

The advanced stage of tree climbing is evident in severe cases no longer able to traipse through the meadows looking for birds. They stand silently, in uncomfortable positions, rooted to a given spot, listening. These are the people who after years of bird watching are now capable of recognizing, by the song, the difference between a yellow breasted chat and a rose breasted gross-beak at one hundred fifty yards. Perseverance gradually increases this to the all-time high record of two hundred and fifteen yards. This is the goal of every tree climber as his arteries begin to harden.

Aside from myself, the only group of people I know who don't like birds are entomologists, who claim birds eat the insects. I now recognize it as a futile battle, so I don't fight tree climbers any longer.

I'm considering learning taxidermy.

## A Struggle for Existence

Jean Jose

THE greatest struggle for existence that the human mind must encounter is not directly the preservation of living, moving life, but rather a more basic preserving of the ideas that are the very breath of life. Life is ideas. No conflict that ever has to be faced on earth is any harder fought than the battle to save an idea from obliteration and to raise it instead to a realization. The fierceness of the struggle results from the fact that the idea, by its actual nature, originates, lives, fights to secure a permanent foothold, and either dies or is fulfilled within the boundaries of the human mind. Although expressions of thoughts are released constantly through word and action, the actual thought or idea must remain concentrated within the individual. Considering the millions of ideas that are formed, how few of them are ever realized. This would indicate that there is a variance of importance placed on thoughts; only those that are of the highest importance gain the attention necessary to even bring about an attempt to accomplish them through tireless actions.

The struggle for existence begins the moment an idea is born and continues more desperately as the idea increases in importance. This desperation for the existence and consequential realization grows out of fear. Once something or someone has become of great importance, a fear arises of losing that which we prize so highly. The most detrimental of all obstructions to the fulfillment of our ideas is time, the indestructible enemy of existence whether it be bodily or mental. Time brings with it stumbling blocks, sometimes so many that we are unable to raise ourselves again to the task of accomplishing our ideas. Consequently, the struggle of ideas for existence is most difficult because, in addition to being within us, the stumbling blocks are forever coming.