February is the month when we remember Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President. Tuesday the 12th is his birthday.

There are lots of stories about Mr. Lincoln. One of our favorites took place before he became President.

One day young Mr. Lincoln was horseback riding through the woods with his friends. They saw a baby bird that had fallen from its nest.

Lincoln got off his horse and picked up the bird. Then Lincoln put it back on a nearby limb. His friends rode on.

Later, his friends asked why he had stopped to help the bird. Lincoln's answer was simple. "I can only say I feel better for it," he said. "I could not have slept tonight if I had left that helpless little creature to perish on the ground."

Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln!

A NEW LOOK FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER IS COMING.
NOISE BUGS WHOOPING CRANES--
AIR FORCE CHANGES PLANS

Matagorda Island, Texas—Not long ago U.S. Government leaders got together to help Whooping Cranes. The leaders asked the Air Force to stop bombing practice over the Cranes' winter home at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

No, the Air Force wasn’t dropping real bombs on the birds. The noise of the planes was upsetting the cranes.

The Air Force has promised to fly over the area only during the summer. That’s when the Whooping Cranes are nesting in Canada.

Thirty-six years ago scientists said that Whooping Cranes would soon be gone forever. At that time there were only about 14 of the beautiful birds known to be alive. They were very close to becoming extinct.

The Government stepped in then, too. They protected the Cranes from lawbreaking hunters. Many years before a law had been passed to protect the birds from hunting. But some people did not know about the law.

Today, the Whooping Cranes are still in danger but their numbers have grown to more than 50.

Changing their practice plans was a small step for the Air Force. But it was a giant step for the Whooping Cranes.

Ducks AND Geese
ARE BEING POISONED

As many as 2 to 3 million ducks and geese may be dying of lead poisoning every year. Many other water birds have become sick or injured by small amounts of poison.

Where is the poison coming from? It’s coming from lead shotgun pellets that miss their targets and fall into lakes, streams, and rivers. The water birds scoop up the tiny lead pellets as they look for food. Then the lead gets into their bodies and makes them sick—or it kills them.

Wildlife experts are worried about the problem. They have talked about stopping the use of lead pellets. Tests have been made with steel pellets. But some hunters don’t like the idea. They say that the new steel pellets will harm their guns.

No answer has been found. Wildlife experts say that the birds should come first, not the hunters' guns. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is studying the problem. They hope to have an answer soon.
THE EDITOR SPEAKS: Part 1
A CABIN IN THE COUNTRY

Last month I promised to tell you how I built my own house. I didn't want to buy just any house. I wanted to build my own cabin--in the country.

First I had to find the right piece of land with a running stream and a hill. And it couldn't cost a lot. Some of my friends told me I was looking for too much. But that was my dream.

I looked all summer but I couldn't find the right spot. As fall arrived, I almost gave up. But then one Saturday there was an ad in the paper. It sounded just right.

I found the place on a dirt road. It was a hilly lot. A creek ran by the road. Birds were singing in the trees over the cool clear running water.

I climbed halfway up the hill and stopped to rest. As I looked out across the stream and the woods, I suddenly knew that this was the spot. The view was beautiful!

The following spring I moved to my hill in the country. No, the cabin wasn't up yet. I set up a tent and slept under the stars. When it rained I slept in my wagon. Some people call this kind of living "roughing it." I loved every minute of it.

Little by little my cabin began to take shape. First I put up the foundation. Then... but I'm getting ahead of myself. In the coming months I'll be telling you more about my cabin in the country.

--Dale Hylton, Editor

MAKE A MILK CARTON BIRD FEEDER

This is the time of year when many people are feeding the winter birds. Some people just put seeds and bread crusts on the ground. Others make or buy feeders that they hang from tree branches or put on poles.

Here's a simple bird feeder that you can make without too much trouble.

All you need is an empty half gallon milk carton, a sharp knife, some string, and a long twig about 1/2 inch thick. Cut the sides out of the carton as shown in the drawing. Be careful with the knife. Always cut down and away from your body.

Punch some small holes in the bottom of the carton to let out any rain water. Now use the knife to start a small hole on opposite sides of the carton. Push the twig through the holes so that it sticks out on both sides. The twig will give your birds a place to land and take off.

Now all you have to do is tie a string to the top of your feeder and hang it in a tree. Have fun watching your winter friends feed and fly. Remember, once you start to feed the birds you'll have to keep it up all winter. The birds will keep coming back for more food.
THOSE PUZZLING BIRDS

Here's a puzzle for you to try,
It's all about birds - it spells fly.
Check your answers right below,
Don't look now - see if you know.

ACROSS
1. A bird eats with it.
2. A night bird.
4. A water bird.
7. Our nation's symbol.

5. __ __ __ jay.
6. A bird might build its nest in one.
8. Some call this bird a "honker."

DOWN
1. This bird's song sounds like its name.
3. This bird's name begins with a color.

Answers: ACROSS 1. Bill 2. Owl
4. Duck 7. Eagle
DOWNS 1. Bobwhite 2. Ringtail
4. Duck 7. Eagle

BRANCH CLUB NEWS

Not long ago the Eagles Kindness Club, a Junior Chapter of the Lima, Ohio Humane Society, wrote letters to the Japanese and Russian governments asking them to stop killing whales. All the members signed the letters. They also wrote to the U.S. Air Force. They spoke out against the use of beagles for testing gases.

News of your Branch Club should be reported in this newsletter. Send us news of your projects or club activities. If you have black and white photos to send, we can use them, too.

WE'D LIKE YOUR HELP

Be a KIND Reporter. Look for animal stories in newspapers and magazines. Cut them out and send them to KIND. Be sure to send us the name of the newspaper or magazine and the date.

If we use your story, we'll put your name in the paper.

HAVE YOU MET . . .

The friend you met last month is a Coati. We call her Carlotta. She has a cousin in South America called the Ring-tailed Coati. Other animals related to Coatis are raccoons, kinkajous, and ring-tailed cats. Scientists are not sure, but the Panda may also be a relative.

Carlotta came to us from New Mexico. Someone had tried to keep her as a pet, but she got away. Now she must live in a cage the rest of her life. She has learned to like people, and we try to pet her often and make her as happy as we can.
Dear friends,

February 14 is Valentine's Day. It is a time for love and friendship. Imagine how lonely you would feel if you had no friends or no one who loved you. Friends are one of the most valuable treasures you can have. Make some Valentine's Day cards to give to your friends. It's a nice way to say "thank you for being my friend."

Make a special card for Mom and Dad. They are your special friends. They love you very much, and above all, they want you to be happy. You can always count on them whenever you need help. But they need love, too. Be sure to tell them how much you love them.

The love and friendship of Valentine's Day can stay with you all year long. Make a point to be a friend to others and you will gain many friends in return.

Your friend,

Arohken

Your Kindness Club Letter is published monthly for members ages 6-10 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S.

R. Dale Hylton, Editor

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