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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

ICE-CLAD BIRDS

The vastly destructive effects of our American ice storms on overhead power wires and their supporting poles are well known. So, also, are the ravages these icy visitations cause in forests and orchards. Another effect of ice deposits to which much attention has lately been devoted is that experienced by aviators, whose planes lose "lift" from this cause, often with disastrous results.

Describing a much less familiar effect, Prof. C. F. Brooks tells us that ice storms sometimes cause great mortality among birds. So effective, he says, is a layer of airy feathers as an insulator that the heat of a bird's body may not prevent it from being so encased in ice during sleep that it is unable to fly about for food next morning. He adds:

"Ice may even form on birds while they are on the wing. There are authentic accounts of kind-hearted people breaking the ice coating on helpless birds and of numerous other birds dying for want of such attention when a thaw after the ice storm is delayed. Even when free, the birds may not be able to find food, since every stalk and every seed is coated."

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