

CARA sets aside about half of the revenues from leasing offshore oil and gas property on the Outer Continental Shelf (OSC) for conservation, parks, wildlife, coastal impact and restoration

approach is so good, and the political climate needed to pass such a law is so rare, that we ask you to help get it passed. Trout Unlimited supports CARA because it: provides a

agencies for habitat protection and restoration of fish and wildlife resources; and sets an important precedent for creating stable, long-term funding.

and water for parks, wildlife refuges, and other conservation purposes. But since then,

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Wisconsin Woodsmoke

Wildflowers are on the move

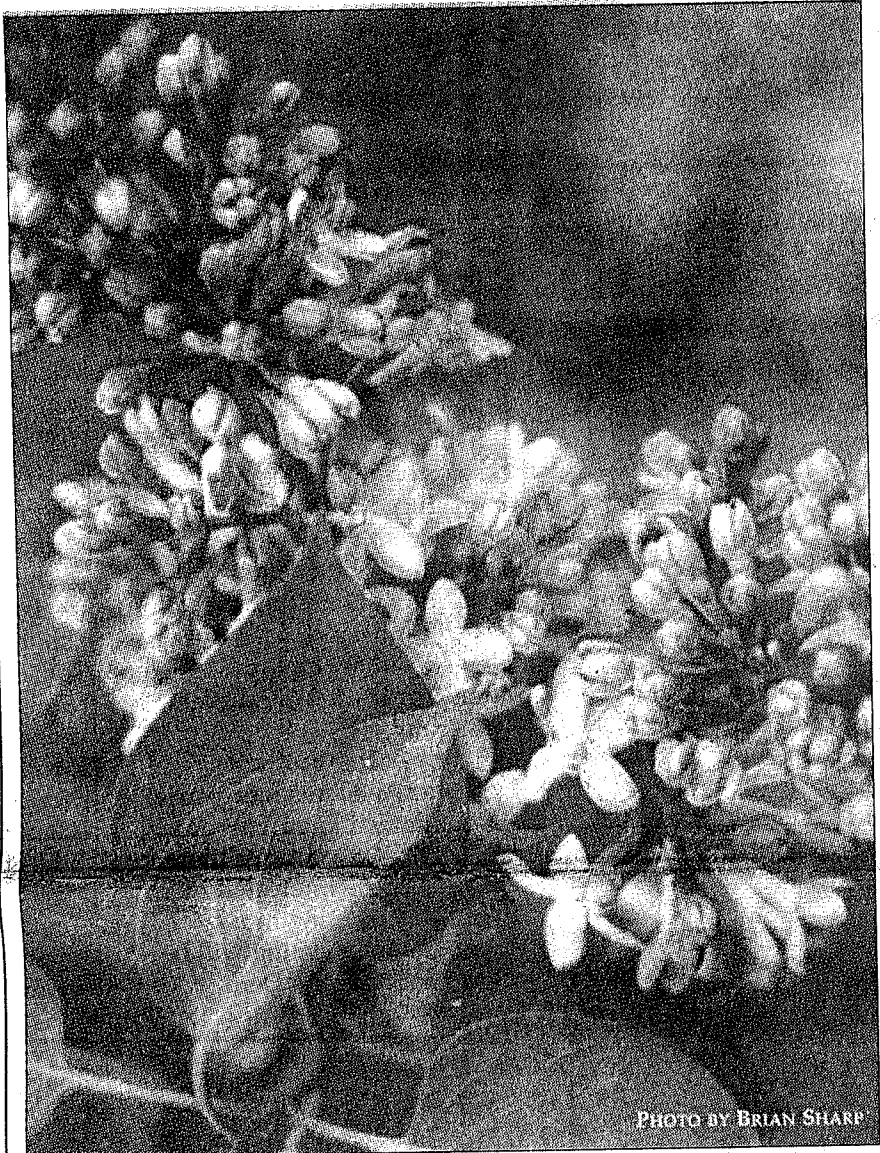
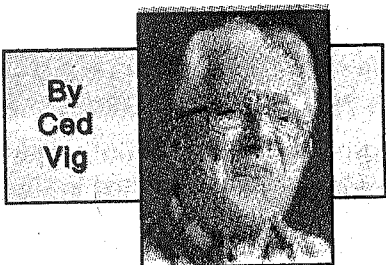


PHOTO BY BRIAN SHARP

Lilacs and their engaging fragrance are beginning to bloom across the area.

"Mothers are the most instinctive philosophers."
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Today's Mother's Day! The lilacs are in blossom. Trilliums carpet the fields and roadsides. The hummingbirds, orioles and rose-breasted grosbeaks are here for the occasion. This has been an early spring! What a nice environment in which to honor our mothers — both living and deceased!



By Ced Vig

It's Lilac Time

Lilacs are in blossom — all over the North Country. They are a legacy of our Puritan forefathers probably carried aboard a ship from England. As early as 1652, lilacs and snowballs were found in most cottage yards.

The first known mention of lilacs appeared in the handwriting of Thomas Jefferson, an avid gardener, who wrote in his "Garden Book" of planting lilacs at Shadwell, where he was born. George Washington, also an avid gardener, mentions transplanting lilacs at Mount Vernon in his 1785 diaries.

Since those early times, lilacs have proven to be a persistent lot. They grow everywhere, often with little encouragement. Even neglected, they continue to flourish provided the soil is of good quality. In overgrown farmyards, where homes and barns have been absent for decades, the lilacs still bloom. Today many of the blossoms are hybrids developed by horticulturists.

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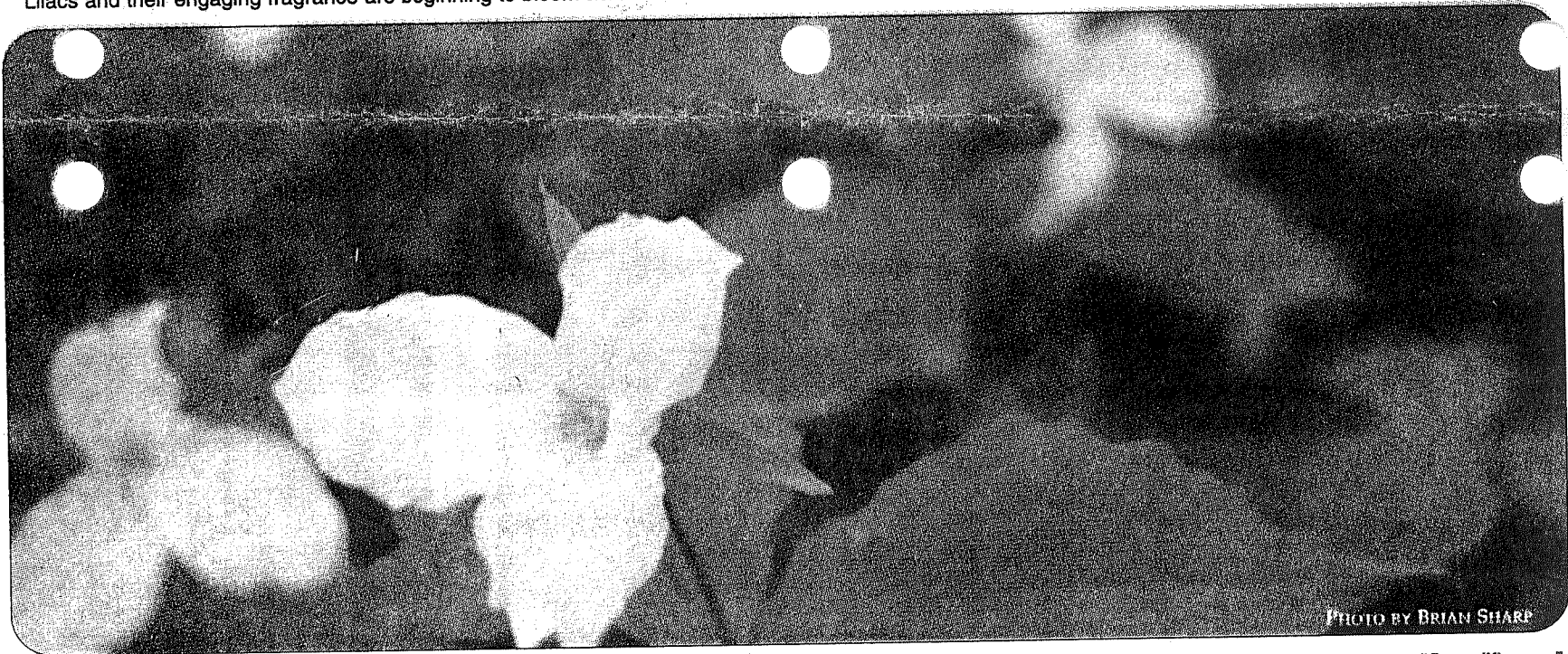
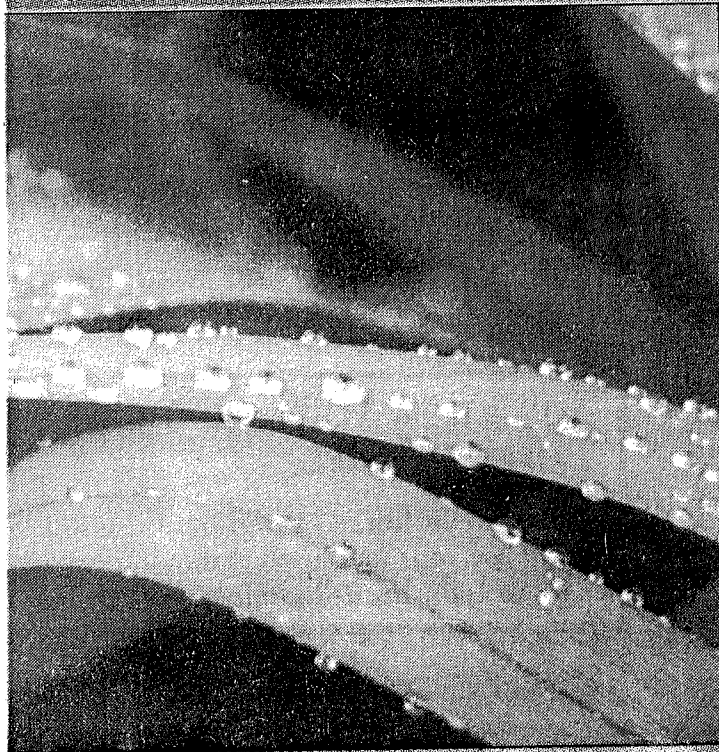


PHOTO BY BRIAN SHARP

Trilliums blossomed ahead of schedule this year. There are 30-40 species of trilliums — the most common one is the great white blossom known as "Grandiflorum."

rain standing and an early Mayfly

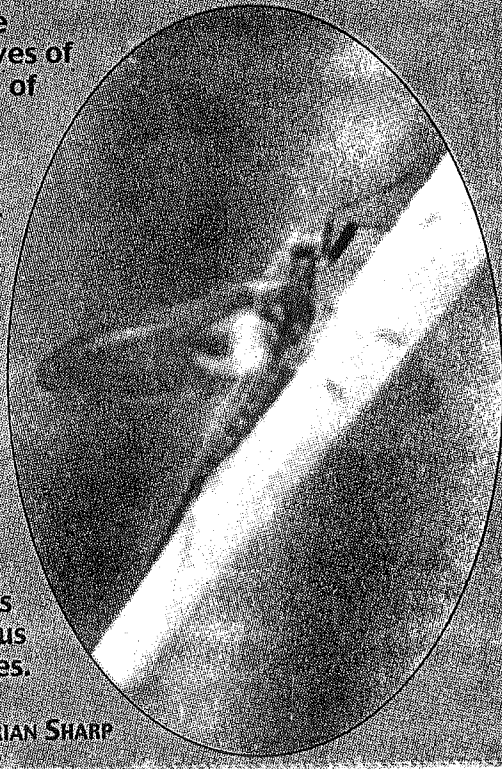


On an overcast and grizzly afternoon in the Northwoods, drops of rain collect on the leaves of day lilies near the Pelican River; their mosaic of beadwork drips downward like an army of ants.

Day lilies, although a flower, are a tasty edible plant. The flowers can be used to garnish a salad and taste surprisingly like lettuce.

With its wiry arms wrapped around a blade of grass, a mayfly remains true to its name, hatching in the mid-month of May. Soon the insect will be joined by hundreds, even thousands of its kind; they will hound street lamps and gas stations, but for now, this solo harbinger waits on a blade of bluegrass — voiceless.

The mayfly has only one purpose — to reproduce. The harmlessly delicate bug does not have a mouth and once hatched will focus all of its attention on survival — of the species.



DAILY NEWS PHOTOS BY BRIAN SHARP

Anything that moves: food for frogs and toads

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Wildflowers Galore

Marsh marigolds — the flowers are handsome, buttercup-like, up to an inch and one-half across, scentless, bloom about a foot above the earth or water surface. Transplants easily.

In his poem "The Mayflowers," Whittier tells how they named the arbutus the "Mayflower" after the ship which they no longer needed. Arbutus is a flower of the pine forest.

If you pick a bloodroot, a red-orange juice spurts out on your fingers. The "root" from which this "blood" springs is really an underground stem called a rhizome. Chippewa Indians used bloodroot for war paints and to decorate their birchbark baskets.

There are many names for trilliums. Wet dog trilliums is one and stinking Benjamin another. No one seems to know who the honored Benjamin was and why he smelled so bad, but the flower of the red trillium does indeed have a foul odor much like putrid meat or perhaps a golden retriever that has wallowed all day in a marshland. The smell attracts carrion flies which pollinate their flowers.

Ospreys on the Move

When the state of Michigan DNR wanted to move ospreys to the southern part of the state, they decided to use the techniques that were successful in Minnesota and Ohio.

They found that the best time to take osprey chicks from their nest is when they are about

five weeks old. Osprey will raise one to three — and occasionally four — chicks per year. As with most rapators, osprey chicks are not hatched on the same day, so multiple chicks found in a nest likely will be in different stages of development. In nests with more than one chick, the smallest usually dies as the result of the larger more aggressive siblings. Removing one or more chicks not only ensures survival of the chick that is taken, but also ensures a better chance of the survival of the remaining chicks. The Michigan wildlife biologists would not take any birds from single-chick nests. When the Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologists move eaglets, they follow similar procedures.

Ospreys primarily eat fish, mostly bullheads and other rough fish. Here in the Rhinelander country, motorists have the opportunity to observe two osprey nests close to the road — one on Highway 8 West near Manson Lake, and another on a pole line pole off Highway 47, between Rhinelander and Lake Tomahawk.

Trilliums Carpet the Woodlands

Like spring itself, the trilliums blossomed earlier this year. Grace Knap brought a trillium to our Elderhostel class on May 4. There are 30-40 species of trilliums, but the most common one in Wisconsin is the great white blossom known as "Grandiflorum." In the opinion of 1,500 American naturalists, the trillium is the sixth most popular wildflower among the 1,080

plants that were nominated.

One of our readers wondered if you should pick a trillium flower, would the plant die? This part of trillium folklore is not true. According to Frederick Case, writing in the Michigan Natural Resources, "It is true that picking a trillium blossom with the leaves takes away the food-making organs and weakens the plant. A healthy adult plant has sufficient reserves to send up new leaves for two or three years after repeated injury. However, a plant so weakened may not flower, and therefore may go unnoticed. Since no trillium reappears the season it is picked, few people check to see if that plant produces a flower in subsequent years."

Squirrels Have Many Colors

Have had two telephone calls this week reporting gray squirrels with an all blond tail and another with a reddish one. In Michigan, a black squirrel was seen with a blond tail ringed twice and with a black tip — a "coontail." Fox squirrels, of which there are few in Rhinelander country, have a 12-inch flowing orange banner for a tail.

Gray squirrels are not really gray, especially in winter pelage. One wildlife biologist counted 27 different color types of hair on a normally colored gray squirrel. Most gray squirrel hairs are banded, and the colors of the bands were black, brown and white and in different combinations. Some black hairs were present.

Squirrels are dependent on their teeth for healthful living. They need to keep their two pair of incisors razor sharp. These teeth grow about six inches in a year's time and must be worn down. Tooth loss or injury leads to death, as the opposing tooth or a twisted tooth will grow unchecked, curving around to prevent feeding and perhaps even piercing the skull.

Down at the Frog Pond

Frogs and toads eat only live food — anything that moves. During the summer a frog may eat as many as 10,000 insects.

Bullfrogs get their name from their mating season habit of bellowing with as much volume as a bull, if not with the same sound. The call is best described as a very deep and resonant "jug-o-rum."

The toads are trilling — a musical sound lasting as long as 30 seconds. The trilling adds to many of the sounds heard in the ponds and wetlands during the evening — peeps, trills, whistles, grunts and snores. Identifying these sounds can become an interesting hobby. As the famous herpetologist Archie Carr once wrote, "I collect frog songs in my head as some people save stamps in a book."

All species of Wisconsin frogs and toads are collectively called "anurans," meaning without a tail.

There are as many as 100 "froggers and toaders" who travel 95 different routes in Wisconsin taking an inventory of the anurans each spring.

Evening musky league, anyone?

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up towing his boat out to the area where we wanted to begin fishing. Clyde got out his tools and began working on the motor while we began fishing. After perhaps five minutes, Clyde put the hood back on the motor, pumped the bulb on the gas line and the motor started.

Steve flipped out his first cast and landed a walleye of

landed that morning. We did catch numbers of crappies and northerns but the walleyes were not located.

Later in the day we put the boats in the water on a lake with stained water. In the morning we saw water temperatures of 62 to 64 degrees. By 5 p.m. we were fishing in water that was 68 degrees on the surface. We found walleyes in newly developing weed beds and they seemed to

challenge that is.

Sunday morning we fished another lake with stained water that has many trees in the water along the shorelines. Those trees are the result of one of the recent windstorms and they provide exciting fishing action. Our catch included walleyes, perch, northerns, crappies and several small muskies. Frequently, it is a challenge to work these fish out of the brush piles once

experienced good action during the first few days of the fishing season. Some say that a jig and minnow combination produced well for them. Others said that leeches produced the best action while still others said that they did well with crank baits over weeds. In general most anglers felt that it was an excellent opening.

Tail Feathers

There will be an organiza-

Two-thirds of House sponsors Cara

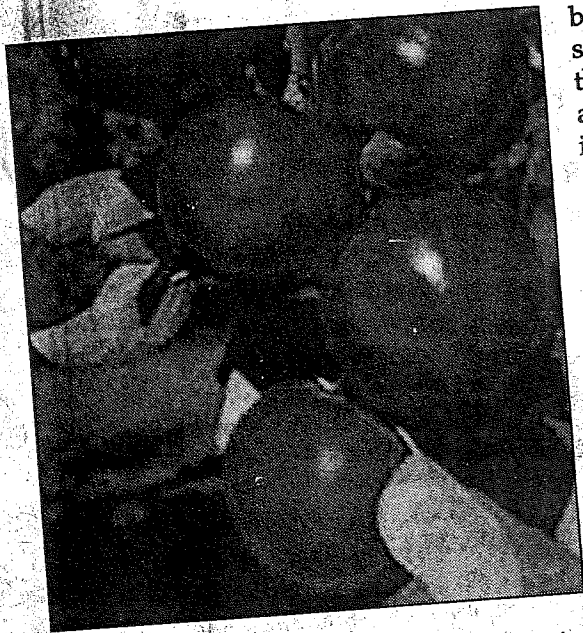
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Congress has refused to make the full amount of LWCF money (now \$900 million) available for spending.

CARA breaks that political impasse by directing that about \$2.8 billion of the OCS revenue be invested in our fisheries, public lands and coasts—broadening the political support needed to get Congress to spend the money. No new taxes are needed; the funds come from the existing oil and gas leasing revenues from private oil companies.

Both federal and state governments spend the funds on: \$1 billion—Coastal Impact Assistance and Coastal Conservation; \$900 million—Federal and State Land and Water Conservation Fund; \$350 million—Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Fund; \$125 million—Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program; \$100 million—Historic Preservation Fund; \$200 million—Federal and Indian Lands Restoration; \$150 million—

Under the old apple tree: bumblebees busy with blossoms



It takes up to fifteen years for some apple trees to produce fruit once they start growing from a seed.

If a child is to keep alive his in-born sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

Rachel Carson, Marine Biologist

Brook trout fishing was good this weekend! By good, I mean that we caught enough brookies and German browns to have a mess of them for breakfast before going out for another day's fishing.

It's only the fishermen that wade the trout streams that see the beauty and activity along these rippling brooks.

Clumps of marsh marigolds and blue violets were the featured

flowers last weekend. Along the banks the leafing-out tag alders were hosting a variety of warblers — searching for a meal of tiny insects and caterpillars.

In the nearby woodland, the wild cherry trees were flaunting their white blossoms. Coming down the stream is best described by the editor of Trees For Tomorrow "Northbound" publication, R. Chris Welch, who wrote this month:

"A lone fly-fisherman was slowly moving down an isolated stretch of stream, rhythmically releasing line to reach a gently

Wisc sin Woodsmoke

By Cad Vig



swirly eddy, completely aware and awaiting the strike."

Nothing at that moment could be more important to the fly fisherman than that section of the embankment, an overhang of riparian vegetation that resembles the ideal

cool spot on a warm spring day for a brook trout to find shelter. The clear, cold water that flows through these grasses, sending out ripples for the sun's rays to dance on, not only provides a transcendental moment for the individual but also a reassurance for the community."

Males Attracted to Female Genes
Cambridge scientists at the

Cambridge University in England have discovered that the more sexy black spots that a female barn owl sports on her breast, the more disease resistance she passes on to her offspring. This link between spots and good genes may be why the males "go for" the more spotted females. This is the first female signal of genetic quality.

Scientists are also finding where other female bird species have genetic tendencies that tend to attract the males. For example, female pied flycatchers with brighter forehead patches suffer fewer parasite infections, and female cardinals with flashier underwings feed their offspring more often.

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Ruby-throated hummingbirds as light as a letter

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Fascinating Hummers

A hummingbird's heart beats 1,260 times per minute. A resting hummingbird takes 250 breaths per minute. A ruby-throated hummingbird weighs three grams, or one-tenth the weight of a first-class letter.

Notice how much buzzin' and high-pitched whistling some of the hummers do? They're the males, who unlike the females, have a slit in their wing tips, which produces the sounds.

When there is an abundance of hummingbird-attracting flowers around, fewer hummers show up at the feeders; alternatively, when the

flowers are fewer, more birds fly in for a sugar-water snack — and they come farther than usual.

Flicking Away

Haven't seen or heard a flicker this spring. Possibly it's their population that's decreasing. The yellow-shafted flicker (the one that we have here in the Northwoods) is one of the most rapidly disappearing birds in North America, declining three to five percent annually since the mid-1960s. Based on this fact, there may be only one-third the number of flickers today as there were in 1960.

Ironically, where the yellow-shafted flickers have declined, the red-bellied and the pileated woodpeckers have

grown more common.

Under the Old Apple Tree

Sitting out under the old apple tree at our cottage...it's in blossom and dozens of bumblebees are working the flowers — getting nectar and pollen. In the process they're cross-pollinating the flowers. Without the bees — no apples!

This old apple tree has seen many a springtime. It is said that apple trees commonly live for a century, which means that they can provide a recurring food supply for generations of wild creatures. Many varieties of apples hold their fruit through the winter months. In fact, bears are one of 50 species of wildlife that go "bananas" over apples. Gray fox and raccoons dine up in an

apple tree. One-fourth of a red fox's diet at certain times of the year is apples. Deer, too, love apples.

The fruits, seeds and buds, and even sometimes the leaves of apple trees are particularly relished by such birds as ruffed grouse, pheasants and bobwhites. In the crop of one grouse shot in the morning there were 180 wild apple buds.

It takes 15 years for a tree that is grown from a seed to produce apples. A newly grafted one takes four to six years to produce marketable fruit. The tree's commercial life is about 30 years although trees have been known to produce first-rate fruit for as many as 150 years.

During the spring, an apple tree sprouts far more apples than it can nourish into maturity. In June, many drop off. Fewer than five percent of the apples hang on to maturity.

Yarn for the Orioles

Writing from Springfield, South Dakota, former RHS football coach, now retired, wrote "An oriole began to nest in our silver maple tree. We thought it would neat if we put out different colors of yarn to see what her nest would look like. So we put out six to eight-inch pieces in about five different colors in a flower bed under the tree. She did find the yarn and very carefully picked out and used only the white yarn."

An Old, Old Feud Keep's Going

The Wilkinsons on Horsehead Lake have a pair of barred owls that are being mobbed by a band of crows. This is an ancient feud that has been going on for hundreds of years between crows and owls. If you hear a group of crows screaming in long excited calls, chances are they are mobbing birds of prey, especially owls.

Although the crows torment the owls during the daytime, at night the owls get their revenge.

Great horned owls are major predators of American crows. These rapators raid crow nests and roosting sites at night, killing and eating both adults and nestlings.