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UPLAND GAME BIRDS AND THEIR FAVORITE FOODS

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

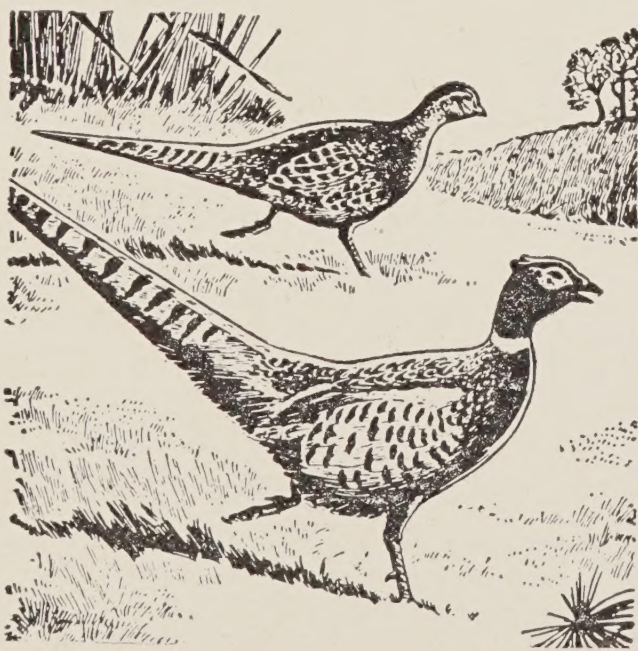
For many years we have labored under the impression that in our time and here at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, that the idea of planting natural game foods was originated. We are now informed by one of our customers that ours is only a revision of an idea, which he states according to Marco Polo's travels, was carried on many years ago by an Egyptian Ruler on his favorite hunting ground.

The baiting of wild game was a common practice among our forefathers. They well knew that the principle fundamental that concerned all wild creatures was to obtain food. After all, is not that the principle concern of all living creatures? Therefore, to provide an easy means of obtaining this wild game for their own food, the pioneers coaxed game with food that these wild creatures were fond of.

Today it is not only illegal, but unsportsmanlike to bait game. However, it is legal, sportsmanlike and highly considered an act of conservation to grow natural foods for all kinds of game. Natural food plants not only provide for the game during the shooting season, but prior to and after the season as well. These natural foods also make natural cover or hiding places where the wild game may escape their natural enemies as well as rear their young.

The three fundamentals which concern wild life are: first, to find food; second, protection from their enemies; and third to reproduce. Provide the first two and they alone will reproduce abundantly.

RINGNECK PHEASANTS



This popular species of pheasant like the open fields adjoining the low marsh area best. They like to be near water in a thick weed growth where food is plentiful. About the open grain fields which are bordered by low-growing shrubs that make a fine cover, a place to hide in safety. Leave a border of shrubs and weeds along that fence line.

At certain times of the year, pheasants make up better than 50% of their food of insect life, while at other times when insect life is not plentiful, they feed almost entirely upon seeds of either grain or weeds. These game birds are thus important in the control of destructive insects and obnoxious weeds.

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QUAIL

These little old game birds are the pride of any sportsman's bag. They like the open field with clumps of shelter in the form of low shrubs covered with vines. Twice daily these game birds go to the nearby pond, stream or water holes and like to linger and feed on the weed seeds and berries that grow nearby.



Like pheasants, quail also consume an abundance of insect life and obnoxious weed seeds. Their purpose is three-fold, sport for the hunter, a delicacy for the table, and control of undesirable insect and plant life.



PARTRIDGE OR RUFFED GROUSE

The habits of these game birds are quite similar to Quail and Pheasants, except that their natural habitat is in and about the forest, more dense cover. They love to linger in open sunny spots and feed, but it must be close to a means of escape. Like the others, they consume insect life and seeds, but also the buds and tender foliage—like the leaves of white clover.

How to Make Your Property Attractive

On most properties there is some natural food for upland game birds and also some natural cover. Perhaps there is insufficient to support large numbers of game. One can thus increase the number of game birds by adding to the food supply and natural cover.



It's not necessary or advisable to make large fields of grain for them. We recommend what is termed as a "spot" planting, a lot of small feed beds with natural cover nearby. Insects are plentiful in spring and summer, but perennial shrubs, bushes and vines as well as stocky seed-producing grains of fall and winter are important.

REMEMBER THE PASSENGER PIGEON AND THE HEATH HEN?

Back in the late nineteenth century—not many years ago, the passenger pigeon was here in countless thousands. During migration, they would actually darken the sky and blot out the sun. Wonderfully prolific, having the forest of the north as its breeding ground, traveling hundreds of miles in search of food, it was here today and elsewhere tomorrow. This day they are gone; the last passenger pigeon died in 1914 in the Cincinnati Zoo.

Next the heath hen, their numbers have also dwindled away. In 1916, there were estimated about 2,000 heath hens, in 1928 there remained but three, today they likewise are gone.

Let us not further destroy the haunts of our remaining wild life, let us conserve and thus perpetuate the sports which are dependent upon them that we may bequeath to our children their rightful remaining heritage, for that which has been so ruthlessly destroyed can never be regained.

Wm. O. Coon, Naturalist

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Natural Foods

Following are listed several of the important field seeds that provide foods for both quail and pheasants; also are trees, shrubs and vines important to upland birds and game.

	Per 100 lbs.	10 lbs.
Lespedeza Clover Seed	\$ 30.00	\$ 3.00
Canary Seed	75.00	9.00
Wild Millet Seed	16.00	2.00
Large Dwarf Rape Seed	40.00	5.00
Smartweed Seed	40.00	5.00
Sunflower Seed	30.00	4.00
Whole Flax Seed	25.00	3.00
Hairy Vetch Seed	25.00	3.50
Dwarf Milo Maize Seed	16.00	2.00
Wild Buckwheat Seed	16.00	2.00
White Clover Seed	175.00	20.00

TREES

Pin Cherry (4-8 feet high)	\$4.00	each
Hackberry (1½ inch base)	7.00	"
Hawthorn (3-5 feet high)	7.00	"
Wild Crab (3-4 feet high)	3.00	"
Mulberry (2-3 feet high)	3.00	"
English Oak (6-8 feet high)	9.00	"
Pussy Willow (4-5 feet high)	2.00	"
Red Cedar (2-3 feet high)	9.00	"
Scotch Pine (2-3 feet high)	7.00	"
Douglas Fir (2-3 feet high)	6.00	"
Beech Nut (2-3 feet high)	7.00	"

SHRUBS

Hazelnut (18-24 inches)	\$1.50	each
Honeysuckle (3-4 feet)	1.50	"
Chokecherry (3-4 feet)	1.60	"
Smooth Sumac (3-4 feet)	1.50	"
Mountain Currant (18-24 inches)	1.60	"
Wild Rose (18-24 inches)	1.50	"
Swamp Rose (2-3 feet)	1.50	"
American Elder (2-3 feet)	1.50	"
Buffalo Berry (2-3 feet)	1.50	"
Snow Berry (2-3 feet)	1.50	"
Nanny Berry (3-4 feet)	1.60	"

VINES

Bittersweet (2 years)	\$1.00	each
Wild Grape (2 years)	1.00	"
Raspberry Plants	3.00	dozen

Prices are f. o. b. nurseries. No orders accepted for any quantities or assortment amounting to less than \$10.00. (These are net prices, no discount allowed.)

GAME FOOD NURSERIES ; OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

What Constitutes a Good Game Refuge

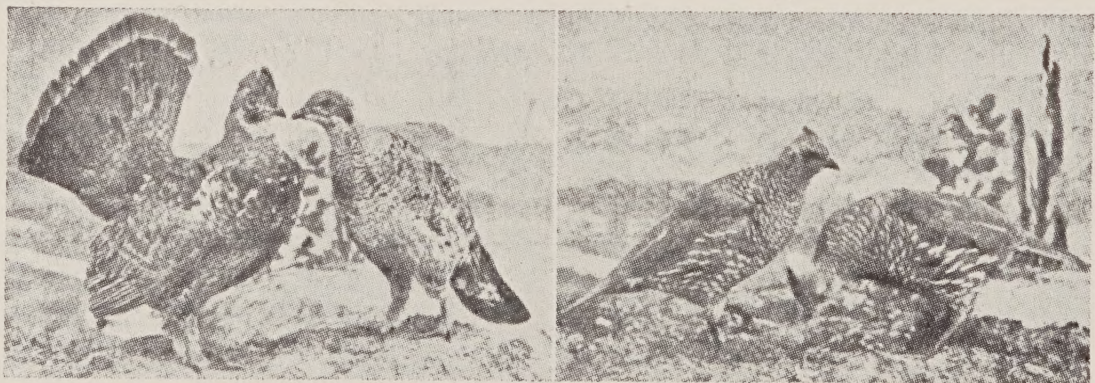
It is a common error that national, state and municipal forests are per se good game refuges. President John B. Burnham of the American Game Protective Association points out, that this is not necessarily true. In order to serve any good purpose as game refuges, forests must be attractive to wild animals and bird life. They must contain food as well as shelter.

The tendency in management of public forests is to plant and promote the growth only of such trees as will in time make merchantable timber, with no thought of such other free growth, shrubbery and other plant life as is necessary to an attractive home for birds and animals.

Game cannot live without food. "The reason", says Mr. Burnham, "why many game refuges are absolutely worthless (aside from the question of vermin control) is that, to put it figuratively, they provide only a safe house, with no kitchen and no order in the grocery store. You cannot expect wild animals and birds to flock to foodless refuges just because they are planted with commercially attractive trees. Of the conifers, hemlock, white cedar and balsam, when small, furnish food for deer and hares in the winter season. Pine has practically no food value and spruce none whatever. In summer, even deer and rabbits will find nothing they can eat in the typically planted forest".

Mr. Burnham points out that for every coniferous tree planted there should be a number of deciduous trees—including fruit and nut-bearing trees. Game want sun-light too, and plenty of it. So openings and gaps in the forest must be left which will encourage undergrowth. At least half for the forest area should be left unoccupied by commercial trees if it is to be a good game refuge.

Quoting again from Mr. Burnham: We should let Mother Nature have something to say as to what happens on this 50% so-called wasteland. There is nothing more valuable for our primary object, than weeds and berry briars, sumacs, wild apples and grapes, barberries and thorn apples, and where Nature leaves the ground bare, give her the benefit of the doubt and believe that she may know something after all. Partridges need places to dust and wild grasses and plants are important to the game's dietary. Some refuges should have no forest at all. We must not forget the wild grass swamps for pheasants.



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