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FORD EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY NO 219

"AIR"ISTOCRACY

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2. Privacy is a scarce article in the life of a bird. He spends considerable time in choosing desirable locations for his summer and winter homes.

3. One of these choise summer places of occupation he has located at the Isle of Bays on Lake Johnston, Canada.

4. Here the "Common Tern," which is by no means common, soars gracefully about, making beautiful dives below the surface when an unsuspecting fish is spied. Nests are made of drift or sand.

5. Thousands of these equisite sea swallows have been slaughtered simply to "put a feather" in some women's hats. New places for their protection have been established.

6. A Common Tern opens and shuts its tail like a fan. Young Terns are as tame as little "chicks".

7. The Ringbill Gull - socalled because of the broad band of black encircling its bill.

8. During nesting time large numbers of Ringbills occupy the same cliff together.

9. At a warning given by Mother Ringbill, heralding the approach of danger, the youngsters will take to the tall grass and hide.

10. Three weeks later.

11. A Ringbill will follow a school of fish for miles and each time one of the party leaps from the water for an insect - "sipp!" - and Mr Ringbill eats again.

12. Young Cormorants are hatched blind and without even down to cover their inky black skin. Two years are required to perfect the beautiful plumage of the adults. In China Cormorants are used in fishing industry.

13. The Pintail Duck has a short tail from which a few central feathers project and come sharply to a point. It is equally at home in air, land or water.

14. In building a nest, Mrs. Pintail makes a slight depression in the soil under some protecting bush and lines it with feathers from her breast.

15. On the wing one would scarcely imagine that -

16. It is none other than our old friend "Bill" Pelican.

17. Not yet able to fill the bill.

18. Pelicans nest in communities, usually on an island. Their nests are very rudely built. The eggs vary in number from one to four and are pure white.

19. The young are fed but twice a day. The mother alighting beside the young birds, opens her bill and the children eat heartily.

20. The bill of a full grown Pelican is from 15 to 18 inches long.

21. The Great Blue Heron inherits his extreme beauty from the tropical country he comes from. He is wild, shy, solitary, suspicious, in fact almost impossible to approach.

22. Their nests are very crude sometimes made directly on the ground or on top of rocks. The young make no effort to stray away for two or three weeks.

23. The End.

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