREES!



THIS FREAK, THE GIANT ANTEATER (CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA) SEEMS A TOSS-UP BETWEEN BIRD, BEAR, AND SKUNK! ITS RIDICULOUSLY ELONGATED HEAD RESEMBLES A BIRD'S! IT HAS THE SKUNK'S COARSE MOP OF A TAIL, WHICH SERVES AS A SUNSHADE BY DAY AND AS A BLANKET BY NIGHT, AND THE POWERFUL LIMBS AND CLAWS OF A BEAR. ITS MOUTH IS A MERE KEYHOLE FOR THE EXTRUSION OF ITS STICKY, WHIPLIKE TONGUE, WITH WHICH IT LICKS UP THE ANTS ON WHICH IT FEEDS!

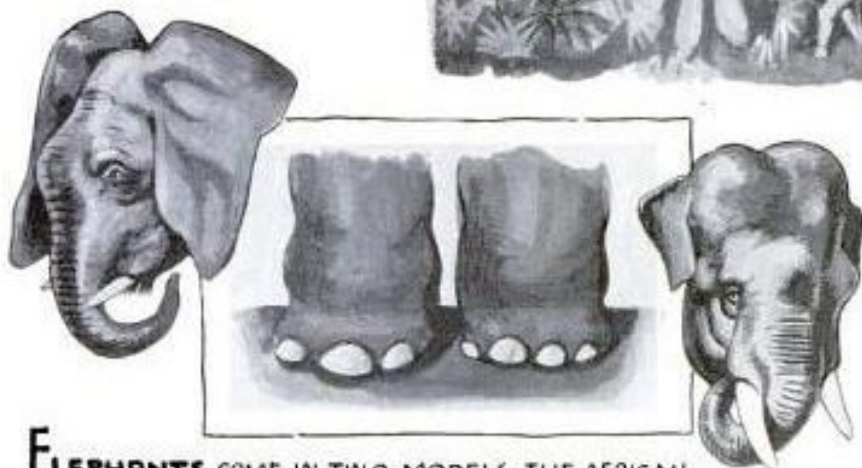


THE GIRAFFE IS A BETTER PROHIBITIONIST THAN THE CAMEL — IT SELDOM DRINKS, AND CAN GO WITHOUT WATER FOR MONTHS WITHOUT APPARENT DISTRESS!



THE WINGS OF THE NEW ZEALAND KIWI ARE SO RUDIMENTARY THAT THERE IS NO OUTWARD SIGN OF THEM — THEY'RE AS USELESS AS FLAT FEET TO A FISH!

← →
IN BRITISH GUIANA, NATURALISTS HUNT THESE HUGE BUPRESTID BEETLES WITH TWELVE-GAUGE SHOTGUNS! THE HUGE BUGS — AS LARGE AS SMALL SAUCERS — ZOOM UP THROUGH THE JUNGLE TREE-ROOFS LIKE WILD FOWL!



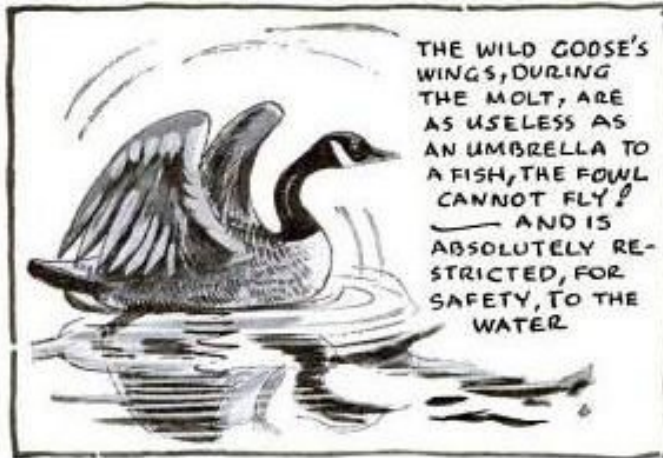
ELEPHANTS COME IN TWO MODELS. THE AFRICAN VARIETY HAS HUGE, FLAPPING EARS LIKE BEGONIA LEAVES, AND THREE TOENAILS ON ITS HIND FEET. ASIATIC ELEPHANTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH SMALLER EARS AND GENERALLY HAVE FOUR TOENAILS ON THEIR HIND FEET.



OUR CRESTED FLYCATCHER IS POSITIVELY UNIQUE IN THAT IT HAS THE MOST REMARKABLE HABIT OF ALWAYS LINING ITS NEST WITH A SNAKE SKIN! CONSIDERING THE TERROR AND HATRED ALL BIRDS BEAR FOR SNAKES, THIS STRANGE HABIT SEEMS UNQUESTIONABLY UN-NATURAL!



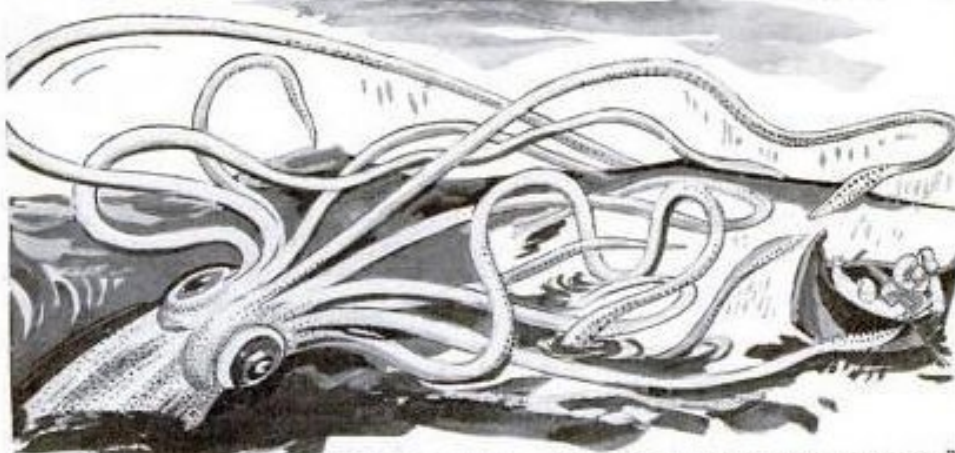
IMAGINE INDEPENDENT EYES THAT CAN LOOK TWO WAYS AT ONCE! THE POP-EYED CHAMELEON CAN ROLL ONE GOGGLE EYE FORWARD, TO OGLE HIS DINNER, WHILE GIVING HIS SWEETIE, BEHIND HIM, THE ONCE OVER WITH THE OTHER!



THE WILD GOOSE'S WINGS, DURING THE MOLT, ARE AS USELESS AS AN UMBRELLA TO A FISH, THE FOWL CANNOT FLY! — AND IS ABSOLUTELY RESTRICTED, FOR SAFETY, TO THE WATER



THE WILD HOG, BABIRUSA, OF MALACCA, HAS FOUR GREAT TUSKS, THE TWO UPPER ONES CURLING UPWARD - AND BACKWARD THROUGH HOLES IN THE SNOUT. THE UPPER TUSKS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO GROW INTO THE SKULL, CAUSING THE CREATURE'S DEATH BY ITS OWN TEETH!



DOES A SEA SERPENT SEEM IMPOSSIBLE AND UN-NATURAL? YOU'VE SEEN NOTHING YET! WHAT ABOUT THE VERY REAL GIANT SQUID, WHICH MAY REACH A LENGTH OF SIXTY OR SEVENTY FEET, AND HAS ALL OF TEN MONSTROUS SERPENTLIKE ARMS TO FRIGHTEN MARINERS WITH!



SANDALS WHIP
(GIRAFFE SKIN)

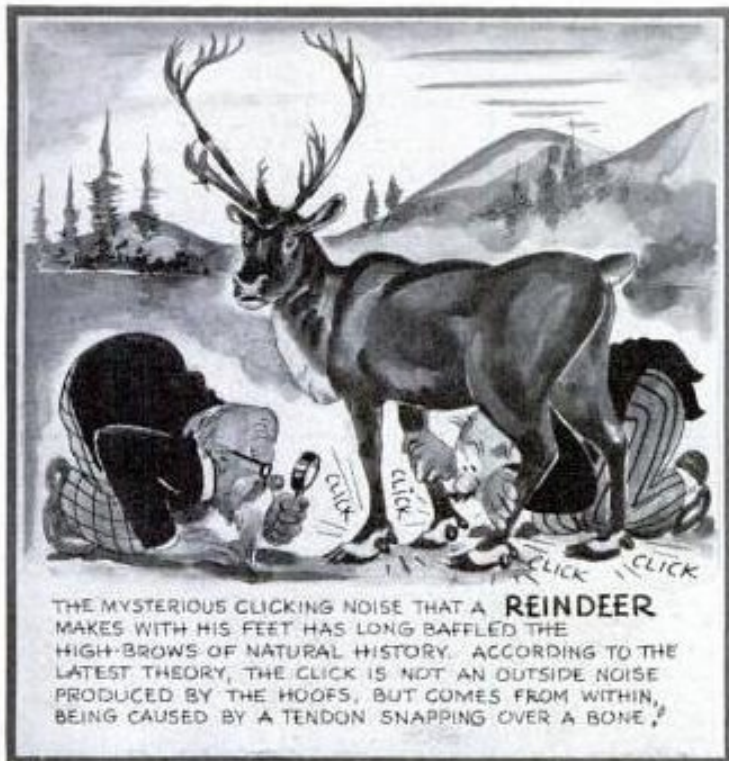
FEW PEOPLE WOULD
THINK THE GENTLE
GIRAFFE

THICK-SKINNED...

YET HE HAS A SKIN AN INCH THICK, AND THE TOUGHEST
AND MOST DURABLE OF ALL ANIMALS, EVEN
OUTLASTING RHINOCEROS HIDE!



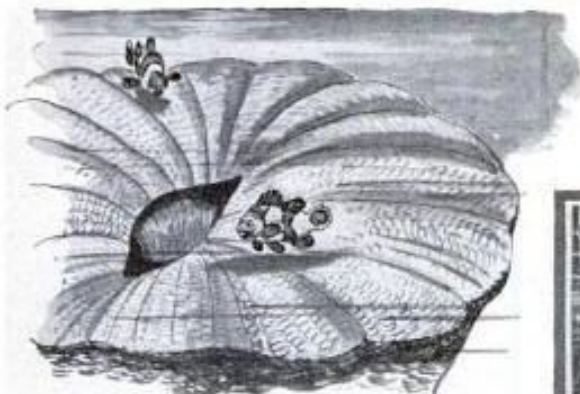
EUCALYPTUS OIL IS CONSIDERED GREAT MEDICINE TO
EASE HOARSENESS, BUT SUCH AN IDEA IS JUST
BALONEY TO THE FUZZY LITTLE
AUSTRALIAN TEDDY BEARS, THE KOALAS.
THEY LIVE ON EUCALYPTUS TREES, YET HAVE THE
HARSHEST, MOST RAUCOUS VOICES IN ALL AUSTRALIA!



THE MYSTERIOUS CLICKING NOISE THAT A **REINDEER**
MAKES WITH HIS FEET HAS LONG BAFFLED THE
HIGH-BROWS OF NATURAL HISTORY. ACCORDING TO THE
LATEST THEORY, THE CLICK IS NOT AN OUTSIDE NOISE
PRODUCED BY THE HOOFS, BUT COMES FROM WITHIN,
BEING CAUSED BY A TENDON SNAPPING OVER A BONE!



IN SPITE OF HIS MILITARY LOOK, THE **SERGEANT-MAJOR FISH,**
SOMETIMES CALLED A **COW PILOT** BECAUSE HE HANGS AROUND THE
CLUMSY COW FISH APPARENTLY GUIDING IT TO FOOD HIDDEN IN
THE SAND, IS REALLY NOTHING BUT A SLY MOOCHER. HE SIMPLY
STANDS BY AND SNAPS UP THE TITBITS AS FAST AS THE POOR OLD
POKE UNCOVERS THEM WITH HIS BLOWING!



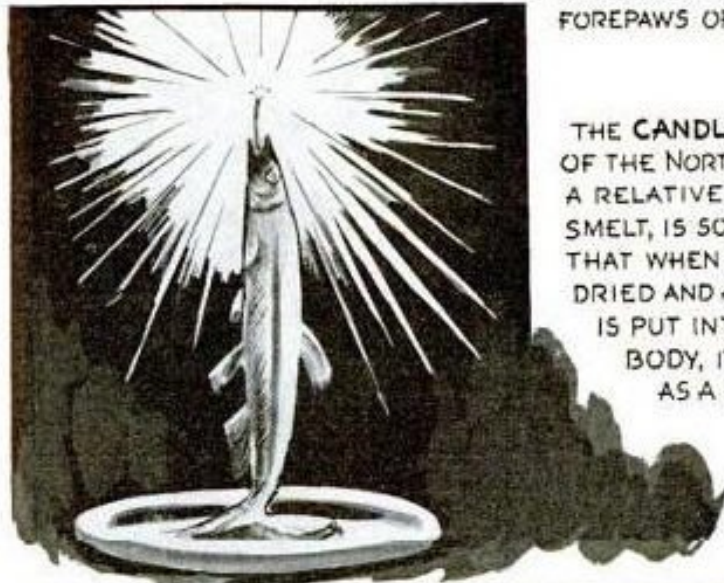
DISREGARDING THE DEADLY STINGING
THREADS THAT LINE THE GULLET OF THE
GIANT SEA ANEMONE, THE TINY
CLOWN FISH OFTEN DARTS IN
THROUGH THE OPEN MOUTH OF THE
FISH-EATING PLANT TO HIDE, OR TO HELP
ITSELF TO A FREE LUNCH IN THE MONSTER'S
STOMACH, AND SWIMS OUT AGAIN
AS FRESH AS A DAISY!



WHEN A MAN
BITES A CLAM,
IT'S NOT NEWS—
BUT WHEN A
GIANT CLAM,
A MONSTROUS
TROPICAL MOLLUSK
WEIGHING A
QUARTER OF
A TON, BITES
A MAN,
IT'S JUST
TOO BAD!

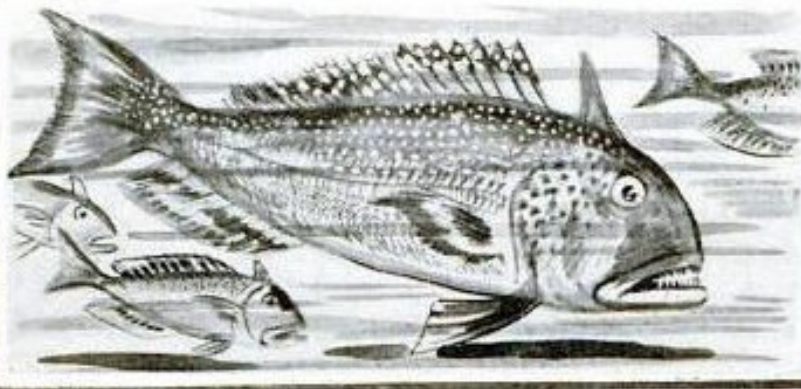


JUST AS THE **SEAL** IS A BORN JUGGLER, SO THE **KANGAROO** IS A NATURAL BOXER! TRAINED TO BOX WITH HUMANS IN EXHIBITION MATCHES, HE PAKS A MIGHTY WALLOP IN THOSE WEAK-LOOKING FOREPAWS OF HIS!



THE **CANDLEFISH** OF THE NORTH PACIFIC, A RELATIVE OF THE SMELT, IS SO OILY THAT WHEN IT IS DRIED AND A WICK IS PUT INTO ITS BODY, IT SERVES AS A CANDLE!

ONE OF NATURE'S MYSTERIES IS THE **TILEFISH**? IT FIRST APPEARED IN 1879, AND THREE YEARS LATER IT VANISHED, LEAVING MYRIADS DEAD IN THE SEA? REAPPEARING IN 1892, IT HAS STEADILY INCREASED IN NUMBERS?



HERONS FLY WITH THEIR NECKS CURVED BACK AND THEIR HEADS BETWEEN THEIR SHOULDERS, **CRANES** WITH THEIR NECKS OUT-STRETCHED! YET BOTH FLY WITH TRAILING LEGS!



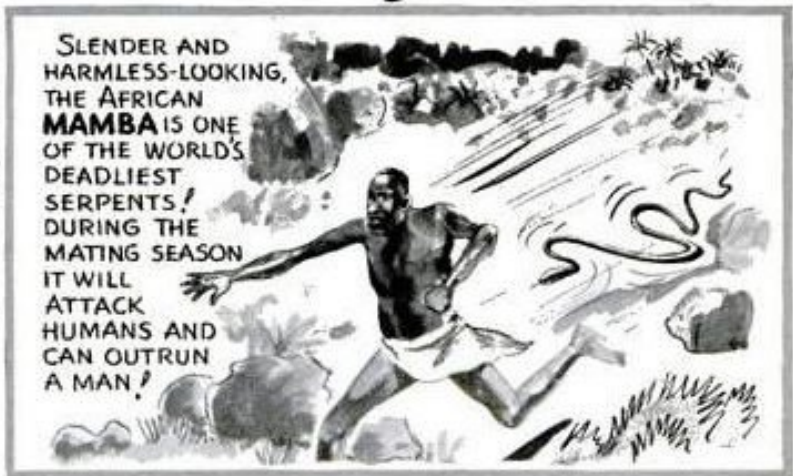
ANOTHER DIFFERENCE IS THAT **HERONS** BUILD BULKY NESTS OF STICKS IN TREES, WHILE **CRANES** BUILD WITH REEDS ON THE GROUND!



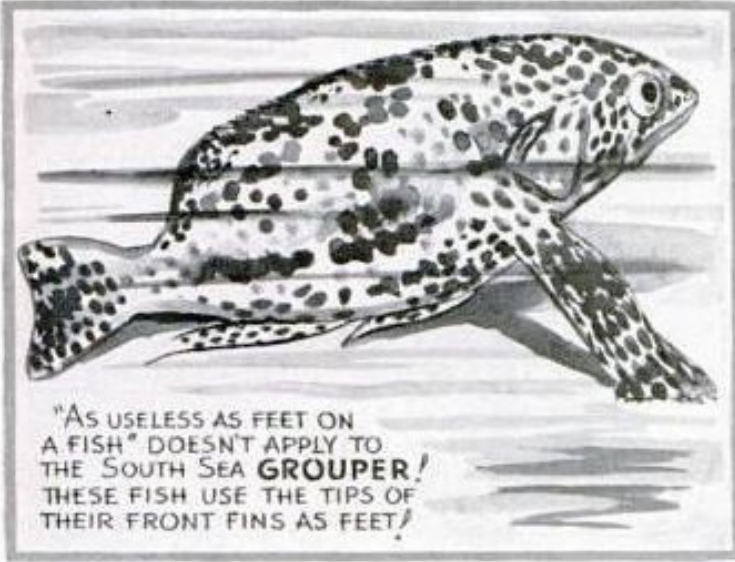
SMALLEST WEB-FOOTED BIRD KNOWN IS THE **STORMY PETREL**, WHICH IS ONLY SEVEN TO SEVEN AND A HALF INCHES LONG. FLYING FAR FROM SHORE, IT CAN WALK ON THE OCEAN WITH ITS WEBBED FEET!



THE **GIANT KINGFISHER**, OR "LAUGHING JACKASS" OF AUSTRALIA IS CALLED THE BUSHMAN'S CLOCK! IT LETS OUT ITS DIZZY WHOOPS EXACTLY AN HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE AT NOON, AND AT SUNDOWN!



SLENDER AND HARMLESS-LOOKING, THE **AFRICAN MAMBA** IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SERPENTS! DURING THE MATING SEASON IT WILL ATTACK HUMANS AND CAN OUTFRAN A MAN!



"AS USELESS AS FEET ON A FISH" DOESN'T APPLY TO THE SOUTH SEA **GROUPE**! THESE FISH USE THE TIPS OF THEIR FRONT FINS AS FEET!



WASPS INSTINCTIVELY CAMOUFLAGE THEIR NESTS TO LOOK LIKE THEIR NATURAL SURROUNDINGS! BUILDING INSIDE A HOUSE, THEY STILL USE WOODLAND COLORS, MAKING THE NEST ALL THE MORE CONSPICUOUS!



ARMIES OF TRAVELING **CATERpillARS**, ESTIMATED TO BE EIGHTY MILES LONG AND THIRTY MILES WIDE, HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO STOP TRAINS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND!



YES, THERE ARE FOUR-FOOTED BIRDS! YOUNG **HOATZINS** OF VENEZUELA AND BRITISH GUIANA HAVE CLAWLIKE FINGERS ON THE FORWARD EDGES OF THEIR WINGS! AT MATURITY, THE CLAWS SHRINK TO HORN KNOBS!