

Pilated 'Peckers, Eccentric Birds, Like to Pound Poles for Fun of It

Pileated woodpeckers are eccentric birds. Once considered rare, they have become a pest by

habitually poking big holes in cross country utility line poles. Since there is almost no food in poles treated with preservatives, and the birds attack those without wires as well as with, it appears that their only reason is a desire to pound on something.

A half dozen methods for keeping these "chiselers" off of utility poles have proved satisfactory, but they present risks to linemen who must climb the poles and to the public relations departments of the utilities.

"We are still testing cage samples in our search for a good repellent chemical," R. N. Jorgensen, wood technologist at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, University Park, reports. Jorgensen is assisted in woodpecker control work by W. C. Bramble, department head, M. E. Wood, ornithologist, and P. F. English, wildlife management in zoology.

The pileated woodpecker, a pro-

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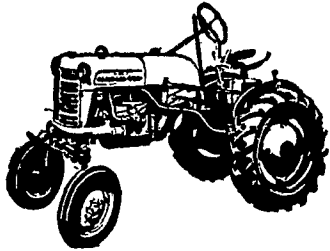


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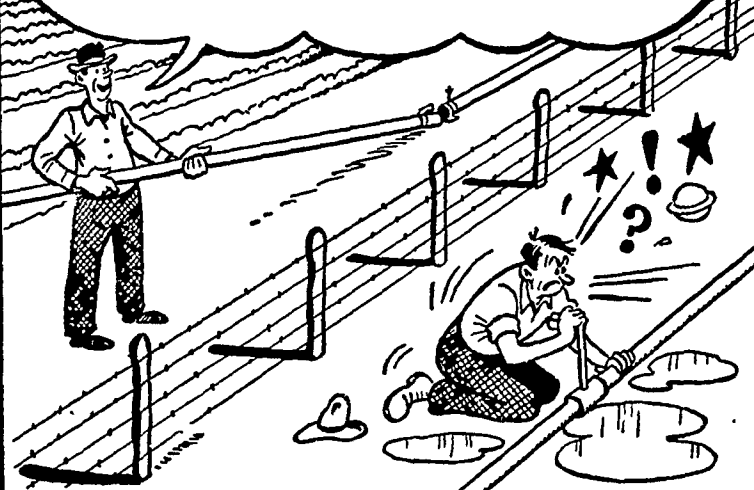


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Tests Show Dark Yoked Eggs Graded Down Unintentionally

UNIVERSITY PARK — For many years, egg candlers have been suspected of unintentionally grading dark-yoked eggs lower than those of the same quality having lighter yolks. Results of an egg-grading experiment at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station show this to be true.

Nearly 100 buyers attending a conference at the Pennsylvania State University last winter candled and measured broken-out quality eggs having dark and light yolks. Broken-out quality of both kinds was the same but those having dark yolks consistently received lower candled grades.

The trials were conducted under the supervision of Werner J. Mueller, Station Poultryman, who will publish details of this work in a progress report entitled "Yolk Color and Candl-

ed Grade of Eggs"

edious insect eater like all members of his tribe, is protected by both state and federal law. As large as a crow, it is well known to hunters because of its peculiar swooping flight, strange call, and noisy pounding.

H. T. Pfitzenmeyer, graduate student in zoology, raised a pileated woodpecker chick to adulthood a rather unusual accomplishment. When mature, the bird was placed in an aviary, and a study of its habits indicated it acted in the same manner as a wild bird. Many repellents were tested on decayed posts containing natural woodpecker food and several kept the bird away. Those compatible with preservative material used on utility poles will be field tested in the near future.

School 'Vo-ag' Courses Train Future Farmers

UNIVERSITY PARK—Pennsylvania members of the Future Farmers of America were told today that the four-year course in vocational agriculture in Pennsylvania's public schools has demonstrated that it is "meeting the need of the Pennsylvania boys interested in agriculture as their life's work."

The assurance came from H. C. Fetterolf, chief of agricultural education in the Department of Public Instruction, in a speech at FFA Activities Week which each June draws 1,500 Future Farmers to the Pennsylvania State University campus here for vocational agriculture contests and the farm boys' organization's mid-year convention. Fetterolf is the State FFA adviser and summarized results of the school year now closing.

"The farm boy who wishes to go to college has found that our vocational agriculture courses in high school qualify him thoroughly," Fetterolf said.

"The best proof of that statement is the fact that during the 1956-57 academic year 24 per cent of all students enrolled in the College of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State University have been graduates of the four-year course in vocational agriculture at Pennsylvania high schools.

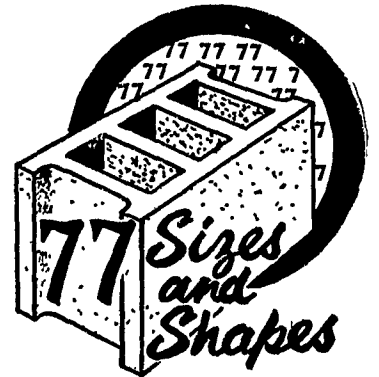
"Even more striking is the fact that of all the students enrolled in Penn State's curriculum of agricultural education, 77 per cent during the present collegiate year have been Pennsylvania graduates of the four-year course in vocational agriculture.

"Not all of the vocational agriculture students go to college. After their graduation from high school, many devote their energies full-time to putting into practice in the field, the barn, and the poultry yard, the lessons they learned in their Vo-Ag classes. They, too, have found that these courses have qualified them for the work ahead.

"The best demonstration of the excellence of the vocational agriculture curriculum in this State comes when the Pennsylvania farm boys complete with Vo-Ag students from effective methods of comparison is offered by the contests sponsored by the Future Farmers of America.

Eggs of comparable grade, whether dark or light yoked, are equally nutritious and wholesome. Laying hens fed rations high in such feeds as corn, corn gluten, and alfalfa meal produce darker-yoked eggs. Present wholesale grading and pricing systems may work a hardship on uocks owners using poultry feeds of this type.

To improve candling methods, Dr. Mueller recommends that candled grades be checked frequently against broken-out eggs. He also suggests that eggs with the same yolk color be candled together.



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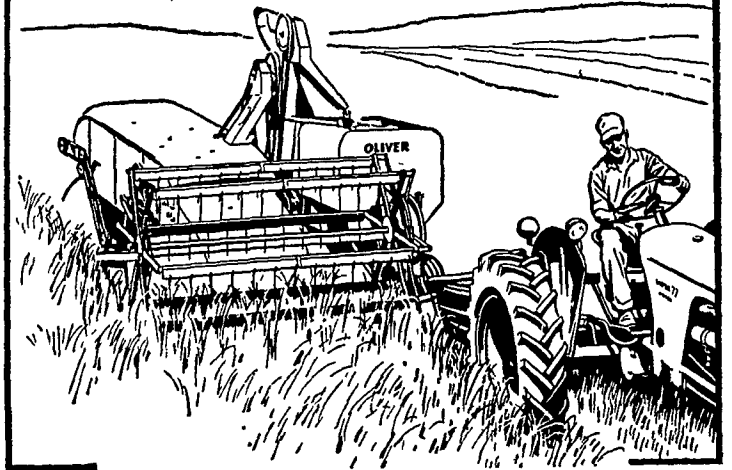
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