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CLOSED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
June, July, August

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by owner

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Nature in your own backyard (continued from last week)

by Ralph Miller

In the latter part of April, the thrushes of which family the robin is a member began to move through and by May 12th we had visits from the hermit, the wood, and the olive-backed thrushes. During the same time a pair of towhees and a pair of red-breasted grosbeaks were around.

April and May are the months of the small wood warblers but they seemed a little slow in coming this year. We had observed a few from time to time, particularly myrtle and Maryland yellow-throats, but on May 12th the place seemed literally alive with birds. Prominent were a pair of Baltimore orioles, in brilliant black and orange, redstarts, and Cape May warblers. The last is a small olive-green backed bird, streaked with black, with a large white patch on the wing coverts, a yellow rump, underparts yellowish streaked with black, a black crown and a large yellow patch on the side of the neck and head, inside of which is a smaller chestnut patch above and below the eye.

Six or seven of the Cape May warblers stayed around for about a week, spending most of their time in the red Japanese maple back of the side porch where they fed on insects and the tiny flower buds of the maple. Almost as colorful as the Cape May warbler is the American redstart, a small black warbler with red patches on the wing feathers, wing coverts, and tail. The same May 12th we also saw several wood thrushes, some olive-backed thrushes, a warbling vireo, a least flycatcher, and several Nashville warblers.

With this colder than usual Spring, the butterflies have not seemed too numerous as yet. The first white cabbage butterfly appeared

in late April and until recently it seemed to be the only species around until May 21st when we noted a brilliantly marked yellow and black tiger swallowtail on the wisteria tree. Its bright color, small size and manner of resting indicated it was just newly hatched. Only minutes later a large red-spotted purple, a dark butterfly with faint yellow spots along the margins of both wings and blue on the hindwing, looking somewhat like a papevine swallowtail without the tails, went sailing across the lawn.

As for flowers, we are always finding new surprises, most of which are unidentified as yet. The solitary goatsbeard of last year whose early growth makes me think of pineapples has done its work, because all through the two flower beds to the rear of the yard, I have been pulling out numerous new goatsbeard plants during the past two weeks. They came from the downy seeds of last year's plant. But in the case of another plant whose spread was a surprise this year, the cause was different. This involved the Jack-in-the-Pulpits a tall interesting member of the Arum family, whose two long-stemmed tri-parted green leaves overshadow the hooded flower, the spadix enclosed within a green and purple-brown striped spathe. There is a patch of these handsome plants about the base of the oak tree at the rear of the side porch. This Spring, thirty feet away on the side of the red Japanese maple opposite from the oak, the spiked of three Jack-in-the-Pulpits appeared, growing all in a row. Now they are full size. How did they get there? The only conclusion I can arrive at is that some bird got the berries from the old patch of plants and left the seeds at the new site for I certainly didn't plant them. Granted this is not much of a piece of original research on my part, but I only cite it to show the possibilities that may lie at your own back door.

GRIMSEY AWARDED MERITORIOUS MAST

Marine Corporal Charles N. Grimsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Grimsey of 212 Pinkerton Road, Mount Joy, has been awarded a Meritorious Mast while serving with the Second Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

He was personally commended, by his commanding officer, for his outstanding performance of duty with the unit.

A former student of East Carolina University, Greenville, N. C., he joined the Marines in June of 1973.

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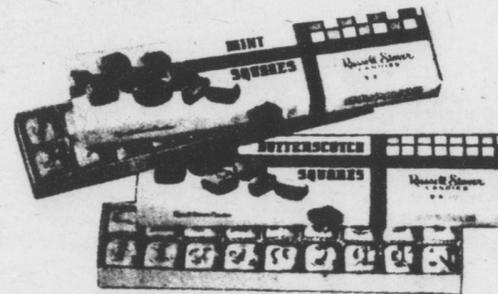
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