

4. It is a rare occurrence as far as I know. They opened up sores on about ten out of sixty or seventy rams in the past two years.

5. They acted in a similar manner to two or three old thin cows last spring.

We treated the wounds with creolin and pine tar and tried to shoot and poison the magpies.

Yours very truly,

Keith Smith."

It is well known that Magpies are reputed to peck at sores on stock, but in this case uninjured sheep appear to have been attacked, and in one case, at least, severely. The point of greatest interest is the possible acquirement by the Magpie of the pernicious habit of the Kea Parrot.

Dr. H. C. Oberholser has kindly informed me that he is not aware of a similar occurrence.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wisconsin*.

Strange behavior of a Bullock's Oriole.—In the early summer of 1920, a young lady, living near me, in eastern Oregon, picked up a young Bullock's Oriole, that had fallen from the nest. Though some time would have elapsed before the youngster would have begun its education under the care of its parents, there was no difficulty in rearing the bird, which soon became a recognized member of the family having the full liberty of the house. When it was several months old and had never exhibited the slightest fear of any human being, the family was surprised by its showing absolute terror, whenever its mistress entered the room dressed in a new dress, which had never been worn before in the presence of the bird. This seemed unreasonable, since it would fly for protection to any member of the family or even to strangers. After this fear had been several times exhibited and was evidently not to be treated lightly, it was suggested that a string of dark beads, which had until then been worn with the dress, might be responsible. When these were discarded the bird at once became normal and permitted its mistress the former liberties.

The sight of the beads, even if partly covered, on a dressing table, would always cause a panic. It is quite probable that the bird mistook them for a snake, in which case its fear was purely instinctive as no snake experience had ever entered the life of the youngster.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*

Domesticated Ipswich Sparrows (*Passerculus princeps*).—On December 26, 1920, four friends and I visited Duxbury Beach, south of Boston, Mass. As we approached one of the gunners' "blinds," which is occupied all through the shooting season, we flushed two Ipswich Sparrows. These flew a short distance toward the blind and dropped into the beach grass. We soon overtook and flushed them again. This performance was repeated several times, until finally the birds dropped upon the nearly bare sand close to the blind and on the edge of the group of tethered