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GAME

BREEDER & SPORTSMAN

"The object of this magazine is to make North America the biggest game producing country in the world."—THE GAME BREEDER, Vol. 1, No. 1, April, 1912.

Vol. XXXIII

FEBRUARY, 1945

No. 2

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WASTE MARSH CHANGED TO A PAYING PRESERVE

By WM. O. COON, NATURALIST

DAY after day the author receives one or more letters from our fighting men in some distant part of the world. Apparently one of the big problems that rest upon the minds of these young men is, what will I do to earn my livelihood after we win the war?

Naturally every one of these young men wants to do something that he likes. He realizes that he can succeed if he enjoys his particular kind of occupation.

Here is what an American soldier that is through fighting, writes from his hospital room:

"I am prompted to write to you because I have seen your name in outdoor publications as long as I can recall reading them. The war is over as far as I am concerned. You see, a Jap bullet strayed into one of my lungs.

"Oh, I am O. K. now, the doc fixed me up and I feel as chipper as a bird on the first day of spring. Before the war I worked in an office, but I was raised on a farm. The doctors tell me that in the future I should work in the open air.

"Well Sir, I have always envied the kind of a job you have, developing hunting and fishing grounds. What are the prospects of a young fellow making a living at hunting, fishing, and trapping? Please spare me the time and write a few lines giving your suggestions as an authority?

"You see I have done my bit to make this a better world to live in, now you can do your bit by helping me to make a lasting decision on this problem that I have turned over and over as I lay on my bed recovering my health.

"I thank you in advance from the bottom of my heart."

The future of this young man was actually placed in my hands. The reply

Editor's Note:

While Mr. Coon's article offers real encouragement to men interested in making a pleasant living in the out-of-doors, it is only fair to point out two things:

1. Preserve development requires the hardest kind of physical labor, and only those whose physical condition permits should attempt it.
2. Few opportunities include so many favorable factors for the development of a successful commercial preserve as the one here described by Mr. Coon.

However, to the man possessing the health and strength to work hard and long, a reasonable amount of capital, business acumen and the necessary courage and ability to see the job through, a worthwhile opportunity for profitable and enjoyable work in this field is likely to present itself sooner or later.

This is one of a number of articles containing suggestions for congenial outdoor jobs that *Game Breeder and Sportsman* will carry from time to time.

that I wrote was lengthy but sincere, it was along these lines:

The kind of work that you will be most successful in is the kind that you enjoy doing. I am pleased to have the privilege of being of assistance to you. Apparently you love the freedom of the great-out-of-doors, and I am sure that there is a wonderful future in store for you.

Possibly the best way for me to advise you is to tell you about what

someone else has actually done. Right here in Wisconsin, within a hundred miles of Chicago, lay a piece of worthless marsh for many years. This marsh area was sort of triangular in shape, bordered on one side by a highway, on another by a hilly pasture and on the third side by a lake. It was impossible to drain the marsh and make pasture land, for the lake level could not be controlled. The marsh was too low for pasture land and too high for trapping ground, therefore it was considered useless.

This marsh had a couple of potholes, which a local plumber used for duck shooting. The potholes were small and quite deep and a few shots in the early morning would drive out the ducks. Then his day's sport would be over, and back to his plumbing work he would go.

However, this man liked the quiet of the marsh, broken only by the occasional call of a wild duck or a rice hen or splashing of the semi-webbed feet of a coot trying to make his way over the very shallow waters.

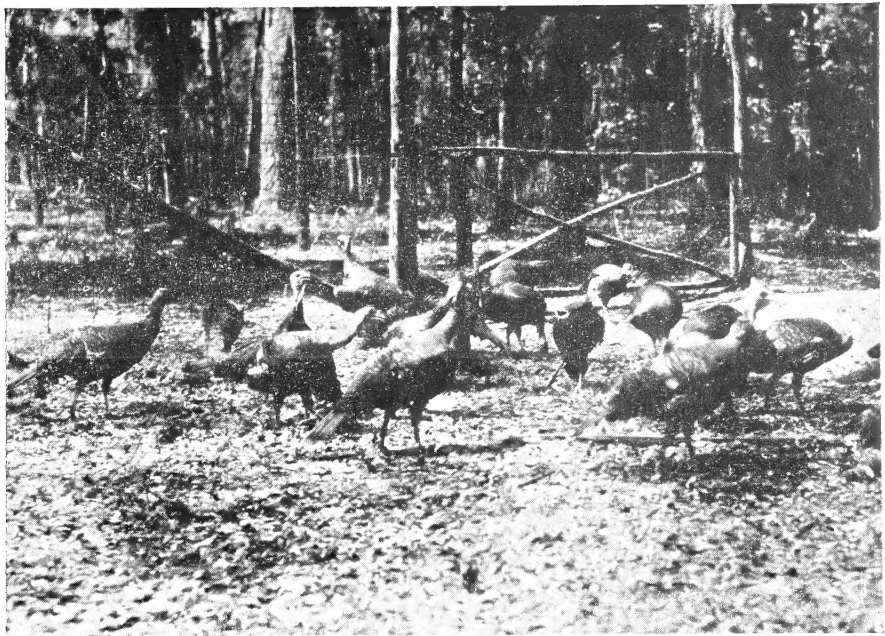
One morning in late October, as he sat in his blind hoping to get a shot or two at some curious wild ducks that might swing over in search of food, the thought occurred to him that he could build a dike across the lake side of this marsh and control the water level inside the marsh. An artesian well could be driven to flood the area or a water conveyor could be built to lift the lake water into the marsh. What a swell idea: He could have shooting all over the marsh then.

First he had to buy the marsh. It covered two hundred acres. Upon talking to the farmer, he had little difficulty in making a deal. As a matter of fact, the farmer thought he sure
(Please turn to page 21)

GENTLEMEN THE KING

By ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE

PART I



OF ALL the birds known to me, the wild turkey holds the premier place though I admit at the same time that the ruffed grouse has a patrician elegance all its own. Many things contribute to this—the turkey's size, his regal presence, his eerie wariness, his fleetness both afoot and awing, and his completely satisfying nature on the table. Any hunter who brings one home out of the wilderness goes far toward convincing his wife that she has married a real man after all.

With varying success, as must needs be the case with all who follow this splendid and elusive quarry, I have hunted this great bird in his native haunts for fifty years. Usually he has baffled and outwitted me, but occasionally I have turned the tables on him. Possibly you may benefit from some of my defeats and victories in the pursuit of this king of the wildwoods.

There are certainly two reasons why the wild turkey is one of the most elusive of all game birds: first, while I do not believe that his sense of smell is used to detect his enemies, both his hearing and his eyesight are phenomenally keen; second, his range may be said to be very great, and his movements most erratic. Quail and grouse, ducks and geese may generally be found where they belong; but turkeys are often found where least expected, and are as often absent from where they ought to be. Nor can a hunter tell how many miles away they may be.

If quail and grouse are not right here, they are right there; but turkeys sometimes just seem to leave the world. Moreover, for reasons known to themselves alone, or for no reasons at all, they take notions and will go trooping off into the wilderness, deserting tracts

of forest and swamp that are ideal for them—just disappearing for weeks at a time. Except to escape immediate danger, to go to roost, or to fly across water, they rarely use their wings; and in the case of a heavy old gobbler, he will nearly always try to escape on foot.

Nor is there another American game bird that can travel so fast and so far on his legs. A turkey can outrun a horse for a considerable distance, and a turkey with a broken wing will nearly always escape from the pursuing hunter. On the other hand, with a good bird dog to locate him, you can usually find and catch a wild turkey with a broken leg. He has to taxi to rise. This is especially true if the bird is a heavy one.

Only recently I had a thing happen to me that made me come home, after all these years of hunting turkeys, feeling that I really knew very little about these feathered monarchs of the wilds. About two miles from my plantation home, on the borders of a great cypress swamp, I had found where several turkeys had been using regularly. There was not much scratching, but I could see where some heavy toenails had ripped the ground; so I judged that one or two old gobblers were using that territory.

As is fairly well known, while a flock hatched one season will stay together, old gobblers and hens do not often consort together except in the mating season. I have seen as many as nine old bearded men travelling together. Frequently one wise old bird will live a solitary existence.

Thinking I might waylay the veterans in question, I repaired to their favorite haunt about one o'clock in the afternoon. Wild turkeys do most of their feeding early in the morning, when just down from the roost, and

about two o'clock in the afternoon. For about two hours or more in the middle of the day they loaf, drowse and dust themselves.

As it is very uncertain business to call gobblers that have not been separated and that are not mating, I decided to hide myself at a strategic place and just wait in the hope that they might come along. In thus hiding himself the hunter has to make sure that he is protected on all sides; yet he must not hide himself so well that he cannot see out, nor must he confine himself so closely that he cannot maneuver his gun properly.

A wild turkey is so keen and so fast that you have to be ready to receive him when he comes. If he ever catches a glimpse of your preparations, he'll be gone. His eyesight is almost in a class by itself—ininitely superior to that of the white-tailed deer. Indeed, if a deer sees a man motionless in the woods, he will say to himself, "That's a stump." But if a wild turkey sees a stump, he will say, "That's a man."

I had been in my little sentry-box in the wilds for an hour before anything happened. The day was very cold; and although I had on a lot of extra clothes, I was beginning to get chilly. Fortunately the air was still, so that I could catch every sound in the forest. However, I did not hear anything until, rather near me, but from an unexpected quarter, I detected bold rhythmic scratching—a sound which, once heard, is never forgotten.

I turned my eyes to one side, and within thirty yards of me was an old gobbler. When you see a wild turkey within range, the thing to do is to shoot him. Don't wait. If you have the chance, take it. Don't waste a second!

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THE NEW JERSEY DOG LAW

By ARTHUR ROLAND

THE New Jersey Legislature in 1941 passed a dog law requiring that every dog owner in the State must obtain a license for his pet.

The law that was signed by Governor Edison May 31, 1941, has done all that it was expected to do, and is of great importance not only because of its application to so many dog owners, but because it was drawn with great care with the thought that it would serve as a model for other states.

In its own language, "The purpose of this law was to provide uniform licensing, registration and control of dogs throughout New Jersey, to regulate sanitary conditions in kennels, dog pounds and pet shops where dogs are offered for sale, and to pay from license and registration fees for damage by dogs and for rabies prevention and control."

Annual Police Census

It provides for an annual police census of all dogs in the State, fixes a license fee at \$2 maximum and a \$1 minimum, without regard to sex, plus 25 cents for a registration tag, fixes a license fee for kennels and pet shops and requires that the money collected shall be used for enforcement, for the payment of damages done by dogs and for anti-rabic treatments of any person known or suspected to have been exposed to rabies. If, at the end of the third fiscal year after the law becomes effective, there is an unexpended balance over the amount paid in during the two previous fiscal years, it shall be turned into the general funds of the State.

The history of the law is interesting. It began some years ago when Mrs. M. Hartley Dodge, leading the fight against compulsory one-shot vaccination of dogs against rabies, discovered the terrific confusion and conflicts that governed the regulation of dogs. It could better be described as non-regulation than regulation. Few states had

similar laws and there was seldom uniformity within state boundaries. It was obvious that an effort should be made to develop uniform procedure if rabies was to be combatted effectively.

Those who attended the meeting in Madison, of the New Jersey dog owners, as represented by the various kennel organizations and sporting bodies in the State, will recall that at that time the complete lack of uniformity within the State, was cited. Some communities made a good job of enforcement and others did nothing about it. At that time the New Jersey Dog Owners' Association was formed to combat rabies and work for a sensible and model dog law.

It had the assistance of Mrs. Dodge in gathering dog laws not only from all parts of this country but from abroad so that they might be studied and their best features brought into a simple statute which could be easily enforced. It is not surprising that many will regard the new law as something of a monument to what she has done for dogs.

Under Health Agencies

The measure, which received almost unanimous support in both Houses of the Legislature, puts the machinery of enforcement under the health agencies of the State and its communities. This met with some opposition from the veterinary profession which held that the dog is primarily a veterinary problem. The drafters of the bill, however, held that where the dog comes into contact with the outside public, as contrasted with his owner, it is more apt to raise a medical question.

It is the State Department of Health which is charged with issuing the licenses and with providing for the licensing and inspection of kennels, pet shops and pounds. It and the local boards of health can revoke licenses, after hearings, where the owners have failed to observe regulations.

All dogs over six months old are subject to license and the money collected, except for the registration tags, is to be placed in a special fund, separate from other accounts of the municipality, to be used only "for collecting, keeping and disposing of dogs liable to seizure under this act or under local dog-control ordinances; for local prevention and control of rabies; for providing anti-rabic treatment under the direction of the local board of health for any person known or suspected to have been exposed to rabies; for payment of damage to or losses of poultry and domestic animals, except dogs and cats, caused by a dog or dogs and for administering the provisions of this act."

When Dogs Are Picked Up

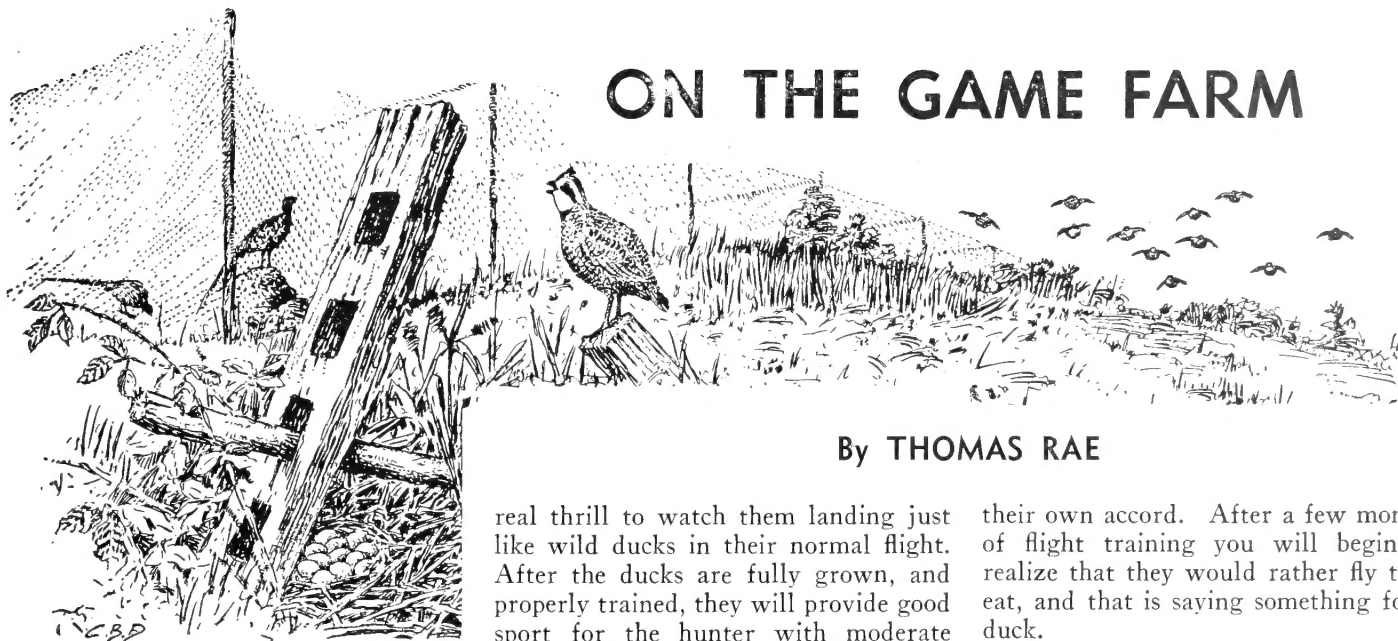
Any dog off the premises of the owner without a registration tag or any female in season running at large is to be picked up as a stray. Where the identity of the owner can be learned he is to be given notice that the dog is liable to destruction if not claimed within seven days. A maintenance fee not to exceed 50 cents a day, can be charged for dogs that are reclaimed and other expenses of the detention must be met. If dogs are not reclaimed they are to be destroyed "in a manner causing as little pain as possible."

"Seeing Eye" dogs must be licensed but no fee is to be charged for them. Institutions where dogs are kept for diagnostic, medical, surgical or other treatments under the immediate supervision of a graduate licensed veterinarian are included in the act's provision. And one article declares, "No provision of this act shall be construed as giving any authority for the compulsory inoculation of dogs with anti-rabic vaccines."

As in the case with all laws, this one provides the means rather than the assurance that the situation at which they are directed will be remedied. It

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ON THE GAME FARM



By THOMAS RAE

YOU must pardon my enthusiasm for the hand reared mallard duck, but I feel sure that after you learn the whole story you will agree that this really is a grand sporting bird. It has always been a puzzle to me to find so few sportsmen who shared my enthusiasm, because the mallard is one of the most satisfactory of game birds to raise in captivity.

In the northern states if hatching eggs are desired at an early date they can be obtained by keeping the breeders under lights, and they will lay a large number of fertile eggs. You can expect 60 to 70% of the eggs to hatch, and some breeders have even a better record for hatchability. The young ducklings are hardy creatures, and with the proper treatment you should be able to raise at least 90% of them unless you meet with some unforeseen trouble.

When you get your flock on the pond, and they begin to show signs of flight with the drakes taking on their beautiful plumage you have a picture of beauty with action, which is unsurpassed by any other wild duck. The sight of these ducks will produce genuine pleasure to the owner as well as the game keeper, and the size of the flock makes little difference, because the ducks grow so rapidly that you feel you have done something very constructive. The flock is coaxed or driven to the feeding pond, and after they know their way they provide the added pleasure of seeing them flying back to the pond. Their action in returning to their pond shows whether they have been properly handled, and when you have a large flock of several thousand starting in their return flight with a few pair following by groups of 10 to 20, or finally up to 50 or more, it is a

real thrill to watch them landing just like wild ducks in their normal flight. After the ducks are fully grown, and properly trained, they will provide good sport for the hunter with moderate means as well as the millionaire. The breeder operating on a small scale need not have an incubator or brooders, and as long as he protects them against the destruction by predators he can raise a good number of ducks at very little expense. The sportsman with more money can operate on a larger scale with more birds, but he will not have any better shooting than the breeder that raises a small flock without any help.

Now let us consider the plans for establishing a duck shoot. Let us assume that owner or sportsman expects to spend considerable money, and has set as his goal about 5,000 ducks. We will assume that he has his own breeding stock, has bought the eggs, or the young ducklings. The owner has a pond of 2 to 5 acres in area where the ducks have been raised and fed with an abundance of grain. It is comparatively easy to tell when the ducks are full winged and ready to fly by the way they exercise their wings while still on the ground as they sit along the bank of their rearing pond. The next step is the establishment of a feeding place about a quarter or a half mile from the pond. This is a comparatively short distance but far enough for the purpose of training. If conditions permit it is desirable to have the feeding grounds on a higher level than the pond. A chute or platform is a handy device to get some of the timid ones started on their return flight. It is surprising how many ducks will go up this runway apparently for the fun of taking off from the chute themselves.

The ducks are fed once a day at our preserve, and we have found it advisable to use hoppers with an abundant supply of feed on hand at all times. After the ducks have finished their training they will fly back and forth of

their own accord. After a few months of flight training you will begin to realize that they would rather fly than eat, and that is saying something for a duck.

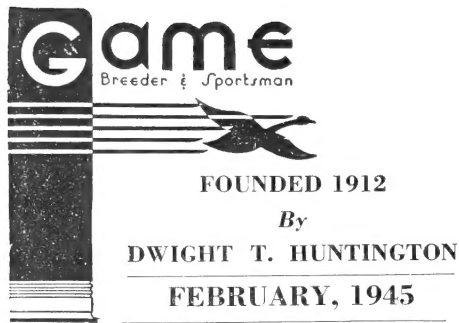
Just a day before a shoot we catch the ducks in a pen built for the purpose, and then transfer them to a wire bottom pen with running water, but without food. The wire bottom keeps the ducks clean if it happens to rain, and the lack of food makes them more alert, and anxious to go somewhere when they are released. During the morning of the scheduled shoot they are placed in carrying boxes, which are constructed with wire bottoms, wire sides, and canvas top covered with the same wire netting as the sides. The crates are transported to the high ground, which has previously been marked and prepared for the shoot. When there are 10 or 12 guns at the shoot there are three release places each with a definite marker such as A, B, C; and the crates are marked for the drive. So when a crate is marked A 5-25, it means that the crate goes to A station, on No. 5 drive, and it contains 25 ducks.

The man in charge of loading the crates has a sheet of paper with all this information on it, so that his record gives the number of crates to go to each station as well as the number of ducks in each crate. Record cards on the crates correspond with the information at the loading point.

Even though it is customary to use blinds for the gunners, I personally do not regard it necessary to have them, and this also may help in saving an expense item, especially when the duck shooting is operated on a modest plan.

Ducks are usually released by hand, and this gives them a better start as they fly toward the gunners. To have duck shooting at its best the weather should be cool and a wind for the ducks to ride out on. Even during stormy weather you can always get a break between

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Team Work

THE history of game conservation in America has been a chronicle of changing and conflicting ideas and policies. As a matter of fact, there was little recognition of the need for steps to conserve our wildlife at all until near the end of the 19th century, when the noticeable decrease in numbers of many species of native game made it clear that action of some sort was necessary, or hunting would eventually become a thing of the past.

The early steps to reverse the trend were entirely restrictive in character. It was reasoned that game was being killed too rapidly, therefore the solution was simple—all we had to do was to cut down on the killing. Battling against public indifference and human selfishness, pioneering conservationists succeeded in obtaining the enactment of game laws limiting seasons and bag limits, and otherwise restricting the legal kill.

This was helpful in slowing down the rate of decrease, and some species of game showed temporary increases in some localities. But the trend continued downward. This, in time, caused the application of added restrictions on shooting.

It was at this point that some students of game conditions began to question the wisdom of constantly growing restrictions on hunting which had failed to achieve their purpose. Outstanding in this group was Dwight W. Huntington, founder of the Game Conservation Society and first editor of this publication, who was to earn for himself the designation "Father of the More Game Movement."

These men believed the shooting of game was only one of several reasons for its disappearance; and that by far the greatest factor was loss of natural range, food and cover due to the encroachment of civilization itself. Breaking up of the plains by fences, plus extensive grazing by cattle, which spelled the doom of the thundering buffalo herds, and clean farming and drainage, which ruined the habitat of upland game birds and waterfowl, are typical examples.

These men urged game management and game production. As the importance of game lies chiefly in its recreational value, they soon recognized that laws which restricted its utilization discouraged the interest of the hunter in its production. Thus was born a direct conflict between those who pinned their faith on restrictive laws alone and those who believed that the laws should be modified to encourage game management and production.

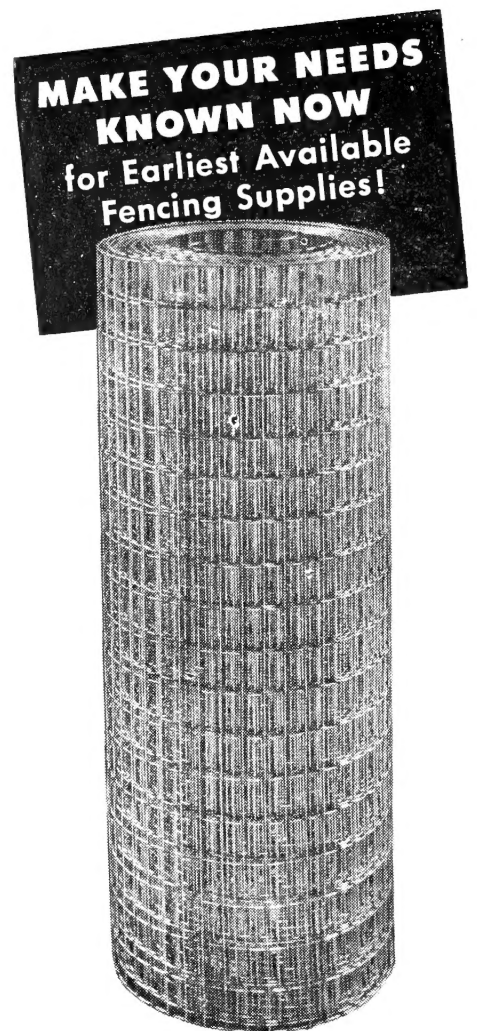
From its first issue as "The Game Breeder" in 1912, Game Breeder and Sportsman has stressed game restoration. It has noted with increasing satisfaction the gradual acceptance of its own ideas on the importance of game management and restocking. It has been delighted to note bitterness and controversy giving way to increasing agreement by sportsmen and conservationists with the policies it has advocated.

During the past ten years, sportsmen have been more united than ever before on the need for game production and restocking, game management and legislation to encourage these practices, while all have come to realize the necessity for reasonable restrictions on bags and seasons. What is more, we have seen the birth of teamwork by sportsmen, through the instrumentality of their national and local organizations, with the several State Game Departments and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

It is essential that this teamwork continue—that it grow. Sportsmen must join their local sportsmen's organizations, sponsor local winter feeding programs, and cooperate with state and federal wardens. They must support national organizations like Ducks Unlimited, that are striving to give them better sport. They must remain alert to such perils as pollution, cooperating whole-heartedly and aggressively with such organizations as the Izaak Walton League of America in safeguarding their waters and their public land.

To the sportsmen and their organizations—to the state and federal game agencies—to all interested in more game and better shooting—Game Breeder and Sportsman pledges its cooperation. Teamwork has done much; it can do more!

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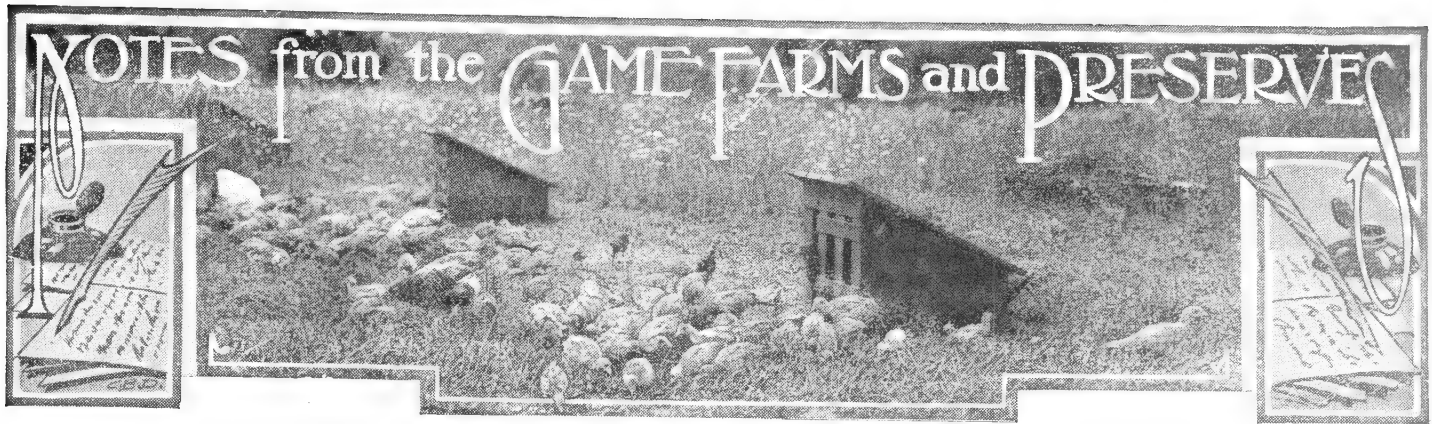
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CONTINUED snow and cold weather during the past month has been a serious blow to game birds in the wild, but the breeders have been extremely busy with their plans for the coming spring. The interest among members as well as others is greater than at any time since the War began, and one breeder reported to this column that he is receiving orders much earlier than in former years. Judging from the inquiries since the first of January the number of breeders will be a record, and those already well established are planning to handle all the birds that their supply of labor will permit.

Many of our new members are making careful plans before they launch out into the interesting field of game breeding, and they are also benefitting by the cooperation they receive from veteran breeders. This cooperation helps the established breeder as well as the novice, because by exchanging ideas they very often work out trades, which would not be brought about by any other plan, and it is helping the War effort by eliminating waste. Tony Carnaglia of Long Island was anxious to raise a few pheasants, so he became a member, and by meeting other members he not only was able to purchase birds from reliable breeders, but they also helped him to arrange his pens in time for the breeding season. Many breeders become discouraged before they get a good start in a very interesting hobby, but to date all members have worked along constructive lines, which has been helpful to every one and this is one of the reasons we have an abundant supply of game birds in America. Another member Mr. C. E. Clayton after reading a few copies of "Game Breeder" visited our office, procured his set of more-game booklets as well as other educational material, although he is still waiting for better weather to start his game breeding farm.

Predators are a serious problem to game breeders, and many of them are birds that are common to many sec-

CAPT. AMOS HORST

tions of the U. S., but a few are protected by law, while others are unprotected, so it behooves a breeder to make a study of the various species of destructive birds in his community. As a guide to farmers and game breeders this column was furnished with a very helpful guide by William H. Winters, inspector for the N. Y. State Conservation Department with three groups of unprotected birds, all of which are destructive and can be shot in New York State.

The first group of small birds consists of English sparrows, starlings, and purple grackle; the larger birds are crows, king fisher, and cormorant; and the unprotected owls are the great horned, snowy owl, and the great grey owl. They are numerous and it is a common theory that they are all destructive, which might lead one to believe they could all be shot, but this may lead to serious trouble, because there are six protected hawks consisting of the duck hawk, sparrow, rough legged, red shouldered, osprey, golden eagle, and bald eagle. The laws differ on the birds within the borders of different states so it is advisable for all concerned to read their state law, and be sure to memorize the birds by such an easy plan, which should be obtained from the Conservation Department.

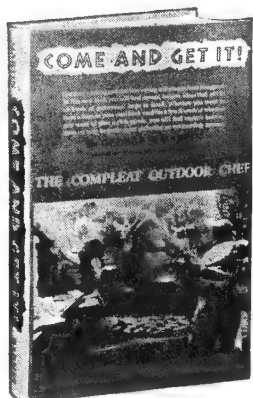
Gerald V. Hollins, president of the Long Island Game Protective Association not only provided the interesting data on "Duck Shooting on Long Island", which was published last month, but also has developed some good ideas on increasing the duck supply by enlisting the cooperation of large estate owners. His plan is to have private owners cooperate by making their land into game sanctuaries, which could be operated under the supervision of the Fish & Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior, and have continued feeding after the duck season for those birds that stay for the winter.

The valuable help given to wildlife during these severe cold days will mean more upland game birds as well as waterfowl next season for the sportsmen, and it is hoped that by next year many more organizations like the Southern N. Y. Fish & Game Association, the Amawalk Rod & Gun Club, and the L. I. Game Protective Association will make an early start in this important work. Merely admitting that it was an unusual winter alone will not help the cause, but well laid plans for next winter backed by workers and money will be a great help, and now is the time to get started. It is hoped that in another year more educational material will be available for our readers as well as those interested in winter feeding of game birds.

Splendid work is being done by members of the Eastern States Avicultural Society, because the members continue to meet despite the War, and they not only keep up their own aviaries, but also help others by supporting good game bird shows. There is little wonder that the membership is growing so rapidly when one considers that the members helped two shows establish records last year, and now with the leadership of Clifton T. Alden, president of the Association, the Fifth Annual Game Bird Show, sponsored by the E. S. A. S., will be held March 31 to April 8, 1945, at the American-Canadian Sportsmen's Show, Cleveland, Ohio. Some of the Long Island breeders will be exhibitors at Cleveland, and judging from the crowds at other sporting events this show should have no difficulty in hanging up a record for exhibitors and patronage.

Now that many service men are coming back to take their place in outdoor work, it is hoped that breeders will cooperate by giving these men an opportunity to demonstrate their willingness to learn game management. The demand for game and fish will be greater than the present facilities can provide, so an increase in production will be necessary to meet the demand for more hunting and fishing.

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CORN SUBSTITUTES IN THE DIET OF BOB WHITE CHICKS

By RALPH B. NESTLER, BIOLOGIST
Conclusion

TABLE 4. RESULTS FROM EXPERIMENT 5
(Data from duplicate pens combined)
Diet containing

	50% corn and 50%								
	Corn alone	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Oat groats	Millet	Kaffir	Buckwheat
Survival of birds (%)									
through: 4th week	78	71	74	64	80	57	82	42	70
6th week	78	69	62	62	71	47	78	38	64
Weight of birds (grams)									
at end of: 4th week	40	44	44	41	43	38	45	41	43
6th week	82	78	80	82	81	76	81	79	80
¹ Total feed consumed by each bird during 1st four weeks	²	101	112	101	109	87	106	104	123
¹ Grams of feed required for each gram gain in weight during 1st four weeks	²	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.9

¹ The record through the 6th week was lost.

² Data rejected because of discrepancies.

Rating: Table 5 gives the evaluation of the various cereals for the first four weeks (except in the case of corn alone) on the basis of all data, and for the first six weeks on the basis of data pertaining to survival and bird weights only. In evaluating the cereals for six weeks the loss of the feed consumption data prevented the use of such and of consequential "efficiency" computations.

TABLE 5. RATING OF CEREALS WHEN COMBINED WITH YELLOW CORN IN GROWING DIET.

	First 4 weeks	First 6 weeks
Corn alone	100	100
Millet-corn	100	99
Wheat-corn	97	92
Rye-corn	97	95
Oats-corn	95	89
Barley-corn	92	90
Oat groats-corn	91	77
Buckwheat-corn	91	90
Kaffir-corn	83	73

Millet when fed in combination with corn on a fifty-fifty basis, as when fed as the sole cereal in a diet, merits first place. Rye, wheat and oats when mixed with corn produced much better results as constituents in the diet of quail chicks than when fed as sole cereals. Rye especially was improved as a quail food when mixed with corn. The unaccountable heavy mortality in one of the pens given the diet containing kaffir caused this cereal, which rated so high in the first four experiments, to rate last in Experiment 5.

Summary

Of nine cereals used in the diet of growing quail, millet consistently gave the best results considering survival, bird-weights, feed consumption, and efficiency of feed utilization. Millet, kaffir, and buckwheat when fed as sole cereals gave results comparable to those obtained with yellow corn. Results on oats and rye as sole cereals were not very satisfactory.

When quail chicks were given a choice of mashes based on the cereals under consideration, they showed the greatest preference for the one containing millet as sole cereal, and the least desire for that containing oat groats. However, none of the preferences was outstanding.

Any of the cereals successfully replaced half of the corn in the diet, millet, wheat, and rye being the leading three.

When substituting for yellow corn, one should bear in mind that yellow corn is a fair source of carotene (Provitamin A), whereas all of the other cereals mentioned herein are poor sources. Therefore, sufficient vitamin A or carotene should be supplied by means of other feedstuffs in order to prevent a deficiency of this important nutrient.





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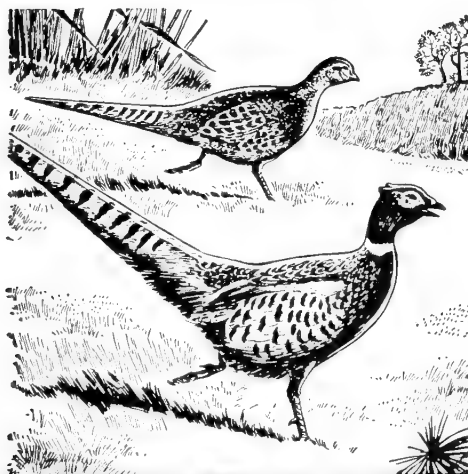
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A Paying Preserve

(Continued from page 14)

had a sucker, for the marsh was no good at all. He sold it at a very reasonable price.

Now the plumber had a marsh. The next thing was to build a dike. During the following winter months he built himself a ditch digger, a simple home made contraption, run by an old automobile engine. While the marsh was still frozen over, he started to dig his dirt for the dike. The digging started about twenty-five feet in from the lake's edge—his ditch on the inside and the dike toward the lake. It ran from the highway to the hill. Finally his marsh was enclosed. Next he dug a ditch connecting the potholes with the perimeter ditch, throwing the dirt on either side.

During the spring he planted his dredge banks with wild duck millet to bind the soil and also make food for the teal and mallards. Throughout that summer the banks settled and became solid and firm.

The next job was to get the water to flood his marsh. So he drove a pipe for a six-inch artesian flow. Only thirty feet into his marsh, but not enough to flood the area as he desired. However, it was sufficient to offset seepage and evaporation.

Now to get water out of the lake. To do this he had to dig a ditch from the lake to the dike, then build a water conveyor to lift water over the dike into the marsh.

His conveyor was a crude arrangement, a wooden trough six feet long and one foot deep, extending from two feet beneath the water over the top of the dike. Into this was built a chain conveyor with boards about three feet apart, that caught the water and pushed it up the trough over the dike. This was run by his same auto engine that dug the ditch for the dike. It worked very well.

Another duck season was now at hand and talk about ducks—every duck hunter for fifty miles envied him! The marsh was full of lowland weeds laden with seeds when he turned on the water. Maybe you think the ducks didn't go for those seeds. It was just like baiting with corn in the old days. Well, sir, "It was so good that the local banker, the doctor, the lawyer and seven other businessmen leased the duck shooting rights for the next five years at \$1,000 per year, and wrote into the lease that he himself and one friend could also shoot there any time during the open season, free of charge, he to retain all fishing and trapping rights.

This plumber knew that for this good shooting to continue he must do something to keep up the supply of food

for those ducks. So he started to plant his marsh with natural foods. Around the banks he sowed smartweed and wild duck millet seeds. In the shallow waters he planted wild rice, and wapato duck potato, burreed, pickerel plants, wampee duck corn seed, water smartweed, and others. Some he bought and some he took from their natural state in nearby marshes. In the potholes and ditches he planted wild celery, sago pondweed, deep water duck potato, and other kinds. The waters were good, the soil rich, and "wow," what results.

During the summer he caught bass out in the big lake and kept them in his live box, and then turned them free in the potholes in his marsh.

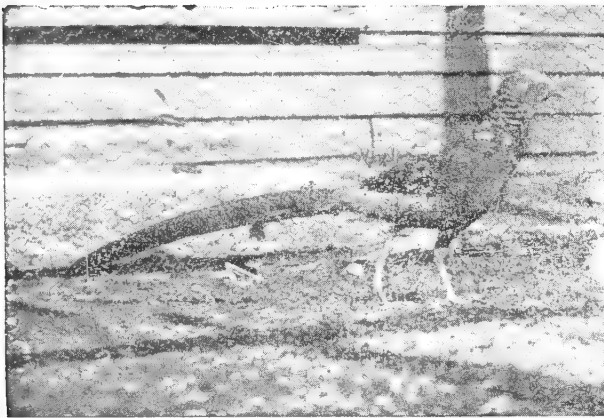
In the fall another problem came up. The muskrats invaded his marsh. It kept him busy patching the dikes. I believe his place actually coaxed in about half of the muskrats from the big lake. There were so many that he had to buy windfall apples, carrots, and undersize potatoes and scatter them over the marsh to keep them from eating up the duck food he had planted the previous spring.

Finally, after the fall duck season was nearly over, he started to trap the muskrats. Their pelts were now prime. Talk about a surprised man. He kept on trapping and every day his traps were full, it took him half the night to skin, clean, and stretch the furs. At the end of the season his figures added up to 2,800 muskrat pelts that brought in the handsome sum of \$5,100. This, plus his \$1,000, was not so bad an income off a worthless marsh, and he was his own boss, doing the thing he liked.

That's not all the story. He quit his plumbing job and devoted all of his time to his marsh. He built cabins along the highway and the hunters paid for the use of these in the fall. In summer they were filled with fishermen. To the fishermen he also rented boats and averaged better than \$5.00 per day off his boats and cabins.

The fish became plentiful in those ditches and potholes. Food and cover were abundant. The fish did not have to eat one another to survive. It seemed like all the young fish grew to maturity.

That's the end of my story of what happened to a worthless marsh. Some people thought it was a crazy idea that this plumber had conceived while thinking in the quiet of his duck blind. As a matter of fact, he had a better job than the banker, the doctor, or lawyer in his small town. His income was equal to theirs and he loved his work. But don't misunderstand me, he did work darn hard to get this thing going. Success was the reward for his toils.



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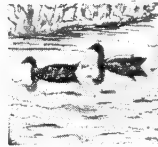
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The King

(Continued from page 15)

The moment I could get my gun on the great bird, I pulled trigger. But to my chagrin, he took the air. I was in no position for a wingshot. I was cold and cramped. Of all times, that huge bird, instead of floundering up, executed one of those grouse get-aways. He corkscrewed low through the thick timber. Yet at my shot he fell. As I knew I had fired rather blindly, I realize now that hitting him was just dumb luck.

Climbing out of the little ambush where I had been hidden, with an extra sweater and overcoat over my left arm and my unloaded gun in my right hand, I eased through the thickety woods to retrieve my prize. Sure enough, there he lay up against a pine log, the afternoon sun glinting on his regal plumage. I could see he was not dead, but thought, of course, he was done for. I walked right up to him, laid my gun against the log, and leaned over to pick him up.

In a flash that old bird righted himself and ducked into a thicket of blackberry canes. I saw his wing was broken, and I knew I had to shoot him again. But before I could rid myself of all the clothes I was trying to carry and had grabbed up my gun and loaded it, he was out of range, yet still in sight, wabbling a good deal, yet making off through the woods. And the trouble is that when a wild turkey starts to run, you never know where he will stop.

I tried to follow him. I hunted him for two full hours, and never saw him or any sign of him. Mournfully I retraced my steps to the place from which I had shot. "I just don't understand," I kept telling myself, "how I missed him on the ground and shot him down flying through the woods. I think I'll go back to where he was scratching, just to see if there isn't a feather."

When I got there, a huge gobbler lay dead at my feet. There had been two; and when one rose at my shot, I supposed it was the one I had fired at. Two things, I guess, we might learn from this experience: One is that when a hunter approaches wounded game, he should be ready to shoot again; and the second is that it often pays to scout around a little before wholly abandoning a search. The other gobbler, by the way, I picked up two days later, alive and in perfect condition save for his broken wing, within a few hundred yards of my home. He had followed the river bank all the way from where I had shot him.

Courtesy Field & Stream

(To be continued)



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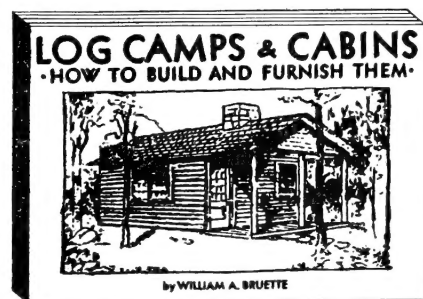
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On the Game Farm

(Continued from page 17)

showers, and this fits in very well on a preserve, because very often duck shooting is at its best when it would be impossible to shoot pheasants.

In order to have real sport the ducks should be released from a new place away from the feeding pond, so they will come in at various angles, as well as different altitudes. There is nothing standardized about their flight, and a hunter who has had good luck with a 410 should endeavor to borrow a 12 gauge shotgun if he is anxious to make a good showing. Whenever a swamp is located near the shooting area, a spaniel can be used with great success, especially when the ducks have been accustomed to use the swamp as a feeding ground.

N. J. Dog Law

(Continued from page 16)

will be up to the dog owners to observe them and to work for their enforcement. To that end, it is to be hoped that kennel clubs and other organizations for canine welfare will try to put public opinion behind observance of the law.

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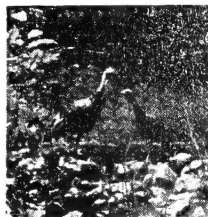
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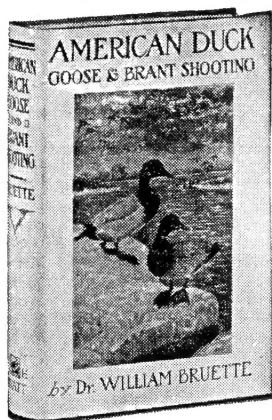
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