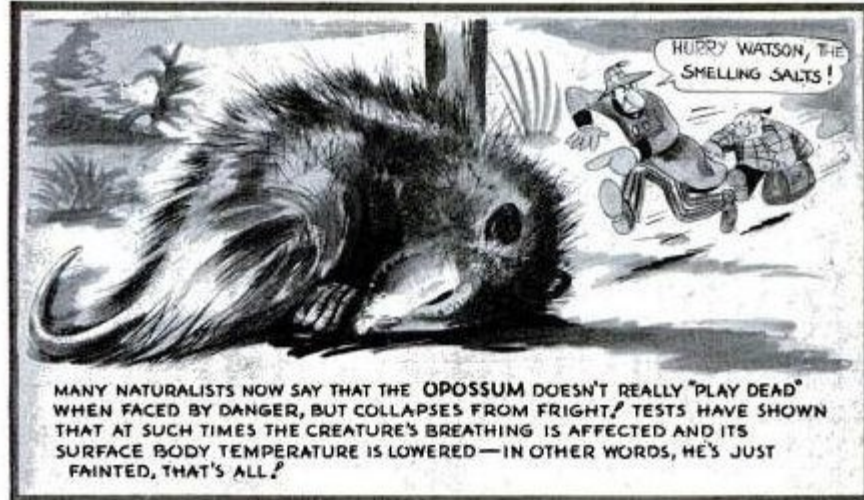


HOMESCHOOLFREEBIEOFTHEDAY.COM PRESENTS



Natural Oddities

A FASCINATING COLLECTION TRUE CARTOONS ABOUT NATURE

VOLUME TWO

by Gus Mager

Natural Oddities: True Cartoons About Nature Volume Two *by Gus Mager*

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"AS BLIND AS A BAT" DOESN'T MEAN A THING! WHILE ITS EYES ARE SMALL, THE BAT HAS UNCOMMONLY GOOD VISION AT NIGHT, AND EVEN IN THE DAYTIME IT SEES WELL ENOUGH!



NEST

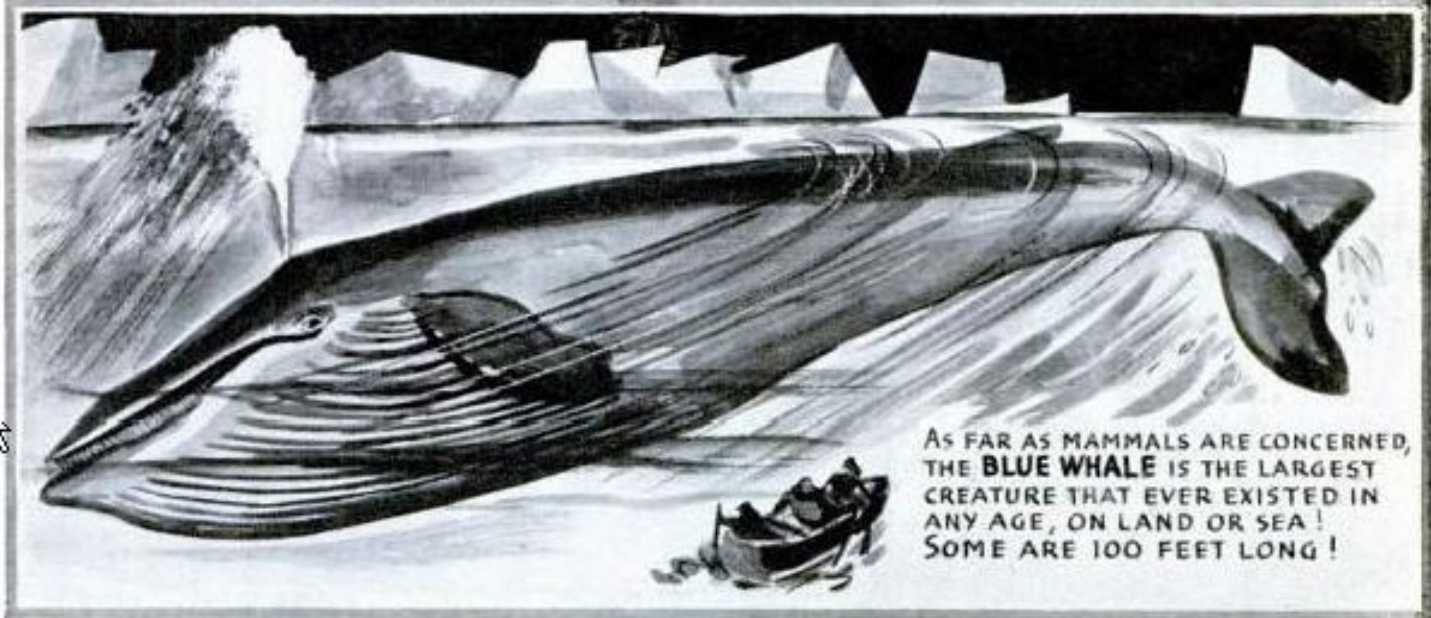


A TRAVELING INCUBATOR IS THE MALE KURTUS FISH, OF NEW GUINEA! HE HAS A DEEP, HOLLOW NEST IN HIS FOREHEAD, IN WHICH HE CARRIES EGGS UNTIL THEY HATCH!

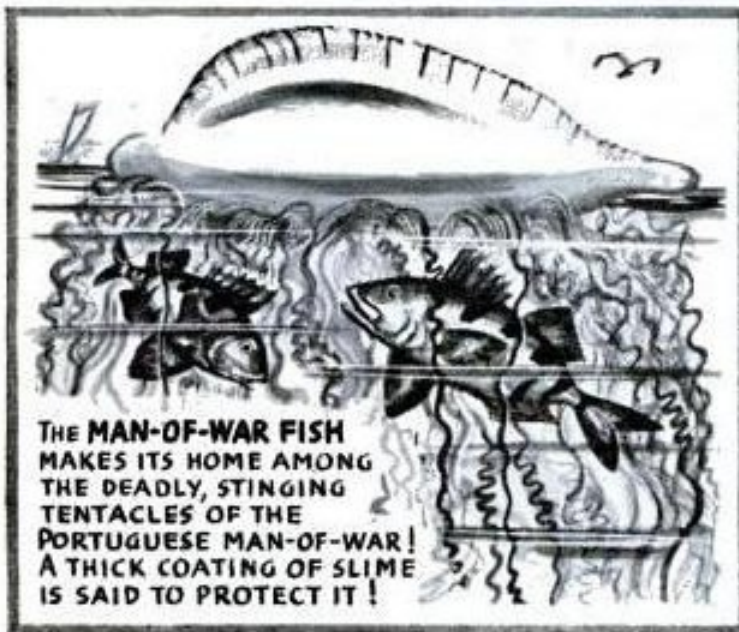
THE BRACKET FUNGUS ISN'T ASHAMED TO TELL ITS AGE! GROWING ON THE BARK OF A TREE, IT PUTS ON A NEW RING FOR EVERY YEAR IT LIVES!



AS FAR AS MAMMALS ARE CONCERNED, THE BLUE WHALE IS THE LARGEST CREATURE THAT EVER EXISTED IN ANY AGE, ON LAND OR SEA! SOME ARE 100 FEET LONG!



THE MAN-OF-WAR FISH MAKES ITS HOME AMONG THE DEADLY, STINGING TENTACLES OF THE PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR! A THICK COATING OF SLIME IS SAID TO PROTECT IT!



ASIATIC WILD CRAB APPLE

BISMARCK APPLE (NEW ZEALAND)

ANCESTOR OF THE APPLE IS A TINY FRUIT ABOUT THE SIZE OF A CHERRY, WHICH STILL GROWS WILD IN SOUTHERN EUROPE AND ON THE SHORES OF THE BLACK AND CASPIAN SEAS.

WILD APPLE OF EUROPE

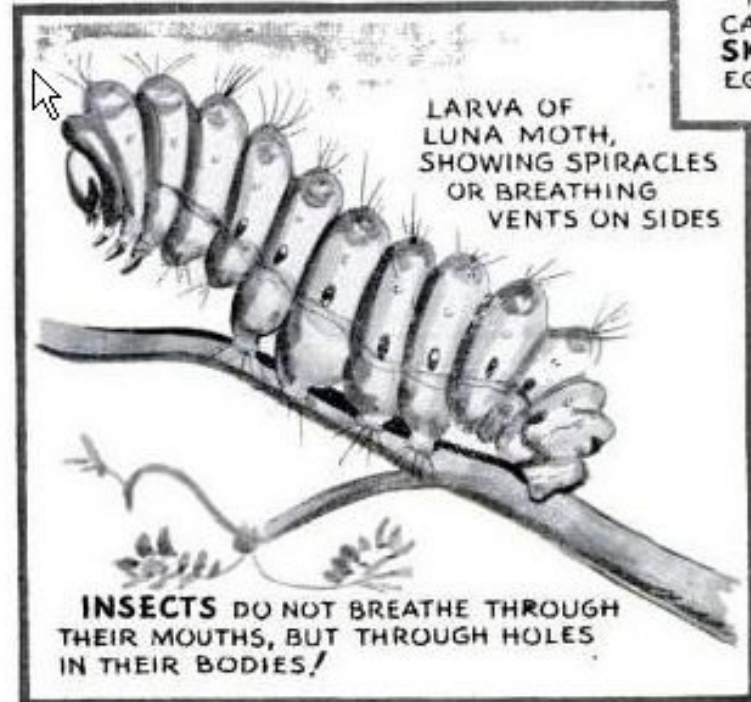




MANY KINDS OF **BATS** HAVE A NARROW, CONELIKE MEMBRANE IN THE EXTERNAL EAR! IT IS BELIEVED TO INTENSIFY SOUNDS AND AID THEM IN **BLIND-FLYING!**

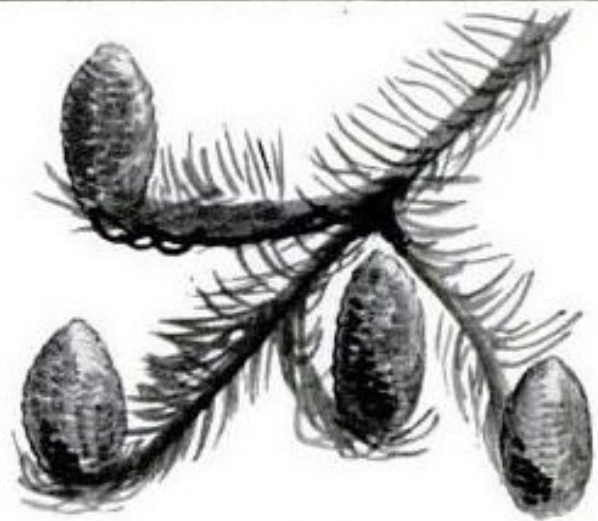


THE MOST LIGHT-FINGERED PICKPOCKET CANNOT MATCH THE FINESSE WITH WHICH **SKUNKS** HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SNEAK EGGS FROM UNDER SITTING HENS!



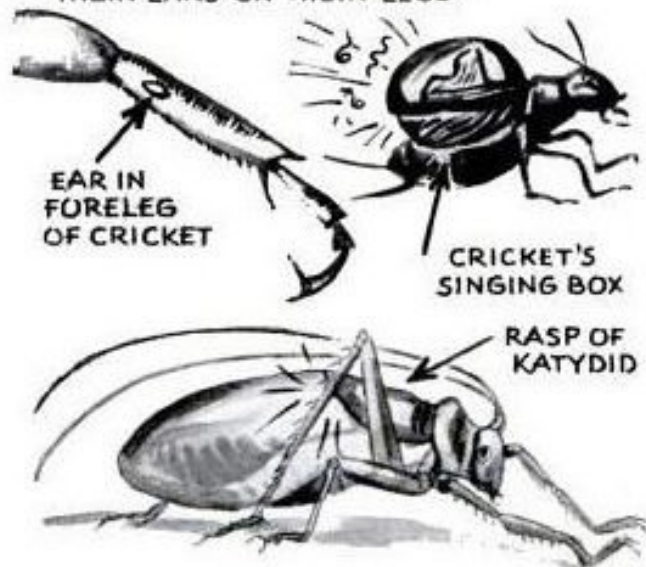
LARVA OF LUNA MOTH, SHOWING SPIRACLES OR BREATHING VENTS ON SIDES

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!**

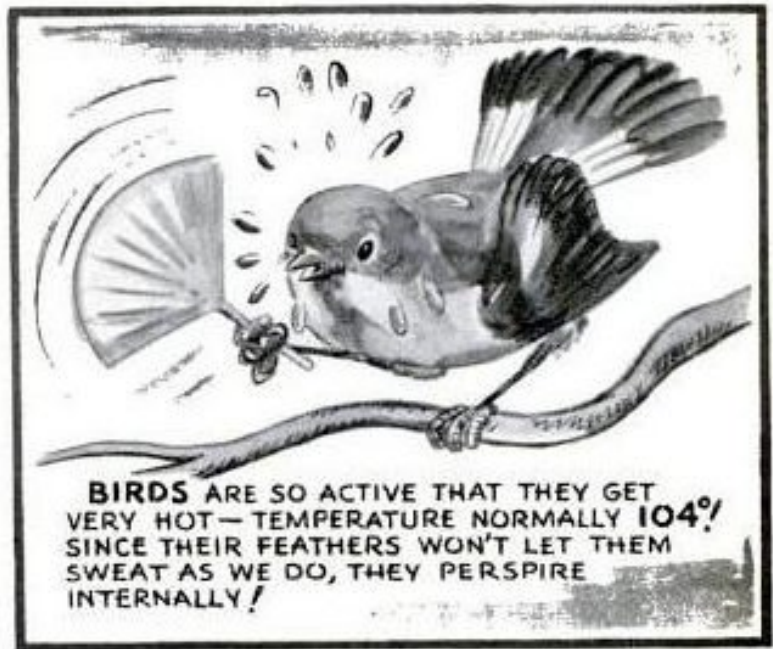
NEITHER DO INSECTS SING WITH THEIR MOUTHS! THEY HARMONIZE WITH THEIR WINGS, OR WINGS AND LEGS! AND THE ORTHOPTERANS, INCLUDING THE **CRICKETS**, GENERALLY CARRY THEIR EARS ON THEIR LEGS!



EAR IN FORELEG OF CRICKET

CRICKET'S SINGING BOX

RASP OF KATYDID

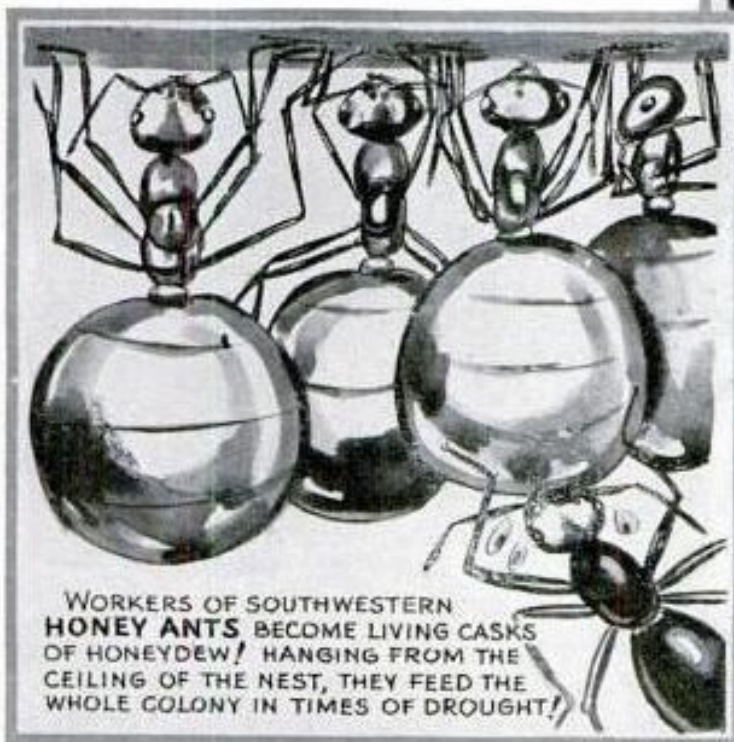


BIRDS ARE SO ACTIVE THAT THEY GET VERY HOT—TEMPERATURE NORMALLY 104°! SINCE THEIR FEATHERS WON'T LET THEM SWEAT AS WE DO, THEY PERSPIRE INTERNALLY!



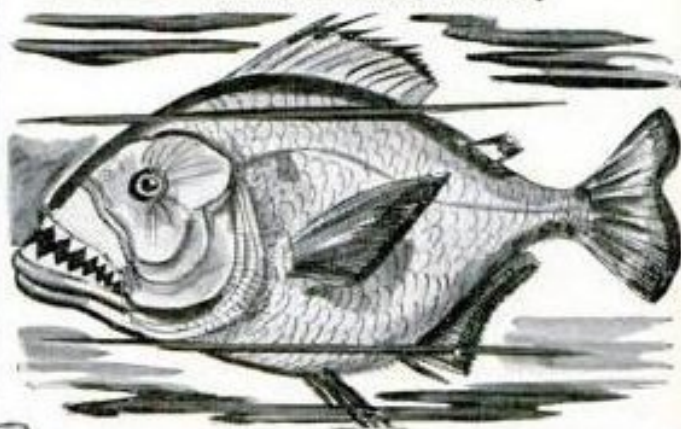
FLAMINGOS IN FLIGHT STRETCH THEIR LONG NECKS AND SPINDLY LEGS IN A STRAIGHT LINE FRONT AND BACK! FLOCKS OF THE STRANGE BIRDS FLAP THEIR WINGS IN UNISON!

YELLOW ANTS IN THE SWISS MOUNTAINS ALWAYS BUILD THEIR NESTS RUNNING FROM EAST TO WEST! MOUNTAINEERS LOST IN FOGS USE THE NESTS AS COMPASSES!



WORKERS OF SOUTHWESTERN HONEY ANTS BECOME LIVING CASKS OF HONEYDEW! HANGING FROM THE CEILING OF THE NEST, THEY FEED THE WHOLE COLONY IN TIMES OF DROUGHT!

THE POWERFUL JAWS AND RAZOR-SHARP TEETH OF THE **CARIBE**, MAN-EATING FISH OF SOUTH AMERICA, FORM A CONTINUOUS PLATE THAT CAN SHEAR THROUGH WIRE AND SMALL CHAINS!



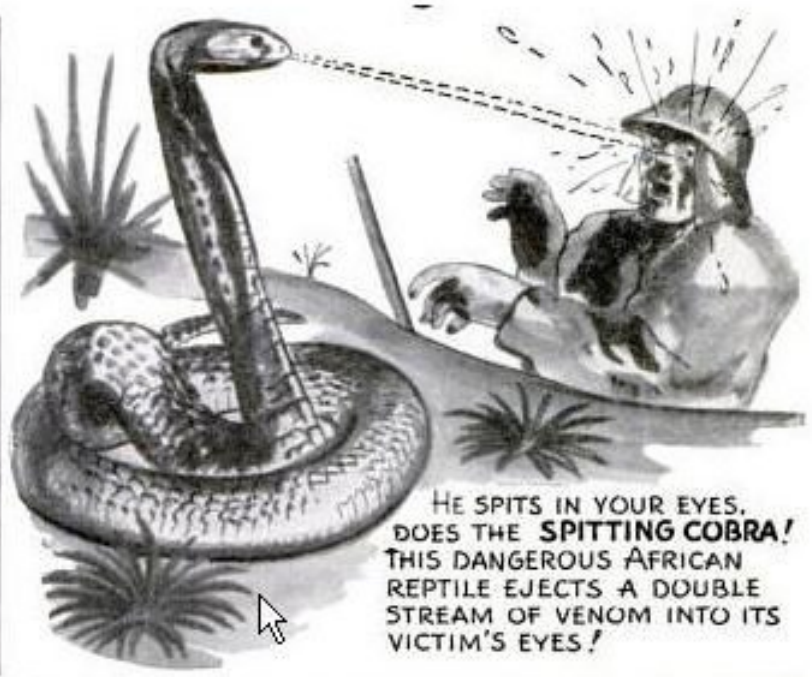
IN DRY WEATHER THE **LEPIDOSIREN**, STRANGE RIVER FISH OF SOUTH AMERICA, CRAWLS OUT ON THE LAND WITH ITS LEGLIKE FINS TO KILL RATS, SNAKES, AND EVEN CHICKENS!

OUR **RED BAT** HAS FOUR TEATS! MOST BATS HAVE ONLY TWO!





GLUTTON AMONG BIRDS IS THE **BARN OWL!** HE WILL SWALLOW MICE UNTIL THERE IS NO ROOM FOR MORE, AND THE TAIL OF THE LAST ONE DANGLES FROM HIS MOUTH!



HE SPITS IN YOUR EYES, DOES THE **SPITTING COBRA!** THIS DANGEROUS AFRICAN REPTILE EJECTS A DOUBLE STREAM OF VENOM INTO ITS VICTIM'S EYES!



HOW DO **CHICKADEES** KNOW WHICH GOLDENROD GALLS CONTAIN LARVAE, AND WHICH ARE VACANT? THEY ARE SAID NEVER TO OPEN A GALL THAT HAS NO GRUB INSIDE!



THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES! THE **GREAT HORNED OWL** IS VERY FOND OF SKUNK, AND OFTEN RETAINS THE ODOR AFTER BEING STUFFED FOR YEARS!

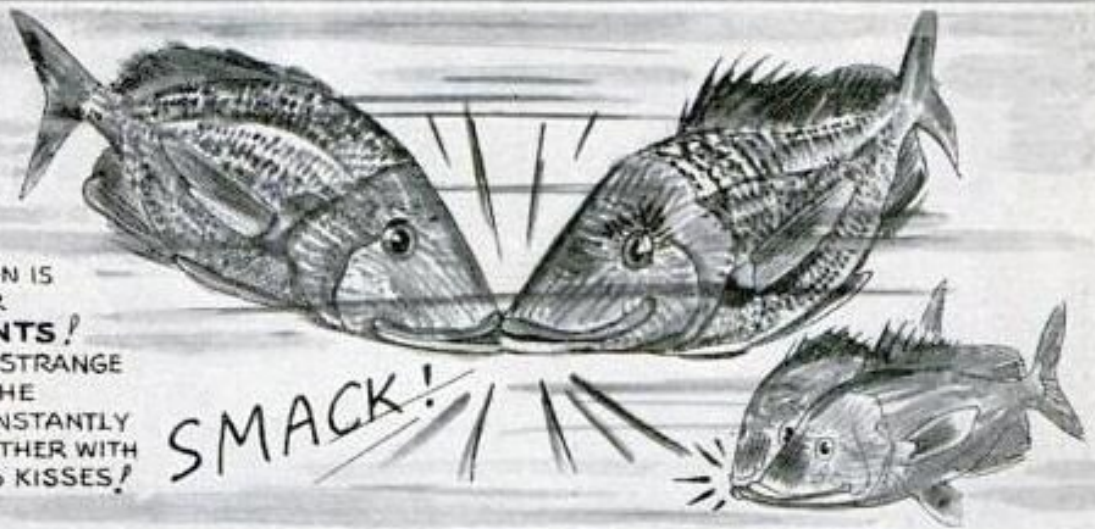


PAPER WASPS USED WINDOWS LONG BEFORE MAN EVER THOUGHT OF THEM! SOME TROPICAL KINDS FIT THEIR NEST WALLS WITH TRANSPARENT SPECKS (APPARENTLY MICA) FRAMED IN PULP!



THE **FROST FISH**, OR ATLANTIC COAST TOMCOD, CAN BE FROZEN STIFF FOR DAYS AT A TIME, THEN THAW OUT AND SWIM ABOUT AS WELL AS EVER!

THE HONEYMOON IS NEVER OVER FOR **STRIPED GRUNTS!** PAIRS OF THESE STRANGE FISH, FOUND IN THE WEST INDIES, CONSTANTLY CARESS EACH OTHER WITH LONG, LINGERING KISSES!

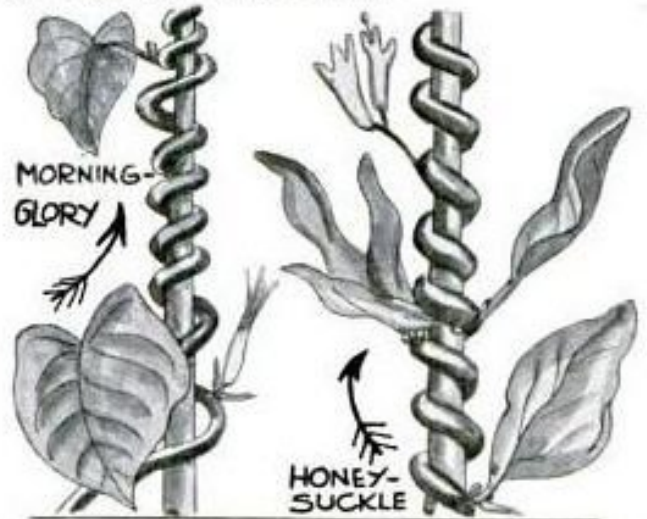


SMACK!

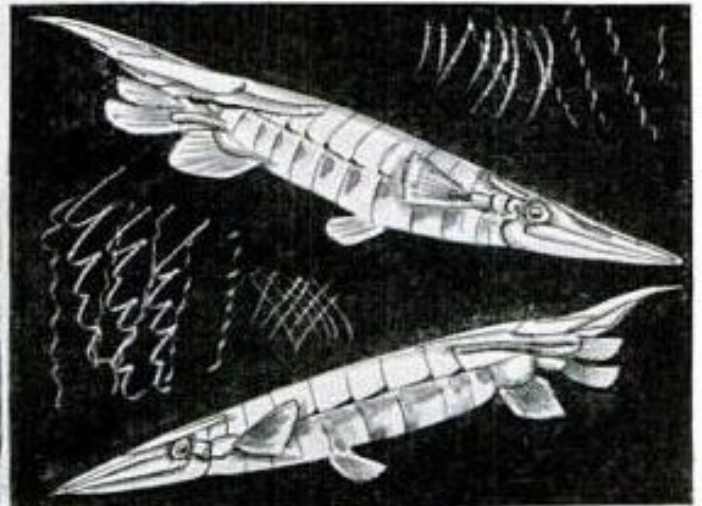
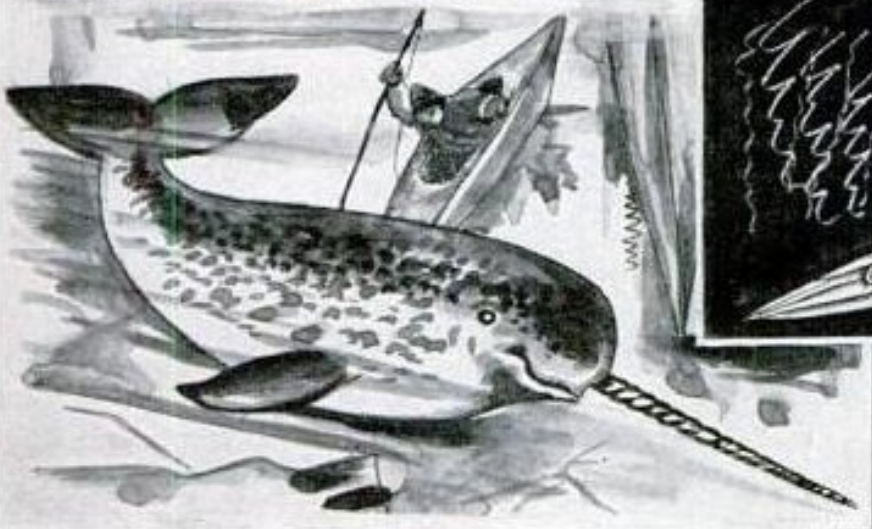


MANY **WASPS** DISPLAY ARTISTIC TALENT! ONE VARIETY, FOUND IN BRITISH GUIANA, DECORATE THEIR CUP-CAKE NESTS WITH BIZARRE STRIPES AND FIGURES IN BRILLIANT COLORS!

HOP VINES AND SOME **HONEYSUCKLES** TWINE CLOCKWISE ABOUT A POLE, BUT **MORNING-GLORIES, BEANS,** AND MOST COMMON VINES ALWAYS TURN IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!



WHILE THE MALE **NARWHAL** IS ARMED WITH A FORMIDABLE-LOOKING TWISTED TUSK, SOMETIMES MORE THAN NINE FEET LONG, IT NEVER USES ITS POWERFUL SWORD AS A WEAPON!



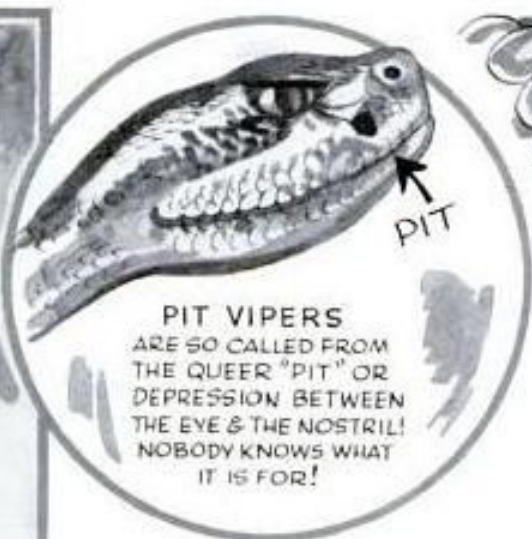
INSTEAD OF SCALES, THE TINY **SHRIMPFISH** WEARS A TRANSPARENT, BONY ARMOR THAT COMES TO A SHARP POINT AT THE SNOUT AND TAIL!



200
TO
400 FT.
HIGH

CONES
ONLY
3/4 TO
1 INCH
LONG

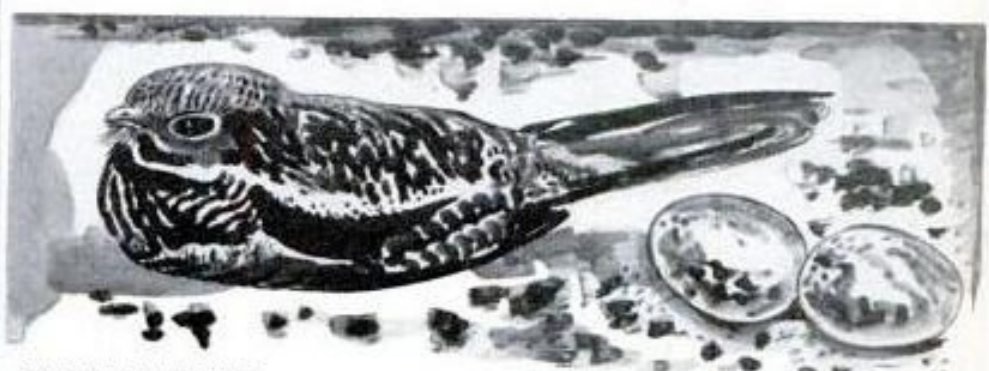
THE TALLEST TREES IN THE
WORLD, THE REDWOODS,
HAVE THE SMALLEST CONES



PIT VIPERS
ARE SO CALLED FROM
THE QUEER "PIT" OR
DEPRESSION BETWEEN
THE EYE & THE NOSTRIL!
NOBODY KNOWS WHAT
IT IS FOR!



LIKE THE EUROPEAN CUCKOO, THE
FLORIDA TERRAPIN LEAVES
ITS EGGS ON OTHER CREATURES'
DOORSTEPS! IT OFTEN LAYS IN AN
ALLIGATORS NEST, LEAVING THE
EGGS TO BE HATCHED WITH THE
SAURIANS' BIG CLUTCH....



NIGHT HAWKS
NEVER BUILD A NEST OF ANY KIND! WHETHER IN A ROCKY PASTURE OR
ON A CITY ROOF, THE TWO EGGS ARE LAID RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN, AND
THEY ARE SO WELL CAMOUFLAGED THAT THEY ARE SELDOM DISCOVERED!



IT NEVER RAINS
CATS AND DOGS,
BUT FISH AND
FROGS DO FALL
FROM THE SKY!
IN DRY PRAIRIE
REGIONS, CLOUD-
BURSTS HAVE
BEEN KNOWN TO
DROP SALAMANDERS
WHICH HAD BEEN
CARRIED FOR
GREAT DISTANCES!



SAILORS SAY
THAT WHEN PORPOISES ARE HARPOONED, THEY CRY LIKE BABIES....



PENGUINS ARE FOUND ONLY IN THE ANTARCTIC, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE VARIETY ON THE COAST OF PERU AND NEAR-BY ISLANDS!



OUR **BROWN CREEPER** CLIMBS UP A TREE TRUNK AS IT EATS, WHILE THE **NUTHATCH** CLIMBS DOWN!

↑
GOING UP

↓
GOING DOWN



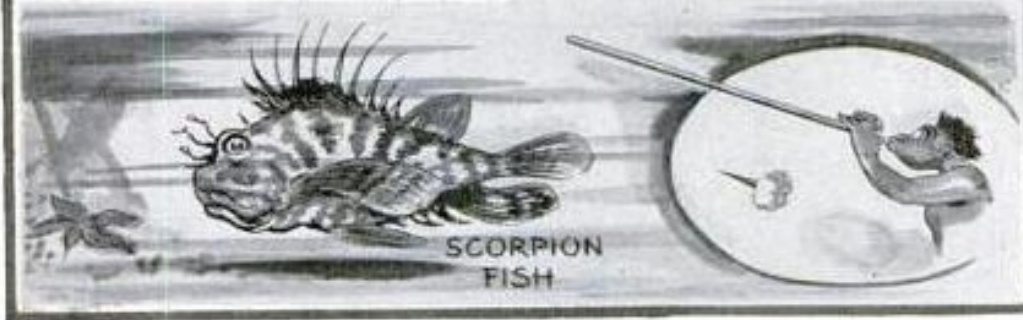
FORTY-STORY APARTMENT HOUSES WITH WALK-UP PASSAGeways (NO ELEVATORS) ARE BUILT BY CERTAIN BRAZILIAN **WASPS**!



STONE FISH

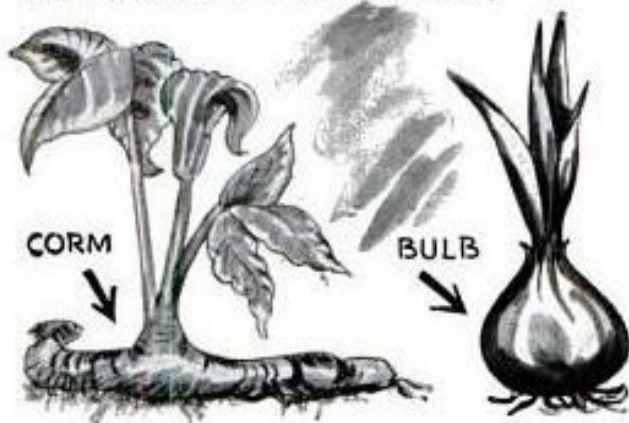
COBRA

AS DEADLY AS THE COBRA, OR THE HEAD-HUNTER'S POISONED DART, ARE THE EAST INDIAN **STONE FISH** AND THE **SCORPION FISH** OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN! BOTH ARE GOOD TO EAT— BUT SO IS A RATTLESNAKE!



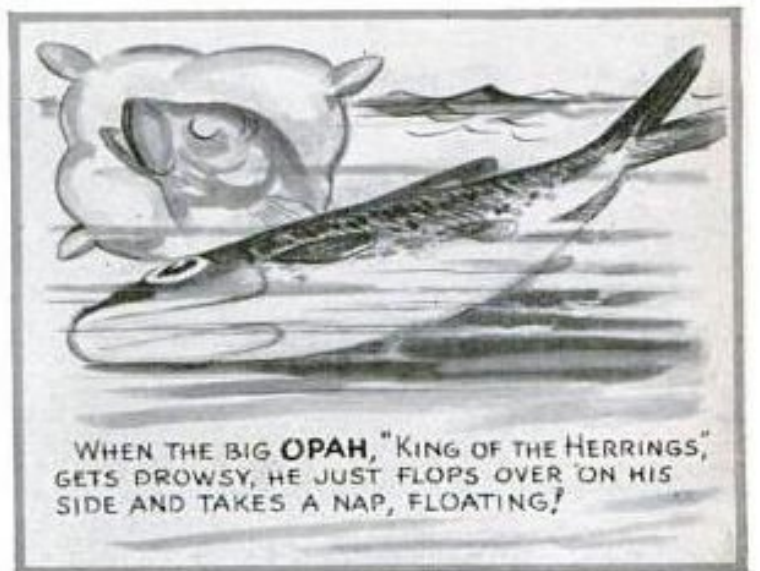
SCORPION FISH

LEAVES NEVER GROW DIRECTLY FROM **TRUE ROOTS**! THE JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT, FOR EXAMPLE, SPRINGS FROM A CORM AND THE ONION FROM A BULB, BOTH OF WHICH ARE **FALSE ROOTS** WITH THE TRUE ROOT HAIRS UNDERNEATH!



CORM

BULB

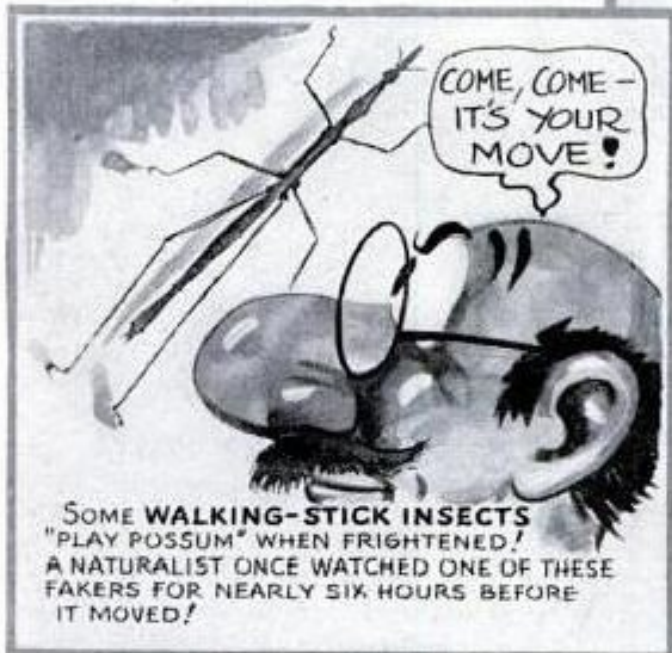


WHEN THE BIG **OPAH**, "KING OF THE HERRINGS," GETS DROWSY, HE JUST FLOPS OVER ON HIS SIDE AND TAKES A NAP, FLOATING!

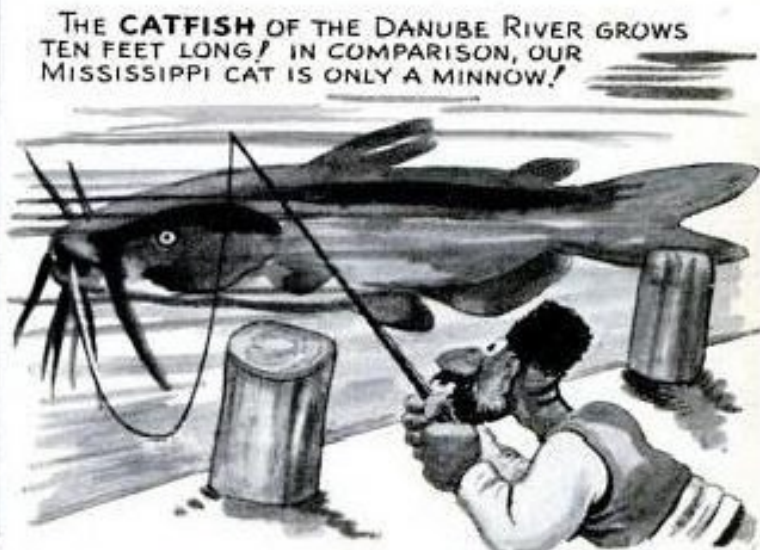
LIKE THE KANGAROO, THE **TASMANIAN WOLF** CARRIES ITS YOUNG IN A POUCH! BUT SINCE THIS ODD MARSUPIAL WALKS ON ALL FOURS, THE POUCH OPENS TOWARD THE REAR!



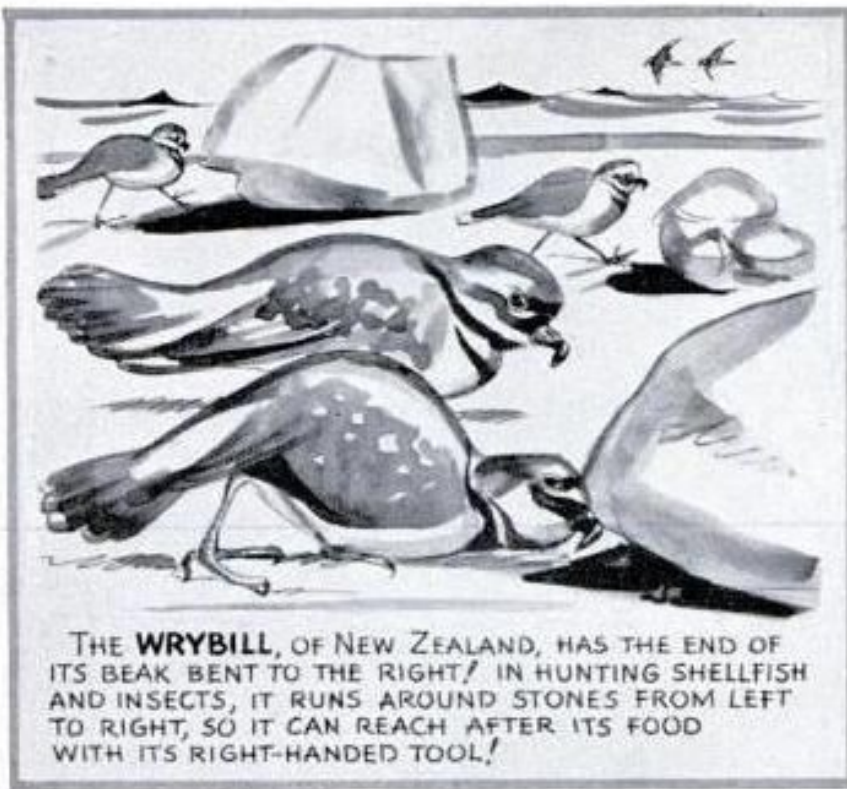
PET CRICKETS SERVE AS WATCHDOGS IN THE ORIENT! WHEN AN INTRUDER APPEARS, THE INSECTS STOP THEIR CHIRPING, AND THE UNACCUSTOMED SILENCE AWAKENS THE OWNER!



SOME WALKING-STICK INSECTS "PLAY POSSUM" WHEN FRIGHTENED! A NATURALIST ONCE WATCHED ONE OF THESE FAKERS FOR NEARLY SIX HOURS BEFORE IT MOVED!

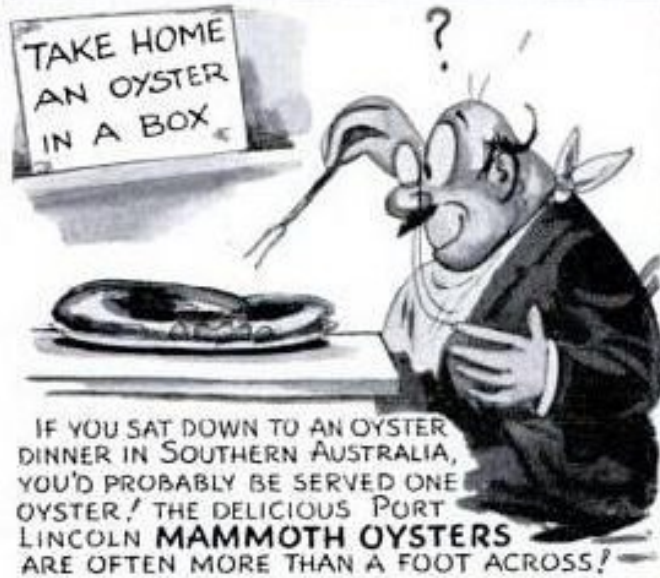


ALASKAN BLACKFISH, KEPT FROZEN IN THE WINTER AS DOG FOOD, HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO THAW OUT AFTER BEING SWALLOWED WHOLE, AND TO BE DISGORGED ALIVE SO THAT THEY SWAM AWAY UNHARMED! JONAH IN REVERSE!



THE **WRYBILL**, OF NEW ZEALAND, HAS THE END OF ITS BEAK BENT TO THE RIGHT! IN HUNTING SHELLFISH AND INSECTS, IT RUNS AROUND STONES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, SO IT CAN REACH AFTER ITS FOOD WITH ITS RIGHT-HANDED TOOL!

TO CRASH THE GATE OF A BEEHIVE, THE **DEATH'S-HEAD SPHINX MOTH** IMITATES THE CALL OF THE **QUEEN BEE!** ONCE INSIDE, IT LAYS EGGS THAT HATCH INTO PARASITE CATERPILLARS!



IF YOU SAT DOWN TO AN OYSTER DINNER IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA, YOU'D PROBABLY BE SERVED ONE OYSTER! THE DELICIOUS **PORT LINCOLN MAMMOTH OYSTERS** ARE OFTEN MORE THAN A FOOT ACROSS!



THOUGH GENERALLY AS MEAN AND TREACHEROUS AS OTHER WOLVES, THE FEMALE **TIMBER WOLF** IS A GOOD MOTHER! SHE NEVER KILLS AND EATS HER YOUNG AS THE **PRAIRIE WOLF** IS KNOWN TO DO!



AND HERE'S ANOTHER FREAK BILL! THE CURIOUSLY TWISTED BEAK OF THE **CROSSBILL** IS THE PERFECT TOOL FOR OPENING PINE CONES, ON THE SEEDS OF WHICH THIS BIRD FEEDS!



IT IS SAID THAT **LOGGERHEAD TURTLES** FEED ON THE RED-HOT, STINGING **PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR** AND LIKE IT! THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES!

SCIENTISTS HAVE JUST DISCOVERED THAT THE **PORPOISE** DOES NOT SLEEP WITH ITS EYES OPEN, AS FISH DO! HOWEVER, THE PORPOISE IS NO FISH, ANYWAY, BUT A MAMMAL, LIKE THE WHALE!



A SINGLE EGG OF A PARASITE, LAID IN A **CATERPILLAR'S** BODY, WILL DIVIDE INTO HUNDREDS OF LARVAE, WHICH FEED AND FORM COCOONS ON THEIR HOST UNTIL HE DIES!

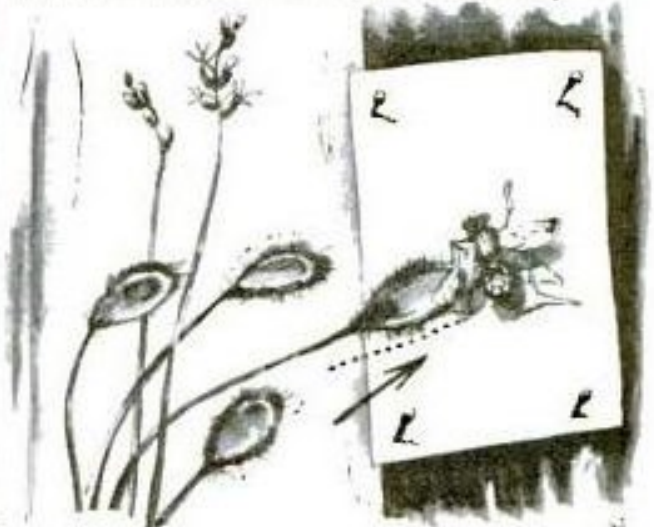


FLYING SNAKES OF ASIA TURN THEMSELVES INTO GLIDERS BY FLATTENING AND EXTENDING THEIR RIBS! LAUNCHING THEMSELVES INTO THE AIR FROM TREES, THEY SEEMINGLY FLY THROUGH THE AIR FOR CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES!



HALIBUT LIVING IN COLD, NORTHERN SEAS HAVE THEIR EYES AND COLOR ON THE RIGHT SIDES OF THEIR BODIES; THOSE INHABITING WARMER WATER, ON THEIR LEFT SIDES!

THE **SUNDEW**, A COMMON CARNIVOROUS PLANT, STALKS ITS PREY LIKE A TIGER! WHEN BAITED WITH A FLY, IT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO MOVE HALF AN INCH TO CAPTURE ITS VICTIM!



NATURE'S TOE-DANCER IS THE **KLIPSPRINGER**, A SMALL ANTELOPE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF AFRICA! IN ITS ROCKY HOME, IT CLIMBS, JUMPS, AND WALKS ON THE TIPS OF ITS TOES!



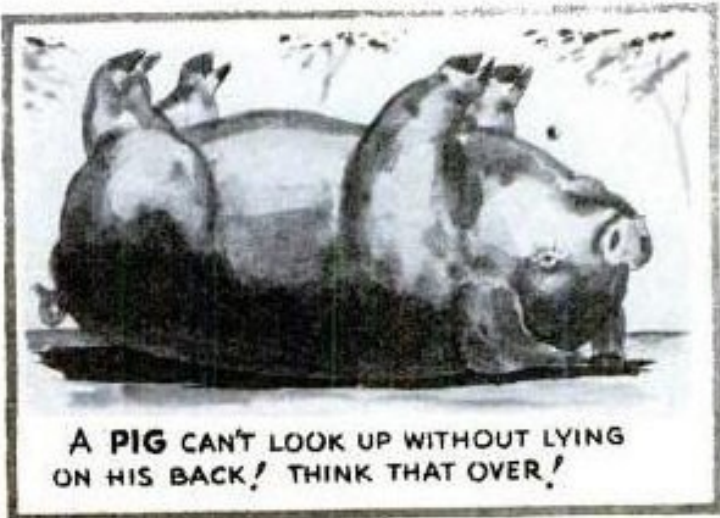
A FAMOUS ICHTHYOLOGIST (FISH EXPERT TO YOU) DECLARES THAT THE REPULSIVE-LOOKING **OCTOPUS** REALLY HAS AN AFFECTIONATE DISPOSITION AND ENJOYS THE CARESS OF THE HUMAN HAND! SOME PET!



A **SNAIL** CAN CRAWL OVER THE KEEN EDGE OF THE SHARPEST RAZOR WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST INJURY!



MILLIONS OF TINY **GLOWWORMS** FURNISH PERPETUAL ILLUMINATION IN THE CAVERNS OF GLOWWORM GROTTO, ONE OF THE "SIGHTS" OF NEW ZEALAND!



A **PIG** CAN'T LOOK UP WITHOUT LYING ON HIS BACK! THINK THAT OVER!



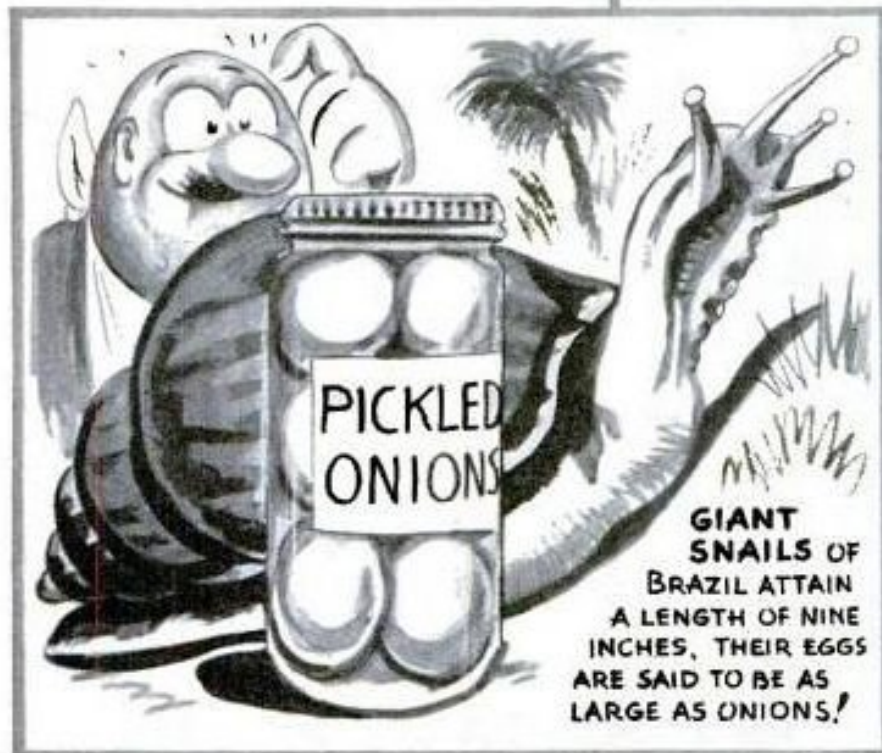
HUMMING BIRDS CAN FLY FORWARD, SIDWARD, AND IN REVERSE-- BUT THEY CAN'T WALK ON THE GROUND! THEIR FEET ARE TOO WEAK AND DELICATE!



THERE IS A **SPRING** ON THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE UNITED STATES EAST OF THE ROCKIES - HARNEY PEAK, IN SOUTH DAKOTA, ELEVATION 7,242 FEET!



TIGERS, LIONS, AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CAT FAMILY HAVE FIVE TOES ON THE FOREFEET, AND ONLY FOUR ON THE HIND FEET!



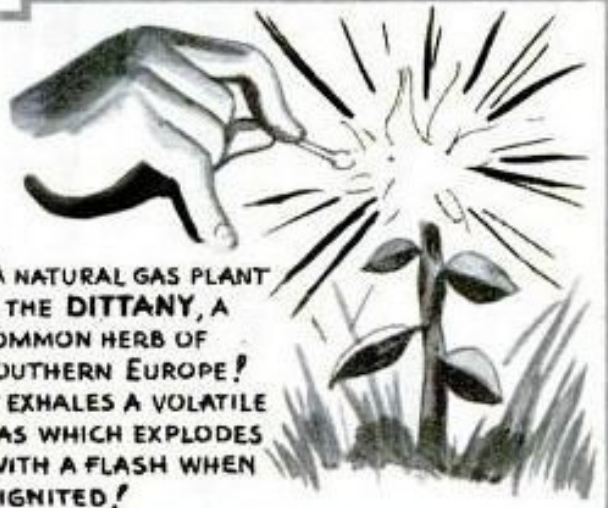
GIANT SNAILS OF BRAZIL ATTAIN A LENGTH OF NINE INCHES, THEIR EGGS ARE SAID TO BE AS LARGE AS ONIONS!



THE TAILOR BIRD OF INDIA AND THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO ACTUALLY STITCHES LEAVES TOGETHER TO FORM ITS NEST! ITS BILL IS THE NEEDLE, AND VEGETABLE FIBERS SERVE AS THREAD!



ONLY DOMESTIC SHEEP GROW WOOL! WILD SHEEP GROW HAIR!



A NATURAL GAS PLANT IS THE DITTANY, A COMMON HERB OF SOUTHERN EUROPE! IT EXHALES A VOLATILE GAS WHICH EXPLODES WITH A FLASH WHEN IGNITED!

MOST VALUABLE BIRD IN THE WORLD IS THE **PERUVIAN CORMORANT!** COUNTLESS MILLIONS OF THESE BIRDS, VISITING BARREN ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF PERU, PRODUCE VAST WEALTH IN GUANO FERTILIZER!



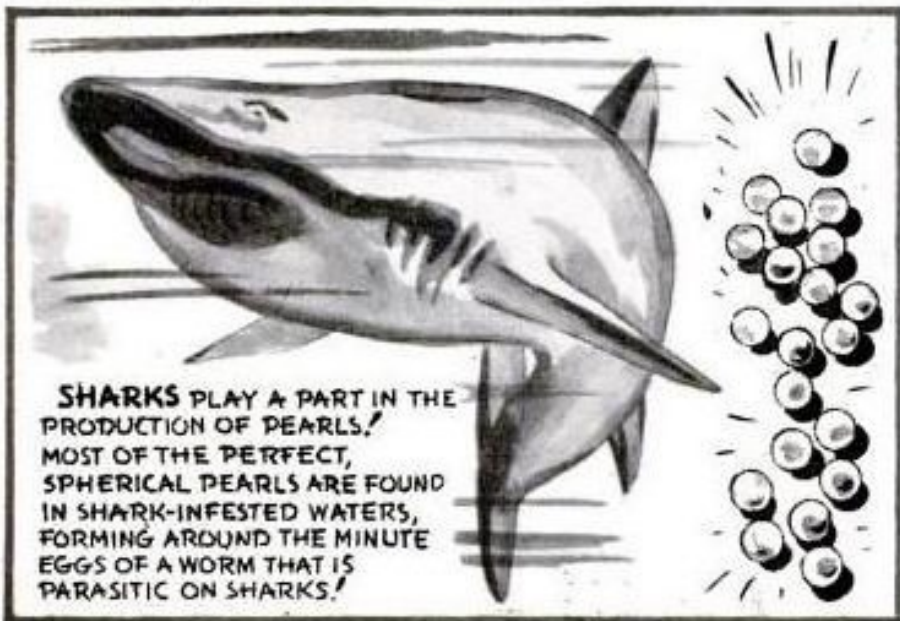
A BEE'S FAVORITE COLOR IS BLUE! THE INSECTS WILL GO FOR A BLUE FLOWER IN PREFERENCE TO ONE OF ANY OTHER COLOR! SOME AUTHORITIES EVEN SAY THAT BEES ARE ALTOGETHER COLOR-BLIND TO RED!



NEVER HOLD A **SURGEON FISH** UP BY THE TAIL TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN! IT SPORTS A SHARP SURGEON'S LANCET WHICH POPS OUT OF A SOCKET JUST IN FRONT OF THE TAIL!



ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU HOLD A **SKUNK** UP BY THE TAIL, IT CANT USE ITS ARTILLERY! I'VE SEEN IT DONE, BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR ONIONS!



SHARKS PLAY A PART IN THE PRODUCTION OF PEARLS! MOST OF THE PERFECT, SPHERICAL PEARLS ARE FOUND IN SHARK-INFESTED WATERS, FORMING AROUND THE MINUTE EGGS OF A WORM THAT IS PARASITIC ON SHARKS!



JUST AS THE GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER ALWAYS USES A SNAKE SKIN IN ITS NEST, SO THE **WOOD THRUSH** RARELY OMITTS A LARGE RAG OR PIECE OF PAPER IN ITS CONSTRUCTION!