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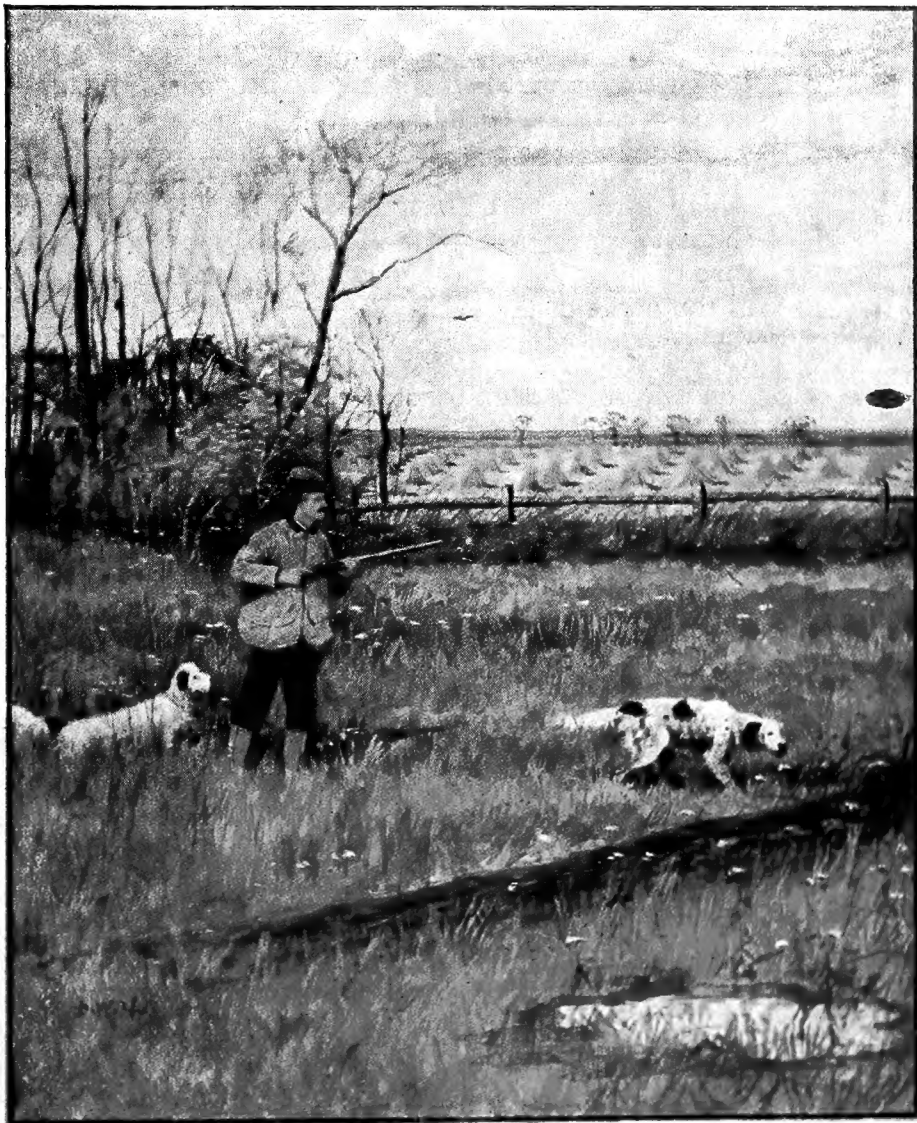
THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XII.

OCTOBER, 1917

No. 1

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



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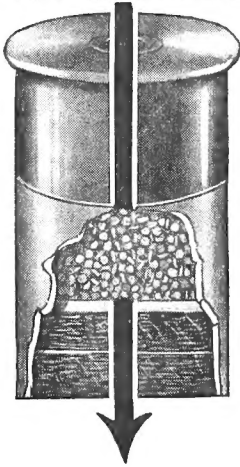
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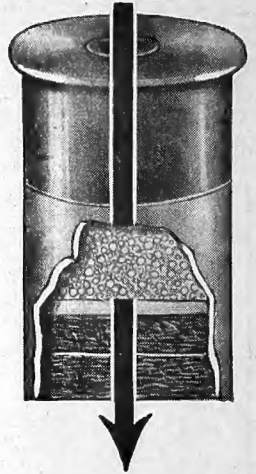
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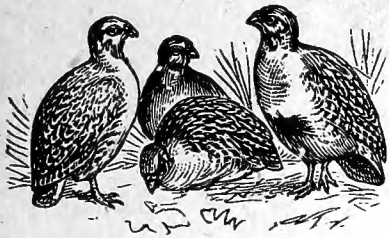
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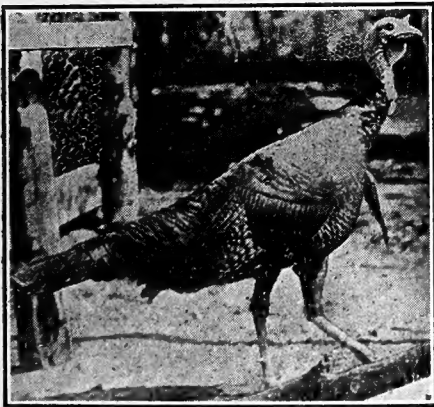
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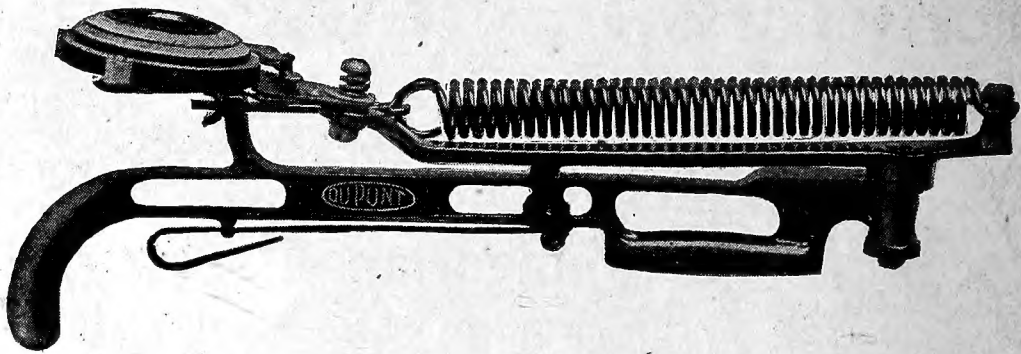
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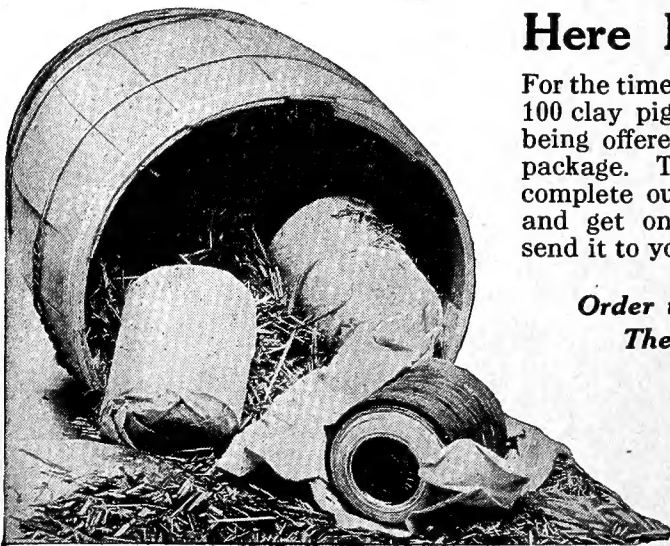
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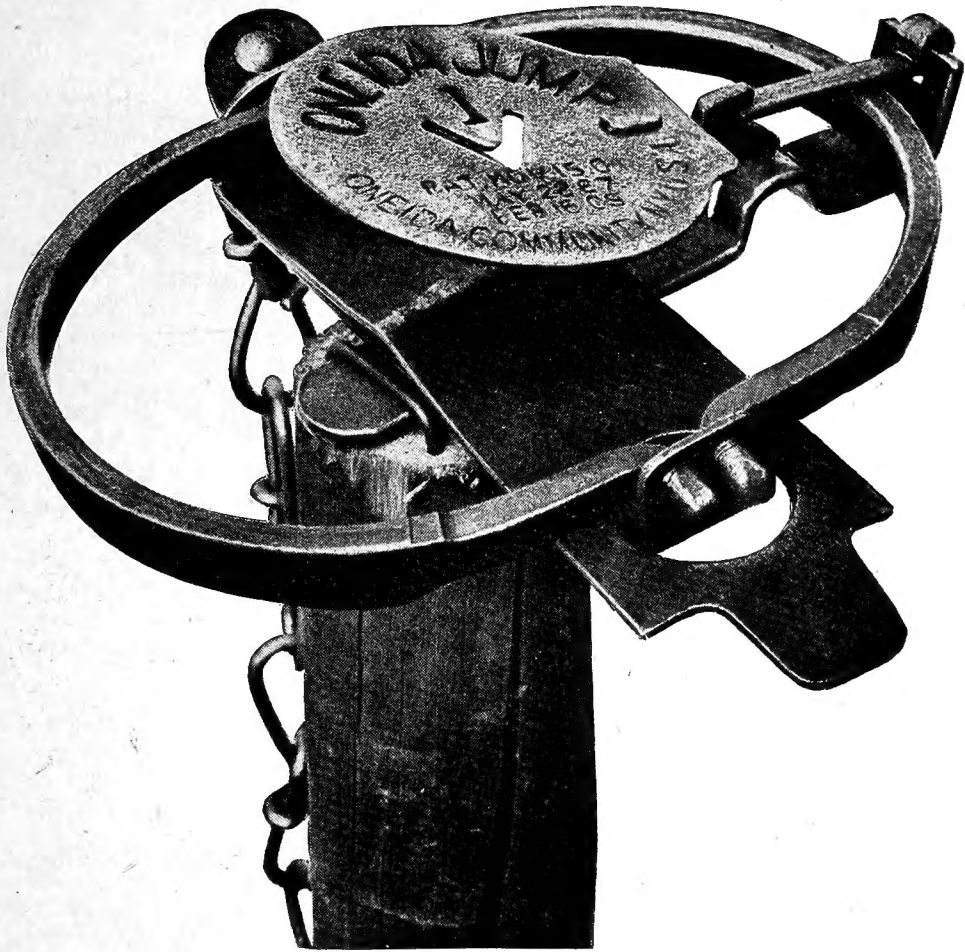
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The Game Breeder

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VOLUME XII

OCTOBER, 1917

NUMBER 1



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

New Places.

We had expected in this issue to announce the organization of several big shoots and two new big game farms where thousands of birds will be reared. There has been considerable delay, as there usually is, we are informed. It takes time to decide upon a location when many desirable properties are offered and the selection of game keepers is often a problem requiring some consideration. One or two big shoots which were about to be organized when war was declared have been deferred because the organizers seemed to think it not timely to start a big sporting proposition. We have insisted that considered as food producing plants there could be no objection to preserves where the shooting is lively, provided they be started by those rejected for military duty.

=

Plans of the Game Conservation Society.

The society has plans for many interesting and practical experiments during the coming breeding season. The shipping of one day old birds again will be undertaken. There will be far more prizes of live game next year for those who write the best stories about breeding. The society will probably undertake some important breeding experiments with grouse and the more difficult wild fowl.

=

Near-Sighted Profit.

Due to the scarcity of and demand for all kinds of meat, the price of live stock is at present abnormally high. The farmer naturally wants to sell all he can

at these figures, and it is not to be wondered at that he is sorely tempted to sell his old or breeding stock as well at these figures. It is true that they will bring a good price, yet, unless others as good or better are on hand to replace them, this procedure is bad indeed.

Instead of selling off breeding stock, the opposite plan should be followed wherever possible—the increasing of breeders. The American live stock industry must not only be maintained, but it must be built up. Kill the mature stock and the industry is crippled. With the breeders killed, production is cut off and future farm profits from these animals lost.

The breeding animals on the farm are essential and must be considered as part of the permanent investment. Save these to earn future profits, and to preserve and insure our domestic meat supply.

“Don’t kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.”—Vertical Farming Magazine.

Our advice is, breed game abundantly.

=

Good Work.

The subscriptions to The Game Breeder keep up surprisingly well. We are pleased to have members who are starting for the war write us to keep sending the magazine. Often new subscriptions are sent by members of the society who wish to interest their friends in our work. It is not unusual for a member to send two and even five dollars with the request that we send the magazine to those named in the letter.

Every cent received is promptly expended in extending the work of the

society. The industry is now strong on its feet and growing stronger. Some members write suggesting that we should charge \$2.00 instead of \$1.00 for the magazine, but we would much prefer to charge 50 cents, if that were possible, in order to extend the work of the society more widely and to teach more sportsmen that easily they can have good shooting during long open seasons at small expense, and they should work hand in hand with the commercial breeders and the farmers in order to see that the people have plenty of game to eat.

Always send us some names of likely people when writing to *The Game Breeder* and we will promptly send them sample copies. We appreciate the help of our readers and hope soon to be able to give them more for their money.

=

Pratt Arrests Hunters.

Saranac Lake, N. Y., Sept. 27.—While making an inspection of timber land on a canoeing trip to-day, George D. Pratt, State Conservation Commissioner, personally took into custody two hunters who had no licenses and who had shot partridges out of season.

The action of the commissioner is proper and praiseworthy; in striking contrast to the work of some of his wardens who raided small breeders, seized their stock birds and had them fined because they procured their eggs and birds before they procured their licenses. We are strongly in favor of the execution of game laws. Gunners should not shoot out of season and should have their licenses. Game breeders, also, in states which require licenses, should procure them; but when they apply in good faith and pay for their licenses they should not be raided and fined because they innocently procured their eggs or stock birds before they were aware that they must pay a license fee for producing food.

We have heard that enemies of field sports and game breeding take pleasure in saying that we are opposed to game laws. We are not. We simply are opposed to unnecessary arrests of breeders by ignorant wardens who learn that the breeders have eggs and birds when they apply and pay for their license.

If the department of conservation will

give more publicity to the laws regulating game breeding there should be no mistakes and no arrests of innocent persons who ask for licenses.

=

More Singers.

There seems to be a disposition to put the prairie grouse and sharp-tailed grouse on the song bird list in some of the western states, and to also prohibit quail shooting. The industrious more-game-law enthusiasts find it more and more difficult to make any progress in New England and in the southern states. They failed to close the shooting on Long Island, N. Y., and seem to have been driven far beyond the Mississippi. We doubt if they will be able to prevent the breeding of quail and grouse much longer, but breeders are warned to be on their guard everywhere.

=

Quail Saving.

If any sportsman wants to save quail in winter here is a practical way to do it, according to the Biological Survey:

Build low hutches with roofs that will keep out snow or make wigwam-like stacks of grain sheaves with openings below. Keep the entrances free from snow and scatter within cracked corn or small grains or seeds.

Putting out food on a bare spot or ground is an easier method, but not so useful.—PETER P. CARNEY.

We would suggest that with the corn or other grain an abundance of grit should be supplied. Birds which have grain in abundance when the snow covers the ground must have grit.

The shelters should have many openings, or avenues of escape, since when an enemy comes in at one door they should be able to get out quickly at another.

A Food Nuisance.

It seems to *The Sportsman* that the high cost of living could be materially reduced in the Eastern Oregon country. There is good meat running around wild in that part of Oregon in the form of jack rabbits, and so superabundant that the natives declare them to be a nuisance.



Reindeer Going to Water.

PROPAGATION OF REINDEER IN ALASKA.

BY CARL W. GROSS.

The price of beef and lamb can do all the soaring they want to. In a very few years we will be eating reindeer meat, anyway, so what's the use of crying if the price of the other stock breaks the skylights. Reindeer meat is just as luscious, if not more so, and certainly as nourishing as beef or lamb. To keep the Eskimos out of mischief, the government brought 170 reindeer from Siberia to Alaska in 1893 and today there are approximately 85,000 up there. They are not being killed off right and left, either. Uncle Sam won't stand for that. He wants them to breed in great numbers before that is done, so a large supply will always be on hand. Experts estimate that there is room for at least ten million in Alaska under present conditions. By present conditions I mean that if nothing special is planted for them, there is enough wild moss for that many to feed on, while if scientific means of propagation and agriculture are employed, ways and means will be found for millions more.

The introduction and growth of this reindeer business is remarkable as well as romantic. It grew out from the idea to investigate the Eskimo of the region north of the Aleutian Islands, as nothing was known of their conditions up to 1890. Therefore in this year Dr. Sheldon Jackson, general agent of education in Alaska, together with Capt. M.

A. Healy cruised the Arctic Ocean and in the Bering Sea, visiting all the principal settlements on both the Alaskan and Siberian shores. They discovered that the natives of Siberia were happy and well to do, while the Eskimos of this section of Alaska were unhappy and half starved because all they had to live on were whale, seal and walrus, which they had a hard time to catch. The reason for the Siberian's prosperity was reindeer. Both sides of the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean had the same climate and soil. From these reindeer the Siberian natives had flesh and milk for food, the skin provided clothing and bedding and they could also be used as carriers from one village to another. Both thought the government should therefore introduce reindeer in Alaska.

Dr. Jackson brought this matter before the Commissioner of Education in 1890. It was endorsed by him and brought before Congress. Pending the congressional appropriation, Dr. Jackson brought the matter before churches and public societies. In this manner he raised \$2,146, with which he bought sixteen reindeer in Siberia and transported them to Alaska. These never entered the reindeer industry, however, because they were all males. The next year a few more were imported and in 1893, Congress, realizing the importance of the movement, appropriated six thousand

dollars with which to continue the good work. Since then Congress has spent over \$325,000 and has bought only 1,280, as the Russian government withdrew its permit in 1902. And from these few we now have 85,000. How many will we have in twenty-five years, especially when each herd doubles naturally every three years? The idea of teaching the Eskimo did not meet universal approval for the first four or five years, because some authorities claimed it was impossible to turn the attention of a nomadic race of fishermen and hunters to an industry that would tend towards civilization and settlement.

In order to give the natives the best training possible as future reindeer herders, the government brought a number of herders over from Lapland to teach them. They were not only given good pay, but were allowed to keep a certain number of the animals for their own use. They are now the only ones in Alaska who are allowed to sell the reindeer to others than natives. On this point I will dwell later. As many predicted, it was hard to train the Eskimos to become herders, but a way to train and interest them was soon discovered. In 1897 a rescue party was sent to Point Barrow to relieve a shipwrecked party. This party included W. T. Lopp, now in full charge of the government schools of Alaska, and as the relief party was carried to their destination on sleighs, pulled by reindeer, and as those relieved were fed on reindeer meat, the value of this animal was brought home with great force. Consequently when the party returned more thought was given the question, and Mr. Lopp suggested that the young men of the Eskimo tribes should be trained as herders, as in this way they would become accustomed to the life and would not be nomads as their elders tended to be. The young men were taught herding reindeer, together with their other studies under the direction of the educational bureau.

In order to further encourage the propagation, small herds were loaned to missions for about five years, with the understanding that they would train the

natives and that at the end of this period the number loaned would be returned. Usually 25 males and 75 females were loaned. The missions were allowed to keep the increase. During the first fifteen years of the enterprise the length of term of apprentices and manner of teaching, as well as selecting those who were to be taught herding, varied. In 1907 a definite code of rules and regulations were adopted and approved by the Department of the Interior. According to these rules the apprenticeship lasts for four years and if at the end of the first year the native has been faithful in his work he receives four females and two males for a present. At the end of the second year he receives five females and three males. At the end of the third year he is given six females and four males, and at the end of his fourth year he is given the same number. Thus at the termination of the Eskimo's contract of apprenticeship he has been given 34 reindeer; from some he has already had fawns. The total usually is 40 to 60. At this time the district superintendent gives him a certificate and he becomes a herder and assumes entire charge of his own flock. This herder must then agree to train other natives in the same manner as he was trained by the government. He must also reward his charges in the manner he was rewarded, by giving them reindeer. Thus an endless chain of training has been established. He need not train another until his herd numbers 150, nor train a second one till he has 250, nor a third one till he has 300. No one is given a certificate as a herder until he is at least twenty-one.

With the approval of the local director an apprentice may kill one male each year for food and sell the skin for clothing. They are encouraged to use the males as sled deer in transporting passengers and mail and freight for which they are paid. Under no circumstance is a native permitted to sell a female except to the government, or with the written approval of the superintendent to another native. This also applies to the missions. The purpose of these strict rules are to insure



Alaska Reindeer.

the reindeer industry remaining in Alaska. After a few years these restrictions will be removed. At that time they will be found on the menus in many restaurants and on the tables of many homes. The Laplanders who were referred to above may sell their stock to others than natives, but do not care to do so at present. They may sell them because they were given without restrictions at that time.

The natives have taken very kindly to the industry and respect as well as love the government, as they realize the benefit. Mr. W. C. Shields, superintendent of education for the northwestern district, has written as follows: "These men have the greatest respect for the government and look to us for direction. To leave the Eskimos to face the commercial development of the industry alone would assure its ruin, as they are not yet ready to stand alone. If the industry were allowed to be sacrificed to the greed of the white man, all effort would have been wasted, as he has always pushed the native to the wall." We know this has been true in the case of the Indian. The natives are anxious to buy females but few wish to sell. One native has over 1,600 reindeer, worth over \$40,000. He is the first "reindeer king." Others are rapidly learning that their present life is more profitable than the nomadic one of their forefathers. They are slowly becoming civilized and at the same time retaining

the good habits they always had. By this I mean they always believed that if a good turn was done to them, they should do likewise to others. For this reason they are willing to teach others the industry. When the American Indian was "civilized" in a hurry he lost many of his good qualities, as he was not taught in the right way.

This native is taught gradually. He realizes he can have an income with his deer. Last year it was about \$100,000, this was exclusive of the value of the meat and hides used by himself. At present the deer are valued at about \$25 each. This is a high price because at this rate reindeer meat can not compete with beef, as a dressed reindeer weighs on the average of 150 pounds. Consequently after adding the cost of dressing, shipping and packing it would cost about twice and in some instances three times that of beef. All this will be done away with when the authorities agree that the time has arrived so that the reindeer industry will be able to stand on its own feet and the natives will be able to sell their stock.

The reindeer is like a cow in that it is gentle and has a tendency to stray away. For this reason bells are placed on them. They also chew cuds and when left alone will feed for a time and then lie down. They are like sheep as they will scatter if suddenly approached. While they give but very little milk, it is very rich and nourishing. The reindeer is a

perfect beast of burden in the extreme north, for while with a dog team one must carry food along for the dogs the reindeer feeds on the moss he finds on the way. In the winter he feeds on moss and in the summer fattens on the grasses and willow foliage. A movement is on foot to obtain a sort of meal for the deer when he is used as a beast of burden in the wintertime, for it is believed he will be able to carry heavier loads and make longer trips when fed something other than wild moss. At present he travels at the rate of 40 miles a day on short voyages and 25 miles on long ones. They carry all the way from 300 to 1,600 pounds on a sleigh. Some one has said they can only travel for five or six days. This is not true as they travel as long as they are well fed. Besides other ani-

mals cannot live only on wild moss, so why should they?

But the reindeer industry is only in its infancy and if the interest of the past is carried on it will be a bigger and better industry than the cattle business has been. It will at least be fairer. There will not be such large "cattle kings," if the present high ideals are maintained. The reindeer fairs held every year are bringing new pointers to the front. At these fairs the real interest of all concerned can be seen. And it can, furthermore, be seen that the interest in the industry is increasing. So prepare for reindeer meat. Reindeer meets and fairs are held once a year. Prizes are already given for the best stock, best race and a thousand other best things, including best mittens and babies.



Sled Show, Reindeer Fair. Mary's Igloo, Alaska.

A WEEK END AT WATERLILY.

BY THE EDITOR.

I have travelled much from New England to California in pursuit of game when it was plentiful but for one reason or another I never was able to visit White's game preserve, Currituck Sound, post-office Waterlily, N. C., until last week. I have long known about it, of course. I had pictured in my mind the broad waters, full of the choicest foods eaten by wild fowl. I knew about the thousands of swans, geese and all the

choice varieties of wild ducks and the many shore birds which frequent the Sound. One of the places I most wished to see was this wonderful game preserve and one of the men I most wished to meet (I have long felt that I knew him on account of our correspondence) was Mr. J. B. White.

Easily I could fill the magazine from cover to cover with the story of my visit, and the entertaining and instruc-

tive stories told by a man who knows the birds and their foods, not only the waterfowl and the waders but also the quail which are in the fields back of his house and the jacksnipe and other waders which come to the vast marshes on the island and to the other marshes across the Sound where the sand dunes shut out the ocean.

I knew it was too early to see the abundant waterfowl, most of which arrive a little later, but I had made up my mind that the next time I was in North Carolina I would accept a standing invitation to see the preserve and to have a talk with its owner, a man who knows as much as, and probably more, than any one about the wildfowl and their natural foods.

The trip is made from Norfolk, Va., on a little steamer which leaves at night, running through a canal into the Sound, and arriving about daybreak in front of Mr. White's house. Since the channel is some distance from the shore a small motorboat came out to take me off and I knew from the hearty greeting that it was Mr. White who welcomed me.

We began a most interesting conversation at breakfast and we kept it up for four days. When we went out on the Sound Mr. White lifted various foods from the water and told me about them and what the various species of ducks preferred. We rambled in the fields of corn and cotton with a pointer and I saw vast areas of good quail ground, beginning at the back door and extending across the island and on the mainland beyond as far as the eye can reach. One day I took a ramble to see if I could find the first jacksnipe which had arrived on a vast snipe ground at the north end of the island and I can readily imagine the good shooting to be had when the meadows and marshes are fully tenanted by these migrants.

Mr. White knows many prominent sportsmen who have visited him and many he has met when shooting from New Brunswick to Florida. Lately he has furnished large quantities of wild duck food which has been planted in ponds and lakes from New England to Texas. He has many interesting let-

ters and testimonials from sportsmen who have purchased the foods.

The stories of big bags, of wonderful days afield and afloat, of prominent people, living and dead, including several presidents of the United States, should be written and preserved in a book.

One interesting story was about a live pigeon match attended by some prominent men, including the magician Herman. A bet was made before reaching the ground that the birds to be shot were young (squabs in fact) that could not fly. The birds flew well during the match, and as they were retrieved by a dog were placed in a basket. Later the birds in the basket were found to be squabs. Just before starting for the hotel, however, where some of the birds were to be served, Herman removed the cover and all the birds flew away. He was urged to tell how he did the trick, but said he must decline to do so.

Imagine, my worthy readers, if you can, the enjoyment of spending a week-end with a man who has a wonderful fund of information about game birds and their foods, who has had a wide experience in shooting wildfowl, who has met and shot with a large number of interesting people, and you will appreciate the good time I had during my week-end at Waterlily.

If you wish to have a good shoot during the fall or winter I would advise you to try and arrange a visit to White's preserve. Unfortunately he only entertains a few at a time and you will be fortunate if you can find a time when the bungalow is not fully occupied. One great charm about the place is that on rest days, when shooting on the Sound is prohibited, one can ramble for miles in pursuit of quail or can seek the festive jacksnipe on the splendid snipe ground. I hope to return for the shooting and it may be I can write a proper story about the place and its owner. I doubt much if there is a better shooting ground in America.

Important.

Game eating is important since it tends to keep the prices up and to make the people friendly to field sports.



Large pen for running Mallards, 700 feet long and 300 contains at present nearly 300 Mallards, woodduck,

SCARBORO BEACH GAME FARM.

It was with much regret that we were obliged to terminate our excursion into New England last summer without getting to Scarboro Beach Game Farm. We even were obliged to pass some interesting places in Massachusetts, including the State Game Farm on Cape Cod, since some important business in New York required a few days' attention before we started for the South.

Mr. Bullock, writes in sending the pictures here reproduced that the farm is well equipped to produce many species of game birds in big numbers. He has many pheasants, mallards, black ducks, teal and other fowl and will increase the breeding stock so that he can furnish thousands of eggs and birds young and old.

Mr. Bullock says his pheasants are



Scarboro Beach Game Farm, southerly view, including up and put into movable coops, 10 young ringnecks in which might escape.



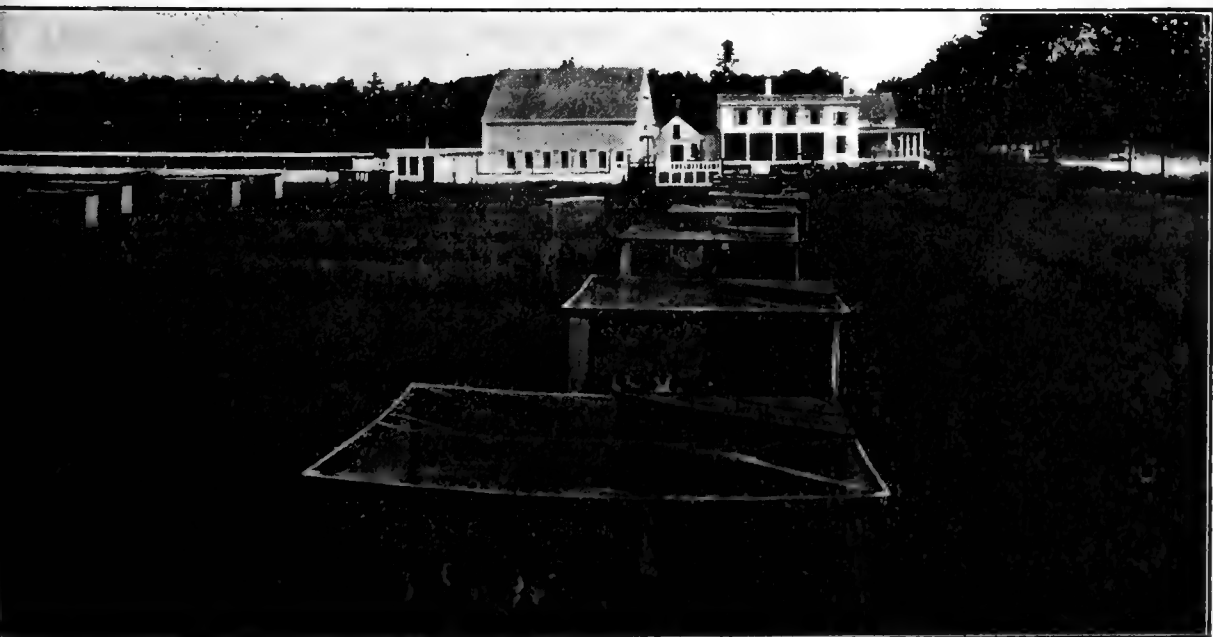
feet wide. Note excellent shore for breeding. This pen Blue and Green wing teal, and Black duck.

in fine shape; all full grown; and that he has a splendid pond for rearing wild fowl. He expects to have plenty of black duck eggs and black ducks. We hope he will and we are sure they will command excellent prices since the black ducks have been found to be difficult birds to handle and some breeders complain that they do not get any eggs from them.

The experiments with teal breeding at

Scarboro Beach also will be interesting and if a race of blue-winged or green-winged teal that will lay eggs under control can be developed the birds and their eggs will be very profitable. There is no finer duck for the table than the teal and sportsmen know these ducks are among the fastest birds they shoot.

Fortunately the Maine law contains much common sense, which is lacking in the New York Statute. It is legal in



rearing field after young pheasants have been caught each coop. Note trapping coop set to pick up stray birds

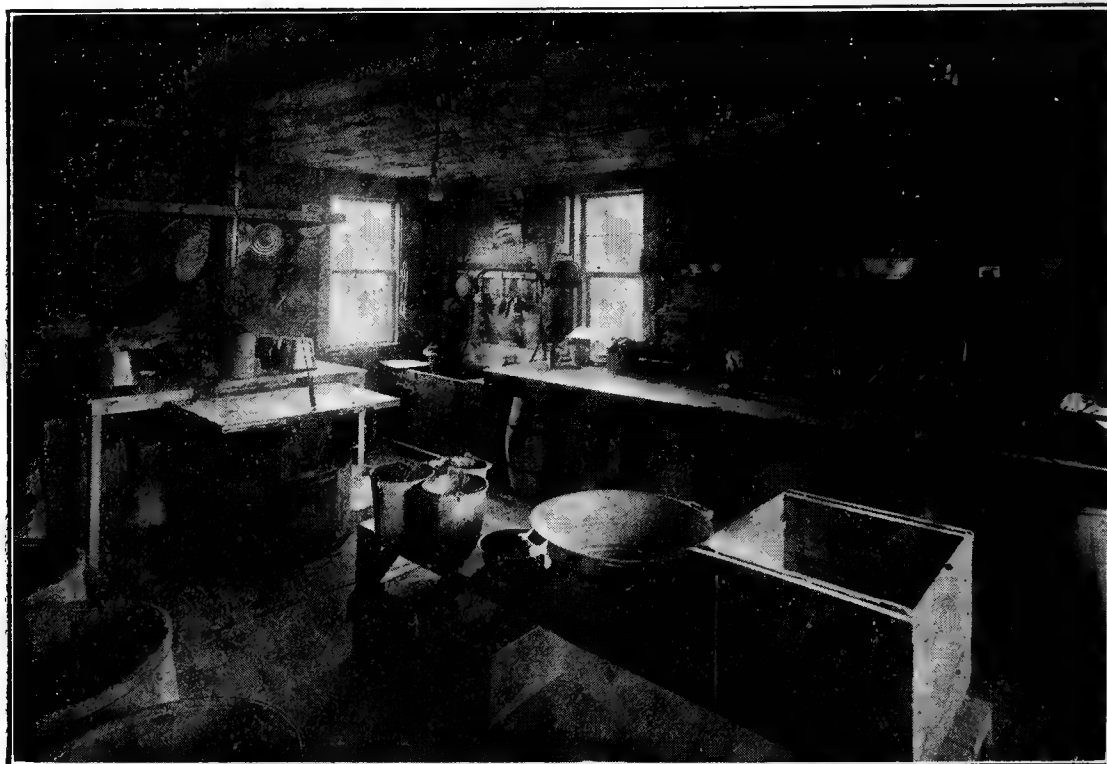


Large pheasant pens in the background containing at the present time between three and four hundred birds. Note quail coops, also two small coops with silky Bantam chicks which are being raised for foster mothers for quail.

Maine to experiment with and breed, any of the desirable wild food birds and the State encourages the industry and permits the trapping of the necessary stock birds under proper regulations.

Any one who knows the genial, lib-

eral-minded Henry B. Austin and the other game statesmen of Maine can readily imagine that the nonsense which was put over in New York making it criminal to produce some foods and not others will never appear in Maine.



Interior of our cook room. All food is cooked or scalded before feeding. Note pans, small pails, dish pans and steamer for use in preparing custards and pheasant foods for young chicks. Also large sink for washing and keeping the dishes used in bird rearing clean; this is most necessary.

PHEASANT RAISING IN EASTERN OREGON.

BY LOUIS KROESSIN.

To acquaint the readers with the raising of Chinese pheasants, it is necessary to explain a few fundamental facts. First of all, you should be a lover of nature in all its beauty, an admirer of wild game and game birds. You should have the heart of a sportsman, then you can't help being interested in the king of all game birds—the Chinese pheasant.

The beauty of this bird made me experiment with its propagation some eighteen years ago. Although I made many mistakes and met with much discouragement in the raising of these birds, I kept at it until I had solved the problem to my entire satisfaction. I have found that it is no more difficult than raising turkeys, and the profits are better than anything in the poultry line.

There is many a small rancher with an orchard, whose wife and children could make a pretty penny on the side by raising China pheasants, as there is an ever-growing demand for them in the U. S. A. Many a good check I have returned to the sender because I didn't have the birds to sell. I have made as much as \$600 during a season raising pheasants besides my regular occupation, merely for the fun and recreation after business hours.

No extra expense is necessary except a few dollars worth of poultry netting to fence in the grown birds after weening from their foster-mother—the common chicken. No housing or shed is necessary. All you need is a pen with some brush or weeds to shelter them from the blazing sun. They will thrive in all climates, in all kinds of weather, under any kind of conditions, after they are two-thirds grown. That is when they are from ten to twelve weeks old.

They are a hardy bird, and are not afflicted with disease or vermin like chicken. They eat very little and take care of themselves. Any household can

feed a dozen or two birds from the scraps and waste from the kitchen and table, with a handful of grain at intervals.

I will state briefly how the birds are hatched and fed. First I give thirteen eggs to a setting hen. These will hatch in 24 days. Then I take a box 30x30 inches, screen it in front with wire netting, place it on a grassy spot, put in the hen and little birds, and let them alone for 24 to 48 hours. It is a good idea to place a board in front of the coop, so the little chicks can't run away until they know the cluck's call. After three or four days remove the board, and let the little ones run. They will not leave her then. Under no circumstances let the old hen run with them at large, for she will surely lose them.*

When the birds are 24 to 48 hours old, feed them one part hard boiled egg to two parts wheat bread crumbs. After they are two or three weeks old give them a little oatmeal or chick feed and gradually feed them grain or anything a chicken eats.

Always have water near the coop for them to drink. It is very important to keep the old hen clean from lice as she will surely transfer them to the young.

When the birds get the size of a quail, they must be put in a pen, otherwise they will stray away.

In 1915 I raised eighty-five birds on a back lot 60x63. Besides the great pleasure I had in Ontario in raising them, they netted me \$232 clear profit.—The Oregon Sportsman.

[*It is very common to breed pheasants by the range system in the Eastern States. Dr. Wheeler, when Game Commissioner of Illinois, successfully reared many pheasants in this manner and wrote his experiences for The Game Breeder. Recently we published the story of Mr. Bigelow who estimated the cost of rearing pheasants, running with the hen, at 35 cents each.]

HOW I RAISE PHEASANTS.

BY MRS. S. S. HIRSCH.

[Our readers will recall the interesting story by Mr. Bigelow, who wrote in detail how he reared pheasants at a cost of 35 cents. Mrs. Hirsch says her birds are reared at a cost of only 40 cents each. The present price of pheasants is from \$5 to \$6 per bird and we predict they will sell for more as the breeding season approaches. Hundreds of breeders do not advertise because they cannot fill their orders. Many do not know the price they can obtain by letting people know they have pheasants to sell.—EDITOR.]

About ten years ago I became interested in pheasants. I procured some eggs and hatched ten birds from a setting, but, not knowing anything about rearing



The Author.

the young pheasants, I lost them all. I then purchased more eggs, the same season, and managed to save one hen bird and reared it successfully. The following winter a friend of ours brought me a young male bird from Iowa and I felt very much delighted at having a pair of pheasants which were not related.

The following season I raised only a few young birds, but rapidly I gained experience. I kept on learning and I soon found the worst enemy of young pheasants is lice. One must be con-

stantly on the watch and destroy them with insect powder. I hatch the eggs under hens only and at the same time I set bantams so when the large hens, which can cover twenty-five pheasant eggs, hatch them I can give the young birds to the bantams which never crush them and are very careful mothers.

I feed the young pheasants for the first few days on Spratts food with cottage cheese, but very sparingly. I give them their freedom in a wire enclosure where there are plenty of bugs on all the bushes and vegetables, and the little pheasants love to hide in the strawberry bushes. I have no further trouble with them after July 1. By being careful and watchful I find I can hatch nearly every egg and rear nearly all the birds.

I write only about the ring-necked pheasants. I know from other people's experiences that the rest of the species of pheasants are somewhat more delicate and somewhat harder to rear successfully. In my estimation the ring-necked cock is the handsomest of all the pheasants. Of course, it requires a lot of perseverance and patience to learn all about these most interesting birds and how to rear them successfully. One must be a lover of animals in order to be successful in rearing any species of the animal kingdom, but rearing pheasants as I do requires very little expense, outside of the work, and I have found that one can easily rear them for 40 cents per bird for the year's feeding. The main expense is only at starting. Wire costs more today than it did a few years ago. When the young begin flying I enclose them in wire cages, 30 by 30 feet square, to keep dogs and other enemies out. The cages are full of fine young dog-

wood and various kinds of bushes for shade. The young birds love to dig and scratch in the soil around the bushes for worms.

Later I feed my pheasants like chickens. They are no trouble whatsoever; they are very hardy and live out in the open all winter. We have a small shelter for them but we always see them outside of it even in the coldest weather. When the snow is five feet deep we

see them perched up in the high bushes and trees.

I find these pheasants the dearest, most interesting and the most profitable of all the animals on our place. Every one who comes to see us exclaims how beautiful they are.

I am always glad to tell everyone who wishes to raise pheasants inexpensively how to do it and I hope this short article will interest the readers of *The Game Breeder*.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

SCARE-CROWS.

By D. W. HUNTINGTON.

All game breeders are aware that the crow is their enemy and various means have been adopted to control the black rascals. The Remington pump and automatic gun caused the crows to fly high when they passed over the breeding grounds of the Game Breeders' Association, but often at daybreak they visited the duck ponds and rearing fields, secured some eggs and young birds in spite of the fact that several game keepers were employed.

Traps furnished by the Oneida Community took many crows on the ground and pole traps took many on the numerous poles. We also used scare-crows and I am quite sure the scare-crow is useful to supplement the destruction by shooting, trapping and poison, where poison is used. I agree with many keepers that it is best to get along without poison if possible; it seems more sporty, also, to control crows and other game enemies with the traps and the gun and scare-crows.

The scare-crow of various forms used by farmers to protect their corn undoubtedly can be made to save many eggs and young birds. The crow is a very wise bird and we found, as others have, that he soon discovered that a scare-crow fixed in one place was harmless. Our keepers, therefore, moved the scare-

crow from time to time, sometimes placing the figure flat on the ground in



View in New York City.

the grass as if it were lying in wait for a shot. A good plan is to place the figure in a bush partly concealed, and if a broom-stick painted black and varnished be placed in its arms to resemble a gun the crows will take more time to investigate the figure on guard near the duck pond or rearing field.

Crows do the most damage, usually, just at daybreak when they fly low, hunting noiselessly for young birds and eggs. Where the preserve is a large one and a quail preserve where quail are bred wild in many fields a number of scare-crows can be used to advantage and their positions should be changed every few days. Some poles with traps on them placed at a little distance from the scare-crows will invite the crows to their destruction when they alight on them to view the scare-crow.

Dr. Judd, in his excellent bulletins, Forbush and other naturalists have referred to the damage done to game by crows and many readers of The Game Breeder are familiar with the full-page picture of a crow with an egg on its bill which was sent to me by a Massachusetts reader and printed in my book, *Our Wild Fowl and Waders*, and, later, on the cover of the magazine.

I made the picture of the homely scare-crow, printed above, in a field where quail were breeding within the city limits of New York. It was placed, of course, to protect the crops from the crows, but it no doubt served to protect the quail also. Crows were investigating it at the time the photograph was made.

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Game and Egg Prizes.

In January the committee of the Game Guild will award a number of prizes of game birds and eggs to those who have written the best letters to The Game Breeder telling how they rear pheasants, ducks, quail, turkey, deer and other game.

All we want is short letters telling just how you do it and if you regard the industry as profitable. All letters received prior to December 31st will be considered by the committee. We are sure you are interested in what other members of the society are doing. They will be interested in what you are doing. Please write us how you hatch the eggs, hens or incubators? How you feed the young birds the first few days and later? What vermin you have to contend with? What traps you use?

Do you use an airedale or other dog? Any special difficulty or matter of interest. What does it cost to rear a bird? Do you get good prices? Have you made the shooting good? Write now before you forget it. Send letters to The Game Breeder, 150 Nassau street, New York.

You enjoy, no doubt, reading the advertisements. Others will be glad to read yours and to know that you are engaged in the new and attractive industry. Send in your ad and help the cause and help make the publication more interesting.

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Game Enemies.

If you wish to know how to trap the foxes and all the other enemies of your game write to the Oneida Community, Ltd., Oneida, New York, and ask them to send you *The Newhouse Trapper's Guide*. This is an illustrated book on trapping and well worth the price, 25 cents. You can send the quarter in the mail.

The sale of one pheasant egg will pay the cost of this book and when you know how to control the game enemies you will save many game birds and eggs.

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Wild Geese Profitable.

Albert N. Froom, of the New Holland Farms, Inc., New Holland, Hyde Co., N. C., writing about his wild geese says: "I can not at this time offer any guaranteed old raising pairs, though I may be able to do so later in the season. I ask \$5.00 each for wild geese.

Mated pairs that have raised one or more flocks are \$35 and they pay big on that valuation. Last fall and winter mated pairs, not guaranteed layers, brought \$25. A pair of mated geese with me are often good for 10 to 12 goslings. I take away the first clutch of eggs and they lay a second, usually not so many, and I set the first under a large hen or tame goose. Part of my birds are wing cut and some are pinioned.

Foster Mothers.

Game breeders use many thousands of hens for hatching game eggs. The kind of hens used are lightweight barnyard fowls which are recommended as good sitters and bantams for quail eggs. We are quite sure that poultrymen who can furnish hens suitable for game breeding will get good returns from advertisements in *The Game Breeder*. It only costs a few cents to tell our readers where they can get hens.

The Real Thing.

Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La., in a letter to Chiles & Co., Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, says: "During the late spring you sent me seven duck eggs. From these I raised three young birds, genuine wild mallards. They are in good shape now, and I thought you would be interested to know that they were real wild stock."

More Game and Fewer Game Laws.

NOTES FROM THE STATE GAME DEPARTMENTS.

Most of the state game departments report that all or certain species of game and game fish can now be sold as food. Many report that a proper amendment to the laws permitting breeders to trap birds for propagation purposes has been overlooked. This is the most important matter which now requires the attention of game breeders. There is a shortage of stock birds and all state departments should be authorized to issue permits to game breeders to trap the birds needed for propagation. The triumph of the more game movement evidently is assured and the details necessary to complete the movement and perfect the new industry soon will be worked out, no doubt. It is gratifying to report that nearly all the state game officers have been converted to the idea that their departments should be made of great economic importance; that game birds should not be placed in the song bird list and that field sports should be perpetuated during long open seasons. In this and the following issues of *The Game Breeder* we take pleasure in printing brief reports from the state departments.

Connecticut.

The Hon. John M. Crampton reports that his State permits and encourages the breeding of all species of game and fish for sale as food. Licenses are issued to breeders for \$2. The game sold is identified by tags and deer markers which are given with the license.

Live game cannot be trapped for propagation or scientific purposes.

New Hampshire.

Hon. George A. McIntire reports that the breeding of game and game fish is encouraged in New Hampshire under a \$2 license issued to breeders. The game is identified by tags. Game can be sold alive for propagation also. The trapping of stock birds is not permitted.

Delaware.

Hon. Edward G. Bradford, Jr., President of the Delaware Board of Game and Fish Commissioners writes: "We do not have any game breeding laws; licenses are not issued; in fact, there is much to be done in this State to bring the game and fish laws abreast of the times."

Alabama.

Hon. Linus Leavens, Fish and Game Com- of Alabama, writes: "You are advised that the game and fish laws of Alabama permit the sale of game fish for food but not the sale of game birds and animals. It is a violation of the laws of this State to sell any species of game, either dead or alive. I wish you unmeasured success in the activity of your association relative to the propagation of game."

Mr. Wallace is a silver-tongued orator of renown and he is said to be a good all-around politician.

Vermont.

Hon. Linus Tearens, Fish and Game Commissioner of Vermont, reports:

"The State of Vermont permits under certain conditions, and encourages the breeding of game and game fish. The species that may be sold for food under such conditions are in the statute given as fur-bearing animals, game and fish. The statute defines fur-bearing animals as beaver, otter, marten, mink, raccoon, fisher or fisher-cat, fox, skunk and muskrat. It defines game as game quadrupeds and game birds.

(Continued on page 23.)

The Game Breeder

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THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, INC.
PUBLISHERS, 150 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK

D. W. HUNTINGTON, President,
F. R. PEIXOTO, Treasurer,
J. C. HUNTINGTON, Secretary.
Telephone, Beckman 3685.

A reader told the editor a few days ago he found the advertisements the most interesting and instructive part of the magazine. We try always to have a little attractive reading matter to go with the ads, but we are inclined to agree with our reader.

ARTHUR A. HILL.

Members of the Game Conservation Society will read with sorrow the announcement of the death of Arthur A. Hill, vice-president of the society since its incorporation. Mr. Hill was a wonderfully capable man in many fields. He quickly declared in favor of the "more game" movement at a time when only a few persons in America believed it would be possible to make the country a big game-producing country and the game an important food supply for all of the people. He was a very busy man, the editor of two successful magazines at the time of his death, but he found time to act as vice-president of the society and to help on its work in many ways, serving without compensation as all of the officers of the society do. He wrote occasionally for *The Game Breeder* and upon one occasion, when the editor could not give the publication his attention, he practically brought out a number. A reader promptly wrote to the editor that the number was one of the best ever issued and Mr. Hill was much amused when the writer under the head-

ing, "One on the Editor," published the letter and stated that Mr. Hill should have the credit for the number. He worked with great speed and we often wondered how he could accomplish so much.

Arthur A. Hill died at his home in this city Thursday, September 13.

He was born in Greenwich, Massachusetts, and was in his sixty-fourth year. He at one time owned, controlled and edited *The Haverhill Gazette*, published at Haverhill, Massachusetts, giving to that publication a degree of influence which it had not previously enjoyed. In 1890 he became managing editor of the American Press Association, of New York City, leaving that organization for the purpose of making a trip to the Klondike gold regions. On his return from the Klondike he purchased an interest in *The North Adams Evening Herald*. Later on he sold his interest in *The Herald*, and became editor of *The Blacksmith and Wheelwright* and *The Amateur Sportsman*, published by the M. T. Richardson Company. In 1906 he also became editor of the *Automobile Dealer and Repairer*. He was one of the original members of the New York Press Club.

In his youth he was connected for a time with the Springfield (Massachusetts) Republican, and afterwards connected himself with a big publishing and printing concern in New York, to learn the business. Tiring of this, he went to Ohio, and entered Oberlin College, paying his way by work in the local printing office. Before he was 21 he had become a reporter on the *Cincinnati Gazette* and a compositor on the *Chicago Times*, and for a year a reporter and city editor on the *Toledo Democrat and Herald*.

At the time of his death Mr. Hill was the editor of the *Automobile Dealer and Repairer*, a successful trade paper.

He was the author of a novel of unusual merit, entitled "What's He to Me?" published in 1914.

He was a man of pronounced opinions, and a forceful writer upon any topic which interested him. He was especially

sympathetic with all economic and welfare problems. He possessed a rare vein of wit and humor, which fairly sparkled at times in his conversation and writings. He formed and maintained warm friendships with a large circle of acquaintances.

Members of the Game Conservation Society who attended the last annual meeting and game dinner will remember Mr. Hill as the presiding officer. The cause of practical game conservation has suffered a great loss in the death of Arthur A. Hill. He lived to see the triumph of the movement in which we all are interested and said that only the details remained to be worked out.

CLOSED SEASONS.

The recent disaster in Ohio, when the quail was placed on the song bird list and shooting was prohibited forever, should be a warning to game protective associations that if they put in most of their time seeking new laws every season field sports are likely to come to an end.

Quail shooting and grouse shooting will go first, since the lands where these birds should be produced are owned by farmers, to a large extent, and the farmers seem willing to aid those who wish to prohibit shooting.

In Ohio, where the claim is made that the intention was only to prohibit quail shooting for an additional term of five years, the fact remains that the best shooting in the state has been ended forever, unless the Game Conservation Society shall succeed in having the law repealed or at least to have quail breeding for sport and for food made legal.

In some states quail shooting has been prohibited for many years. In many states grouse shooting is prohibited and, since the grouse are vanishing this sport also has ended. In Pennsylvania some sportsmen wish to try a closed season on woodcock which, no doubt, can be extended for periods of five and ten years or until the present race of bird dogs becomes extinct and it will not be worth while to own setters or pointers.

The local Game Protective Association which will reorganize as a game-

shooting club with small dues and which will rent the shooting on a large number of farms where there is little or no game and which, for the most part, are posted against trespassers soon will produce splendid sport for its members, and since the boundary will be large and game overflows the quail and grouse soon will be found in stubbles where for very good and scientific reasons no birds are seen today.

The quail clubs of Long Island, N. Y., quite near the large city which contains about one-twentieth of the entire population of the United States, recently defeated the mischief makers who attempted to close quail shooting. With very small dues the clubs keep up some very good shooting, not only for themselves but also for the people who do nothing to preserve game.

Coming to New York from the west, some years ago, we were surprised to find we could go out and shoot within a few miles of the city. The shooting being fair near the clubs, where the dues are \$15 or \$20, and better, of course, within the areas where the birds are properly looked after. Since many prefer the exciting sport of procuring new game laws every season and contribute liberally to this, there is an abundance of land suitable for game and good shooting for all those who prefer shooting. The game protective associations can count safely on the prohibition of quail and grouse shooting or they can reorganize and provide for excellent sport for all hands. The turning down of a few tame pheasants by state game departments most of which, as all naturalists know, are easy marks for hawks and other vermin is not a satisfactory substitute (even when we are permitted to take three cock birds in a season) for the shooting of scores of quail and grouse in a day. We observe the activities of the new protective organizations in the west which can only hope to do what has been done in other states and we regret to see the necessity for the practical prohibition of shooting of native game and the substitution of a very limited number of tame political pheasants.

In some states the sportsmen are now headed in the right direction, fortunately, and we know where to go when we wish to shoot a few dozen quail in a day, but it is sad to see vast areas being closed to any industry and to any shooting simply because the sportsmen do not realize that game must have some practical protection from its natural enemies, some food and some covers if any shooting is to be done without creating the alarms at the scarcity which surely result in the prohibition of shooting.

[We received a number of letters about the mallards on the front cover of the September issue. These ducks, the owner says, are straight bred mallards reared from several generations on a game farm.—EDITOR.]

W. F. Weary, an Iowa breeder, says: "In regard to the picture of the mallards on the front cover of the September Game Breeder I will say that it is my opinion that they are 'near mallards.' They look a little large and heavy in the breast.

"I enjoy the magazine very much and I heartily agree with you in saying, 'more game and fewer game laws.' I believe it would be better for everyone if our state legislatures only met once in six or eight years instead of every two."

A Good Result.

James Edgar, gamekeeper, writes: "My advertisement in The Game Breeder sold my eggs as quick as I could gather them. I could have sold thousands more if I could have spared them."

Those who have birds or eggs to sell should let our readers know what they have. The prices obtained makes the advertising quite worth while.

Big space advertisements indicate that the advertiser can furnish birds and eggs in big numbers. A few thousand birds and eggs at present prices soon will pay for a farm.

The game-breeding industry is growing so rapidly that the prices for birds and eggs are higher than ever before. Inquiries for eggs are coming earlier than usual. We advise purchasers to

place their orders for birds and eggs early in order not to be disappointed.

Remember always that those who advertise in The Game Breeder should receive your orders since they support the more game movement and have made it possible for you to breed game and to have good shooting.

Send us your advertisement if you only have a few birds or eggs to sell. Advertisers all report that they get excellent results.

A Real Sportsman's Calendar.

To the average sportsman, the year begins in September. Then, Nature starts to paint the forest leaves a brighter tint, the nuts are nipped with the first frost, the Autumn haze clothes the hills, and—the game seasons open.

A sportsman whose heart responds to the September call of the hunt suggested to the Remington UMC people that a calendar for the tribe of Nimrod should be issued with this month of charm leading all the rest. So the Remington calendar comes to us this year bearing leaves for all the months from September, 1917, to December, 1918, inclusive.

In another respect this calendar is a precedent breaker. The full color sketch which adorns it is in Lynn Bogue Hunt's best style—in fact good judges say that Mr. Hunt never did a better thing. Have you had a covey of quail whir-r-r up right under your feet? If you have had this experience, you will get a much better view of the birds and in just as true color when you see this splendid calendar. Should you be looking forward to coming upon your first quail, Mr. Hunt here saves you the trouble of going to the fields. Just below the sketch is another new note—an extremely artistic view of the mammoth Remington UMC factories.

Sportsmen the world over will treasure this calendar—those who are fortunate enough to get one—and when its sixteen leaves have gone, will frame it "for keeps."

Write to The Remington U.M.C. Co., the Woolworth Building, and ask them to send you this beautiful calendar. You will be lucky if you get your letter to them before the issue is exhausted.

The DuPont Company of Wilmington, Del., has just issued a very attractive book entitled "The Sport Alluring." It is artistically printed as well as illustrated and will give many a very different idea of what one usually thinks the sport of trapshooting is.

It contains over thirty illustrations that will interest any sporting man. Lovers of outdoors should write for one.

We advise our readers to write at once for these interesting books.

(Continued from page 19.)

"Licenses are issued to game breeders at an initial cost of \$2.

"Identification of products of game breeding establishments is by means of marking of packages or by individual tagging as may be prescribed by the Commissioner. The industry has not attained proportions sufficient to call for tags. Shipments thus far have been satisfactorily regulated by permits from the Commissioner. Game may, under conditions, be sold alive for propagation. Live birds may be trapped for propagation by special permit. The taking of wild birds for scientific purposes is permitted by special authorization, but is not encouraged as under this guise many valuable birds have been taken in the past with a result of very little value to the public."

Michigan.

William R. Oates, Commissioner for Michigan, reports:

"Replying to yours of June 20, will say that this State encourages the breeding of game and fish for sale as food. We have just passed a law which is similar to the New York law, known as "The Breeder's Law," which permits the rearing in captivity of certain kinds of game animals which can be sold and served as food. The only game fish which can be sold in this State are brook trout, under certain regulations when raised in private ponds. When the new law takes effect licenses will be issued to game breeders. The fee for same will be \$5 per year. Game sold by breeders must be tagged with a metal tag with a State seal. We do not know yet what the tags will cost.

"Game can also be sold for propagation under this license. We are sending you under separate cover a copy of the game laws and a copy of our last report."

Massachusetts.

Our readers are aware that no report is needed from Massachusetts which permits and encourages the breeding of all species under permits, quickly and willingly issued. WITHOUT CHARGE, Massachusetts has an able, up-to-date and patriotic Game Commission and there are many game breeders in all parts of the State who are members of The Game Conservation Society.

Maine.

Hon. Harry B. Austin, Game Commissioner for Maine, reports:

"Replying to yours of the 20th instant, I am sending, herewith, copy of the section of our revised code of fish and game laws which becomes effective July 7th, relating to game and fur farming. As you will note, this law provides for the issuance of permits at a fee of \$2 annually. This Board has not as yet promulgated regulations relating to the identification of game raised by virtue of these permits, but as soon as promulgated, shall be glad to send you copy of same."

The law provides that, the commissioners of inland fisheries and game may take fish, game birds and wild animals of any kind when, where, and in such manner as they choose, for the purpose of science and of cultivation and dissemination, and they may grant written permits to other persons to take fish, game birds and wild animals for the same purposes, and may introduce or permit to be introduced, any kind of fish into any water.

They may issue permits to any person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of propagating game birds, game or fur-bearing animals, under such regulations as they shall establish.

They may issue to any person, firm or corporation permit to fence in or enclose land not exceeding twenty-five acres in area, for the above named purpose. When it appears that such application is made in good faith, and upon the payment of an annual fee of two dollars, said Commissioners may issue to the applicant a breeder's license permitting the breeding and rearing of any species of game birds, game or fur-bearing animals within such enclosure. Such licensed breeders may at any time sell, transport or kill and sell, and any person, firm or corporation may purchase, have in possession or transport, any game birds, game or fur-bearing animals raised by virtue of the provisions of this section, under such regulations as said Commissioners may establish.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

A Game Enemy.

There was a young man from the city,
Who saw what he thought was a kitty.

He gave it a pat

And said, "Nice little cat."

And they buried his clothes out of pity.

Our Game Dinner.

Plans for the annual game dinner of the Society have been upset by the death of our vice-president and by the absence of the younger men who did most of the work last year.

The dinner will be given in November, about November 20. Invitations will be issued in a few days.

Migratory Bird Law.

We learn that the voluminous migratory bird law regulations have gone into effect. Any of our readers who wish to know what they are will find them printed at length in the June number.



Wild Mallard Ducks
and Ringneck Pheasants

WRITE FOR PRICES

Scarboro Beach Game Farm

R. E. BULLOCK, Manager

SCARBORO, - MAINE

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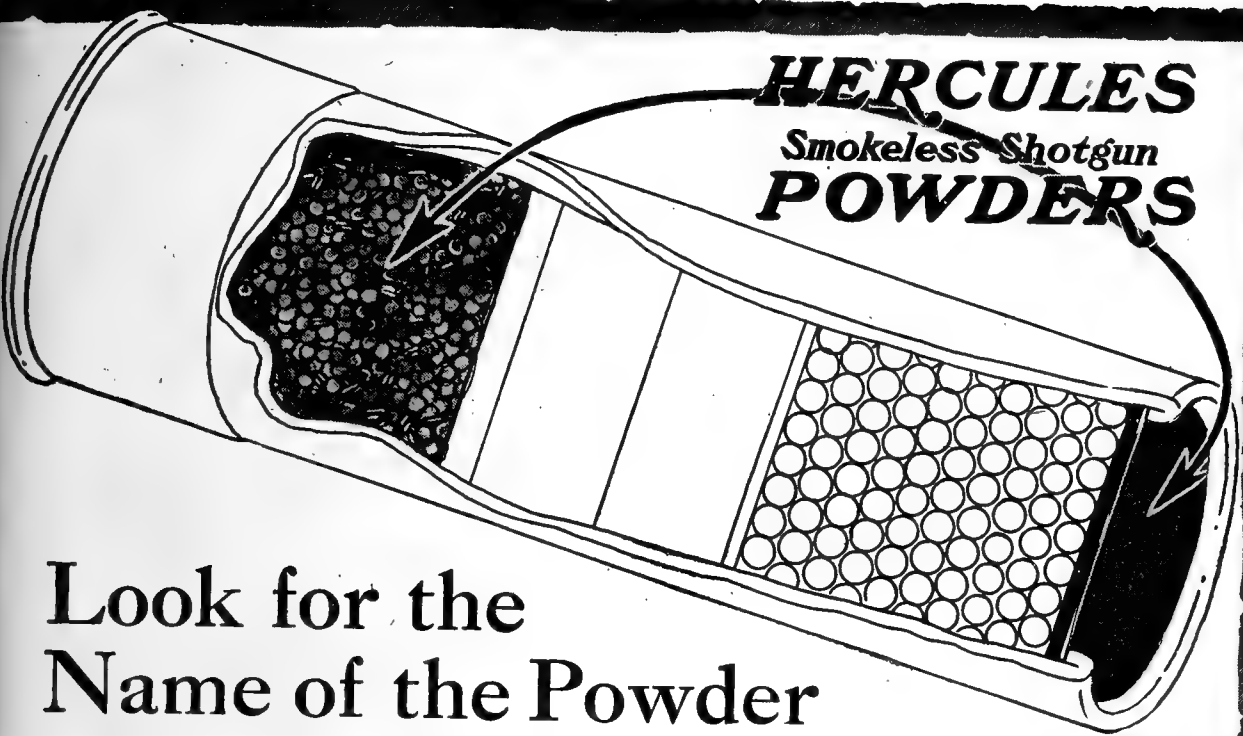
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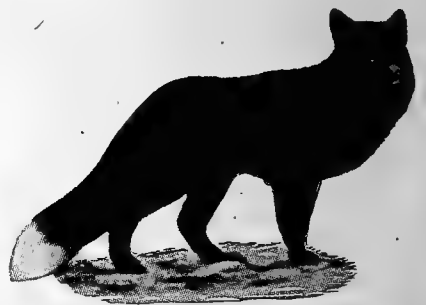
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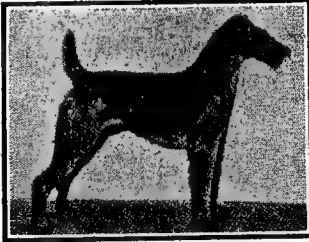
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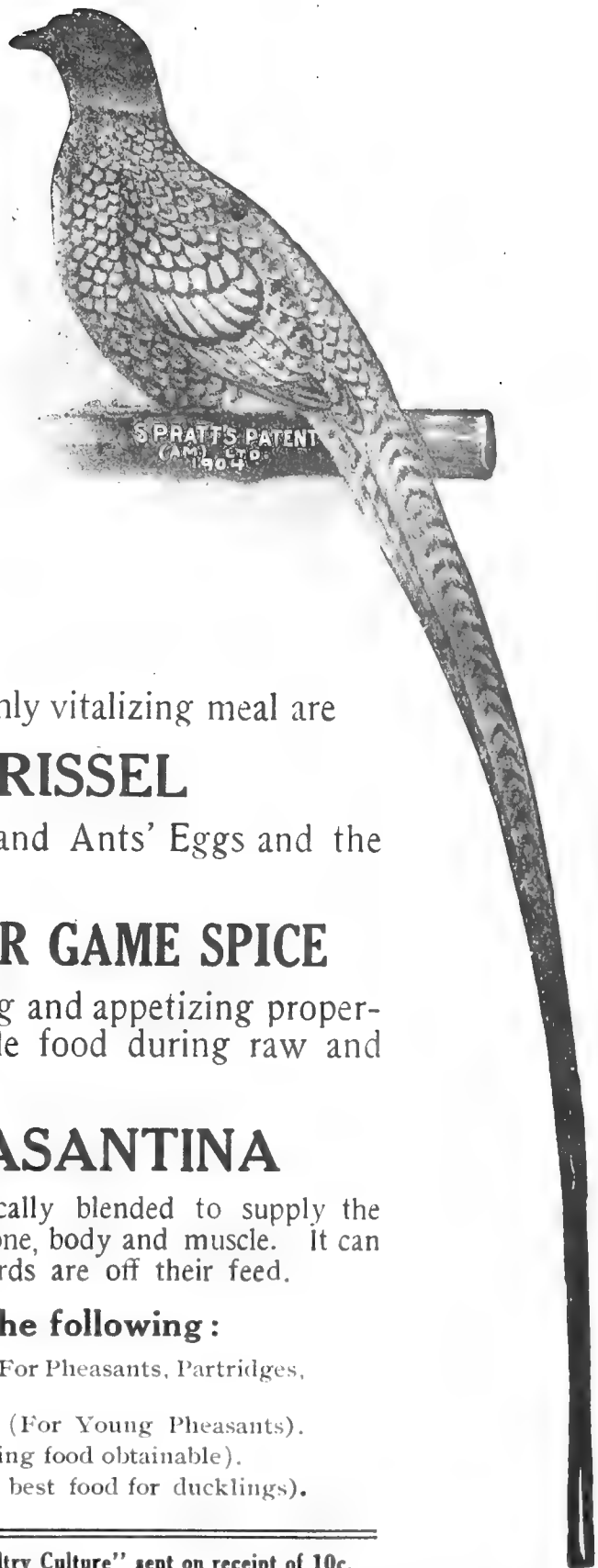
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOI. XII.

NOVEMBER, 1917

No. 2

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

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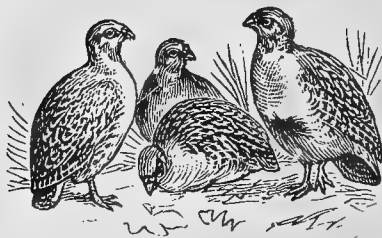
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PUBLISHED BY
THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Inc.
NEW YORK CITY U.S.A.

C. B. Davis - 15

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I carry the largest stock in America of live game birds, ornamental birds and quadrupeds.



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I am prepared to fill the largest orders for these birds and for years I have filled practically all of the large State orders for both Partridges and Pheasants.

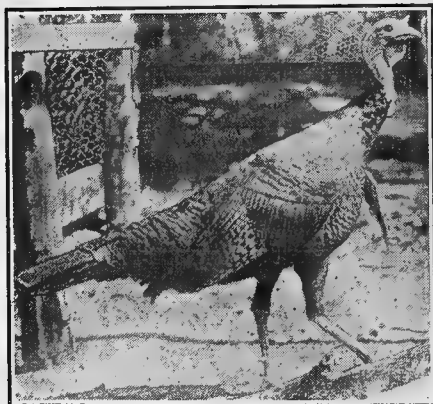
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When you buy loaded shotgun shells you buy by name. You ask for your favorite make and see to it that you get it.

But if this is all you do you omit an important detail. You overlook the matter of powder.

It is just as easy to obtain a powder with which you are familiar, a powder in which you have full confidence, as it is to obtain your favorite make of shell. You ask for the powder by name just as you ask for the shell.

Hercules Smokeless Shotgun Powders, Infallible and "E. C.", may be obtained in the standard makes of shells given at the left. The shell you shoot is among them. You can obtain a Hercules powder in that shell by asking for it when you buy.

On the top wad of every shell, and on the side of the box in which the shells are sold, is printed the name of the powder with which the shell is loaded. Look for the name when buying. See that it is either Infallible or "E. C."

These powders are of high quality and uniform quality. They give light recoil, even patterns, and high velocity. Write for a free booklet which describes them fully.

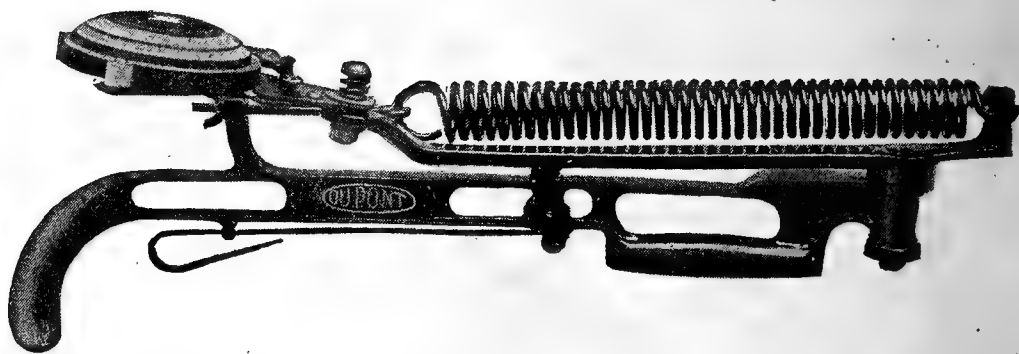


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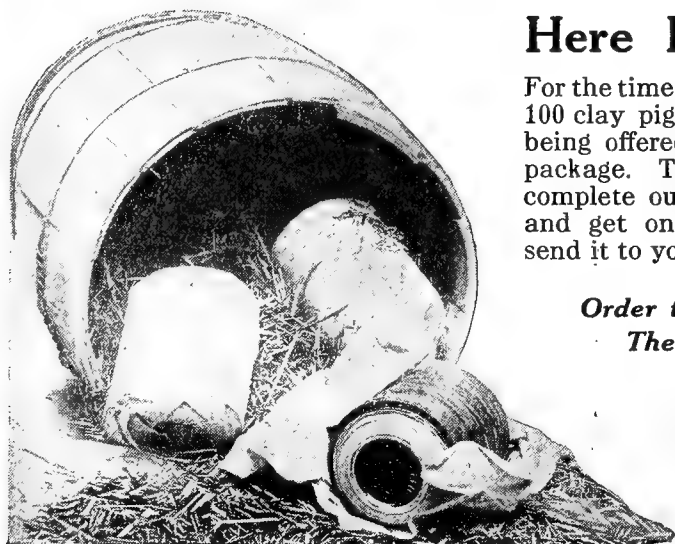
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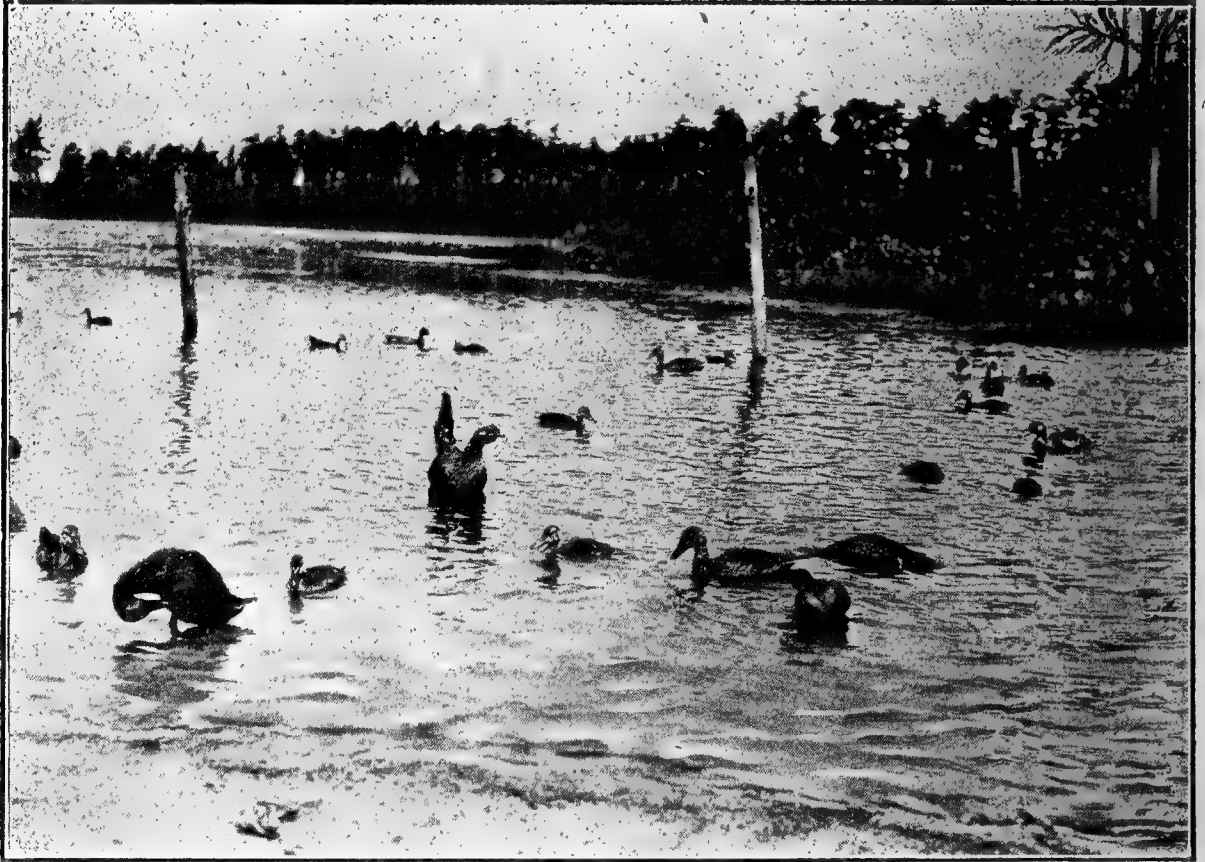
WHEN hawks and owls come to look over the game farm, they alight on some high point. The wise game breeder sees that they get no further—he is ready for them with “sets” like the one illustrated above.

A small home-made staple driven into the end of a tall pole holds the Oneida Jump Trap in a position which makes an ideal bird perch. When the hawk or owl is caught, the trap is instantly released from the staple. The chain, which is fastened low down upon the pole, makes it impossible for the bird to regain its perch.

Oneida Jump Traps are also especially adapted to trapping weasels, mink, foxes and other game-preying animals.

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upon request.*

ONEIDA COMMUNITY, Ltd., ONEIDA, N. Y.



Young Ducks and Foster Mother

We were asked recently if a hen, when used as a foster mother for wild ducks, ever went into the water. The above picture made by Mr. Lane of the Remington U. M. C. Co., at the preserve of The Game Breeders' Association, shows a hen in the water. At one time we saw her actually floating on the water if not swimming with the young ducks.

The experimental work carried on by The Game Breeders' Association under the management of the Editor of the Game Breeder will be continued by The Game Conservation Society at a new game farm. We produced thousands of pheasants and ducks, and as a result of the experiment many new preserves and shooting clubs were started by our members. The new experiment will consist largely of the breeding of American Game Birds by proper methods, and, no doubt, will result in all those who prefer quail and grouse to the imported pheasants being able to procure these birds with instructions as to the methods used in making them abundant. Some pheasants and wild turkeys also will be reared for the next game dinner, to be given when peace is declared.

The new farm will be supported by small subscriptions from our members. Checks should be made to The Game Conservation Society, and mailed to The Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York.

The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

North Carolina.

Mr. R. E. Parker, of the Raleigh, N. C., Audubon Society, says his State is one of the best game territories in the East or South. "Although this State is the camping ground of many sportsmen during the game season, neither the State nor any county of the State has ever received financial compensation commensurate with the amount of service rendered to sportsmen. This is an evidence that we have never had proper game legislation."

There can be no doubt that many thousands of dollars are expended every year in North Carolina because it is a good game State. There can be no doubt that many hundreds of thousands of dollars easily could be attracted to the State; that the value of the farms could be tremendously increased and that the State might furnish a vast amount of game for the people to eat. We agree with Mr. Parker that the State might have some "proper game legislation." Possibly we differ as to what would be proper.

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What Is Proper.

The reason why thousands of dollars are expended every year by visiting sportsmen in North Carolina is that they can shoot without too much interference. Recently the National Association of Audubon Societies succeeded in putting the quail, properly called partridge in the South, on the song bird list and the shooting is prohibited forever.* We hope Mr. Parker does not think this would be the "proper caper" for North Carolina. Many game laws may well be considered

as capers, freaks or "fool laws," as the newspapers often term them.

In one county in North Carolina, where we found the partridges tremendously abundant, about 200,000 acres made up of many small farms, are exempt from taxation (State, city, county, school). The partridge pays all the taxes on the lands and all the taxes on the buildings.

If the legislature of North Carolina should decide that it is "proper legislation" to place the quail on the song bird list and to prohibit the shooting and the eating of this excellent food bird, the result would be that many small farmers would resume the payment of taxes and we think it likely the county would acquire a new representative in the general assembly at Raleigh.

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A Variety of Game Laws.

Mr. Parker advises us that his State has a great variety of game laws. It always has had a great variety. Some years the crop of new enactments has been nearly an hundred, each law creating a lot of new crimes, no doubt, which are unknown in all civilized countries which have game in abundance in the markets.

We have, Mr. Parker says, a system of local and conflicting bird and game laws that render effective protection impossible. We are not quite sure what Mr. Parker means by "effective protection." If this refers to the practical prohibition of shooting and eating game which has been made "effective" in other States, we are inclined to think the sportsmen and the farmers are better off in North Carolina than they are where the

protection is more effective. We enjoy going to North Carolina and shooting and eating partridges and we are glad to see the places where the shooting keeps the partridges abundant. We would much regret to see any "effective protection" in North Carolina if it were so planned as to put an end to the shooting and eating of game.

As a sample of the variety of enactments, Mr. Parker says:

"We have thirty-six different open seasons on deer, eleven counties having no closed season at all; twenty-seven different open seasons on squirrels, forty-eight counties having no closed seasons; thirty-three different open seasons on quail, one county having no closed season; twenty-six different open seasons on wild turkey, three counties having no closed seasons, and two no open seasons. Many of these different seasons prevail in counties adjacent to each other, too!"

Mr. Parker might have added that these laws are often changed and that no one, not even the lawyers, seems to know or to care what they are. They appear to be a harmless amusement in so far as the game is concerned. The effect of the laws seems to be very good. There is much game. It is significant that the game is more abundant and the shooting is far better than it is in States which for years had more "effective protection" and big appropriations, hundreds of thousands of dollars in fact, to see that the protection be sufficiently effective to put an end to the shooting as well as the eating of game.

In New York State the protection of quail is very effective. Shooting and eating of quail is prohibited, excepting on Long Island, where fortunately the people are permitted to have the birds in the same way they have them in North Carolina without too much protection.

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Our Ideas of Propriety.

We observed that possibly we might differ with Mr. Parker as to what would be proper legislation. We believe the laws are excellent in so far as they enable the farmers to get the amount of their taxes on lands and buildings paid by those who wish to take some of the game which they keep very plentiful. That is, of course, if the farmers want the money. We believe it would be improper

legislation for the State to protect the game so effectively that no one could shoot or eat a bird, because no one would look after the game or pay any taxes for the farmers. No one certainly would visit the State on account of the game. If Mr. Parker wants "proper game legislation" of the kind recently put over in Ohio, we certainly differ with him and feel sure his people will regret it if they try it. We helped in getting some of this old style "proper legislation" in Ohio some years ago before we knew better. There were wild turkeys in the State at the time. They became extinct after we secured the "proper legislation" prohibiting turkey shooting. Of course it was useless to keep the law prohibiting any one from shooting wild turkeys after the birds vanished. The law was repealed. Recently we had a letter from an Ohio farmer in which he says there are 200 wild turkeys on his place and, he adds, "your paper opened my eyes."

We really think the harmless legislation in North Carolina which does not appear to interfere too much with the people having game if they want to, is better than the kind of laws which the eminent naturalist, Dr. Shufeld, well said tend to "protect the game off the face of the earth."

North Carolina is a fine State. It has an intelligent and hospitable people. We like to go there, and we are sure the State is far better off than it would be if it had an overdose of "proper legislation."

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A New Shoot.

One of our Ohio readers who began as a commercial breeder and has this season about 4,000 pheasants and 200 wild turkeys, writes that he has converted his plant into a "shoot" and will discontinue rearing for commercial purposes.

We are glad to hear this. The prices for live game are so attractive that commercial game farms have increased in number even more rapidly than the noisy sanctuaries or shooting preserves. The last named are fully as important and from our point of view far more interesting than the game farms where there is no shooting. The shoots may be relied

upon to fill the markets with game for the people to eat in order that they may become more friendly to sport and aid us in checking the efforts of those who would make song birds of the quail and grouse.

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Substitution.

When the first game breeders law was under discussion before the Senate Committee at Albany, N. Y., we insisted that the producers should have the right to breed all species of game. The result was a compromise; the law as it passed only permitted the production of pheasants, black ducks, mallards and deer. Our plans were sadly interfered with.

Senator Roosevelt, who presided at the hearing, said to the writer that if we succeeded in producing the species permitted it would not be long before we could have the law amended so that it would be possible to make all the wild fowl plentiful. We were much opposed to the compromise. We anticipated that the pheasants would be substituted for our quail and grouse; that quickly they would become abundant, as they have in many places, when they are properly looked after, and that the shooting of quail and grouse would be prohibited because no one would look after these birds for the very good reason that it would not pay to do so.

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The Proper Method.

The proper method of breeding quail and grouse, as often as we have pointed out, is to make the fields safe and attractive, and to let the birds do the rest. The tendency to increase is tremendous. In the days when the natural game enemies were very abundant the quail and grouse lived literally in swarms on vast areas. We have shot wagon loads of these birds and we know well how abundant they were.

The quail and grouse produced enough eggs and birds to feed all the hawks, crows, snakes, and the many other species of vermin that dined on game, but they never did and never will produce enough for all of their natural enemies and a few million gunners besides. The gunners, as often we have pointed out,

shoot the stock birds left by vermin and extinction is the very natural result.

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Quail and Grouse Breeding.

Those who do not understand the subject insisted that pheasant breeding and wild duck breeding were possible but that no one had succeeded or could succeed in breeding quail and grouse.

As a matter of fact the quail and grouse breeders who attempted to rear these birds in captivity have not made a great success of it.

There is a way, however, to breed quail and grouse by the thousand for sport and for food and those who know how this should be done are aware that our indigenous birds can be reared much cheaper than pheasants and wild ducks can be reared.

=

Our Preference.

We prefer the noisy sanctuary where the shooting is lively to the much praised quiet refuges for several reasons. Granting that the same amount of land is posted in each case, the noisy sanctuary will be found to produce the most game, and besides a lot of shooting which is quite worth while. Vermin will dine freely in the refuge but it will not take much game in places where it is produced for sport.

There is plenty of room in America for all kinds of preserving and we will not oppose the sentimentalists who want refuges where no sport is to be had and where no food is produced for the people to eat; all we ask is that our friends do not oppose us when we organize noisy refuges with small dues for the members who are willing to give their time to the laudable work of shooting some game for the people to eat.

=

What Is Needed.

What is most needed just now is a practical experiment showing that grouse and quail easily can be made as abundant as partridges always are in Hungary and as grouse always are in Scotland.

It is very easy to say: "You can't do it; it is impossible." Therefore we must have a few more laws prohibiting shooting. We can collect plenty of funds for

these laws, just stand aside and see us fill the law books. We will be on hand when the close season periods expire to see that they are renewed, etc., etc.

We must admit that it is not easy to interest people in any work which does not pay, either in sport or in food. Who can be expected to rent the land or the breeding and shooting rights; to pay for planting suitable covers and foods and for the wages of beat keepers to see that the game enemies are controlled when the only reward in sight is a term in jail or an excessive fine if a grouse or a quail be shot or eaten?

Already there are between 500 and 1,000 pheasant breeders in Ohio. There are, we are sure, no quail breeders. Why? Because the law says the people who produce pheasants may shoot them and eat them. The people who would produce quail, the best bird in the world for Ohio, excepting possibly the prairie grouse, must only feed their cats and dogs and the common game enemies on quail.

Who on earth can be expected to lift a hand to save the prairie grouse and the quail so long as thousands, many thousands, of dollars are gathered every year to put an end to the shooting and eating of quail and grouse?

The most important work in sight for game breeders is to see that they have the right to produce the game which most needs their attention. There are a few places, fortunately, where the work can be done legally. What is needed most is for some one to show how plentiful the birds quickly can be made and how cheaply the work can be carried on.

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Sharp-Tailed Grouse in Town.

Mr. Charles Hallock, dean of American sportsmen, writes: "Referring to page 169 of your September issue anent the sharp-tailed grouse and the cause of their disappearance from Minnesota and Dakota, let me mention in contrast that the year I located Kittson County seat in Northwestern Minnesota (1879) I drove a hen and brood from an adjacent lot, in September, 'shooing' her in a persuasive way until I got her in front of the post-office, and the mother took things

quietly, making no protest, like hens in the barnyard.

"Later I found it difficult to drive these grouse from off a stack of ripened wheat. I had guns but it was wicked to kill more than enough for the table and considerate sportsmen in that section were not shooting for the market."

Mr. Hallock agrees with us that game produced by industry should be marketed and the proceeds should be used to produce more game and to keep it plentiful.

=

The Prairie Chicken.

We have received an interesting little book about the prairie chicken, written by Mr. J. P. Turner, and published by the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba. We print a few paragraphs on the decrease of the prairie chicken in this issue and later we will print what Mr. Turner says about the coyote, the crow and other enemies of the grouse. It is quite evident from Mr. Turner's remarks about vermin that they need a lot of Oneida traps in Manitoba. The goshawk, one of the worst enemies of grouse, easily could be reduced in numbers by trapping.

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Lack of Preparedness.

There was a greater lack of preparedness in the game line than in any other food producing industry. It seems fortunate that the "more game" movement was well started. Our reports indicate that hundreds of tons of game will be eaten this season and the ratio of increase will be geometrical as surely as the prices keep up which they will until we have a few thousand more big shoots. There are many places where the bag will run over a thousand birds this season.

Black Bass.

We especially wish to hear from our readers who can tell us where we can get black bass. We have inquiries for these fish and they seem to be very scarce.

The safest place to buy game and eggs is from advertisers in The Game Breeder. We require good faith and advertisers are well aware what will happen if they do not deal fairly with members of the society.

QUAIL BREEDING FOR SPORT AND FOR PROFIT.

By D. W. HUNTINGTON.



OUR quail require different methods of preserving in different parts of the country. I have written about the necessity for restoring some covers and natural

foods in closely cultivated regions where all the foods and covers are plowed under on vast areas at certain seasons. The quail, I believe, can be made plentiful more quickly and more easily on the well tilled farms of the Central and Western States than they can be in New England and in other parts of the country where often there is too much cover which harbors many game enemies.

On the prairie farms where vast fields of grain are cultivated it is easy to observe the winged vermin and to control it with Oneida traps and the ground enemies which are comparatively scarce can be more easily destroyed than they can be in places where there are large woodlands and dense thickets.

All sportsmen are aware that quail do not go far into large woodlands; when driven from the fields they usually settle not far from the fence. The birds are, however, very partial to clearings in the woods where there are small fields and gardens and an old abandoned house with a deserted garden is almost sure to attract a covey of quail.

To preserve quail and breed them in large numbers on wooded areas many small clearings should be made in the woods and these should be roughly planted with some of the many foods eaten by quail. There should be some food suitable for each season of the year. Wild roses, sumacs, sunflowers and tall berry briars furnish excellent foods late in the fall and in the winter when the snow is on the ground. Small grain, wheat, buckwheat, rye, oats, etc., should be planted in the clearings and left standing. Grass, clover, weeds and lettuce can be planted to advantage. In a

small, sunny clearing containing some or all of these foods it will be an easy matter to establish one or more coveys.

Small fields made in the woods and planted with potatoes or other vegetables, corn or grain, to be harvested, will make quail ground out of uninhabitable woodlands and the quail crop can be made more profitable than the vegetables or grain in States where it is legal to breed quail. Roads and paths cut through the woods will make the control of vermin more easy and will make the woods more safe and attractive.

In my early shooting days I used to shoot much in the West in places where small farms were being started in wooded regions and I often found several covies in a single clearing and I have seen three covies flushed in one field at the same time.

In many of the Southern States ideal conditions for quail preserving are found. Fields not too closely cultivated often are surrounded with rail fences with their angles full of weeds and briars but in some places there is far too much cover, often swampy cover, which holds a vast amount of vermin which it is difficult to control. Snakes are one of the worst enemies of quail.

I know places where thousands of quail can be shot safely every season, but the reason is that keepers are employed to keep the vermin down, and to see that the birds have plenty to eat. The sportsmen shoot the birds which would have been eaten by vermin and always there are plenty of stock birds left to breed, in quiet, another season.

If the quail clubs owning scrub oak lands on Long Island, N. Y., and in New Jersey will make some clearings in the woods and plant them roughly with desirable foods they easily can enlarge their shooting area and if they will provide plenty of briars as a protection against enemies and will see that vermin is persistently trapped and shot, soon they will increase the numbers of the quail.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

The Court of Appeals, New York, has decided that the state is not liable for damage to timber of private individuals committed by beavers purchased and freed in the Adirondacks.

The court said, "It is true that one who keeps wild animals in captivity must see to it at his peril that they do no damage to others. But it is not true that whenever an individual is liable for a certain act the state is liable for the same act. In liberating these beaver the state was acting as a government.

"Wherever protection is accorded, harm may be done to the individual. Deer or moose may browse on his crops; mink or skunks kill his chickens; robins eat his cherries. In certain cases the legislature may be mistaken in its belief that more good than harm is occasioned. But this is clearly a matter which is confided to its discretion."

In *Phelps v. Racey* the court said if regulations protecting game operates in any respect unjustly or oppressively, the proper remedy must be applied by that body.

The legislatures in many states have taken the proper view of the matter of compensation for damages done by state animals. In some states the damage is ascertained and paid, but other states also permit the farmer or other landowner to protect his crops and poultry from the ravages of animals said to belong to the state because they have no other owner.

In *Aldrich v. Wright*, a New Hampshire case (53 N. H. 398), it was said in an elaborate opinion that a farmer might shoot mink even in the closed season should he find them threatening his geese.

The shepherd naturally is inclined to kill a state wolf when found eating sheep; the game-keeper in all civilized countries kills state snakes, skunks, minks, weasels, crows, hawks and other vermin when they are observed to be dining liberally on the excellent food he is producing. The

proper legislation, of course, permits food producers to protect their crops from trespassing state animals as well as from privately owned trespassing animals. Where thousands of pheasants are reared in a field the food is more important than the fur of several minks is. An Iowa farmer once went to jail when convicted for killing a mink which destroyed upwards of fifty of his hens in a night. He declined to pay any fine. There was a time when women were hanged because they stole property of small value from linen-drapers in order to clothe their naked children. But the enthusiasts who seek legislation of this character have become back numbers and the modern tendency of our legislation is to permit people who have hay or fruit or fowls, including pheasants, ducks and other game birds, to protect their property against trespassing animals which once were said to belong to kings who can do no wrong and later are said to belong to states because they have no other owner. There is a place for everything and the rule that everything should be kept in its proper place applies to food producers. We are inclined to believe that a state which introduces beavers in a park should not permit them to go out and destroy trees on private property and that if it does so it should respond in damages. The legislature should, of course, make the laws and the courts are right in saying that the remedy for the unfortunate situations created when animals are protected is to amend the laws so as to require the state to pay damages and to permit farmers, including game farmers, to protect their property from highly destructive state animals.

We are quite firmly of the opinion that a wise discretion should be the rule of the destroyer. That he should be educated not to destroy wantonly and not to destroy species believed to be beneficial and not harmful until they be caught in the act of taking game. Nat-

uralists admit that beneficial species may go wrong or acquire perverted appetites as in the case of the beneficial marsh hawks which became very fond of eating heath hens on Martha's Vineyard as reported by Dr. G. W. Field, when a state game officer; and the marsh hawk in Ohio shot by the editor of *The Game Breeder* as it flew with a cock quail in its talons. The best and we are inclined to think the only way to handle the vermin question is to except game farms where laws are enacted protecting vermin or to provide that game enemies may be destroyed when they acquire perverted appetites as they often do when a big lot of young game birds and eggs are spread out to tempt them.

The fact that the stomachs of "beneficials" only show mice in places where there is no game and where mice are plentiful does not prove conclusively that eggs and young birds will not be eaten when they are more plentiful and more easy to procure than mice.

It seems absurd for people who know nothing about the natural history of the rearing fields to attempt to make laws which tend to destroy a food-producing industry. The country is large. There is plenty of room for laws which amuse those engaged in seeking them every year. All that we ask is that they be not applied to game farms where they surely will reduce the number of the game birds.

DECREASE IN PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

By J. P. TURNER,

Past-Secretary Manitoba Game Protective Association.

In spite of all the protective legislation enacted in the older settled areas formerly occupied by either the pinnated or sharp-tailed grouse, the birds are not increasing or even holding their own, and in our own province the fact is being brought home to us that they are reaching a point of alarming scarcity. Some think the prairie chickens are making their last stand on the Canadian prairies; others believe that the extreme scarcity of birds will be gradually righted by nature's laws; still others claim that the hunter plays no appreciable part in the decrease of birds; and too many give the question no thought whatever.

During the last few years, and more especially at the present time, the steady decrease in the number of prairie chicken has been the source of much wonder, speculation and argument. The question is controversial to the last degree, for the reason that there is no final authority to consult, no arbiter before whom to lay the innumerable claims, and no one, in fact, who would care to assume so

risky an honor. In vain, it would seem, have many reasons been put forward to account for the growing scarcity of birds; and doubt still exists, as it will continue to do, insofar as the basic cause of this scarcity is concerned; but a careful perusal of the more pronounced perils to which the whole grouse family is to-day being subjected, will suggest that the prairie chicken's ranks have become sadly thinned, not so much from any specific agency as from an accumulation of adverse causes. Any one of these natural causes embraces a menace to the birds which they are able to overcome, but collectively, and if applied continuously, they spell disaster when reinforced by man's baneful influence.

To locate the outstanding natural enemies of the prairie chicken is not difficult.

Leaving aside the possibility of disease epidemic (of which we have no record, if it does exist), we ought to be able to reduce these agencies of destruction to a group, to which, in whole or in part, we can feel justified in attributing the

scarcity of birds so far as Nature is concerned. Disease naturally suggests itself, for grouse of all kinds have become scarce on the continent, and it is evident that their reduction in numbers is due, in large measure, to a common cause or combination of causes. Epidemics are known to attack different species when abnormal overproduction upsets the laws which govern the true balance of Nature. We have a common and constantly recurring example of this in the periodical increase and decrease of the varying hare, or "bush rabbit" as it is more commonly called. In Europe and Great Britain, where most game is artificially raised on preserves, this same fact is thoroughly understood, and overproduction is carefully guarded against. But to apply this theory by way of explanation to our ever-decreasing grouse, is merely to enter the field of useless argument. It is well known that none of the native game birds are nearly as plentiful on this continent as in the earliest days of settlement; and though we are told of, or remember, "off years" when this or that species became temporarily scarce from natural causes, we also know that never in the memory of the oldest inhabitant did the prairie chicken decrease to such a low point as is the case at pres-

ent. To suggest the possibility of an epidemic of disease from other causes than overproduction is to conjure up the improbable.

Among all of the more common species of mammals and birds, to say nothing of insects, Nature has provided that there shall be an over-abundant natural reproduction. This is an infallible law and one absolutely essential to the perpetuation of most species. The reason for this is readily apparent. The ratio of destruction, by natural means, must be overcome by a corresponding ratio of increase, or, failing in this, the species will become abnormally scarce or practically non-existent. If a species is known to reproduce at a high rate annually and yet does not show a resultant general increase in numbers as time goes on, and its numbers remain about stationary, then the ratio of destruction in that species is merely counterbalanced by its reproducing powers. Thus does Nature maintain her true balance. Working from this hypothesis, we can say conclusively that the ratio of destruction among the grouse of America has been, of late, far in excess of their powers of reproduction, and that Nature's balance has been upset in such a way as to bring several species to a low ebb.

NOTES FROM THE STATE GAME DEPARTMENTS.

We published reports from a number of State game officers last month, most of whom believe that game breeding and the sale of game produced by industry should be encouraged and not prevented by law. Rapidly all of the State game officers are adopting the idea that food birds should not be placed in the song bird list and that the departments should be of economic importance; that field sports should not be prohibited.

Where a little game breeding is encouraged in various parts of a State the necessity for close seasons quickly disappears as it did on Long Island, N. Y., where recently the State game officer

(who has the right to declare a closed season and to put both the shooters and the food producers out of business) when appealed to by the enemies of sport to do this decided that it was not necessary or proper to close the shooting. This is true because the quail clubs keep the birds plentiful. All of the sportsmen in the State can go to Long Island and be sure of finding quail.

When all the patriotic State officers become fully aware that by encouraging game breeding by all who wish to go into the industry they will put an end to the necessity for closed seasons and that every one will find better shooting than

there is at present, we believe an end will be put to the activities of non-resident mischief makers who by using vast sums of money often are able to put an end to sport and to food producing. We are much pleased with the good sense expressed in many letters written by State game officers who sincerely wish to perpetuate sport.

Ohio.

Hon. John C. Speaks, chief warden for Ohio, reports: "Under pheasant breeders' permits, Chinese, Mongolian and English ring-necked pheasants may be propagated, killed and sold. The sale of black bass, rock bass, blue gills and croppies is prohibited. Licenses are issued to game breeders. See section 1412-1."

Section 1412-1 reads: "It shall be lawful for any citizen of the State of Ohio to engage in the business of raising and selling domesticated English ring-neck, Mongolian or Chinese pheasants on lands of which he is the owner or lessee. Any person desiring to engage in the propagation of the birds herein mentioned shall make application in writing to the Secretary of Agriculture for a permit and upon payment of a fee of fifty cents, shall be granted a breeder's license permitting such applicant to breed and raise for commercial purposes the birds above enumerated, under the regulations herein set forth."

Evidently there should be a comma after "English and before "ring-neck," since the so-called English or dark-necked pheasant is not a ring-necked pheasant and the intention of the legislature was, no doubt, to permit the breeding of English pheasants as well as ring-necks, commonly called Chinese ring-necked pheasants. As a matter of fact the dark-necked species and the ring-necked species have been inter-bred so much that pure bred birds are comparatively rare in the English markets and on many American game farms and preserves there are many English and ring-necked pheasants and hybrids of the two species which are equally good for sporting purposes and for the table.

When pheasants are sold in Ohio, "a tag bearing the name, initials or regis-

tered trade-mark of licensee" is required. The tags cost 2 cents each.

Colorado.

Hon. W. B. Fraser, Game and Fish Commissioner of Colorado, says Colorado permits and encourages the breeding of game and game fish for sale as food. Licenses are issued to breeders (see section 2866) and the game sold is identified by tags which cost 1 cent each.

Section 2866 referred to provides for licenses as follows: for each quadruped park, ten years license, \$100; 2 years license, \$25. For each bird park, ten years license, \$25; 2 years license, \$10. For renewals of ten year licenses the fees are for quadruped parks, \$75; for bird parks, \$20. For each lake, two years license for first lake, \$10; for each renewal of same, \$8. For each lake, two years license for each additional lake, \$5; for each renewal of same, each additional lake, \$3; for each lake, ten years license for first lake, \$25; for each renewal of same, \$15; for each lake, ten years license, each additional lake, \$10; for each renewal of same, each additional lake, \$5; for each preserve, two years license, \$10; for each renewal of same, \$8; for each preserve, ten years license, \$25; for each renewal of same, \$15; for each permit for transportation out of State the fees are: For each elk, edible portion, \$10; for each mountain sheep, edible portion, \$5; for each deer, edible portion, \$5; for each bird, edible portion, 25 cents; for each fish, edible portion, 25 cents.

The commissioner says live birds can be trapped for propagation and scientific purposes, under regulations 2765 and Division J.

Section 2765 provides for licenses for private parks and preserves and permits the owners to propagate and sell the game and fish therein or to be placed therein. Division J relates to the taking of animals to be mounted or used as specimens.

Utah.

R. H. Siddoway, State Fish and Game Commissioner of Utah reports: "The propagation of trout for sale as food is very much encouraged in this State and

we have a great many private hatcheries. Trout are raised exclusively in these hatcheries.

"There is very little game breeding here and we have no regulations for identification of game sold by breeders. Tags are not used as yet.

"Live birds can be trapped for scientific purposes only by our State institutions, such as the University of Utah and the Agriculture College at Logan. Private individuals cannot secure such permits."

Texas.

W. W. Wood, Game and Fish Commissioner of Texas, says the State permits and encourages the breeding of fish for sale as food but not game. Any species of fish can be sold. No licenses are issued to breeders. Game cannot be sold for propagation.

Kentucky.

J. Quincy Ward, Executive Agent for Kentucky, reports that his State permits and encourages the breeding and sale of all species of game and fish under permit. There is no charge for permits. The

game sold is identified by metal tags for which no charge is made.

Kentucky seems to be running well up with Massachusetts. Prairie grouse once were so plentiful in Kentucky that Audubon says they were regarded as pests. We believe and predict that these birds will again be shot and eaten in great abundance in Kentucky although there is not a prairie grouse in the State to-day.

Idaho.

W. H. Thorp, Chief Deputy Game Warden for Idaho, reports that game fish can be sold as food—rainbow and Eastern brook trout, from private ponds only, under special permit.

Game cannot be sold alive for propagation. Live birds can be trapped for scientific purposes only under special permit.

It would appear that Idaho is sadly behind the times. The Game Breeder is not as extensively circulated in Idaho as it should be. There should be a special fund for educational purposes in Idaho such as we have had for some other States where common sense now prevails.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Trout Breeding.

The breeding of trout literally is booming in many places. There are many large commercial hatcheries and their owners are making money. Some of the clubs now have excellent trout hatcheries and keep their streams and ponds full of trout. Many country places have little ponds for trout and there are some excellent lakes which are being stocked with bass.

The Game Market.

The market for live game which opened very strong seemed to have a quiet period but the demand for stock birds again is increasing and we predict all the game offered excepting some "near mallards" of doubtful flying qualities will be sold at excellent prices.

The market for dead game is very strong, of course, on account of no game being imported and everything offered from the big shoots will be sold at splendid prices. Even the "near mallards" will find a ready sale when killed "otherwise than by shooting."

The Egg Market.

We predict the demand for eggs will be bigger as the breeding season approaches than ever before. The activities of hundreds of commercial and sporting breeders has stimulated the State game officers to produce more abundantly on the many State game farms. Thousands of birds have been sold to the State officers at splendid prices and they no doubt will purchase many eggs.

We are glad to observe that some peo-

ple who are not suitable for military duty have accepted our idea that it is patriotic to produce and shoot game abundantly and to thus conserve the bacon and the beef.

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Bob-White a "Singer" in Michigan.

The Game Commissioner of Michigan says: "Under the close season this bird has made a gratifying increase. Owing to its recognized value to the farmer as an insect and weed-seed destroyer it is doubtful if sentiment will again allow of its being taken as a game bird, unless an unlooked for increase would justify an open season."

In the same report the commissioner urges that the taking of foxes for propagation and profitable breeding should be permitted at all seasons. Since quail sell for \$36 per dozen and sometimes more, it would seem to be a good idea to suggest the trapping of breeding stock under permits and the careful breeding of quail for profit in protected fields where foods and covers have been especially planted for the birds and where their natural enemies are controlled because it pays to do so. We would respectfully ask the commissioner if he knows of any good reason why a farmer should not make the quail tremendously plentiful and profitable on his farm if he prefers to engage in quail breeding instead of going into the fox business—or even the skunk business, which is thriving in Michigan.

Surely the sportsmen can not complain since the commissioner points out the fact that at present the quail is only a singer and not a sporting or food bird and that it probably never will be regarded as a broiler. We can assure the commissioner that quail are very good to eat and that it is a very easy and inexpensive matter to keep them plentiful although thousands be eaten every season. No one can be expected to do this, however, unless it pays. Few know how easy it is to have plenty of quail. Plans and specifications are furnished in The Game Breeder, \$1.00 per year.

How to Become a Member of the Game Guild.

The Game Guild is an important committee of the Game Conservation Society. It certifies the advertisements of members; investigates complaints and requires absolutely fair dealing. It promptly answers letters and inquiries of members on all subjects. The cost of membership is \$1.00 per annum. To become a member of the guild it is necessary to send a reference in cases where the member of the society, or advertiser, is not personally known to one of the officers of the society who can endorse the applicant.

The mail of the society and its publication is much heavier, no doubt, than the mail of an ordinary story magazine. Hundreds of letters keep coming, asking about the breeding industry, the laws, the prices for game, etc., etc. The amount expended for postage is very large and the money received from guild members is used to enable the society to handle this mail and to investigate complaints, etc. There are a few contributing members who pay \$5.00 per year to help keep up the work of the guild. These contributions are voluntary. The society wishes the guild to have a large and influential membership and for this reason the dues have been placed at \$1.00. The amount will enable the guild to carry on its work if the membership increases as the industry grows in importance.

Not "Near Mallards."

The Game Conservation Society:

The birds on the front cover of the September Game Breeder are mallards, true in markings and shape. A Massachusetts breeder sent me one several years since, an exact brother of the male portrayed. I have him yet. He has grown heavy and clumsy with the years, but his descendants still show the boot shape and right markings. The larger part of my birds are "near-mallards," and better for decoy use and of my patrons than wild birds. I am only a game student, but I think I know perfect birds.

I have interesting experiences with my black ducks, in studying their habits and likes and dislikes. I almost seem to have a charm for wild game and have little trouble in taming them. I have one red-legged black drake that was caught at the lake, a large northern type, so tame that he eats from my hand and follows me all around the lots. He goes and comes as he pleases but always hunts me up directly he returns from a trip. Another black was caught last spring in a rat trap, a large strong bird. He also has been so tamed that he goes and comes as he pleases also. My greatest trouble is in getting the captured birds to breed. They mate but the females do not lay. Two splendid blacks on free range only laid one egg each and two others mated and did not lay an egg this past season. All are practically free on brook, swale and good range. Three others would not mate but made nests and set on and hatched mallard eggs. One now is leading a fine flock of young mallards from wild eggs, a part of which she stole from the other blacks that hatched them. I have no trouble with the mallards, but the blacks are different some way. If you could suggest any way to induce mating or to get them to lay when they do mate I would be grateful.

Vermont.

F. S. Morgan.

[Many readers report the same difficulty. One season we purchased a lot of young black ducks which had been bred from tame stock and the birds nested fairly well beside a pond. We stole some of their eggs and hatched them under hens. At many of the duck clubs black ducks are hatched and reared every season for decoys. We hope the problem of breeding large numbers will be solved.—
EDITOR.]

Pheasants, Game Laws and Cats.

Editor, Game Breeder:

I am not one of the old subscribers to your valued paper, which I find of great interest.

We are not the largest producers of game in the country, neither have we been in the game-producing business as long as many of your readers no doubt have, but we have for a great number of

years been close observers of game birds in the wild state, have watched the effects of different acts of legislation and laws regulating sportsmen. We also have noticed that inquiries from the East especially are for birds in trios when used for restocking the game fields.

Now the writer is not familiar with your eastern game laws but you likely have some that are very good and some that, like some of ours out here, are rotten. At least that is what I think of some of them.

For instance, game birds are liberated in trios for breeding purposes. Our game laws here at this special season specify that cocks only may be killed. There is already a serious shortage of cock birds and the large number of Chinese pheasant eggs that failed to hatch this season in this locality bears mute testimony to this fact. Next season will be worse in this way unless all signs fail.

The game breeders, as a rule, are willing to furnish birds in trios (at a slightly higher price than in pairs) when wanted for liberation by gun clubs or state departments, but I for one seriously question the wisdom of this procedure. Take the Chinese ringneck pheasant for example, he is one of our very finest game birds and while polygamous in captivity there is room for conjecture whether he will so mate in the wild state in the fields.

I also see articles of different kinds published in your paper from various sections of the country regarding experiences of subscribers in game production. These are all interesting but one must consider that this, our country, is so vast in area, presenting climatic and local conditions so unlike that what is good in one place will not answer in another.

There is one thing, however, that I would suggest to every sportsman when he is out hunting and that is this: Whenever you see a stray cat better shoot it, as it will mean probably at least fifty additional game birds for next year. This year I know of a cat that killed a pheasant hen on her nest of seventeen eggs, broke most of the eggs, and a few days later and before I could get a shot at her killed seven out of a brood of blue quail.

This almost equals the record of the wildest pot hunter.

Oregon is a great state for game and splendid trout streams, and here at Silverton, which is at the very foothills of the mighty Cascades we have ideal conditions for both hunting and fishing. Indeed no greater paradise for game birds could probably exist than the Willamette Valley—barring pot hunters and cats.

Oregon. C. A. Benson.

[The modern breeders often purchase four or five hens for each cock. They get excellent results breeding the pheasants in small pens containing one cock and five hens and also in large pens where 25 or even a hundred hens are confined with from 5 to 25 cocks. The eggs gathered are fertile.—EDITOR.]

A Use of Black Sporting Powder Not Generally Known to the Public.

The du Ponts send the following:

"Do you know that black sporting powder is used for lambing purposes? While the season for this year is past, this information may be worth remembering.

"Black powder is used for this purpose in many western states. In Wyoming especially a great many kegs are used in the course of a year. The powder is used to scare away the coyotes and wolves at night, so that they will not get the young lambs. The sheep are bunched at night, as a rule, and the sheep-herder puts out a few pans and at intervals during the night 'goes the rounds,' putting a small charge of black powder in each pan, then lighting it.

"Some herders use the powder in a shotgun.

"There are three theories as to why the above keeps the coyotes and wolves away. One is that the smell of the powder is disliked and the undesired animals will not go near. Another is that seeing the flash of fire which is made by the powder, they are scared away. The other as reference to the gun, and, of course, it is assumed that the noise from it naturally scares them.

"No doubt the powder companies can and will supply full information on this subject."

[Black powder we find also works nicely on stray dogs and cats, crows, hawks, skunks and others that visit game rearing fields.—Editor.]

Game Breeding in Texas.

Although the Texas state game officer reports that game breeding is not encouraged by legislation in his state, the people seem to be going in for it.

Mr. C. N. McElheny, one of our Texas members, sending the following clippings says: "They may interest your readers showing that the doctrine of game protection and propagation has reached the boundaries of our country."

Establishes Game Preserve.

San Angelo, Texas, Dec. 12.—Five thousand acres of range sixteen miles south of here has been fenced by J. D. Shipman, a Tom Green county ranchman, with wolfproof fence for a game preserve. He is now making efforts to get a number of deer, antelope and buffalo for the preserve.

Soldiers and Armadillos.

In twelve counties lying northwest of San Antonio is the greatest game preserve for wild turkeys perhaps in all the United States. In one or two counties is one land owner who claims more turkeys than any other man in the world. About much of his property he has erected a twelve-foot game fence for the protection of both deer and turkey, confining them in a great preserve and contributing to both their protection and their reproduction, granting hunting permits only to hunters of responsibility and game appreciation.

The sheep and goat men say that when coyotes were destroyed or driven from that section upon the advent of the sheep and goat industry the turkeys multiplied rapidly, but that, in the last few years, upon the advent of thousands of armadillos from the south, wild turkeys and quail are not multiplying so rapidly.

I have personally interviewed a great number of people in that section in the last few years, who expressed generally the opinion that armadillos are very destructive of wild turkey eggs, driving the hens from their nest. This explanation is general, and is universally accepted. While a number of ranchmen say they have been eyewitnesses to the destruction of chickens' eggs by armadillos about their houses, and, while others have found armadillos in close proximity to turkey nests with eggs destroyed, showing signs of the ravages of little animal, I have found only one man, Marvin Bode, Noxville, Kimble County, Texas, who says he has personally witnessed an armadillo destroy wild turkey eggs in the hen's nest.

West and south of San Antonio, especially since the concentration of troops from various States of the Union, are hundreds of men

and boys engaged in the destruction of armadillos for the sake of their armors, which are sold in local markets or sent to Northern homes, who, unaware of the destruction of the breeding places of wild game, consider the killing of armadillos an act of commercialism, but they do not know that these hunters of armadillos are benefactors to wild game and birds and to the State.

I recommend that the Legislature place a bounty on armadillos, ground squirrels and paisanos, or chaparral cocks, all of which, by general consent, are destructive of bird eggs and young birds.

WESLEY PEACOCK.

The News, San Antonio.

It is interesting to learn that the soldiers are acting as game keepers. We

would like to hear from the Oneida Community what would be the best trap for armadillos to be used on Texas game farms and preserves. We believe the state will be a great game-producing state before long. Our circulation is increasing rapidly in Texas. When they have ranches in Texas often they are big ones and there is plenty of room for some corking big game ranches which should make from ten to one hundred thousand dollars a year for their owners. Many of our members now write that the game is the most profitable live stock on their places.

WHY THE PRAIRIE CHICKENS VANISH.

Some Letters from Saskatchewan.

The following abstracts from letters give some of the reasons for the extirpation of a most valuable wild food bird which a few years ago was abundant in the Province.

Vermin.

Mr. D. Findley writes: "There is no doubt at all but that the crows destroy a great number of eggs and also young chickens. A crow dropped a chicken in my yard last spring when flying over the town, and I feel sure they do considerable damage to prairie chickens and other birds."

George Lang says: "The crow is undoubtedly the greatest enemy of our game birds. They were in flocks of thousands here last fall about the time the shooting season opened. Of course, at that time they do no harm to speak of, but during the hatching season last spring they destroyed 60 per cent of the mallard eggs in this district. On the experimental farm we lost in 1915, by actual count, sixty-eight of our domestic fowl. We repeatedly saw the crows taking them, but they were so cunning that we were unable to shoot many. This past season we commenced to shoot and poison them as soon as they arrived in the spring. We destroyed their nests wherever found and so discouraged them that it was a rare sight to see a crow around the farm."

W. G. Swift writes: "I have seen a covey of twelve chickens cleaned out by a single hawk."

Wires.

I. R. Irving writes: "I have lived here for the last thirty-four years and have never seen chickens so scarce, I consider that immense

numbers of birds are killed annually by flying against telephone wires. I have picked up dozens of birds with broken necks under the wires."

George Lang says: "You will note that I make reference to the telephone wires as another source of destruction to the chickens. I believe that this is a matter worth looking into sometime in the near future. I know that in districts in Scotland where grouse and pheasants are to be found it is the custom to hang strips of wash tin on the wires in order that the birds may see that there is something in their line of flight.

"I have found many chickens in the last few years that had been killed in this manner. There is a family of children here who walk in to school from a mile in the country. A few days ago they brought me the seventh pinnated grouse that they have picked up this winter along this one mile of wire."

Fires.

G. O. Robertson writes: "Prairie fires in the past have had something to do with destroying the nests of prairie chickens."

Wm. Speddington writes: "I have often seen in going over newly burnt land the nest of prairie chickens destroyed as well as the mother bird which had stayed on the nest until suffocated."

W. A. Abbott writes: "I notice that as the country is being settled, places where the chickens were in the habit of breeding are being brought under cultivation and consequently destroyed. The chickens have entirely disappeared from this district where the settlers have burned off the grass previous to breaking up the land."

Climate.

Wm. Noble writes: "The hail storms last summer killed a large number of chickens in this district."

A. C. Budd says: "The majority of people here report a very poor hatch of domestic fowl probably through heavy rains and thunder storms. I had three settings due out June 1, and all but fourteen were dead in the shell probably caused by the shock of the heavy thunder which would very likely damage prairie chickens in the same way."

Farm Implements.

R. A. Hewitt writes: "Last spring when ploughing I ran over two nests before I saw them. The birds had been setting some time but the eggs did not appear to be incubating."

Dogs.

Carrol W. Dodge writes: "In this district there are at least forty wolf hounds within eight miles of my place and in the spring and early summer I can see them ranging the country hunting nests and in the sloughs after ducks."

Many people report an alarming scarcity of prairie chickens and say they are vanishing.

S. L. R. Clarke writes: "Among all the hunters I have interviewed this season, not one in fifty shot any prairie chickens. This is alarming when compared with the chickens of a few years ago."

J. Burgiss writes: "I do not know what has happened to the prairie chickens, but they seem to have disappeared altogether, I am of the opinion that last year there were twenty-five birds to where there is one now."

H. J. Edington writes: "The prairie chicken is a rare thing to be seen in my locality. Two years ago they were very plentiful."

The remedy suggested by some is a closed season for a term of years. Such a law will have no effect whatsoever on the causes for the decrease in the number of chickens above mentioned. Nesting places and natural foods will be destroyed more and more as population increases; there will be, undoubtedly, some illegal shooting since the grouse is very good to eat. At the end of the closed season, if it be not extended, a very little shooting will be sufficient to put an end to the prairie grouse forever in the few places where the birds may occur.

If a law permitting and encouraging the breeding of grouse for sport and for profit can be enacted, shooting clubs can be formed to look after the birds and to see that they be not destroyed by natural

enemies by fires and farm machinery, and the losses due to climate can be mitigated. Clubs with very small dues can make and keep the grouse very plentiful although thousands of birds be shot every season, and since the birds will go out from the preserved areas they will be found in the stubbles for miles about. In this way the quail clubs of the Eastern and Southern States have saved the quail and quail shooting not only for the club members but also for those who take no interest in game preserving.

The trap shooting clubs have trap shooting because they procure their traps and targets and provide for the sport. There is plenty of room for thousands of game shooting clubs which easily can have plenty of prairie chickens and other game, not only for themselves but for the people to eat, since if the game is properly looked after it becomes so abundant that the club members can not eat all they shoot and they can sell some to pay the expenses of a game keeper and the rental of nesting grounds, small areas which should be kept quiet and full of cover and food and safe from vermin and farm machinery.

The Game Breeder is always glad to give advice about the formation of game clubs to those who wish to perpetuate field sports.

The Game Breeder does not do much in the way of soliciting advertisements as those who use it know. Most of the breeders when they have anything to sell know what the result will be if they announce the fact and send us their advertisements.

The Game Conservation Society much prefers to have the magazine fully supported by members of the society who contribute because they believe in the work being accomplished.

Always purchase from those who advertise. By so doing you help the cause. Why should you buy from those who do not help?

It is now time to advertise eggs for spring delivery.

The Game Breeder

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When quail, in swarms, take to cultivated beans, "like a drunkard to drink," as a New Mexican farmer says his quail do, it is time to reduce some of the valuable insect and weed destroyers to broilers. New York hotels will pay the best prices as soon as food producing is thoroughly legal.

Our readers will be interested in the account of how the soldiers stationed in Texas kill armadillos sent by Mr. C. N. McElheny and printed on another page. This army of game keepers should produce big results, although it seems they are not aware they are performing the duties of game keepers.

Our readers will be especially interested in the report of the court's decision in the Adirondack beaver case. Many of them will remember Harry Radford, who was associated with the editor of The Game Breeder when the movement for "more game" was started and who was writing and sending us an account of his explorations in the Arctic regions until he was killed by the Eskimos.

Radford quickly accepted the idea that it was a good plan to devote more of our energies to procuring and producing game and that we might well make a few hundred fewer game laws every season. He it was who secured the legislation authorizing the state to purchase

and liberate the beaver in the Adirondacks, and we are quite sure were he alive today he would agree with us that the beavers should not be permitted to run out of the park and destroy private property in a wholesale fashion. The court, no doubt, decided that the proper remedy should be sought from the legislature. Other states, however, have held that the owner might shoot the trespassing state animals. In Massachusetts a farmer who shot deer found eating his crop and in New Hampshire a farmer who shot a mink which threatened his geese were held to be within their rights.

The New York court in holding that damages could not be recovered from the state for damages done by state beavers expressly did not decide what would happen if some one should blaze away at a buck in a peach orchard or at a skunk in a poultry yard.

The precedents in so far as we have examined them seem to make it fairly safe for game farmers and game keepers to use the shotgun and the Oneida traps to control the enemies of game when they attempt to put an end to a food-producing industry.

THE GAME DINNER.

When the matter of our annual game dinner was discussed the writer voted not to have it this year. We reluctantly announced in the October issue that the invitations would be issued.

We are pleased to announce that the matter has been reconsidered. There will be no game dinner this year, and the few hundred dollars usually expended will be used, with some other money, in an important experiment with live game—the most important work, in our opinion, ever planned by the society.

There are two very good reasons why we should not have the game dinner. It would seem to be rather heartless to be feasting on game just at this time and several of our members urged that the dinner would not be timely or proper.

Another reason, a selfish one, is that the younger men all being away, the

work of the dinner would fall very largely on the writer, although some of those who favored the dinner said they would do part of the work. It seemed likely we would have to abandon a trip south to lay in our winter supply of quail.

We are delighted at the prospect of using the money for a field experiment and we are quite sure when the war is over our members will appreciate the game we will then be able to serve at our game dinners.

We shall make our Peace Dinner the biggest game dinner ever given in New York.

SMALL DINNERS.

We hope and believe there will be many small dinners where game will be served and eaten as a patriotic duty by those who must remain at home.

We propose to substitute quail on toast for bacon for our breakfast, often, in order to save the bacon for export. We are glad that we can begin with Long Island birds (November vintage) since this food-producing area has been kept open. We know where we can go, in the South, and lay in a stock of quail for home consumption during the winter.

We propose to eat pheasants and ducks often and an occasional wild turkey (saving some of the big bird for turkey hash with fried sweet potatoes for breakfast, a favorite dish) and in this way we will save the beef for export. Since Uncle Sam positively refused to take us on account of our antiquity, we are glad that we can show our patriotism by saving bacon and the beef in the way we have indicated. We hope many of our old and decrepid members, who still shoot, will do the same.

We have just been reading a letter from an enterprising member who recently began game breeding in the West. He says he will shoot a few thousand pheasants this season, but will save a larger breeding stock than usual. No doubt his neighbors, for miles about, will dine occasionally on pheasants since most people know they are very good to eat and are willing to pot them when they put in an appearance, thus saving beef.

At many hotels and restaurants Tues-

day has been made a meatless day. We would suggest that this and one other day each week be made a game-eating day. We are quite sure that many small dinner parties can be made up to eat the excess game produced by our members now that it can come to New York without any one being arrested. It is not so very long ago that an attempt was made to "sit down" on us when we proposed, at a meeting of the Protective Association, the horrible idea that New York people should have some game to eat and that the money paid for it would flow out to produce more game.

Our members will send many tons of game to New York this season and they will receive many thousands of dollars for it. This may seem shocking to those who want one more game law but it does not seem so to those patriotic souls who like to eat game and are willing to help out in the crisis by substituting quail and ducks and pheasants for the bacon and the beef.

We hope there will be many small game dinners to replace the big feast of the society.

ALARM ABOUT THE GROUSE.

Two groups of conservationists are much alarmed about the status of the prairie grouse and the sharp-tailed grouse, two of the best wild food birds in the world. Those who believe in practical protection and propagation will devote their energies to the breeding of grouse for sport and for profit; the old-style game law enthusiasts will devote their energies to the securing of more laws intended to send anyone to jail who has grouse in his possession or who attempts to breed the game for sport or for food.

Laws prohibiting the shooting and eating of this desirable bird, of course, make it not worth while for anyone to look after it properly; to see that it has covers and foods; that it be not destroyed by natural enemies, and also by fires, floods, telegraph wires, dogs, cats and other destructive agencies due to civilization.

We print in this issue some interesting notes from the report of the chief game

guardian of the Province of Saskatchewan. The grouse were tremendously plentiful in the province only a few years ago but seem to be vanishing and will continue to do so even if shooting be prohibited provided their covers and foods be destroyed and no one looks after the game. A few game farms where grouse are reared for profit; a few grouse-shooting clubs where the grouse are kept plentiful for sport no doubt soon would show that the game can be saved, but we are quite sure the birds will vanish if the only effort to save them consists of laws making it not worth while for any one to look after them.

We have a decided opinion that the grouse not only can be saved but that they quickly can be made an abundant food supply for all of the people.

The red grouse in Scotland was not very plentiful a few generations ago but it soon became abundant and cheap in the English markets when the people decided to look after the birds and found it paid to do so. If Scotland can keep the English markets full of cheap grouse without fear of extermination what will happen when even a small part of the vast grouse areas of the United States and Canada, where grouse were abundant, are properly utilized?

OUR POLICY.

Often The Game Breeder seems to be misrepresented by people who believe in having more game laws. We have said repeatedly that we believe the taking of public game or game on public lands and waters should be regulated by laws providing for open seasons, to end with the breeding season. We believe it is necessary to have very short open seasons and to prohibit the taking of many birds in some States and that soon it will be necessary to stop shooting for terms of years in places where no one looks after the game.

We believe, however, that food producers who produce thousands of birds every season should not be governed by laws putting an end to shooting or limiting the bag to a few birds in a year. They should be encouraged to sell all

the game they wish to sell alive or dead, provided they identify their game under simple and reasonable regulations. We have become converted to the idea that permits to produce game should be issued without charge. The State which so issues permits finds they are perfectly satisfactory.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SHOOTING.

The area for public shooting in America is very large. There are vast areas of uncultivated and wild land where there is no objection to anyone shooting game. There are vast bays, lakes, rivers and public marshes where anyone can shoot.

Most of the cultivated lands are posted against trespassers and there should be no possible objection to their owners producing thousands of game birds for sport and for food if they wish to do so. Many report that their abundant game is now the most valuable live stock on the place.

People are permitted to drain marshes which they own and make them uninhabitable for wild ducks; they are permitted, without objection, to so cultivate the fields that not a grouse or quail can survive. We believe it would be far better for sport for all hands if such marshes and fields can be made, as they have been in many places, to yield an abundance of game for those who look after it and produce it. We know that much game escapes from such places and we have found the shooting in the neighborhood of such places much improved because many birds escaped and often bred in the surrounding territory.

The farmers are becoming more and more opposed to field sports. They have good reason to object to many trespassers shooting up their places without permission. We believe they should be encouraged to produce game for profit that they can be induced in many places to rent the shooting for a reasonable amount to syndicates of sportsmen who will deal fairly with the land owners.

It is a very good time to advertise stock birds for breeding purposes.

Profitable and Promising.

Mr. I. Rabb, of the Marmot Pheasantry, writes: "I have demonstrated to my own satisfaction, at least, that pheasants can be raised on a scale that will bring better returns on the investment than any other line of live stock. If the new breeders will go slow and profit by their own and other's mistakes this country will never again be compelled to import her game birds.

"You people are doing a great work and you certainly have my best wishes for your success."

Letters like the above help keep up the enthusiasm of the toilers in the office. They seem especially good when the faith there is in them is accompanied by good work, as in the case of Mr. Rabb, who sent in the space advertisement of the Marmot Pheasantry which appears on another page.

We predict it will not be long, Mr. Rabb, before you are informed that we are not doing it just right; that some of our ideas are "fair to middling," but that it will be far better to go a little slow and to procure a few more restrictions, and one or two more laws prohibiting the use of pump guns before the pheasant business can be freely tolerated.

We are informed in a recent letter from the Far West that there is more money in the business of getting restrictive game laws than there is in game breeding. This was true a year or two ago but we believe now there is as much (if not more) money invested in the new food producing industry, as there is in the industry of getting more game laws. There were 70 fewer game laws enacted—at a recent session—in one State in which we are much interested than were enacted the previous session, we are told.

Fewer Rattlesnakes—More Quail.

San Angelo, Texas.—Eight pounds of rattlesnake oil was sold in San Angelo this week by John Blakemore, an Irion County ranchman. This amount of oil was extracted from forty-eight diamond rattlers and was sold for \$115.20.

We do not know just how many snakes it takes to produce eight pounds of rattlesnake oil worth \$115.20, but we do

know that the destruction of the snakes means more quail for the snakes' former habitat.

Always Remember.

When you wish to purchase game always remember that those who advertise in The Game Breeder should have your orders because they contribute to the making of game breeding possible.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.**HIS ORDERS.**

"Well, did you get any orders to-day?" asked the book agent's wife.

"Yes," replied the book agent. "I got two orders in one place. One was to get out and the other was to stay out."—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

CAMOUFLAGE.

Our idea of camouflage is when a bald-headed man wears a skull-cap.—*Galveston News.*

Stole a Pig and Away He Flew.

A taxidermist is mounting a golden eagle, measuring seven feet from tip to tip, that Henry Goodman killed near Westervelt, Ill., as it was going aloft with a young pig in its four-inch talons.

Cure for Anemia.

A Scot and an Englishman who were walking down the street together stopped to purchase a couple of rosy apples. The Englishman on taking a bite of his immediately began to splutter. "I believe I've swallowed a worm!" he exclaimed.

"Weel, weel, mon, an' what if ye did?" said the Scot. "'Twill put new life into ye!"

Gondolas in the Park.

Once upon a time a city alderman offered a resolution that twenty gondolas be purchased and placed on the lake in the park. Another member of the board, under the impression that the gondola was an ornamental water-fowl, moved, in the interest of economy, that they purchase a male and a female gondola, and let nature take its course.

Good Books for Christmas

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State of New York, County of New York, ss:—Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared D W. Huntington, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of The Game Breeder, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit: 1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The Game Conservation Society, Inc., Post Office address, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Editor, D. W. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Managing Editor, none. Business Managers, The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. 2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.) The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Stockholders: C. B. Davis, Grantwood, New Jersey; A. A. Hill, (Deceased); F. R. Peixotto, 55 John St., New York, N. Y.; D. W. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; J. C. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; Dwight Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. 3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities, are: (If there are none, so state.) None. 4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or

(Continued on page 61.)

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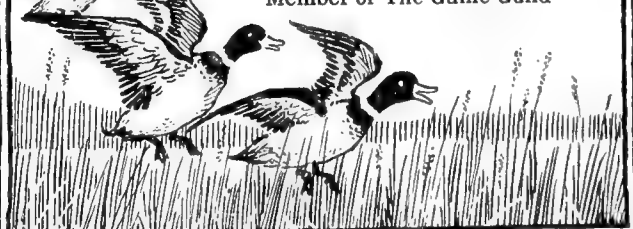
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(Continued from page 60.)

corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him. D. W. Huntington, Editor of The Game Breeder. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of September, 1917. EVERETT W. JONES, Notary Public. Certificate filed in New York County, No. 100. Kings County, No. 41. [SEAL.] (My commission expires March 30th, 1918.)

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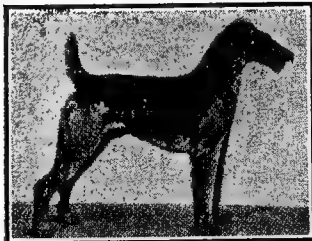
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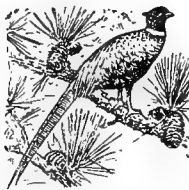
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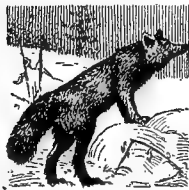
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XII

DECEMBER, 1917

No. 3

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



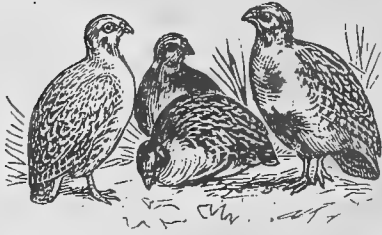
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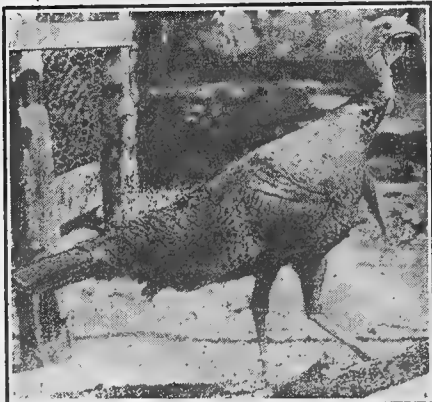
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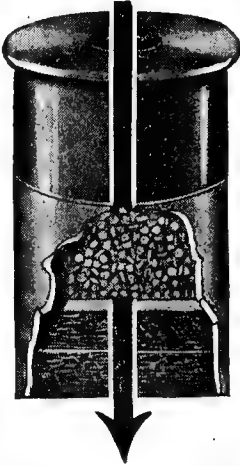
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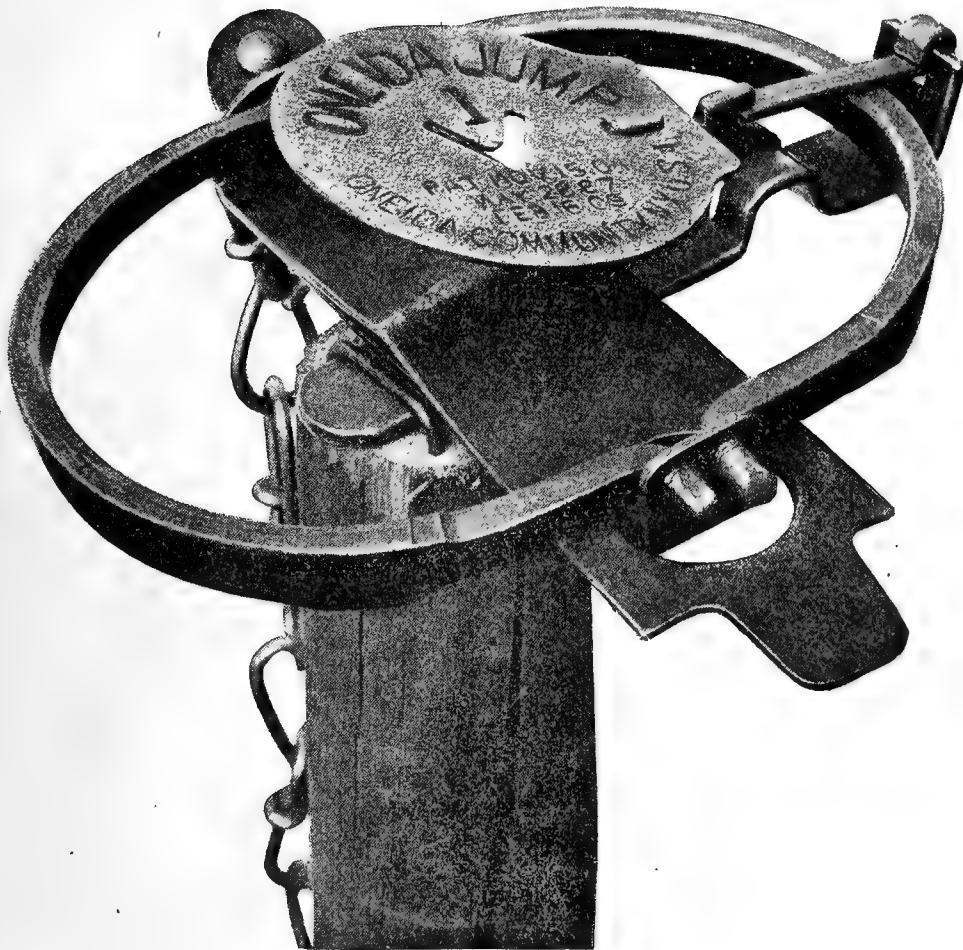
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The Game Breeder

Published Monthly. Entered as second-class matter, July 9, 1915, at the Post-Office, New York City, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOLUME XII

DECEMBER, 1917

NUMBER 3



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

An Important Announcement.

America undoubtedly has become the biggest pheasant producing country in the world! We have no doubt there are more wild ducks also in America than there are in any country in the world, excepting possibly India. We have heard recently some remarkable stories about the abundance of wild fowl in India.

The reason why America has become a great pheasant producing country is that the laws have been amended in many states so as to permit and encourage the profitable breeding of pheasants. Certain species of ducks also can be produced legally.

We now propose quickly to make America the biggest quail and grouse producing country in the world!

What Can Be Done.

Quail and grouse can be bred in vast numbers far more cheaply than pheasants and wild ducks can be bred. We propose to restore the prairie grouse to Kentucky and Ohio and to make these birds an abundant food supply in many other places where they are extinct. Sport certainly has nothing to fear from this activity.

It will be necessary in some states to have the laws amended, but in states where there are no grouse no legislation will be necessary. It has been found a very easy matter to make the wild turkeys plentiful on some farms and club grounds in states where the laws protecting turkeys have been repealed because the birds became extinct. We can get all the wild turkeys we want for breeding purposes.

Our main difficulty will be in procuring other stock birds, because in many states those who have sought vainly to make the game abundant by enacting restrictive laws have secured legislation which prevents the taking of stock birds for breeding purposes.

We can get some stock, however, we feel sure.

Proper Methods.

Attempts to breed prairie and ruffed grouse and quail "in captivity" have not been very successful. There is a better and an easier way to make and keep these birds tremendously abundant. If they quickly can be made abundant on any place and the methods be made known it seems evident many people will breed grouse and quail both for sport and for profit. They are cheaper to rear than pheasants and will bring better prices. When breeders can supply stock birds and eggs at prices which at the outset will seem fabulous, we have no doubt many sporting and commercial breeders will undertake to make these birds plentiful just as they made the pheasants plentiful.

An Experiment.

In order to make a practical experiment with American game birds we decided to use the money usually used for our annual game dinner, with some additional money, for this purpose. A letter sent to those who attended our dinner and some others, asking for contributions to our game breeding fund, met with a hearty response.

Many offered to give us much more

money than we asked for. It is now certain that we can make the experiment next season.

We decided to rear some pheasants and ducks and wild turkeys, in addition to the quail and grouse, and we suggested to the contributors to our fund (after they had subscribed) that the crop of game be donated to hospitals entertaining soldiers and sailors returning from abroad.

=

Disposition of the Game.

We said nothing about the disposition of the game in asking for contributions, since we did not wish to make a charitable appeal but wished to ascertain if there was enough interest in the breeding of American game, by proper methods, to produce the needed funds. We look forward to the experiment with much pleasure and we are glad to be able to show Uncle Sam we can do something even if he thinks we are too old to shoulder arms. We have no doubt we can send a ton or two of desirable game to the hospitals.

=

An Afterthought.

It occurred to us that while we were about it we might as well keep the hospitals full of game so that all of the nurses and doctors as well as the patients can have all the game they can eat. We do not know just how much this will take but we believe members of the Game Conservation Society can furnish it. We feel sure they can. We feel sure they will. They certainly can if all of the breeders will set a few more eggs than usual and donate a percentage of the game they rear. We believe they will do this when we ask them to. We believe it will be a patriotic pleasure for them to do this. They should be glad to make a demonstration of how much game there is in the country now that it is legal to produce the food in many states.

=

Our Plans Outlined.

We propose to ask shooting clubs which have been in the habit of selling

a good lot of game to hotels and dealers to donate a percentage of the game they would otherwise sell. Individual preserve owners, ditto. We propose to ask all the big commercial breeders who sell thousands of game birds every season to set a few more eggs than usual and to give liberally. The prices for game are high and rising. All breeders are making money and if a big lot of game is used in the way we suggest the prices for what remains to be sold will be still higher.

We shall ask all the small breeders, including a hundred or more women members of the society who are breeding game, to give something. Any of them should be able to set one more hen and to give a dozen birds. The amount of game we will get from small breeders we are sure will be surprising to those who think America is a gameless land and that a few more game laws will help matters.

The state game farms will be asked to donate a part of their crop.

We may decide to purchase a lot of eggs and send them to those who will help. We believe some eggs will be donated by members of our society.

=

Two Committees.

We shall appoint two committees, one to superintend the distribution of the game and to designate just how it should be distributed; one to superintend and direct the farm we propose to operate and to represent the contributors.

=

Turkeys and Turkeys.

The World, N. Y. says:

Prices for turkeys have been fixed at from 28 to 37 cents a pound. That is better than the go-as-you-please price-fixing of supply and demand, but it is a long way from the times when a turkey cost a charge of powder and a handful of buckshot.

You will be interested to learn, dear World, no doubt, that the time when wild turkeys become cheap in the American markets rapidly is approaching. The food will be produced by a charge of powder, etc., but the turkey will cost something to produce. Since, however, he lives largely on grasshoppers and

acorns (these are his staple foods) he can be produced very cheaply on inexpensive and waste lands for sport and for profit, and, although the time when we all could get something for almost **nothing**, a charge, etc., as you suggest, has passed, the time rapidly is coming when the people will eat wild turkeys at prices surprisingly small.

We saw, just before the war started, a lot of fine wild turkeys on a New York dock which were being shipped from Austria to California for breeding purposes. Austria had no wild turkeys until she procured her breeding stock from America, where the turkey is solely indigenous. You may be interested to know that the turkeys became extinct in Ohio after a law was enacted prohibiting the shooting of these birds. There is no law in Ohio now protecting turkeys and a farmer writes to The Game Breeder that he has 200 wild turkeys on his farm. There are wild turkeys, and wild turkeys. The political wild turkey, "the football of politics," never was a great success. The wild turkey for sport and for profit promises to have a boom shortly. The people will enjoy the last named when they can buy them at moderate prices as they soon will. We believe the price will be from 5 to 10 cents per pound.

=

A Good Idea.

The World, N. Y., has some very good ideas. Here is one:

It is announced that the Sheriff's panel dinner this year will be devoid of turtle soup terrapin, pheasant and canvasback. But why denature this gastronomic feast under a false idea of conservation? Sheriffs' jurors should be exempt from food regulation. Let them eat their canvasback and leave beef and mutton to ordinary folk.

The editor of The Game Breeder announced long ago that he would eat quail on toast for breakfast often in order to save the bacon for export. He said he would begin with Long Island quail since this food-producing area recently was kept open when the industry of game breeding was assaulted by those who believe in game prohibition.

Many readers of The Game Breeder are eating pheasants and wild ducks (produced by industry) on certain days in

the week in order to save the beef. It would have been impossible for them to do this without being arrested and jailed had it not been for the success of the "more game" movement advocated by The Game Breeder.

=

Don't Get Blue.

Louis Kuertz, an Ohio game warden, says:

Game and wild animals as a human food supply has long since passed like a spendthrift's patrimony. Proper and efficient conservation methods might have indefinitely prolonged the periods wherefrom the human inhabitants of this country could have reaped a great food and clothing supply, annually and in season.

Don't get blue, Mr. Kuertz. Run up to Portage Heights game farm in your state and glance at several thousand pheasants and wild turkeys, about all the game the land will carry, we should think. Stop in at the Anna Dean Farm, Barberton, and look over the abundant game food supply there. Take a little run about Newark, Piqua, Troy and see what some of our members are doing and if necessary drop in and see over 500 other game breeders in your state. We think you would be inclined to bet that Ohio will win in the contest referred to on another page. "Proper and efficient" methods rapidly have become fashionable throughout America since they were proposed in The Game Breeder.

No \$5.00 Dinner.

Mayor-elect Hylan, cancelling a dinner arranged in his honor, is quoted as saying:

The government is trying to conserve food, and I do not think we are aiding in the movement or setting a good example by holding any dinners at \$5 a plate.

An excellent precedent, which will be indorsed by Democrats, Fusionists and Socialists regardless of party affiliation.—*The World*, Nov. 12.

We believe the Game Conservation Society did well when it decided to abandon its annual game feast and to use the money in producing more food. Subscribers to our game fund are writing many letters endorsing the action of the society.

Subscribe to The Game Breeder, \$1.00 a year.

More About Fish.

In a speech before a Connecticut audience recently, Fish Commissioner Graham, of Boston, Mass., drew some instructive parallels between how New England neglects and how certain states along the Pacific seaboard protect the inland waterways fisheries.

More than a generation ago real efforts were made to stock a number of streams with salmon and shad. In 1879, for example, the catch of shad below the Enfield dam on the Connecticut River, amounted to 436,981. Ten years later, as the result of intervening neglect, the catch had fallen to 68,000. "The amount of the increase in the value of the shad caught on the Atlantic Coast from 1880 to 1885, the period of most active propagation, was worth ten times what was expended by all the fish commissions during this period." Today, in consequence of damming and pollution, most of these streams are barren.

In 1871, 10,000 shad fry were transported from the Connecticut to California and planted in the Sacramento River. Later several other lots were sent out, totalling about half a million fry. A closed season was placed upon them for 10 years. They have increased so rapidly that the fishermen are selling them for \$10 to \$12 per ton for buck shad and \$25 a ton for roe shad. For the past three years the Monterey Packing Company have been canning the shad and shad roe and sending it back to New England. On May 18, 1915, they received from the fishermen 63,000 pounds of shad roe and frequently receive from 40,000 to 60,000 pounds in a day during the season. In 1915, 100,000 pounds of shad roe were packed. After the introduction of shad into California they were distributed in the Columbia River and its tributaries and shad as well as salmon are now found in numbers in the Willamette River. These fish ran up the Columbia for 100 miles and then up the Willamette, through the pollution from the City of Portland—nearly half a million people—and on up through the refuse that comes from the large manufacturing establishments at Oregon City.

Over 250 tons of fine salmon were taken at Oregon City during 1915, besides large quantities of shad. The polluted water does not stop them.

Another illustration of what has been done with New England fish is the planting of about 400 striped bass in California water in 1879. They increased rapidly and were caught in large numbers so that a limit was placed on them. No fish can be taken under three pounds in weight and none can be shipped out of the state. Over 2,000,000 pounds have been marketed in one season in San Francisco alone.

A Pocket Score Book.

The Du Pont Company of Wilmington, Del., has just issued a pocket score book that will surely be appreciated by trapshooters. It contains 32 pages and will thus allow the trapshooter to enter the results of thirty-two shoots that he may attend. Each page has space for the place and date of shoot as well as score columns for 14 events.

On the front cover page there is figured a list of averages compiled on the basis of 150 targets, which will save the trapshooter a great deal of trouble when he desires to learn how proficient he is becoming.

Trap Shooting as a Patriotic Sport.

The "Air Division" of the Signal Corps of the United States army will soon install clay target shooting at its flying schools. It is the firm belief of those in charge of this branch of the Government service that members of the flying squad will be better equipped to successfully engage the enemy flying machines if they are proficient wing shots.

This more than ever emphasizes the fact that trapshooting is a patriotic sport.

It is important to defer the ever increasing number of game laws if game is to become plentiful and cheap in the markets.

Subscribe to The Game Breeder, \$1.00 a year.

MALLARDS AND NEAR MALLARDS.

BY THE EDITOR.

Mr. N. R. Hoffman, one of our Minnesota members, referring to the ducks on our September cover, says:

"The photograph of the ducks which appears on the cover of the September issue of *The Game Breeder* is without any question that of a pair of pure bred wild mallards. The trim, alert appearance of the drake as well as his general markings bears every indication of his being the genuine clipper-wing greenhead of the marshes.

By contrasting these with the puddle ducks which appeared on the cover of your January issue the difference between mallards and near mallards is self-evident.

Let us hope that this discussion comes to the attention of some of our advertisers of 'Genuine Wild Mallards' as I am convinced that there are a few who need a little education on the subject."

Mr. N. R. Hoffman signs his letter properly, "Yours for more game."

The object we had in mind when we began the printing of pictures of ducks, and asking for our readers' opinions about them, was to create the discussion which Mr. Hoffman hopes will come to the attention of some advertisers of "Genuine Wild Mallards." Undoubtedly he is right in saying there are some who need education on the subject.

In all civilized countries excepting America those who wish to breed wild ducks are encouraged to trap all the stock birds they can for this purpose. The trappers select the best specimens for breeding purposes and kill the rest and send them to market. The result is cheap game for the people to eat. In most of the United States it is a crime (strange as it may seem) to take wild ducks for breeding purposes and for this reason there are very few "Genuine Wild Mallards" on the market.

One result of the discussion about our pictures has been to emphasize the fact that the "Genuine Wild" soon lose their trim, alert appearance and often their ability to fly well when reared "in captivity." Our readers are aware that we have objected often to the use of the words "in captivity" in game breeders'

enactments. For the upland game birds, the quail and grouse "in captivity" often results in great losses due to diseases, and captivity often results in wild ducks losing their ability to fly. Breeders should be permitted to breed their birds wild or semi-wild in protected fields if they wish to do so.

We believe that most men are honest and are inclined to be fair. There are likely to be some crooks in any industry. These should not be tolerated and they are not by *The Game Breeder*. We know there is a big demand for wild ducks for sporting purposes and for food. We believe that sportsmen who wish to purchase "near mallards" which are strong on the wing should be able to purchase these birds and their eggs if they wish to do so. Most sportsmen know what they are purchasing and know how difficult it is to procure fresh trapped stock, which often does not lay well under control. We think it advisable, however, for advertisers to state frankly just what they have and to describe their stock in their advertisements accurately.

We would like to have some suggestions from our readers as to the terms which should be used in the advertisements and we will be glad to standardize these terms and to insist upon advertisers living up to them. We have advised advertisers who offer hand-reared mallards to say that their stock is hand-reared and, if so, to state that it is a strong-flying stock, indicating that the birds are guaranteed suitable for sport. Probably it would be well to require advertisers to only use the term "Genuine wild mallards" when they have freshly trapped birds to sell and to require them to advertise "hand-reared" or "range-reared" ducks when such is the case.

We hope our readers will take sufficient interest in this subject to write their suggestions as to how the advertisements should be worded and we

are quite sure all reputable dealers, the only kind we want as advertisers, will be inclined to adopt a standard of terms to be used in advertising and to live up to it.

Mr. Hoffman, in his letter printed above, says the photograph of the ducks on the cover of our September issue "is without question that of a pair of pure bred wild mallards." As a matter of fact, the breeder of the ducks, Mr. Dusette, does not claim that the ducks are freshly trapped ducks. They are ducks which he reared from eggs laid on his premises by stock birds which he owns.

A Vermont reader, in our November issue, pronounces these ducks, mallards, "true in markings and shape." He adds that a Massachusetts breeder sent him, "an exact brother of the male portrayed. He has grown heavy and clumsy with the years, but his descendents still show the boot shape and right markings."

The Iowa breeder who sent us the first picture of ducks, which started the present discussion, was not pleased with some of the opinions about his ducks which evidently had grown "heavy and clumsy." But he insisted the ducks were bred from wild stock. We believe he, undoubtedly, told the truth when he said the ducks were reared from wild ducks, captured at Wall Lake, Iowa.

The subject is a difficult one, evidently, since we all know that wild ducks reared, "in captivity," often become heavy and clumsy. It is possible, and in fact common to hand-rear ducks in such a way that they are as strong on the wing and as difficult marks as the wild-bred birds are. Many sporting syndicates and clubs in America now shoot thousands of these birds every season and find them eminently satisfactory. Since these clubs, and the new ones which are being formed all the time, wish to purchase these ducks and their eggs we believe they should be able to do so, but we have long held the opinion that purchasers should know just what is offered and for the most part, we believe they do.

According to Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Dusette should be entitled to say he has "pure-bred mallards" for sale. Both of

the breeders referred to, without doubt, have birds descended from captured wild birds. How would it do to reserve the term, "Genuine wild mallards" for freshly trapped birds, as we have suggested, and to ask advertisers to offer hand-reared ducks when the ducks are so reared, or range-reared ducks when ducks are bred under control on a marsh or range, and to state that the birds are strong on the wing when such is the case?

Let us have some suggestions, worthy readers, and we feel sure our advertisers will be glad to live up to any reasonable regulations made by the society.

English Game Farmers.

The English game farmers are largely responsible for the introduction in America as well as in England, of ducks too tame and too heavy for sport. They believed that by introducing tame blood they could produce a heavier bird and one more easy to handle on the game farm. The preserve owners, however, soon discovered they were getting birds not fully up to the requirements of sport, and just before the war began both the preserve owners and the game farmers were trying to right matters by the extensive use of freshly trapped birds for breeding purposes. Readers will find this matter fully discussed in my book, "Our Wild Fowl and Waders," at pages 56 and 57. The Shooting Times and British Sportsman says: "At the present time there is a great desire in shooting circles to thoroughly stamp out the half-breeds."* The book referred to created a big demand in America for wild ducks for breeding purposes and was instrumental in creating many new game farms, shooting clubs and preserves. While engaged in writing the book I imported a lot of eggs and ducks from England and later thousands of ducks were reared, at the Game Breeders' Association preserve on Long Island, under my management. Some of the members procured eggs and birds, preferring to take these in lieu of shooting, and the result was a big lot of descend-

*Our Wild Fowl and Waders, p. 57.

ants of the English half-breeds were distributed broadcast in America. Importers, also brought over many of the English ducks and eggs since the game laws in America made it almost impossible to get the proper wild stock for breeding purposes. There are many places in America where there is a great desire to stamp out the half-breeds which have been called "near mallards" in *The Game Breeder*.

There are various degrees of "nearness," however, and when the birds are alert and trim in appearance and when they are strong on the wing and excellent on the table, they are, I believe, highly suitable for sport, and there can be no reason why such birds should not be sold by dealers to sportsmen who wish to purchase them. All hands should, however,

strive to improve the character of their flocks and this only can be done by introducing much new wild blood. The game laws should be amended everywhere so as to permit and encourage breeders to trap and to import birds for breeding purposes where it is evident they will produce thousands of ducks, as many are now doing, in places where wild ducks had ceased to occur.

How perfectly absurd it seems, to say that any one can shoot 25 or 50 ducks per diem throughout the season, but that no one can trap any birds for breeding purposes even when he has shown that his plant is equipped to turn out thousands of ducks every year? A big food producing industry has been and is hampered and in many places prevented by ill-advised laws.

NOTES FROM THE STATE GAME DEPARTMENTS.

The reports from the State Game Departments coming to *The Game Breeder* indicate that practically all of the departments are in favor of the rearing of game for sport and for food. It is gratifying to observe that the game departments rapidly are becoming of great economic importance and that they will represent all of the people. State game officers are becoming a little tired, no doubt, of the activities of non-residents who sweep in with plenty of money urging the farmers to put an end to sport. They will find when the sportsmen and farmers work together in a few places they will be strong enough to resist the prohibitionists. When it appears that the farmers, even in a few places, are getting their taxes paid by sport there will be little danger of laws being enacted making it impossible for the sportsmen to deal with the farmers. The result will be that shooting can be kept open everywhere. The preserved areas will tend to stock the rest of the country and the receipts from shooting licenses can be kept up. It will only take a very little land to make America the biggest grouse and quail producing coun-

try in the world. Very little land has been used to make the country the biggest pheasant producing country in the world. The production of thousands of ducks about many ponds where there were no ducks a few years ago has increased the sport for all hands in regions where there are many duck ponds.

Clearly we are headed in the right direction.

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Oregon.

Hon. Carl O. Shoemaker, state game warden for Oregon, reports that all species of game birds and game fish reared in captivity can be sold as food.

The licenses issued to game breeders cost \$2.00. The sales of game are regulated; the game sold is identified by tags which cost five cents.

Game can be sold for propagation at any time.

Oregon has a large number of game breeders who are making money and they must be pleased with the attitude of the State department towards their industry.

Oklahoma.

Hon. G. A. Smith, state game and fish warden of Oklahoma, reports that his State encourages the breeding of all species of game and game fish for sale as food. Licenses are issued to breeders for \$2.00. The regulations for the industry have not been adopted yet.

Live game can be sold for propagation at all times. Oklahoma soon should become a big food producing state and as often we have observed, sport has nothing to fear from an abundance of game.

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Kansas.

The state warden of Kansas, W. C. Tegmeier sends us the Kansas law which does not appear to contain the modern provisions relating to game breeding and the sale of game as food which are common and popular in other states.

Kansas seems to be a little behind the times.

The law provides, however, "that it shall not be unlawful for persons who propagate and raise deer and antelope in captivity to sell and dispose of them."

Section 25 also provides for the issuing of permits to breeders to take and ship birds protected by the act when such birds are raised or propagated in captivity by such person, when the warden is satisfied such persons desire the same exclusively for scientific or for propagation purposes.

There would seem to be no opportunity for any game food producing in Kansas. It seems peculiar that in an agricultural state it should be criminal to produce food on a farm. Probably the farmers are not aware how much money the game farmers in other states are making. We predict when Kansas wakes up it will enact a law as liberal as the Massachusetts and Kentucky statutes are.

Proposed Amendments to the Game Breeders' Laws.

The Game Breeder suggests that the laws permitting and encouraging the production of game for food should be made uniform and where necessary they should be amended as follows:

1. To permit the profitable breeding of all species of game on the same terms under which it is now permissible to breed only a few species.

NOTE—Some states permit the breeding of all species of game and the sale of the food produced. Why should other states say, in effect, you may breed black chickens, but not white ones because the last named are very scarce and are becoming extinct?

2. To provide for the issuing of permits to breeders without charge or for a nominal fee not to exceed 50 cents.

NOTE—Massachusetts and Kentucky issue permits to breeders without charge. Ohio charges 50 cents. Why should any state penalize a food producer to the extent of \$25.00? There are hundreds of small breeders, including many women, who are successfully engaged in the new food producing industry in states which have a small license fee. A lady, who purchased a few pheasant eggs intending to become a producer, wrote to The Game Breeder, when she ascertained she must pay \$25 in order to hatch the eggs, that she had decided to give them to "a voter," and concluded her letter with the wise remark, "the fools are not all dead yet, are they?"

3. To provide for the issuing of permits permitting licensed breeders to trap birds for breeding purposes. In order to make any game very abundant it is quite necessary to have breeding stock.

NOTE—Why permit every one to destroy a certain number of birds for fun and deny to the breeder the right to take a similar number alive for the purpose of multiplying their numbers?

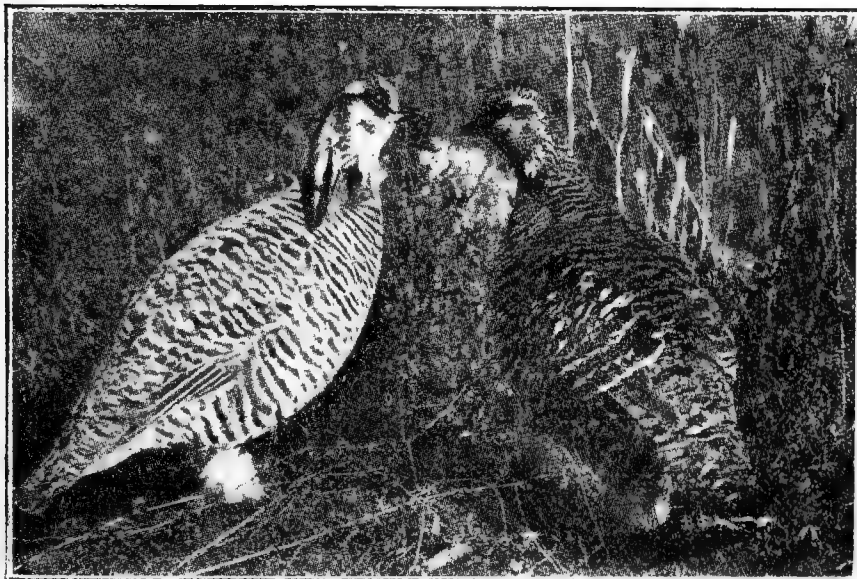
New Hampshire.

New Hampshire has a new law which provides for payment from the fish and game fund upon assessment by the commissioner of agriculture of damages for injury to live stock caused by persons hunting deer.



THE ENEMIES OF THE GROUSE OF THE OPEN COUNTRY.

By J. P. Turner



Prairie Grouse.

What are the forms of the destructive agencies which are waging such war upon the grouse ranks? By leaving man out entirely for the present, we do not have to seek far to find them. First of all, there are the natural predatory foes, the goshawk and allied species, the great-horned owl, crow, coyote, fox, skunk, weasel, etc. Now if these species which prey upon the grouse and their eggs were maintained in their proper balance in conjunction with other species, it would not be reasonable to say that they could be the means of depleting the country of prairie chicken, else why did they not do so ages and ages ago? Only such species as have become abnormally plentiful or which have overreached in comparative numbers the places nature long ago allotted to them, or those which have suffered abnormal loss of the natural prey which was originally assigned to them, could possibly attack grouse so unremittingly as to reduce them to their present numbers. Several isolated species might be brought under this head; but could these alone, unaided by some greater destructive agency, wreak such havoc? To say the least, it is improbable.

There is no doubt that the crow has increased under man's influence, and the coyote is becoming more plentiful of late years, while his natural prey, the bush-rabbit, has temporarily become scarcer. Of the other predatory species mentioned, it can be said that, with the possible exception of the goshawk, they have remained in approximately the proper places nature long ago intended them to occupy. Some seasons they will individually appear in increased or decreased numbers, but not sufficiently increased at any time as to become a permanent pest.

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The Crow.

In any newly-settled country, where climatic changes, variations in physical features and altered conditions of life are directly the result of man's actions, there is a corresponding evolution of change among the wild creatures peculiar to that country. Different species show a marked and abnormal increase or decrease as the new conditions favor or retard them. Before the surmounting influence of settlement, the buffalo vanished. The elk is only to be found in a

few of the more secluded corners of his once great range. The beaver no longer frequents our waterways as in the days gone by. The wild pigeon, whose immense flocks some among us still recall, is extinct; and many others of our native birds and animals have steadily been reduced in numbers. But the increase in the numbers of a few species has been almost as noteworthy; and there seems to have been chosen for this group several individuals which can neither claim usefulness nor beauty as compared with those which threaten soon to disappear. The most conspicuous bird in this class is the crow, and with everything in his favor, he has flourished and increased prodigiously. No doubt the crow was plentiful enough before the settlement of this country, but the conditions under which he lived were not so conducive to his welfare as at the present day. Nature had not provided that the crow should predominate excessively over the birds upon which it preys; and we can quite believe that the crows were often put to sore straits in their battle for existence. In other words nature kept them where they belonged. But, man, in his coming, has been their benefactor. He has never molested them to any extent; in fact, he has caused a decrease in their natural enemies; and has provided a constant and various supply of food which is always at the disposal of the black rascals. If any good at all can be accredited to the crow, it is his gift as a scavenger and his appetite for several forms of insect life. As against this he does not hesitate to attack the grain in the stooks; and I have seen large numbers of them feeding in standing crop and fairly trampling it down in several spots in one field. But it is in the spring and early summer that the crow commits deeds beside which his dingy coat pales and his good deeds are forgotten. Then it is that he takes upon himself the dual role of thief and murderer, and attacks without mercy the eggs and young of other birds helpless to defend their own. He scours the prairies and fields daily for food with which to nourish his underserving offspring; and countless eggs and young of other birds are pillaged to pro-

vide for the infant cannibals in their nest of sticks. One of the chief sufferers at this season is the nesting prairie chicken, and by no means a small factor in the decrease of the latter's brood is the robbing of her nest by the crow. When we see the immense numbers of crows which are scattered over the entire country during the nesting season, we cannot but wonder that any of the chicken broods and eggs escape. Were it not for the patrolling of the prairies by that plucky little corporal, the kingbird, who never hesitates to harass and drive off each and every crow that comes within his beat, this wholesale destruction of young birds and eggs would probably be doubled. We have had a bounty on gophers, and the wolf bounty still exists, and there seems to be no reason why the crow, sooner or later, should not receive his full share of attention, for he commits crimes in comparison to which the misdeeds of the others are insignificant. If we need proof of this we need only to consider the thousands upon thousands of the offspring of insect and seed-eating birds which are annually devoured by crows.

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The Goshawk.

Although the past season (1916) has shown a remarkable increase in the goshawks, there is no serious likelihood that they will continue in such numbers. The goshawk is one of the most rapacious of our birds of prey, and seems to often kill other birds from a mere love of killing. Many partridge and prairie chicken succumb to this murderous villain of the air, and as he does not leave the country during the winter months the grouse are never safe from his depredations. Perhaps the scarcity of bush rabbits also accounts for his unusual numbers around the settlements.

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The Coyote.

Robbed, of late, of his staple diet of rabbit, the coyote has been forced to turn to other sources of food supply, and has abnormally preyed upon the grouse and their nests as well as other ground birds. But the recurrent scarcity of rabbits,

roughly estimated in seven-year periods, has been going on from time immemorial, and never, as far as it is possible to ascertain, did this periodical disappearance of the rabbit result in the coyote or any other predatory species being forced to turn upon grouse or other birds in such numbers as to reduce them to the danger point. Certainly within the last 21 years, or in, say, the three rabbit decades preceding the present one, this did not occur. The fact is quite patent, however, that the coyote menace is greater today than it has been for many, many years, merely by reason of the animal's

increased numbers concurrent with the comparative scarcity of the rabbits upon which it feeds. Along with the crow and the goshawk, then, the coyote is no doubt an outstanding factor in the wholesale destruction of prairie chicken.

A Note to Mr. Turner.

You say, "A growing scarcity of wild game must be expected in settled regions, etc." It is just as easy to say a growing abundance may be expected in settled regions. Try making the grouse very abundant on a small prairie quite near a town. We can tell you how to do it and we can send you the men who have the ability to do it.

OUR AQUATIC PLANTS AND THEIR VALUE IN POND FISH CULTURE.

Frequent reference has been made to the necessity of vegetation in fish ponds. Its advantages are many. It serves as food and a harbor for the lowest forms of minute animal life. Each advance in the scale of life constitutes a food for higher forms, and in the guise of fish the fertility of the ground contributes to the food of the human race.

Plants play an important part in the purification of water, taking up the carbonic acid gas liberated by decomposition and exhaling the oxygen essential to living creatures. They thus prevent the asphyxiation of fish life, and act as a corrective of many abnormal characteristics of individual waters.

Losses of fish through the depredations of enemies will be greatly lessened where there is an abundant aquatic growth in which they may hide. It furnishes a grateful shade on bright warm days, and the interlacing roots so bind the bottom soil as to prevent turbidity from casual disturbances.

The aquatic flora of a locality varies greatly with its latitude and is also governed by the chemical ingredients of specific waters. The most desirable species usually thrive best in waters of limestone origin. Plants of filamentous character are preferable to the large reg-

ular-leaved kinds, as they present greater surface expanse for the exchange of gases, and, on account of their shallow rootage, are more readily controlled by the fish-culturist. Pond lilies, cat's-tail, and coarse water grasses or weeds in moderation are beneficial, as they afford shade and shelter. However, they are lower forms of oxygenators than the plants of finer growth, and they make seining operations more difficult; and it is practically impossible to eradicate them after they have obtained a foothold.

All species herein described which are indigenous to the waters of the locality in question may be advantageously utilized in pond-fish culture. Undoubtedly one or two of the introduced species will eventually drive out the others, but those remaining will be the ones best adapted to the environment. All of these will grow from cuttings, making it unnecessary to transplant the roots. The plants may simply be raked or pulled out of the open waters and pressed by handfuls into the soft earth in the shallow sections of the new pond, in spaces about 5 feet apart. The bottom must be covered with 6 to 12 inches of water during the operation, otherwise the sun and air will soon ruin the sets. In deep water the plants may be started by attaching

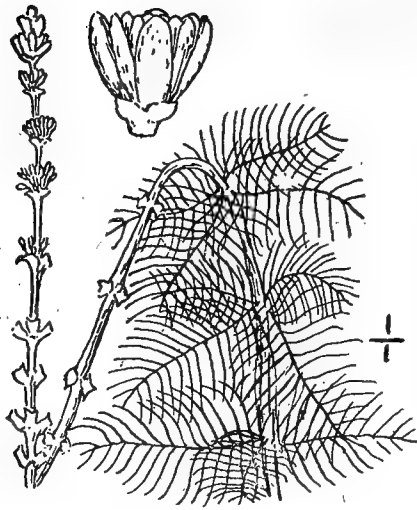


FIG. 1.—Spiked water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). Found in deep water. Newfoundland to Manitoba and the Northwest Territory, south to Florida, Iowa, Utah, and California. Commonly known as foxtail. Suited to southern ponds of high temperature, and unlike most species will thrive in comparatively soft waters. "Parrot-feather," and introduced species of *Myriophyllum* will make better growth in sterile ground than the foxtail; otherwise the two have similar characteristics.



FIG. 3.—Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). Found in ponds and slow streams, southern Illinois to North Carolina, south to Florida and Texas. Characteristics similar to *Ceratophyllum*.

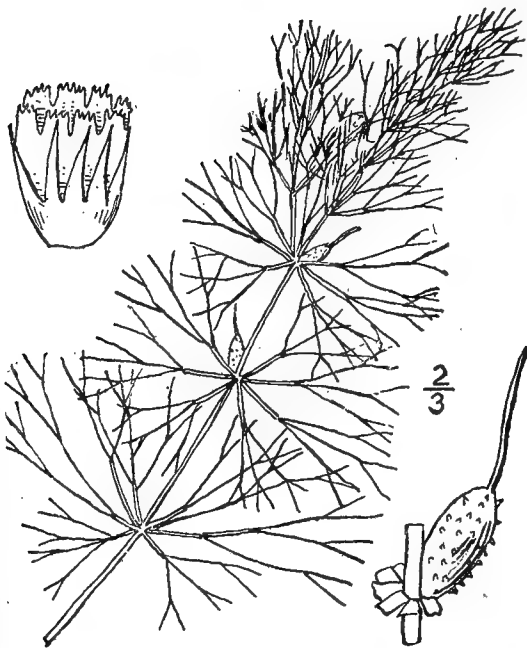


FIG. 2.—Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). Found in ponds and slow streams throughout North America, except extreme north. This plant is shallow-rooted, deriving most of its sustenance from the water. Will thrive in cold spring water.



FIG. 4.—*Chara fragilis*. A common form of chara. There are many varieties of this species and all are classed very high as food producers and oxygenators. Grows profusely in all limestone waters throughout the United States,

a weight and sinking them to the bottom of the pond.

Much time and trouble are often required to bring about a profuse growth of aquatic vegetation,* but after a pond is thoroughly stocked even more labor is required to keep it within bounds. Ponds may become literally choked with water mosses, resulting in inconvenience to the owner and a detriment to the fish. They will roll the seines, snag the lines, and smother the fish when an attempt is made to draw down the water. It will usually be necessary to thin the moss out once or twice in the course of a

summer, and all growth should be removed when draining the pond. An efficient method of removal is by raking, the worker standing on the embankment and throwing the moss out on land, or wading into the shallow water of the pond and drawing it from a circle about him and building cocks of it. The deeper waters will have to be worked from a boat or raft.

*All but one of the cuts published herewith are copied from Britton & Brown's "Illustrated Flora of North America." The figure of Chara is taken from the "Text Book of Botany," by Strasburger, Noll, Schenk, and Schimper.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

The Game Market.

The largest New York dealers in dead game report that they are paying \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$4.50 per pair for pheasants and that there is a good demand for pheasants.

They also report to The Game Breeder that they are buying wild ducks for \$2.50 per pair. One dealer says he is getting all the wild ducks he can handle at this price but that he could handle many thousands more at a slightly reduced price.

Our latest reports of sales of live pheasants are for \$4.00 and \$5.00 per bird. A few breeders report they have been getting six dollars for hen pheasants. There have been a few pheasants sold as low as \$3.00 per bird, but these, we believe, are late hatched birds and very few have been reported at this price.

There seems to be plenty of near mallards which are selling alive at \$2.50 and \$3.00 per pair for birds guaranteed strong on the wing and suitable for sport. Straight wild mallards are in demand and are quoted at \$4 and \$5 per bird. Pure black ducks, guaranteed to lay eggs are in big demand and bring even better prices. Black ducks which are not guaranteed to lay sell for about the same price as near mallards, \$2.50 per pair alive or dead. Wild geese are selling at \$5.00

per bird, much higher prices being asked for mated pairs which reared broods.

Our advertisers can supply plenty of stock birds and are always willing to quote prices to intending purchasers.

Live quail, northern birds, are quoted at \$25 to \$35 per dozen and these birds seem hard to procure at any price.

Food Prices.

Some people complain of the high cost of food for pheasants, wild ducks and other game birds. They should remember that pheasants are selling for nearly twice as much as they did when the prices for food were lower. The advance in the price of the birds keeps the industry still very profitable. Many of our members write that the pheasants are the most profitable live stock on the place.

Wild Ducks Abundant.

The wild ducks including "near mallards" have become so abundant that the prices have not gone up as the prices of pheasants. But even the "near mallards" which are suitable for sport and for food bring more alive and dead than tame ducks do and there are many places where the food bill can be much reduced by planting pond weeds, wild rice, wild celery and other natural foods. Acorns, also, are excellent food, both for wild ducks and for upland game. At one

place in which we are interested we have observed the ducks in the woods eating acorns and upon one occasion we were surprised when we repeatedly flushed ducks among the oak trees far from any water.

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Report From a Dealer.

One of the largest dealers in game in New York reports that he is now fairly well supplied with wild ducks from game farmers and preserves and believes the prices must come down some before there will be a big increase in the demand for this food.

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Nonsense Rampant!

The Game Conservation Society was making arrangements to import some quail from Mexico for experimental work on its new breeding farm. It desired to procure a few Mearns quail and a few black-throated quail in addition to some bob whites. The people who have an abundance of stock birds wished to sell. We wished to purchase.

In answer to a letter addressed to the Biological Survey at Washington, asking for permission to bring in the birds, the society was notified by one of the clerks that no quail could be imported until next March when, perhaps, permits would be issued. No one, of course, should disturb the birds as the breeding season approaches. We do not want spring birds. This refusal was confirmed by the chief in answer to another letter explaining that the results of our proposed experiment would be published in a book to be issued by the society which was being written by the editor of *The Game Breeder*. The society offered to make a special report to the Survey of the results of the work contemplated. We believe it would result in increasing our food supply.

Nothing doing! WE say you can not have the quail you want for breeding purposes. That's all. Lovely public servants, these!

In answer to a third letter asking the Survey to kindly inform the society why they would not let it have quail for breeding purposes, the Survey wrote they were afraid the quail would take cold. This

excuse (although it is true there were some losses last year which possibly were due to the cold), does not appear to be as good an excuse as the anti-breeding survey had when we first proposed to bring quail from Mexico a year or two ago. The denial then was based on an imaginary idea of the game law expert of the Survey that wild birds might have diseases therefore, etc., we could not have any stock birds.

Our readers will remember that we suggested that wild birds were noted for their health and the presumption was that they were healthy and not that they were diseased. At all events any loss would fall on the purchaser.

It was decided to inspect the birds, to quarantine them and if found sound and well to let the breeders have some during a certain season when it pleased the Survey to be agreeable. A doctor (presumably the most noted quail specialist), was despatched to the border. The quail in quarantine appeared very lively and well, and fortunately they were not held up long enough to become diseased as we feared they would be. Many birds came in and were purchased by the Game Conservation Society and others. There are some bad reports, we are told, from some State Departments which lost some birds. Birds taken to the mountains of Pennsylvania are said to have perished from the cold. It is our private opinion that something entirely different was the matter and that the quail specialist would have so reported had he been called in again. Quail often do not do well if improperly handled. We have an expert who knows all about this matter and he avoids losses.

One of the things the Game Conservation Society is prepared to demonstrate is that quail properly handled and not too closely confined can be multiplied with startling rapidity. That they will not take cold as the game law expert department imagines they will; that they can be made an abundant food.

But you can't do this says the Survey. "for we ourselves have said it." That settles it. No doubt, "you yourselves have said it," but it's *not* "greatly to your credit," is the opinion of the Game Con-

ervation Society and we can see no reason why you should wish thus to disgrace the Secretary of Agriculture, who is responsible for your action.

A few people expressed surprise at our opposition to the Migratory Bird Law, so called.

Do you wonder, worthy reader, that we think it is not to the best interests of game breeders or of the American people at large to turn over the crime-making power of Congress to people who have notions like the above as to what others should be permitted to do, notions which any one with common sense will say are not only wrong, but ridiculous.

The proposed new law in effect creates a new house of Congress, composed of people who refuse to let breeders have stock birds and some others whose conduct recently has not met with the approval of sensible people. Next to the man who really engineered the refusal to permit us to experiment with the Mexicans (we fortunately have a lot of northern quail), stands the man who recently tried to close absolutely the food producing area, Long Island.

These are the people who propose that Congress shall delegate to them the right to make criminal laws and also to execute the laws they make; they are to have the same powers as respectable United States marshals have, we are told.

The animus of these people towards the food producers has been shown often enough to make us view with alarm the turning over to them of the crime-making powers of Congress with the right to execute the laws they may make. Those who know what is going on thoroughly understand why we do not hesitate to express our opinion of what we regard as worse than a legal absurdity. There may be enough money in sight to put the law through. We hope and believe there are enough statesmen in Congress to defeat it. If they give it careful consideration that will settle it.

Now is a good time to send in your egg advertisements. Many people want early eggs and to get them will place their orders early.

A Fish Enemy.

Guide Algie P. Farnham while going the rounds to his traps last week came upon a large blue heron on a brook. He shot him, took out eight trout out of him and two of these weighed over half a pound and were just killed by the heron.

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Ducks Damage Rice.

Resolutions condemning the state fish and game commission were passed at a meeting of the Pacific Rice Growers' Association held recently.

Th action, taken on motion of H. O. Jacobsen, general manager of the Western Rice Company's interests in Butte County, denounces the commission for its opposition to legislation that might tend to lessen the loss to crops caused by wild fowl.

A demand is made that the commission thoroughly investigate the damage done by ducks to rice and present a measure before the next legislature amending the existing game laws so that growers can effectually fight the ravages of ducks when they invade the fields. It was stated that the damage already done this year would amount to many thousands of dollars.—*Sacramento, Cal., Union.*

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'Ware the Goshawks Migrating From Arctic.

A warning to sportsmen and others that a dangerous migration of goshawks from arctic regions to this state is in progress has been issued by the state fish and game commissioners and the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association. The commissioners urge the destruction of these birds, which are described as deadly enemies of native game birds.

The present invasion is said to be the most serious since that of eleven years ago, when the birds, driven southward by a scarcity of hare and ptarmigan, their usual prey, came to this state and devoured grouse by the wholesale. The goshawk, which, unlike other hawks, flies straightaway instead of in circles, is somewhat larger than a pigeon.—*The Globe, N. Y.*

The Game Breeder

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Because quail are said to be insectivorous birds and beneficial to the farmer, it does not follow that he should be prevented by law from making these splendid food birds profitably plentiful and keeping them so.

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The way to make any food abundant is to show how this can be done profitably. The reason why the pheasants and certain species of wild ducks have become tremendously plentiful in many places in America is that the laws permit their production for sport and for profit and The Game Breeder furnishes instructions how to conduct the industry; how to procure stock birds and eggs and how to market the game alive and dead.

The reason why quail and grouse, both the grouse of the open country and the woodland species, are becoming scarce and in some places are extinct, is that the laws do not permit in many states the profitable production.

THE VANISHING PRAIRIE GROUSE.

Last month we printed the statement of Mr. J. P. Turner, of Manitoba, that, "the steady decrease in the number of prairie chicken has been the source of much wonder, speculation and argument." Mr. Turner added, "The ques-

tion is controversial to the last degree, for the reason that there is no final authority to consult, no arbiter before whom to lay the innumerable claims, and no one in fact who would care to assume so risky an honor."

It is fair to Mr. Turner to say that he was not a member of the Game Conservation Society, and did not know at the time he wrote the above lines that The Game Breeder quickly could tell him, not only why the grouse vanish but also how to stop the vanishing, and how to make and keep the grouse very abundant and cheap in the markets. Any little problem like the above always can be laid before The Game Breeder as an arbiter and quickly it will forward a solution which will amount to a perfectly satisfactory demonstration.

The Natural History which deals with the increase and decrease of species is an exact science. Darwin says: "Lighten any check, mitigate the destruction ever so little and the number of the species will almost instantaneously increase to any amount." Often we have pointed out that the converse of this proposition equally is true. Add to the checks to increase, add to the destruction ever so little and the number of the species will almost instantaneously decrease and proceed rapidly to the vanishing point.

Darwin says, "The grouse if not destroyed at some period of their lives would increase in countless numbers; they are known to suffer largely from birds of prey," etc. It is well known that in Scotland the birds of prey are controlled to a large extent and the conditions for the rapid increase of the grouse are made as favorable as possible. The result is that many thousands of grouse annually can be shot on many places without any fear of exterminating the species. The danger seems to be that the grouse will become over abundant, as they have in some seasons. The result is an epidemic. When, says Darwin, a species owing to highly favorable circumstances increases inordinately in numbers in a small tract, epidemics—at least, this seems generally to occur with our game animals—often ensue.

Grouse are not hand-reared or bred by any artificial process on the moors, the owners simply rely upon beat keepers who guard and protect the grouse from natural and domestic enemies and who mitigate the losses due to climate, fires, etc., as far as possible.

We have a perfect demonstration in Scotland indicating what will happen if the checks to increase be mitigated liberally. We have an excellent illustration in Manitoba and the other grouse provinces and states as to what must happen when the checks to increase are liberally multiplied. Add dogs, cats, rats, prairie fires, wires, farm machinery and even a little shooting to the ordinary checks to increase and for good measure destroy the covers which conceal the grouse from their enemies and destroy also the winter foods and it seems to us it does not require a very wise arbiter to decide why the grouse vanish. We have never seen any occasion for "the wonder, speculation and argument" to which Mr. Turner refers. Mr. Turner is wrong in saying there is no one who would care to assume the "risky honor" of deciding what is the matter with the American grouse. We assume "risks" of this character with pleasure.

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The Game Breeder always is ready to decide questions which arise in its field. It has an excellent staff of practical and scientific correspondents and its judgments can be relied on. It does not consider the present decision a "risky honor." There can be no risk where the proof is abundant. There is little honor in discovering common sense after it has been written in books. There is plenty of evidence procured on the moors to prove what will happen when the checks to increase are reduced; there is plenty of evidence in America to prove what will happen if the checks to increase be multiplied. Mr. Turner, in his little book, furnishes plenty of evidence to prove why the grouse vanish in Manitoba.

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LEGISLATION BY STAMPEDE.

A Letter to Congress.

We have received letters saying: Write to your Congressman! Tell him to support the Migratory Bird Treaty Bill, etc. Thousands of such letters and telegrams have been sent out to people informing them of an effort to save the song birds and to stop the spring shooting of ducks. Most people, who did as requested, had no idea what Congress was asked to do. Many simply attempted to stampede their Congressman without reading the proposed bill. We have read the bill and we will write to our Congressman as requested. We will send this general letter to all of the Congressmen in the hope that they will defeat the bill as it is written. Good statesmanship requires this. The bill should be re-written.

There can be no objection to a proper law making it criminal to kill migratory song and insectivorous birds at any time except when they are found injurious to crops, or to a law prohibiting the shooting of wild ducks in the breeding season. Such a law can be written in simple language and placed in the statute book with other criminal enactments where the people liable to arrest can find it.

The present bill proposes to turn over to certain people, game law enthusiasts, the right to make criminal laws or regulations and also the right to execute the laws they may make as often as a new idea occurs to them. Evidently the proposed law was not written by a lawyer or by any one familiar with legal principles. I have asked those who should know the author, who wrote the bill? but I have had no answer to the inquiry. The ideas evidently are those of "the game law expert of the Biological Survey," who I am informed is not a lawyer and who, I am quite sure, does not understand what a criminal law should be. Blackstone says criminal laws should be simple, uniform, universal. They certainly should be easily understood and not subject to repeated changes which will result in people being arrested. It should not be a crime to do anything in one place or on one side of an imaginary line and not on the other side of the line. The numerous regulations already made, and often changed, indicate the industry of those who believe that game can be made plentiful by making and executing many laws. There are scientific reasons, well known to naturalists why the game has vanished after the enactment of thousands of laws (similar to the proposed regulations) which have resulted in tens of thousands of arrests, fines and jail sentences, often for doing things which have no element of wrong doing and which are not crimes in any country where game is an abundant food.

Why should the regulations for the taking of migratory wild fowl in America be made so strict as to prevent any sale of the desirable food when similar foods are abundant

and cheap in all of the markets of the world excepting America?

The birds are bred on preserves, the would-be law makers answer, when we ask this question. This is not true. The migratory fowl, the pochard, which corresponds to our red-head and canvasback. The widgeon, which is much like our widgeon, the teal very like our teal and other migratory ducks, which are marketed are not bred on preserves. The wild duck bred on preserves abroad is the mallard, or to a large extent a stock duck descended from the mallard and this bird is rapidly becoming abundant in the hands of breeders in America. We would like to know why it is necessary to turn over to a band of game-law enthusiasts the right to make numerous criminal laws or regulations about the wild food birds and also to execute these laws, with the powers of United States marshals. We would like to know why it is necessary to do this in America where the migratory wild ducks now are more abundant than they are in England and why the migratory birds can be sold cheaply in the English markets and the American people must be denied this desirable food? How would it do to amend the law and make it apply to the migratory fish which are taken in nets both in America and abroad?

Granting that the game law enthusiasts who, we are informed, are fabulously well paid for their enthusiasm, are very desirous of taking over the crime-making power of Congress so that they can tell the people just what they can do and arrest and jail them with the powers of marshals, we believe good statesmanship should result in Congress refusing the demands until the whole matter has been fully investigated both from a legal viewpoint and from the viewpoint of able naturalists who should be consulted.

We believe if an amendment should be offered defining the proposed crimes and fixing the penalties so that the law will be a proper criminal statute, uniform, universal, simple, easily found and understood, in a word, a criminal act such as a lawyer would write and to be executed by the regular officers who execute other laws,—We believe if such an amendment be offered, an African will be disclosed in the woodpile.

It will be a great disappointment, we are sure, to the inventors of the new style legislation not to have both the right to make, but also the right to execute criminal laws which may suit their fancy. These people recently, when we legally procured breeding stock in Mexico, said you can not bring those birds into this country to produce food. We have the right to issue permits and we wont issue any until the next breeding season. No one who knows anything about wild birds would disturb them at such a time. They would not lay eggs. The reason why we go to Mexico is that laws have been secured preventing our getting stock in the United States.

The production of game for food under

licences issued by the state game departments is a very big and growing food producing industry in America. It is popular and profitable. It is encouraged by state game officers. Millions of food birds and deer now are produced for food.

Those prominent in asking that the right to make and execute criminal laws be given to them have shown a decided hostility to the breeding of birds for food, birds which the great Audubon lists as highly desirable foods. Very recently an attempt was made to stop food production on Long Island, N. Y., fortunately without success. Our producers won after a spirited contest. But the animus of the leading spirit of those who wish to become legislators, judges and marshals was evident. Attempts to prevent any food production in other parts of the country recently have required our attention.

When we asked a leader in the present effort to secure one more law, if the bill could be amended so as to read that nothing in the act or proposed regulations should be held to apply to birds owned by licensed breeders, we were told that the "game law expert" would be consulted. Later, we were informed that no such amendment would be entertained.

As we understand the bill it in effect creates a third house of Congress with greater powers than the House or Senate; with power not only to make numerous criminal laws, but also with power to execute the laws or regulations when made. Already there is in existence a new legislative body created under a prior act which was of such doubtful constitutionality that it was deemed to be necessary to get a treaty with Canada in order to try a new law based on the treaty. The obligations of the treaty easily can be carried out by a simple enactment prohibiting the killing of migratory song birds, except when found injurious to crops, and prohibiting the killing of migratory food birds during a season, named in the act, and defining the penalties.

It is not necessary or desirable, especially at this time, to turn over to those who believe in extraordinary restrictions the right to make laws and to change them often.

It has been claimed that the wild ducks have become very abundant. They have. This is largely due to state laws prohibiting shooting during the breeding season, but it is especially due to the fact that thousands of Canadian sportsmen have been shooting larger game than ducks. We believe that no harm will follow permits to take hundreds of wild ducks for breeding purposes. We believe it would be safe to permit the sale of ducks legally taken in states which now permit such sales of food. If England and the other countries with a much larger population, in proportion to their wild duck area than America has can have wild ducks cheap in the markets, just as we have fish and oysters cheap in our markets, it would seem

to be good statesmanship to have a careful investigation made before turning over the handling of this food supply to a small band of enthusiasts who profit largely by their game saving industry, but who have not produced any game.

We respectfully suggest to our Congressmen that such an investigation be made before any action on the bill be taken.

We have a National Bureau of Fisheries, highly creditable to the nation. We believe if the question of our game as a food supply can be carefully considered the result may be the creation of a bureau of game conducted on the lines of the Bureau of Fisheries. Such a bureau of game easily could provide stock birds and eggs for those who would multiply them with scientific advice as to propagation, just as the Bureau of Fisheries supplies fry and fingerlings to those who wish to breed fish. Why not create a Bureau of Game. It will become a great monument to the one who secures such legislation.

We have had a Bureau of Game Law experts which has not supplied the people with game for food. It has provided and advocated many state laws which have prevented a food producing industry which well might be encouraged and not prohibited. The area for public shooting in America is tremendous, larger than the entire area of many countries which have game in abundance.

The American sportsmen rapidly have adopted our idea that game breeding on cultivated farms where shooting is now prohibited is beneficial to their interests and not harmful.

If it be true, as it is, that there are more pheasants produced in America today than in any country in the world and that this is so because the restrictions favored by those who seek the present enactment have been mitigated so as to make it not criminal to produce and sell this food: If it be true, as it is, that there are more wild ducks in America than in many countries which have ducks for food it would seem that there is no reason for haste in turning over to those who have recently been opposed to food producing and to the taking of birds for breeding purposes the right to make more restrictions similar to those which have destroyed the game market in many states.

Many sportsmen who entertain this opinion are away. We would respectfully urge Congress to fully consider the proposed measure before enacting it. We would like to see the bill referred to the judiciary committee for an opinion as to the propriety and constitutionality of turning over the crime making powers of Congress to those who seek to exercise it.

We believe this constitutional question is pending in the Supreme Court of the United States. When the first migratory bill was enacted and the court was asked to consider it, the late Judge Beaman, of Colorado, a well known sportsman, asked leave to appear

and file a brief in the Supreme Court urging that criminal laws should be statutes and not regulations. It would seem advisable to defer action in Congress until the court shall render a decision.

Certainly there is no need for haste unless it be true, as a man who is on the inside recently informed us that a big political deal is being played in Washington. A sorry time to play politics with a food question! If it be true it might be well to inquire what are the politics of those who seek the right to say what others may do.

That game is not vanishing under a new style of state legislation quite different from that proposed soon will be amply demonstrated. We believe our Game Conservation Society will keep the hospitals full of game, without cost during the continuance of the war. This would have been impossible had we not been able to have some of the laws secured by those who are behind the present measure amended.

We respectfully ask our Congressmen not to act hastily; not to be stampeded, but to give the bill a careful consideration. Is it a proper bill from a legal standpoint? Does it provide for a regulated sale of desirable food such as has been provided for recently in many states?

Should it not be amended so as to provide that nothing in the act shall be held to apply to birds owned by breeders until they depart and become migratory?

We believe the bill should provide that the new lawmakers shall issue permits to take stock birds for breeding purposes.

In many states they have secured laws permitting the destruction of 50 birds per diem, or some other number, but have prevented any one from taking a single bird for breeding purposes. Since those who propose to make and execute the new restrictions recently have refused permits to bring in stock birds purchased in Mexico we have a right to our opinion that they are not friendly to production and that an important food industry which is popular and prospering in many states should not be governed and regulated by those who oppose it.

Why should not food producers have the opportunity to take their chances with United States marshals and special deputies responsible to them, instead of being regulated by a special force practically responsible to no one.

We believe food producers should be treated as fairly and leniently as moonshiners, smugglers and violators of the postal laws are. Their offences often will be found, as they have been under state laws, to be due to mistake, and the offences in no case will be found to contain the element of moral turpitude usually present in other national offences. America rapidly is becoming the biggest game producing country in the world, but this is due to a mitigation of the restrictions in state laws which were similar to the

proposed enactment, but in many cases not so bad.

America rapidly became noted for the vast amount of crime in the country, a large part of this was due to the game laws and much of it has occurred by reason of amateur officers seeking "To make a case," often for a moiety or reward.

We predict that if the present law be enacted there will be another sorry report of crimes and arrests, many of which should not be made and that the report of criminals bagged will show the arrest of honest breeders who may have migratory birds for breeding purposes or who may sell the food produced. The number of cases will be made the basis of a request for a much bigger appropriation than is now asked for, and in this connection we would point out that the appropriation asked for is not enough to police one of the smallest states. What kind of people are to be found now willing to act as game policemen? They should be strong enough to be available elsewhere where many of those in whose interest I write this letter have gone. There is no hurry or need for haste.

There are and should be scientific foundations for proper laws. The crime making power should not be delegated. As we have observed criminal laws should be simple, uniform and universal, permanent and not sub-

ject to repeated changes. There are scientific reasons why restrictive legislation, which has been tried in many states, never has been followed by an abundance of game for sport or for food. We respectfully urge our Congressmen, when considering the important measure referred to, always to have in mind the very old but very true saying that, "Books must follow sciences, and not sciences books."

Ohio Quail.

Audubon speaks of the quail as "fat, juicy and tender; white and extremely agreeable to the palate."

We can imagine the Ohio citizen singing: "If it be not fat for me what care I how fat it be."

Bird lovers should take some consolation in the fact that the spirited Ohio hawks will have plenty of quail to eat even if they do cause some "terror and confusion," as Audubon puts it, when the hawks go to dine.

We have seen a marsh hawk, in Ohio, sitting on a rail fence with one talon embedded in a live quail which he was eating.

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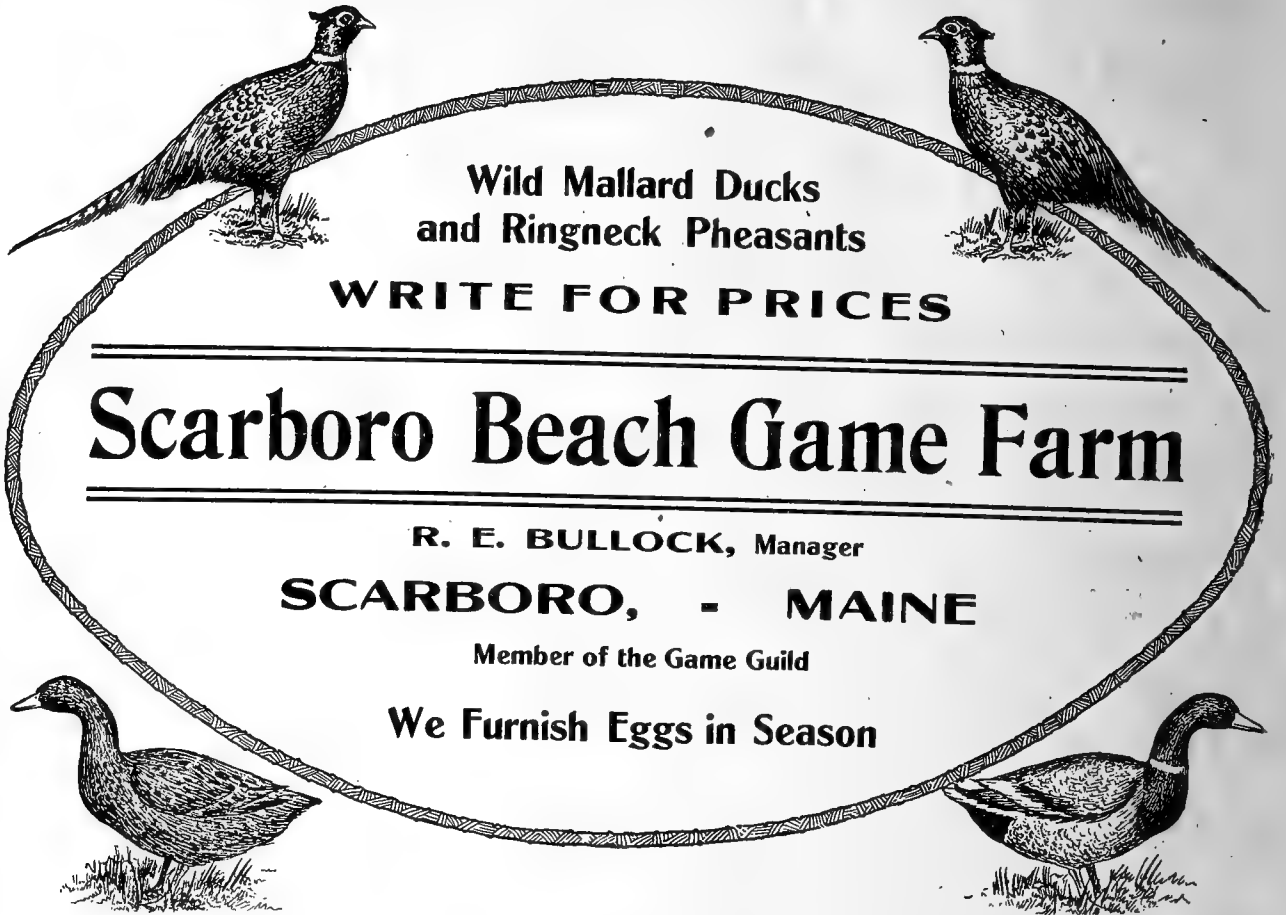
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BUY NOW**

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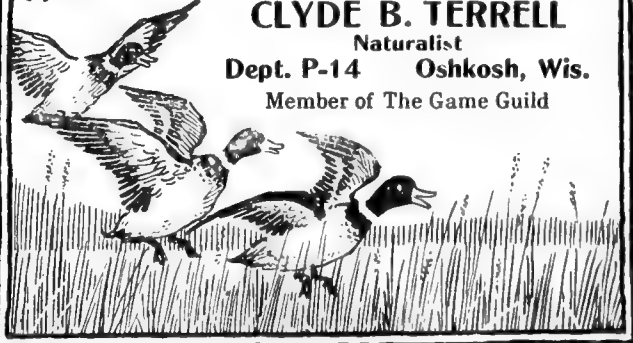
Bring them back again and make your favorite lake, marsh or stream the feeding and breeding grounds for myriads of wild duck by planting Wild Rice, their natural food. Can be grown in any shallow, fresh water.

Wild Rice is my specialty. Germination assured by special damp storage process. I have been able to harvest a crop of very fine seed this year, which is now ready for shipment.

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Naturalist
Dept. P-14 Oshkosh, Wis.
Member of The Game Guild



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We have a number of requests for back numbers of The Game Breeder from people who wish to bind the volumes and preserve a complete record of the More Game Movement.

We will pay 20c each for a number of copies of the following issues in good condition:
1914—May, July and December. 1915—May. 1916—January.

We wish to procure 10 or more copies of each issue named above. Readers who can furnish these copies will please send a post card to The Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York

We have long entertained the opinion that it was worse than foolish for a department of the government to interfere with the importation of food birds for propagation purposes. It may be to our advantage to have the advertising season extended for live quail but The Game Breeder thinks more about what is right than about what is profitable.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Announcements inserted under this head in small type for 3 cents per word. If displayed in heavy type, 5 cents per word. No advertisement accepted for less than 30 cents. Postage stamps accepted in payment.

THE GAME BREEDER

150 Nassau Street

New York City

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FOR SALE—Ringneck Pheasants, two years old. These are my breeding stock birds and are pinioned. \$5.00 per pair. M. R. CHEESMAN, R. F. D. No. 3, Murray, Utah.

FOR SALE—1917 HATCHED JAPANESE SILKIES, Ringnecked and Golden Pheasants. S. GERHARDT PHEASANTRY, West Roxbury, Mass. 1t

WILD TURKEYS—For prices see display advertisement in this issue. W. J. MACKENSEN, Yardley, Bucks County, Pa.

TWO WILD CANADIAN GANDERS—3 years old, unmated, Grand Large Birds. \$10.00 each or will exchange one for a goose same age. WILLET RANDELL, North Creek, N. Y.

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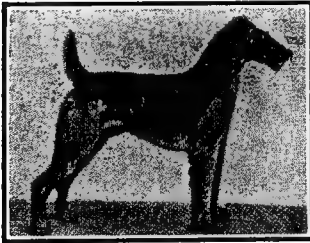
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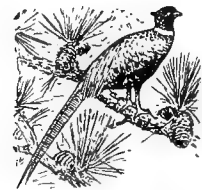
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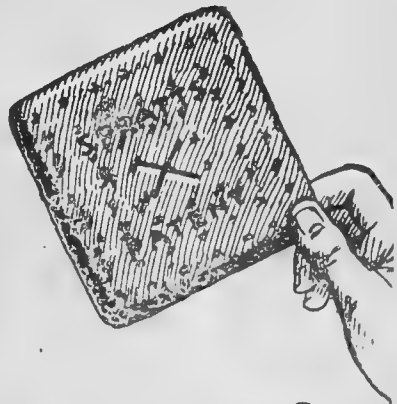
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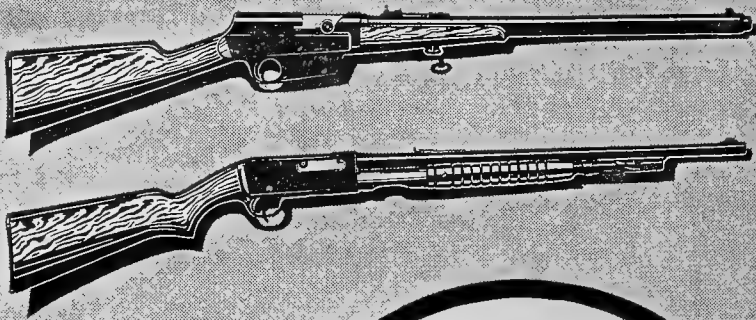
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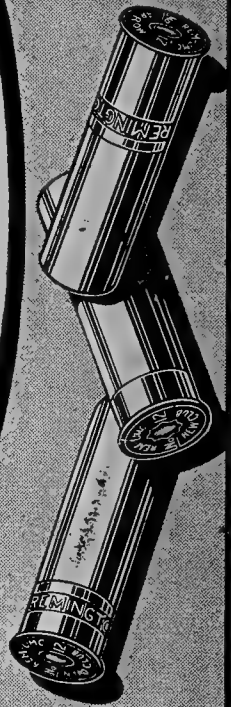
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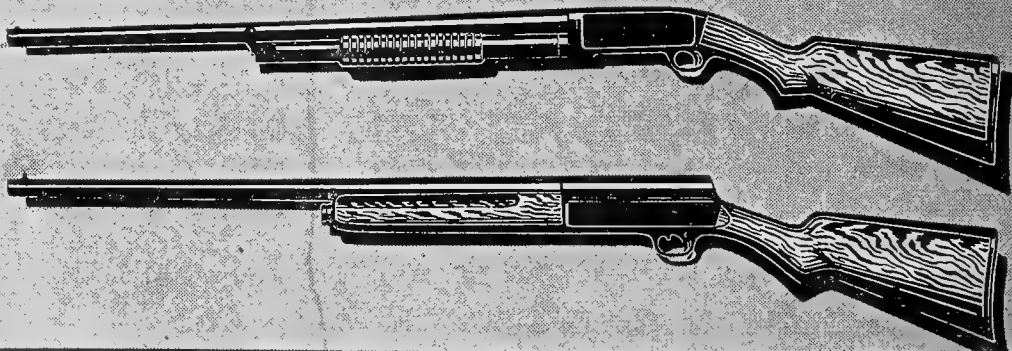
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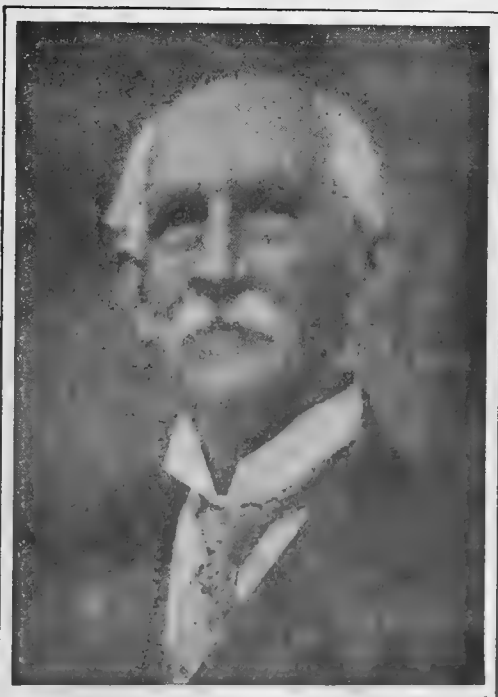
THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XII

JANUARY, 1918

No. 4

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



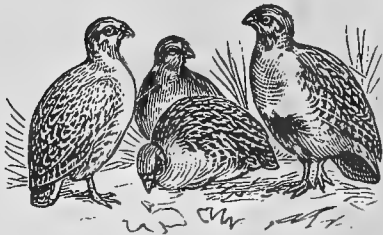
CHARLES HALLOCK
DEAN OF AMERICAN SPORTSMEN
Died December 2, 1917

PUBLISHED BY
THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Inc.
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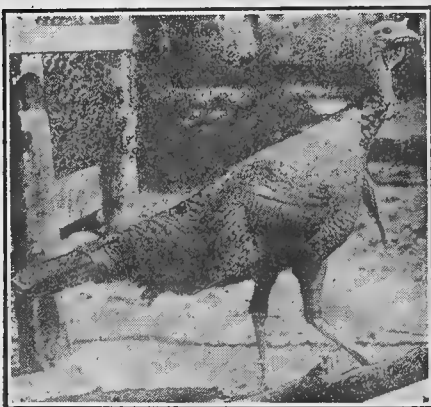
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My Pheasant pens hold thousands of Pheasants and I am prepared to furnish these birds in large numbers to State departments, individual breeders and preserves.



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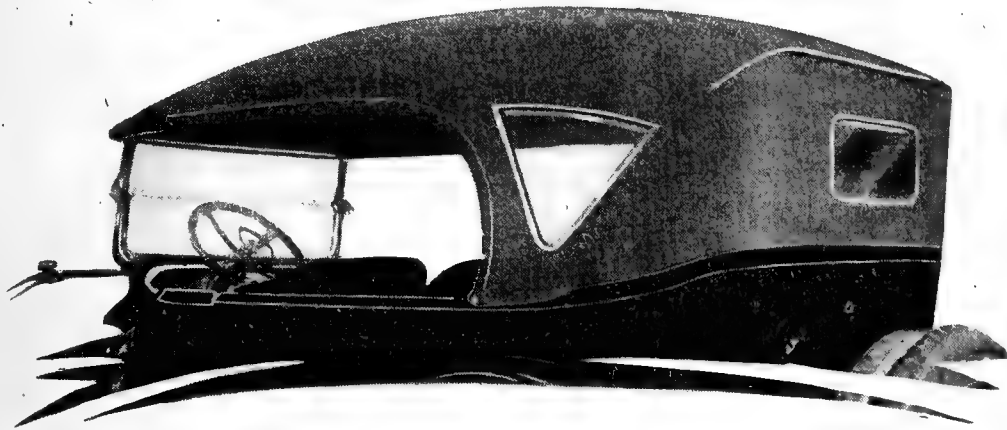
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OUR WILD FOWL AND WADERS

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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"I have enjoyed the treat in my reading of this book from frontispiece to finish and I wager anybody else will enjoy it. . . . The author has placed every sportsman, every naturalist and a great many other citizens of other callings squarely under obligations to him. The book is a direct and logical argument setting forth the means for the preservation in the future of our wild fowl and waders. . . . The illustrations are judiciously selected, interesting and materially add to the value of the volume."

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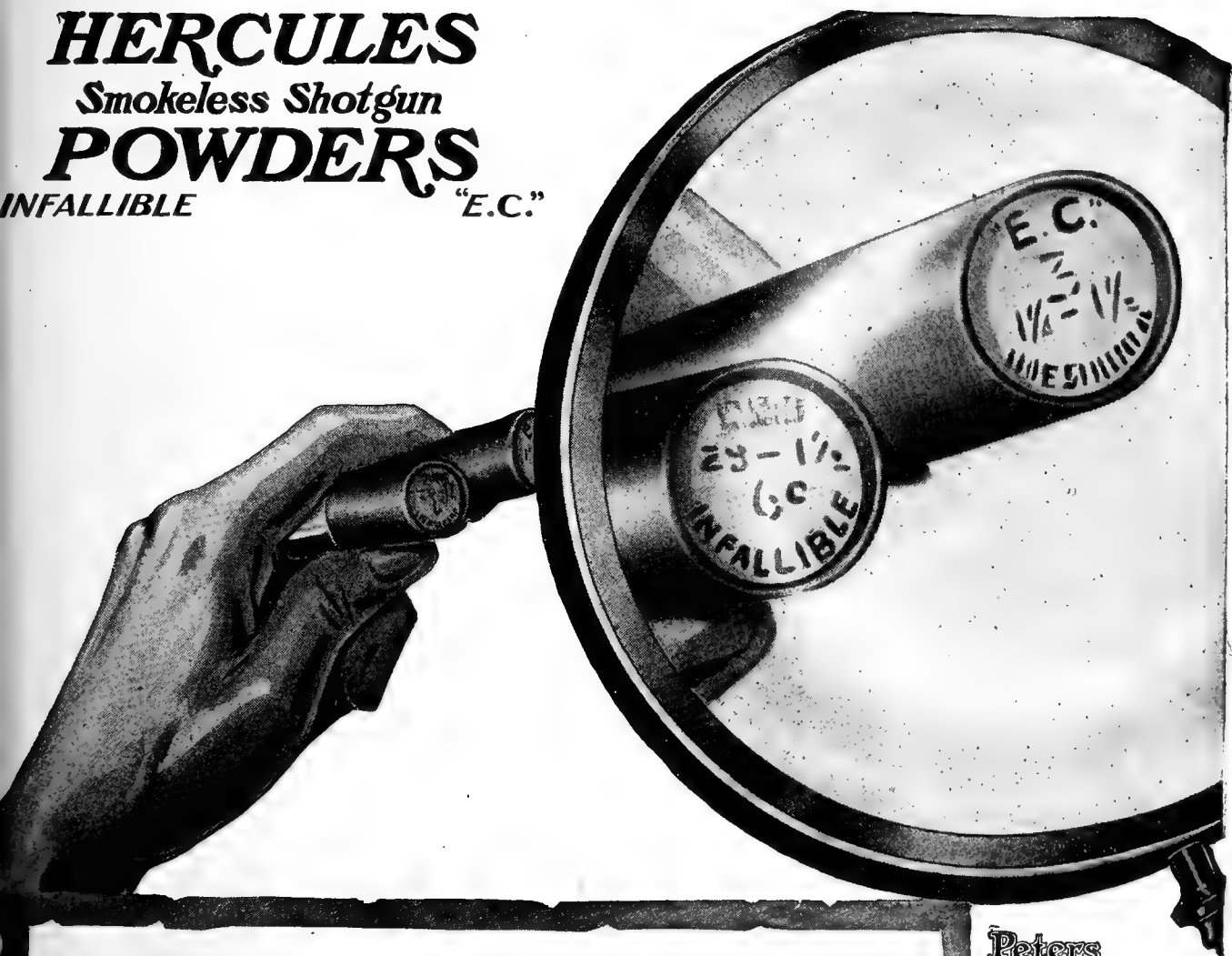
"If the advice of Dwight W. Huntington, pioneer and apostle of the movement in this country for a rational game protection and conservation, be acted upon, the time is coming speedily when game will be as cheap as beef or mutton. At present, after fifty years of legal protection, we have no game to amount to anything save in the more remote sections. . . . The book is not only instructive in an economic sense, showing how to make wild duck preserves safe and attractive, how to get stock and eggs and the food required, but is delightful reading for all. The author of 'Our Wild Fowl and Waders' is doing a great public service in his campaign for more game."

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The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Game for the Hospitals.

Our announcement that The Game Conservation Society would supply free game to the hospitals during the period of the war has been hailed with enthusiasm. No other society is equipped to do such work. We estimate that at least two thousand members of the society will contribute some game and from some members we expect to receive large donations. Since the entire product of our experimental farm will be donated, with the exception of a few of the rare birds which will be preserved for breeding purposes and possibly a few birds which may be given to the harvesters who will pay for the right to harvest the crop, under proper regulations, we are confident that a large amount of game will be sent to the hospitals and the people will be surprised at the amount of game which has been produced since the laws were amended so as to make it no longer criminal to produce all or certain kinds of game for sale as food.

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Prairie Chickens Scarce.

The following newspaper clipping sent to The Game Breeder indicates that prairie grouse need the protection of game breeders in North Dakota as elsewhere. The laws should be amended so as to encourage the profitable breeding of prairie chickens. Easily they can be made more plentiful than pheasants are.

Fargo, N. D., Nov. 10.—Tuesday of last week marked the close of the prairie chicken season in North Dakota. The hunting was the poorest in the history of the State. Hunters now have turned their attention to pass shooting.

The recent cold weather brought many of the big Northern ducks into the sloughs and lakes, and some big bags have been brought into the city the last few days.

Crows and hawks are blamed by farmers for the scarcity of prairie chickens this year and not the hunters, who gave up this field of sport several weeks after the season opened when it was learned there were few prairie hens to be found in the State.

=

Inglorious.

We cannot comprehend why the U. S. Biological Survey still refuses permission for us to import quail from Mexico for experimental purposes, especially since the society has announced that the crop of game it proposes to produce would be donated to hospitals. We said nothing about this when we made the request for permits for the same reason that we did not mention this fact in asking for the funds which have been contributed to carry on the work. We did not wish to make a charitable appeal but we preferred to get the money from those who would like to have breeding experiments made with American game birds.

Of course the Survey is intensely interested just now in getting one more game law giving it the power to make many regulations which are in effect criminal laws and granting the right to appoint numerous game officers with the powers of United States marshals. Many States have been handling the game so creditably of late that we regret to see those who are evidently opposed to modern ideas given the right to inter-

fere with the work of State game officers or with those who are actively engaged in producing more game.

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More Pheasants.

Under the heading, "Why Pheasants Are Scarce," The Sportsman's Review says: The decline of pheasant importations by this country is graphically illustrated in the following statistics, furnished by Mr. W. C. Henderson, acting chief, United States Bureau of Biological Survey:

Year	Pheasants
1911.....	23,398
1912.....	15,412
1913.....	9,417
1914.....	4,148
1915.....	15,841
1916.....	2,109
1917.....	832

(Year ending June 30)

Nearly all the imported pheasants were brought from England prior to the war; practically no shipments are received from there now. The largest shipments now coming in are from Canada, with small importations now and then from China and Japan.

Only live pheasants are reported under the law, hence the figures given above do not include birds brought over in cold storage for food purposes. Shortly before the war, the largest importer of pheasants of this class estimated that annual importations amounted to 9,000 birds. To-day not a bird is being imported for food purposes, an embargo having been placed on such shipments last February. Importers state that the supply of birds from England for food purposes kept up quite well till the embargo went into effect.

The heading, "Why Pheasants Are Scarce," is not only misleading but false. As we pointed out last month, North America has become the biggest pheasant producing country in the world. One of our Western readers well said it will no longer be necessary to import any pheasants. There are thousands of pheasant breeders in the United States, some breeding very large numbers. Two sales of American-bred pheasants which happened to come to our notice this year amounted to more than twice the total number of pheasants imported from all foreign countries during the year 1916. Since there were many thousands of sales of pheasants during the year, the number of birds sold in many cases being

large, we have no doubt that many more American-bred pheasants were sold in 1917 than were imported from all the foreign countries during the seven years cited in the report of the U. S. Biological Survey.

Possibly the Biological Survey will say they are not in the game bird business; the Bureau of Animal Industry should know how many wild ducks and pheasants have been produced by industry. Some bureau should know about this food industry and if it is encouraged.

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A U. S. Department That Sleeps Soundly.

As we understand the term biological survey it is intended to indicate a governmental department provided to survey the pheasants as well as other forms of life and to make intelligent reports. During the last few years there has been a movement to which some one has given the homely term, "more game" movement (probably because The Game Breeder says "more game and fewer game laws") which has resulted in the production and sale of millions of pheasants, wild ducks, quail and other game birds. One would imagine that a department named "biological" would be aware of such a movement and would have figures available showing its vast economic importance.

The movement is the result of the work of many scientists of ability and many intelligent sportsmen, with the dean of American sportsmen, Charles Hallock, at their head. Many State game departments with wide-awake modern officers have endeavored to encourage the production of pheasants and other wild food birds and have favored amendments to State laws which make it no longer criminal to produce such food on the farms.

The U. S. Department of Biological Survey seems to have slept soundly through this great economic movement which has resulted in making the United States the biggest pheasant producing country in the world. It seems to have no knowledge about the sales of millions

of pheasant eggs, wild duck, wild turkey, quail and other game eggs. It seems to be entirely unaware that wild turkeys have become abundant in places where they were extinct. It seems to have slept so soundly that it appears to know nothing about what is going on in the field it is supposed to survey, or at least if it does know anything the figures are not available. Many people have big game ranches where thousands of game birds are produced. There are thousands of small breeders in the free States where food producing no longer is criminal.

=

One More Law in Minnesota.

The Secretary of the Game Protective League writes the game conditions in Minnesota are better than they have been for a number of years; the legislature placed a closed season on ruffed grouse, etc. From the Game Protective view this is fine, one more game law safe in the books. The sportsman who owns a grouse dog may continue to feed him and the fox, the crow, the hawk will continue to dine on grouse eggs and birds. No provision seems to have been made to except grouse breeders who may prefer to have grouse in their woods and who might look after the birds if it was worth while to do so. We suspect the boys fond of snaring and trapping (we have kicked many such devices to pieces in the woods) will continue their avocations and we have a notion there may be some gunners who have learned that grouse are edible who will take a shot at them when out after rabbits, possibly not knowing that the birds are on the song-bird list.

The Congress Should Inquire.

We respectfully ask Congress to inquire if the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has denied permits to import stock birds for breeding purposes. The Game Breeder charges that it has done so and that it has given as the reason for its refusal fear that the birds would take cold. We respectfully ask Congress to inquire if the Survey is opposed to food production or if the only reason is that the Survey

fears the purchaser may suffer a loss if the birds should catch cold.

The Game Conservation Society is willing to assume the risk of the birds taking cold and will give a bond, good and sufficient, conditional that this will not happen, provided the Biological Survey will furnish any good and satisfactory reason why such a bond should be required.

The Survey should not be too busy getting one more game law to ask for a bond and let us have some stock for breeding purposes. We will promise to produce a big lot of food. We have done this before when we could procure breeding fowls early so they would forget their old home and get busy in the new one.

More Game Prohibition.

Changes affecting big game made by legislatures in session this year, according to a study made by E. W. Nelson, chief of the Biological Survey, and Messrs. Lawyer, Bancroft and Earnshaw, were nearly all in the direction of greater protection.

The season on deer was closed in Oklahoma for five years and in Utah for three years. The killing of does was prohibited in Arkansas and Saskatchewan and in Mississippi, through the rejection of the game law of 1916, the old law protecting female deer was left in force. On the other hand, protection was removed from does in Idaho and Wisconsin.

As a result of these changes does are now protected in fourteen of the thirty-two States in which deer hunting is open this year, in Alaska, and in four Canadian provinces.

Does are protected throughout the year and hunting restricted to bucks in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia and Alaska, and also in Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

The deer laws were made more liberal in California by permitting deer to be hunted with one dog and allowing a deer killed in a closed district to be shipped

into an open district, and in Colorado by providing an open season of four days to begin in 1918.

The limit on elk has been reduced from two to one in Saskatchewan.

Much needed protection was given antelope in Nevada and Texas, and the seasons extended on these and other big game in Colorado, Montana and Texas. Alberta extended the close season on antelope to 1925.

It becomes more and more evident that game protection naturally leads to the prohibition of sport. The game breeders rapidly are making game plentiful in places where they have been able to keep the protective laws off of the game farms. All prohibition statutes should contain a clause stating that they do not apply to game owned by breeders.

More About "Don't Get Blue."

Last month we printed the lament of Mr. Kurtz, of Loveland, Ohio, about the passing of the game and fur and we advised him not to get blue. We were surprised at the promptness with which the magazine reached him and at his quick reply which follows:

Editor Game Breeder:

In reference to your "Don't Get Blue" comment on part only of an article of [The part came to us in clipping. Send the rest.—Editor.] mine kindly allow me to return the compliment plus some advice.

[We will scatter a little advice through your letter and hope you will "come again."—Editor.]

I have investigated the various pheasant and game farms in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. They are more or less efficiently and successfully kept. The owners and promoters of any such preserves and propagating farms should get the honors and praise of a real constructive conservationist. It is what we have been preaching for years, and in my talks to farmers and countrymen I have advocated a sanctuary and protected zone on every place in this great country of ours.

[It seems to us you got your protected zone on quail a little too wide for sport or food in Ohio.—Editor.]

We are with you all right, dear Game

Breeder, on any sensible scheme to produce game birds and animals.

[Can the producer sell the quail when produced in Ohio?—Editor.]

Unless we produce abundantly we will be obliged to curtail and restrict the toll that seems sure.

[Will any one produce quail abundantly in Ohio as we do on Long Island, N. Y., and in other free States? We can shoot but would produce more if we could sell.—Editor.]

But I fail to find a man with common sense who would advocate or allow indiscriminate, free and open shooting on any such preserves especially when he considers his own expense account and efforts.

[We have often asked neighbors to shoot but only as many as we could have without extermination.—Editor.]

Unless the producer is assured of absolute protection he would be a fool to try the game.

[Keep the game laws off the farm and the producer will look after the game and its protection until it leaves his premises when those who do nothing will get some as they do in many places where game has been made plentiful.—Editor.]

We notice the conspicuous "*Positively no admission*" sign on every successful game farm.

[The same is true of sheep farms and many others—practically all farms in Ohio.—Editor.]

Every countryman knows that free and indiscriminate hunting and gunning soon exterminates everything of fur or feathers.

[You are quite right, I have shot many wild pigeons near your post office. They are extinct now.—Editor.]

In all my experience I failed to find the hunter who hesitated to shoot a dollar's worth of ammunition at a ten-cent piece of game, especially when it cost him nothing to produce the bit. Individually there are no doubt fellows with sportsman's sense and spirit, but collectively the gunners in the open fields care little but for getting their share and the other fellows, too.

I lamented the passing of the storehouse wilderness. Great and wonderfully balanced wasn't it? No wonder the Nimrod Redman hated and fought the pale-faced destroyer of same.

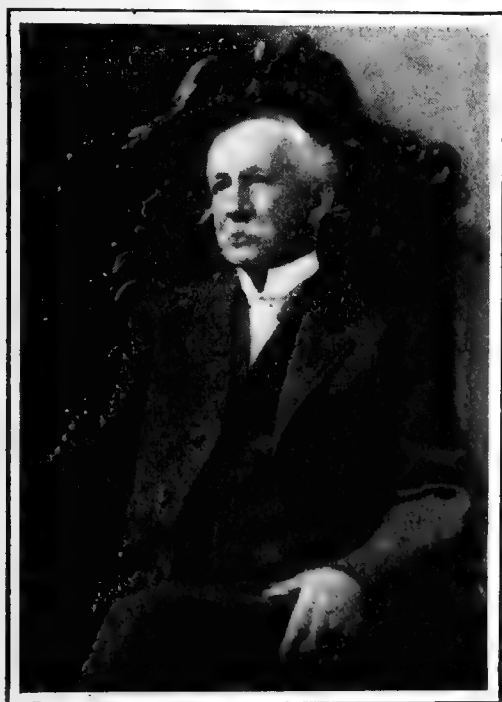
(Continued on page 120.)

A GREAT ECONOMIC QUESTION.

By CHARLES HALLOCK.

[The following article by the late Charles Hallock, dean of American sportsmen, was sent to the editor some time ago. We wished to consult him about a proposition to have a bureau of game created by Congress to replace the present bureau which is largely given to game laws.—Editor.]

For fifteen years or more, say from 1870 to 1885, the solution of the great economic question of an abundant fish supply, involving with it the continuance



Charles Hallock.

and enjoyment of the popular sport of angling, was pushed with ardor by the United States Fishery Commission, an organization created by an especial act of Congress for the specific purpose referred to. The precise words of the legislative text defined its duties as follows: "To prosecute investigations * * * with the view of ascertaining whether any and what diminution in number of food fishes of the coast and the lakes of the United States has taken place; and if so, to what causes the same is due; and also whether any and what protective, prohibitory or precautionary measures should be adopted in the premises, and to report upon the same to Congress."

Readers of The Game Breeder will please note that this Fishery Commission had plenary powers, and that it had only to suggest in order to procure enactment. Its chief, Prof. Spencer F. Baird, was selected for his wisdom, his diplomatic ability and his comprehensive knowledge and grasp of the whole subject. The office was created for the only known person who was specially qualified for such an office. So fully did his proceedings justify the confidence of the government that millions of dollars were placed at his disposal and appropriations were renewed from year to year on an increasingly bountiful scale. As to the emphasis of highest foreign testimony and approval, Prof. Huxley declared before the "International Fisheries Convention" at London in 1883 that "no nation at present comprehends the whole question as thoroughly as the United States," and our people had fullest confidence of the ultimate outcome.

In consideration of these eminent official endorsements, it is worthy of remark that *no legislative action was ever recommended* by the Fisheries Commissioner. Functions of such vital economic consequence were not allowed in the hands of incompetents, or of mercenary interests. Baird's policy was to carry out the idea that it is wiser and better to expend a certain amount of the public money in making fish so abundant that they can be caught without restriction and serve as cheap food for the people at large, rather than to expend a much larger sum in "protecting" the fish, and in preventing the people from catching the fish which still remain after a generation of improvidence.

This I understand to be the conservative policy now of The Game Breeder, not only as to fish but more emphatically

as to game, and I honor the courageous leader of this new regenerative movement, the editor of *The Game Breeder*, for the manliness and persistent determination with which almost single handed he has pushed it in the face of a prevalent adverse opinion. I rejoice to discover that he is rapidly winning over so many of the unprejudiced and misled opposition; and I have an abiding faith that he will eventually win out altogether; and that then the sportsmen's and anglers' millenium will come! His organ ought to have a universal circulation, for it is the vehicle of a new gospel of beneficence.

The work of the United States Fisheries Commission has ever been that of stimulation and co-operation, and is now, so far as it is permitted to act. The efforts of individuals have been encouraged in every way and so have those of the State Fish Commissioners, fish culturists, angling clubs and associations, sporting journals, State Legislatures, and every other agency or instrument, however humble, which has attempted to add to or preserve our fish supply, or inculcate in the prodigal mind a sense of economy, providence or thrift. For fifteen years protection and propagation were pursued on the original lines until it became obvious that nothing further could be accomplished by processes already in vogue and a new departure was instituted. The outcome of subsequent efforts was set forth in an elaborate statement at the

London conference of 1883, and the policy itself was for the first time openly declared. It is gratifying to state that it was at once endorsed by men of the highest scientific attainments and the broadest views of political economy. Prof. Goode in his report on that occasion read this: "Public fish culture is only useful when conducted upon a gigantic scale."

And so the question of the enjoyment of private rights to the exclusion of public participation becomes narrowed into a question between individual limited effort and the potency of the government working in the universal interest. There can be no doubt of the ultimate result. The longest pole knocks the persimmon. The plenary power of the United States Fisheries Commission ought to be fully restored and the department of game propagation should be placed under its jurisdiction.

P. S.—Those who hope for betterment in present conditions must note with hearty satisfaction the spread of the Huntington idea throughout the community all over the country. I might point out to State game officers the expediency of permitting the sale of game for propagation, and that they should favor legislation permitting the sale of it by breeders under State supervision as food; and I would urge the Audubon Society to favor the movement openly, inasmuch as song birds are given a safe refuge in the preserves as well as game.



NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Hybrid Game Birds and Wild Fowl.

One of our Western members says he recently shot a hybrid mallard pintail and asks if we had records of this interbreeding. We have seen one mounted specimen of this hybrid which is one of the most frequent among wild hybrids. Wild hybrids, however, are not common but are regarded as rare. Frank Finn, formerly deputy superintendent of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, says wild hybrids are indeed rare, but they are of

much more frequent occurrence than is generally supposed. They are most numerous among the species of the grouse family; the cross between the black cock and the capercaillie occurs every year, and has even received a special name (*Rakkelhane*), from Scandinavian sportsmen. Many instances of crosses between the black-cock and red grouse have also been recorded, but curiously enough the latter bird and the ptarmigan, although so much more nearly related,

appear never to interbreed. Various other grouse crosses have occurred, but for variety of hybrids the grouse must give place to the ducks. In this family at least two dozen distinct crosses have been observed, some of them several times, such as those between the mallard (*anas boschas*) and pintail (*dafila acuta*) and between the smew (*mergas albellus*) and golden-eye (*clangula glaucion*).

The duck family has afforded several undoubted cases of fertile hybrids. That between the pintail (*dafila acuta*) and the domestic duck, the descendant of the mallard, may be especially cited. In one instance ducklings were obtained from a pair of these hybrids, and more than once the hybrid has bred again with the pure pintail, the last instance being one recorded by Mr. J. F. B. Sharpe in the "Feathered World." In this the hybrid duck laid eight eggs, all of which were fertile, and hatched seven ducklings, one egg having been cracked. She proved a particularly careful and intelligent mother, thus recalling the good repute of the mule canary as a nurse.

The fact that the pintail and mallard can produce a fertile cross shows that there are some other causes besides mutual sterility which keeps species distinct in the wild state, for, as I have said above, the pintail mallard hybrid is one of the best known wild bred hybrids and yet the two species remain distinct on the whole.

Double hybrid ducks have occurred, as well as pheasants. M. G. Rogeron, of Angers, has bred many most remarkable ones from a hybrid between mallard and gadwall mated to a pochard, and more recently Mr. J. L. Bonhote has succeeded in raising ducks in which the blood of the pintail, mallard and Indian spot-billed duck was combined.

Hawk Dines on Plymouth Rock Ruffed Grouse and Squirrel.

Curator Thomas A. James of the State museum was asked concerning the great invasion of goshawks from the Arctic regions into Massachusetts as to the extent the same pests had invaded Maine and received the prompt answer:

"To no greater extent than in any other year. Some of them stop off on their flight from the colder regions every year and our small feathered game suffered therefrom. I have so far received two specimens and have mounted them for the museum. They are death on our ruffed grouse, killing all they can reach. One of these specimens had in its stomach a Plymouth Rock chick, a ruffed grouse and a gray squirrel. They are the worst pests for our small feathered game there is."—Maine Woods.

Hawk Dines on Pheasant.

Toledo, Wash., Nov. 10.—Emmet Koontz, who lives on Salmon Creek Road, killed a chicken hawk recently measuring 4 feet 2 inches from tip to tip. The hawk has been an annoyance for the last two or three years and when killed had a mouth full of Chinese pheasant meat, which proved that it had been preying upon game birds as well as upon poultry yards.

More Geese.

A dispatch to the World, N. Y., says Wm. Firke, the Illinois "goose king," will ship to the metropolitan markets during the present month (December) 75,000 birds, breaking his record of 50,000 reached one year ago.

This seems quite a lot of geese for one man to ship in a month but when the breeding of wild geese for sport and profit which is now in its infancy grows as it will rapidly as the laws are amended to encourage food production, we believe the number of wild geese shipped to the markets will be much larger than the figures above mentioned.

Wild geese now easily are produced by breeders as far south as North Carolina and since they find most of their food when bred on proper ground they can be produced inexpensively.

The present price for wild geese alive is about \$5 per bird, higher prices being asked for mated pairs which are guaranteed to lay eggs. Most of the duck clubs from New England to the Gulf have pens of live wild geese which are used for decoys but there are a number of

commercial breeders who can supply good numbers of wild geese and when the legal protection intended to save the vanishing wild geese which are said to belong to the State or the Nation because they have no other owner, are removed from the wild geese produced by industry, so that they can be handled as freely as other food is without legal interference, we predict that wild geese will be cheap in all of our markets. We formerly bought wild geese for 50 cents before we had the many game laws and we expect soon to purchase them much cheaper than they are at present. If they can be made a good sporting proposition sport will pay the cost of production and the food being abundant will be cheap as it is in more civilized countries where food produced by industry is not protected out of the markets by "fool laws" as the newspapers call them.

Destructive Gulls.

A newspaper clipping sent to The Game Breeder contains the following about the damage done by gulls:

Visitors of the winter who admire the sweeping flight of the thousands of gulls along the beach have just learned that the beautiful birds are eating up thousands of bushels of oysters and clams which might otherwise go for human food. Fishermen and oystermen have started a movement to have the State remove the ban on killing the birds because they consume shellfish used for food or bait, and the matter may be taken up at the coming meeting of the State Legislature. Protection of the gulls was undertaken years ago because of their value as scavengers in the harbor waterways and they have increased by thousands until the flocks are among the attractive sights from the boardwalk.

The Rev. H. A. Macpherson, a talented writer on English sport, says: "The black-backed gulls are very destructive to young birds of every kind, especially the lesser variety. I do not think the great black-backed gull troubles much about grouse. He cares more for fish and for carion. But the lesser black-backed gull is a shameless gourmand, and does a great amount of mischief. He likes the young wild ducks better than the tiny grouse, but nothing seems to come amiss to his hungry maw. It occasionally happens that an old herring gull takes to felonious practices. They suck

poisoned eggs eagerly and I have seen individual birds beating the hill day after day searching for grouse nests. I have also known the herring gull to carry off chickens from a cottage door. But the grouse suffers more from hooded crows than from gulls or any other of its natural enemies."

Mr. Macpherson says in the Highlands the foxes are killed out so far as possible. It is very necessary to keep them down for they would commit sad havoc among the lambs if allowed to become numerous.

Deer Shipments in Maine.

The following from the Maine Woods evidently refers to the shipping of deer:

The game receipts at the Union Station, Bangor, are considerably behind what they were last year at this time when the total number shipped through was 2,273, against the 2,082 at present. The hunting for the last week has been much harder than in previous weeks on account of the deep snow in the woods and bearing a heavy crust.

A Cat's Joy of Killing.

Permit me to refer to your editorial comment on the proposed investigation of the Association of Audubon Societies relative to the slaughter of birds by cats.

After a study of bird life extended over a period of forty years, it is the conclusion of the writer that the cat should find no friends among ornithologists. I dispute the allegation that the killing is done "to interest, amuse and instruct the kittens," although at times this is undoubtedly an attendant circumstance. Within a few weeks I have observed a half-grown cat which had never known maternal joys in a constant hunt for birds. To the writer's knowledge the creature killed three robins in two days, and there was circumstantial evidence that she destroyed a brood of myrtle warblers (worth all the cats in New England) was prevented a few days later from destroying a brood of catbirds, which doubtless she eventually consumed. The cat is cunning and persistent in her destruction of bird life and it is high time that her temperamental kultur should be understood.

SANBORN G. TENNEY.

To N. Y. Times.

THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT.

AN ACT—To give effect to the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded at Washington, August sixteenth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act shall be known by the short title of the "Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

SEC. 2. That unless and except as permitted by regulations made as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded August sixteenth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird.

SEC. 3. That subject to the provisions and in order to carry out the purposes of the convention, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed, from time to time, having due regard to the zones of temperature and to the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight of such birds, to determine when, to what extent, if at all, and by what means, it is compatible with the terms of the convention to allow hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, or export of any such bird, or any part, nest, or egg thereof, and to adopt suitable regulations permitting and governing the same, in accordance with such determinations, which regulations shall become effective when approved by the President.

SEC. 4. That it shall be unlawful to ship, transport, or carry, by any means whatever, from one State, Territory, or District to or through another State, Territory, or District, or to or through a foreign country, any bird, or any part, nest, or egg thereof, captured, killed, taken, shipped, transported, or carried at any time contrary to the laws of the State, Territory, or District in which it was captured, killed, or taken, or from which it was shipped, transported, or carried. It shall be unlawful to import any bird, or any part, nest, or egg thereof, captured, killed, taken, shipped, transported, or carried contrary to the laws of any Province of the Dominion of Canada in which the same was captured, killed, or taken, or from which it was shipped, transported, or carried.

SEC. 5. That employees of the Department of Agriculture authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce the provisions of this Act shall, with respect thereto, have the same powers as are conferred by law on marshals with respect to executing the laws of the United States. That any warrant necessary to the enforcement of the provisions of this Act, or any regulation made thereunder, shall be issued by the several judges of the courts established under the laws of the United States, and the United States commissioners within their respective jurisdictions, upon proper oath or affirmation showing probable cause for the issuance of such warrant. All birds, or parts, nests, or eggs thereof, captured, killed, taken, shipped, transported, carried, or possessed contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulations made pursuant thereto shall, when found, be seized by any such employee, or by any marshal or deputy marshal, and, upon conviction of the offender or upon judgment of a court of the United States that the same were captured, killed, taken, shipped, transported, carried or possessed contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulation made pursuant thereto, shall be forfeited to the United States and dis-

posed of as directed by the court having jurisdiction.

SEC. 6. That any person, association, partnership, or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of said convention or of this Act, or who shall violate or fail to comply with any regulation made pursuant to this Act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

SEC. 7. That nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent the several States and Territories from making or enforcing laws or regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of said convention or of this Act, or from making or enforcing laws or regulations which shall give further protection to migratory birds, their nests, and eggs, if such laws or regulations do not extend the open seasons for such birds beyond the dates approved by the President in accordance with section three of this Act.

SEC. 8. That until the adoption and approval, pursuant to section three of this Act, of regulations dealing with migratory birds and their nests and eggs, such migratory birds and their nests and eggs as are intended and used exclusively for scientific or propagating purposes may be taken, captured, killed, possessed, sold, purchased, shipped and transported for such scientific or propagating purposes if and to the extent not in conflict with the laws of the State, Territory or District in which they are taken, captured, killed, possessed, sold or purchased, or in or from which they are shipped or transported if the packages containing the dead bodies or the nests or eggs of such birds when shipped and transported shall be marked on the outside thereof so as accurately and clearly to show the name and address of the shipper and the contents of the package.

SEC. 9. That the unexpended balances of any sums appropriated by the agricultural appropriation Acts for the fiscal years nineteen hundred and seventeen and nineteen hundred and eighteen, for enforcing the provisions of the Act approved March fourth, nineteen hundred

and thirteen, relating to the protection of migratory game and insectivorous birds, are hereby reappropriated and made available until expended for the expenses of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and regulations made pursuant thereto, including the payment of such rent, and the employment of such persons and means, as the Secretary of Agriculture may deem necessary, in the city of Washington and elsewhere, co-operation with local authorities in the protection of migratory birds, and necessary investigations connected therewith.

SEC. 10. That if any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act shall, for any reason, be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SEC. 11. That all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 12. That this Act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate July 30, 1917.

Attest: JAMES M. BAKER,
Secretary.

"Near Mallards" Migratory.

We heard recently that many "near mallards" undoubtedly from the numerous game parks and preserves in the Northern States are shot in the South.

A member of The Game Conservation Society reported that a lot of his ducks which went South last winter returned in the spring and brought others with them.

Our readers will remember the story of the mallard which Mr. McIlheny trapped and shipped from Louisiana to Wisconsin and which soon flew home and was trapped a second time on Avery Island. There could be no doubt about the bird since it had a band on its leg.

**Bird Scarcity Alarming.
Conservation Commission Studies
Decrease of Partridge.**

The causes of the decrease in partridges is the subject of a comprehensive investigation now being conducted by the Conservation Commission through all of its game protectors and forest rangers, and in co-operation with fish and game associations and rod and gun clubs. The investigation is the result of alarming reports that have come from all quarters for the last two years. The commission hopes to establish by it not only the extent of the decrease in the birds but also the broad underlying causes.

For more than two years every game protector and forest ranger has been required to make weekly reports to the commission on all of the game that he has seen, and its condition from time to time. A great mass of statistics and other data on the partridges has been thus collected. In addition, a questionnaire has just been mailed to the entire field force and to 450 sportsmen's associations, with a request that they supply the information asked.

The questionnaire asks whether there has been an increase or decrease of partridges in the district covered by the one answering the questions, and, if so, whether any one of a number of stated reasons are assigned as the cause. Among these reasons are hawks, owls, weasels, foxes, disease, rigors of winter weather, slaughter by man, bad nesting seasons, or other causes. The informant is also requested to state whether his experiences in the woods during the nesting season, and the period when the young birds are on the ground, has indicated that cats are a serious enemy of grouse.

One of the questions which it is hoped will yield valuable information is that which asks whether either young or old birds have appeared to be unusually subject to disease, or have been attacked by ticks or other external or internal parasites. Sporadic reports of such parasites have been reaching the commission from various quarters.

The informant is asked to state whether he finds that since the advent of

the automobile the covers are more systematically and frequently hunted by a larger number of hunters than formerly, who penetrate into more remote districts, and, if so, to what extent he believes this to be responsible for the decrease.

The informant is further asked to state whether he advises a closed season for a number of years, the further shortening of the open seasons and a systematic campaign of vermin trapping to be carried on by sportsmen's associations and others, under the direction of the Conservation Commission.

The Commission has already analyzed the climatological reports of the Weather Bureau for the last three nesting seasons, taking different sections of the State separately, and has ascertained that in practically all localities the rainfall has been very much above normal during the breeding season.

It is hoped that when the investigation is finished the data collected will throw real light on the condition of the partridges and indicate proper measures for their more effective protection.

Strange no one seems to mention game laws as a reason for the scarcity. Any naturalist knows that additional checks to increase cause the game to vanish. Game laws have prevented people from looking after the game. The naturalist, Dr. Shufeldt, pointed out that it was being protected off the face of the earth.

**Free Entry of Game Into Paris is
Asked.**

Paris.—The "Conseil General," the deliberative body of the department of the Seine, has asked the government to permit the entry of game into Paris more freely. This measure, it is held, would ease the meat and poultry market. The minister of agriculture has already authorized the shooting of wild ducks.

Before the war the yearly receipts of game at the central markets averaged 150,000 pheasants, 170,000 hares, 360,000 partridges, 620,000 larks, 450,000 rabbits, 250,000 water fowl.

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a Year.**

THE TREATY WITH CANADA.

Whereas many species of birds in the course of their annual migrations traverse certain parts of the United States and the Dominion of Canada; and

Whereas many of these species are of great value as a source of food or in destroying insects which are injurious to forests and forage plants on the public domain, as well as to agricultural crops, in both the United States and Canada, but are nevertheless in danger of extermination through lack of adequate protection during the nesting season or while on their way to and from their breeding grounds;

The United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British dominions beyond the seas, Emperor of India, being desirous of saving from indiscriminate slaughter and of insuring the preservation of such migratory birds as are either useful to man or are harmless, have resolved to adopt some uniform system of protection which shall effectively accomplish such objects, and to the end of concluding a convention for this purpose have appointed as their respective plenipotentiaries:

The President of the United States of America, Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States; and

His Britannic Majesty, the Right Honorable Sir Cecil Arthur Spring Rice, G. C. V. O., K. C. M. G.; etc., His Majesty's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary at Washington

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed to and adopted the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Powers declare that the migratory birds included in the terms of this Convention shall be as follows:

1. Migratory Game Birds:

(a) Anatidæ of waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, geese and swans.

(b) Gruidæ or cranes, including little brown sandhill, and whooping cranes.

(c) Rallidæ or rails, including coots, gallinules and sora and other rails.

(d) Limicolæ or shorebirds, including avocets, curlew, dowitchers, godwits, knots, oyster catchers, phalaropes, plovers, sandpipers, snipe, stilts, surf birds, turnstones, willet, woodcock, and yellowlegs.

(e) Columbidae or pigeons, including doves and wild pigeons.

2. Migratory Insectivorous Birds: Bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, humming birds, kinglets, martins, meadowlarks, nighthawks or bull bats, nut-hatches, orioles, robins, shrikes, swallows, swifts, tanagers, titmice, thrushes, vireos, warblers, wax wings, whippoorwills, woodpeckers, and wrens, and all other perching birds which feed entirely or chiefly on insects.

3. Other Migratory Nongame Birds: Auks, auklets, bitterns, fulmars, gannets, grebes, guillemots, gulls, herons, jaegers, loons, murre, petrels, puffins, shearwaters and terns.

ARTICLE II.

The High Contracting Powers agree that, as an effective means of preserving migratory birds there shall be established the following close seasons during which no hunting shall be done except for scientific or propagating purposes under permits issued by proper authorities.

1. The close season on migratory game birds shall be between March 10 and September 1, except that the close season on the Limicolæ or shorebirds in the maritime Provinces of Canada and in those States of the United States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean which are situated wholly or in part north of Chesapeake Bay shall be between February 1 and August 15, and that Indians may take at any time scoters for food but not for sale. The season for hunting shall be further restricted to such period not exceeding three and one-half months as the High Contracting Powers may severally deem appropriate and define by law or regulation.

2. The close season on migratory insectivorous birds shall continue throughout the year.

3. The close season on other migratory nongame birds shall continue throughout the year, except that Eskimos and Indians may take at any season auks, auklets, guillemots, murre and puffins, and their eggs, for food and their skins for clothing, but the birds and eggs so taken shall not be sold or offered for sale.

ARTICLE III.

The High Contracting Powers agree that during the period of ten years next following the going into effect of this Convention, there shall be a continuous close season on the following migratory game birds, to-wit:

Band-tailed pigeons, little brown, sandhill and whooping cranes, swans, curlew and all shorebirds (except the black-breasted and golden plover, Wilson or jack snipe, woodcock, and the greater and lesser yellowlegs); provided that during such ten years the close seasons on cranes, swans and curlew in the Province of British Columbia shall be made

by the proper authorities of that Province within the general dates and limitations elsewhere prescribed in this convention for the respective groups to which these birds belong.

ARTICLE IV.

The High Contracting Powers agree that special protection shall be given the wood duck and the eider duck either (1) by a close season extending over a period of at least five years, or (2) by the establishment of refuges, or (3) by such other regulations as may be deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V.

The taking of nests or eggs of migratory game or insectivorous or nongame birds shall be prohibited, except for scientific or propagating purposes under such laws or regulations as the High Contracting Powers may severally deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VI.

The High Contracting Powers agree that the shipment or export of migratory birds or their eggs from any State or Province, during the continuance of the close season in such State or Province, shall be prohibited except for scientific or propagating purposes, and the international traffic in any birds or eggs at such time captured, killed, taken, or shipped at any time contrary to the laws of the State or Province in which the same were captured, killed, taken, or shipped shall be likewise prohibited. Every package containing migratory birds or any parts thereof or any eggs of migratory birds transported, or offered for transportation from the Dominion of Canada into the United States or from the United States into the Dominion of Canada, shall have the name and address of the shipper and an accurate statement of the contents clearly marked on the outside of such package.

ARTICLE VII.

Permits to kill any of the above-named birds which, under extraordinary conditions, may become seriously injurious to the agricultural or other interests in any particular community, may be issued by the proper authorities of the High Contracting Powers under suitable regulations prescribed therefor by them respectively, but such permits shall lapse, or may be cancelled, at any time when, in the opinion of said authorities, the particular exigency has passed, and no birds killed under this article shall be shipped, sold, or offered for sale.

ARTICLE VIII.

The High Contracting Powers agree themselves to take, or propose to their respective appropriate law-making bodies, the necessary measures for insuring the execution of the present convention.

ARTICLE IX.

The present Convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by His Britannic Majesty. The ratifications shall be exchanged at

Washington as soon as possible and the Convention shall take effect on the date of the exchange of the ratifications. It shall remain in force for fifteen years, and in the event of neither of the High Contracting Powers having given notification, twelve months before the expiration of said period of fifteen years, of its intention of terminating its operation, the Convention shall continue to remain in force for one year and so on from year to year.

In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention in duplicate and have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Washington this sixteenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[SEAL] ROBERT LANSING.

[SEAL] CECIL SPRING RICE.

A Note on the Treaty.

The animus of those who secured the treaty with Canada in order to bolster up an unconstitutional law seems evident when we read in the treaty, Article IV, the suggestion that a close season be placed on woodduck. To close the woodduck season means to put an end to a promising food-producing industry.

Article VII is probably the most remarkable of all the provisions of the treaty. It provides that permits may be granted to kill the birds protected when they are injurious to agriculture, *"but no birds killed under this article shall be shipped, sold or offered for sale."*

The animosity against the sale of desirable foods seems to amount to a dementia with the few game law enthusiasts who seek to relieve Congress of its law-making duties.

The treaty actually provides for and makes necessary a shocking waste of highly desirable food.

Recently wild ducks are reported to have done so much damage to the rice growers of California that they appealed to the State game officers for relief.

By the terms of the treaty the food birds killed under permits granted to stop the damage to rice must be left on the ground to rot. They can not be "shipped, sold or offered for sale."

Long we have known that those who originally proposed the migratory bird law are opposed to the sale of game as food. We regret to see the good work

of State game officers who now encourage food production upset by turning over the law-making power of Congress to those whose animus is well displayed in the above quotations from the treaty. We hope if Congress makes a law it may be a sensible one and not simply a grant of the right to make regulations to those who do not seem to know why game vanishes and how easy it is to make it an abundant and cheap food.

Long Island Quail.

Returning from an extended trip on Long Island the editor of The Game Breeder had the opportunity to interview a number of sportsmen who boarded the train with handsome setters and pointers. All had quail and rabbits, and all but one had ruffed grouse. Those who shot on club grounds had the most game, as might be expected. One man who had been shooting on unposted land said the quail were scarce: he only found two covies but he said he secured several grouse. No doubt the land was more suitable for the last-named birds. The sportsmen interviewed all said that enough birds were left for re-stocking but some said they would purchase and liberate more birds this year in order to still further improve the shooting.

Considering the fact that all of the sportsmen in New York State who wish to shoot quail must go to Long Island—the quail being on the song bird list elsewhere in the State—we have an excellent exhibit of what can be done where part of the land is preserved by quail clubs with small dues. The clubs keep the shooting open for all and will continue to do so.

State Game Officers and Prohibition.

There has been a great improvement in the State game departments during the last few years. The departments devote much less time to politics than they formerly did. For the most part they believe that game breeding should be encouraged and that the departments should represent all of the people and be of great economic importance. With very few exceptions the game wardens do not

raid game farmers and seize their stock birds for trivial offences. We believe the departments should be liberally supported and that the officers should receive much larger salaries than they do in most States.

We believe they can conduct their departments better if they be not hampered by ever-changing federal regulations and by the efforts of those who wish to place the upland game birds and the woodduck and the woodcock on the song bird list. It must be annoying to capable State officers to have a few people in New York (who have hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend in getting more game laws) insist upon laws preventing field sports and also the production of food.

If a small group of professional game prohibitionists can take over the right to make all the laws relating to wild fowl and can secure laws prohibiting the shooting of every thing else it would seem then the State officers soon will have little to do and they may expect a diminution of their revenues from shooting licenses.

A Patriotic Duty.

We regard it as a patriotic duty of all sportsmen, who are rejected for military duty to go in for "more game," much more game than ever before. The food is highly important. The fact that some of it brings high prices should not prevent those who like to shoot, from producing more than they can eat and from selling a big lot of it. Those who can afford to eat game are glad to eat it. They will leave a corresponding amount of beef steak and beef stew. It is clearly the duty of those who can not go to war to get into "the sport producing." Do it now.

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THE GAME BREEDER

THE WOOD DUCK.

By the Editor

The woodduck often is called the summer duck since it breeds throughout the United States and formerly was observed abundantly in summer when the other migratory ducks were in their northern breeding grounds. In some parts of the country the woodduck is called the acorn duck, evidently because it feeds largely on acorns.

Often the woodduck is compared with the beautiful mandarin duck but our bird is far handsomer in my opinion and safely it may be said to be the most beautiful wild fowl in the world. Since it feeds on wild rice and other aquatic plants and on acorns, beechnuts and other mast, its flesh is highly desirable and there are few, if any, better wild food birds in America. The ornithological name of this duck, *sponsa*, the bride was given it undoubtedly on account of its beauty, but it has been well said that it is the drake, or groom, which is beautiful, the female being very quietly attired in gray and brown.

The woodduck easily is bred under control and in fact it is easily domesticated. Large numbers of woodduck have been bred in Belgium, Holland and other countries from stock procured in America and it is significant that as the birds became scarce in America, where they are protected by many laws prohibiting the shooting, sale, transportation, etc., of woodduck, the birds became plentiful in countries where they are not so closely protected. Prior to the war American breeders were importing many woodduck from the countries named and often we have pointed out that the money sent abroad for woodduck and other fowls should be sent to American game farmers. The woodduck very easily can be made plentiful for food, but laws preventing the killing and sale of these birds for a periods of years evidently will put a stop to all breeding industry.

Many readers of The Game Breeder

now own woodducks. Many ducks are sold at excellent prices. Some readers breed large numbers of woodduck, but if these birds must be put on the song bird list to please the game law enthusiasts the production of woodducks will cease to grow rapidly, as this industry has grown, and many breeders, no doubt, will cease to rear woodducks. They certainly will not be restored to vast regions where they have become extinct; they certainly will not quickly become an abundant food.

The woodduck is specially mentioned in the treaty with Canada (printed on another page), and the reader will observe that proposition (1) relating to this fowl calls for protection, "by a close season extending over a period of at least five years."

Intelligent State game officers have favored and encouraged the profitable breeding of woodduck during the past few years with excellent results. Those who seek from Congress the right to make criminal laws have favored a close season on woodduck and they do not seem to be aware that such legislation will put an end to a promising food-producing industry, and that without a vast army of officers it will be impossible to protect the few woodducks not owned by game breeders since the birds frequent small ponds and streams in secluded places where easily they can be shot by those who are not aware that such shooting is prohibited and by those who know there is little danger of their being detected.

The Scarborough Beach Game Farm in Maine is rapidly becoming one of the big game farms of the country. It was with regret that we were obliged to return from a recent trip into New England without seeing this interesting place.

MORE GAME AND FEWER GAME LAWS.

The Game Breeder

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CHARLES HALLOCK.

Charles Hallock, well known to and loved by most of the older and many of the younger sportsmen, is dead. He had a long and eventful life and contributed much to our sporting literature.

My personal acquaintance with him began some years ago after the appearance of a paper which I wrote for The New York Independent, "The State and the Game," which may be said to have launched the "more game" movement. When the article was printed I was in Maine and upon my return I found a large mail, including a long letter from Hallock endorsing and praising the article. Often I have quoted his concluding sentence, "Truly we need a revolution of thought and a revival of common sense." Not long afterwards Hallock came to see me and we have since had some pleasant meetings, when he was passing through New York. Often he wrote to me as matters of interest occurred to him. Not very long ago he said the more game movement evidently had won out and he was much gratified at the success which he had feared would never come. He referred to his letter in which he said there were mountains of prejudice and politics to be crossed, that he would endeavor to go over them with the small band which set out at the start, but they seemed to be impassable.

Living in the West and going farther west to shoot I did not meet Hallock until he was well along in years, but often I have met sportsmen in all parts of the country who said they knew him and all were enthusiastic in their praise. Not long ago when at Waterlily, N. C., Jasper White said: "Everybody knows Hallock and everybody loves him."

My friend Pond of the Sportsman's Review knew him much better and much longer than I did. The biographical notice is from the Review.

DWIGHT W. HUNTINGTON.

"Footprints in the Sands of Time."

When Charles Hallock, M. A., passed into the Great Beyond on December 2, 1917, every sportsman in America suffered a keen loss. Here was a man and a sportsman of the highest type, who had devoted his entire life to the advancement of clean, healthful sports. The "Dean of American Sportsmen" is an enviable title given him by the unanimous voices of a million sportsmen, admirers and friends.

"To know him was to love him," and no man can be more serviceable to humanity than to radiate love.

Charles Hallock, editor, author, naturalist and Dean of American Sportsmen, was introduced to this world in New York City, March 13, 1834, the son of Gerad and Eliza (Allen) Hallock.

The early part of his life was spent on his uncle's farm, located in a wilderness of the Green Mountains of Massachusetts. It was at this place that his youthful soul drank in the splendor and beauty of outdoor life which led him to link his arm with mother nature.

He finished the course at Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven, Conn., and then entered Yale. He soon left Yale to enter Amherst. It was during his sophomore year at this college that he began his literary career, when he became editor of the college paper, the Scorpion.

The experience gained by editing this paper animated his spirit and soon his taste for literary work dominated his zeal for study and he left college to join

his father, who was then the active head of the New York Journal of Commerce. Thus he was launched on the beautiful sea as a writer. In time he became the pilot of the New Haven Register, Journal of Commerce, Chronicle and Sentinel, Royal Gazette, St. John Courier, the Telegraph and the Humorist. Many articles that appeared in Harper's Magazine were written by him. Later he became the founder of Forest and Stream. Seventeen copyrighted books have been produced from his pen. The various articles he wrote for magazines and daily papers would fill about fifty-five volumes if compiled.

As a poet he deserves more than usual observance, for such poems as "An Ode to the Man," "New Year's Call," a parody on "Marco Bozarris," and the legend of "Kill Devil Hole" claim him as their author.

But he did not allow his love of the pen to confine him to indoor life. Many are the black bass, crappie, salmon and trout that have succumbed to this master of the rod.

It was on these frequent ramblings that he gained his wonderful comprehensive knowledge of life that knew no roof other than the heavens. "The Sportsman Gazetteer," "Our New Alaska," "Peerless Alaska" and "The Salmon Fisher" owe their existence to the information and experience gathered on these jaunts.

Many a sun will set before there appears another mortal who will carry to his grave the love, the blessing, the good will and the true sportsmanship of Charles Hallock, the nucleus of outdoor sports.—Sportman's Review.

THE MIGRATORY TREATY BILL.

Alexander Innes Shand, a talented English writer, in his chapter on "Cookery of Ducks and Geese," says: "When Audubon was at St. Louis in 1843 the market there was swamped with both ducks and geese. These geese sold at ten cents apiece; the canvas backs went at a shilling a couple. We have no such good luck with them in our little sea-girt islands where they come from the

bleak north as birds of passage and have to forage casually for a precarious livelihood."

It is significant, however, that the English markets are kept full of wild fowl at moderate prices; that thousands of market gunners are permitted to shoot and trap and market migratory wild fowl and that it is deemed necessary in the United States to spend millions of dollars annually in the effort to keep such food out of the markets.

The "little sea-girt islands," an area which is small indeed when compared with any one of our larger States. The population of the little islands is far greater than many of our larger States; but the people have cheap migratory wild fowl just as the people in America have oysters and fish.

The area of the feeding grounds and waters in America are tremendous when compared with such areas in the "little sea-girt islands." It cannot be said that the migratory wild fowl which are abundant and cheap in the island markets are reared or bred on preserves. Mr. Shand in the sentence quoted above says, "They come from the bleak north as birds of passage," just as the migratory fowl come to the United States from the north.

We think before the United States makes the American wild fowl a "football of politics" it would be well to have a Congressional investigation of the entire subject. In the meantime the people will get some food in the markets which are open.

The creation of a new army of game officers may seem to be good politics but we believe it would be wise to defer the migratory bird treaty bill until Congress can be advised why it is that wild ducks and wild geese should be removed from the markets of Washington and other cities, which still permit the sale of such food, when the food always is abundant and cheap in foreign markets.

The State Department easily can procure the figures showing the prices in the markets of the "little sea-girt islands." There are plenty of naturalists in America who should be able to explain why it is that the migratory fowl can be safely

taken by thousands of market gunners using big guns and traps in England where the area frequented by migratory fowl is small and why the sale of the food should be prohibited in America.

Those who were asked to support the migratory bird bill were told that it was intended to stop the shooting of wild ducks in the spring and to stop the shooting of migratory song birds at all times. This kind of legislation properly placed in the statute books where all can find it is different from what Congress is asked to enact.

As we read the bill it grants to certain people the right to prevent the sale and shipping of game, and since many fowl which are descended from the migratory birds are now owned by American breeders who no doubt will be arrested and fined or imprisoned for selling and shipping game, we insist that the bill be rewritten so that all may know what is criminal and what is not criminal before it is enacted.

It is a remarkable grant that Congress is asked to make to certain people who have shown a decided hostility to the production of game by industry. The most prominent advocate of the pending measure recently tried to put the game breeders on Long Island, N. Y., out of business, and is reported to have expended a large sum of money in the effort. Why should such people be granted the right to make criminal laws and publish them in bulletins which undoubtedly will affect those who are engaged in what has recently been made a legal food producing industry by amendments to State laws?

It is claimed that the wild fowl are abundant just now in America because Congress passed a law which has been declared unconstitutional in several States; which never has been executed and which has been treated with contempt or possibly never has been heard of on many marshes.

The present increase in the numbers of our wild fowl is largely due to the fact that thousands of Canadian sportsmen who formerly shot big bags of fowl daily during the season are not shooting ducks. The stopping of spring shooting by the

Canadian Provinces and by the Northern States where some ducks breed has resulted undoubtedly in an increase in the number of the fowl. Thousands of wild ducks also have been bred by sporting and commercial breeders during the past few years, and some of these which are bred in the North have been shot as far south as North Carolina.

We are confident it will not be necessary to turn over the crime making power of Congress to the people who seek to exercise it if the game breeding industry can be encouraged in all of the States, as it now is in many, and we certainly believe and insist that before the present bill is enacted if it must be in the interest of politics, it should be amended so as to read that nothing in the act shall apply to game owned by game breeders until it becomes migratory and escapes and departs from the game farms where it has been produced by industry.

The game breeders have had some disagreeable experiences with State officers in States where the game has been a football of politics. They have reason to fear what will happen if those who have shown a decided hostility to their food producing industry have the right to appoint irresponsible officers with the powers of United States marshals and the right to search without warrant food producing plants conducted under State licenses. Tame ducks, barnyard fowl, have been seized and taken from a breeder because he had them before he applied for a license when he offered to pay because his ducks were descendants from wild birds. This method of game saving which it is now proposed to make national has not kept the markets full of desirable foods. We insist again that licensed food producers should for their own safety and for the good of the people be excepted from the provisions of this most extraordinary bill before it becomes a law if it must.

A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

Before Congress proceeds to enact the Migratory Bird Bill we respectfully request that it call for a report from the Bureau of Animal Industry as to the

number of pheasants, wild ducks, quail, wild turkeys and other game birds and the number of deer, elk, antelope, and other game animals produced by industry by game breeders during the last two years, and the number of stock animals now owned by breeders.

We suggest that the Bureau of Animal Industry is the proper bureau to secure this information just as the Bureau of Biological Survey would be the proper bureau to report the number of game laws enacted during the past two years, since it has become a game law producing department and has the so-called game law experts.

We respectfully ask the Congress to call on this last named game law bureau for a report as to the number of game laws made and amended by the States during the last five years and how many arrests, fines and jail sentences have resulted from the game laws, including arrests of food producers on account of their industry. These easily can be compiled from State reports in the Bureau of Biological Survey.

The Game Breeder charges that the United States has been made the biggest crime producing country in the world; that this is largely due to the game laws; that there have been many thousands of arrests due to the game laws; much unnecessary distress and much scandalous grafting for offences which are devoid of any moral turpitude and which are not crimes in any country where the people have very cheap game during long open seasons. Much of this game is migratory and it is taken by wild fowlers or market gunners just as fishermen take fish without fear of arrest.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

Ornithological.

Mother was out, Sister Sue was putting on her best blouse, so six-year-old Bob had to entertain Sue's young man.

As is the way with his kind, he began to ply the unfortunate caller with questions.

"Mr. Brown," he began, "what is a popinjay?"

"Why — eh — a popinjay is a — eh — vain bird."

"Are you a bird, Mr. Brown?"

"No, of course not."

"Well, that's funny. Mother said you were a popinjay, and father said there was no doubt about your being a jay, and Sue said there didn't seem much chance of your poppin', and now you say you aren't a bird at all!"

Me'ow Jones the Refugee Pilgrim Cat.

In a new book with the above title by Eduard Branch Lyman Me'ow gives the following epitome of his tale in a rhyme which heads chapter I:

I'm the refugee Belgian cat;

I'm silky and purry and fat;

Me'ow is my name,

And I'm glad that I came;

But I wish the bad War Man would Scat.

Me'ow in the end of the book asks every one to think of his home country, his dear, brave King and Queen, and "Princess Goldie Fur," which is the name he gives the little Belgian Princess.

Another Case of Spurlos Versenkt.

We are very much afraid that before long now there are going to be some more neighbors' cat's kittens that will have to be spurlos versenkt, as they say in Swedish diplomatic circles.—From the Ohio State Journal.

An Exchange of Courtesies.

"You farmers buy a good many gold bricks, eh?"

"Yes, and you city fellows buy a good deal of swamp land. I guess things are about even."—From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

[The swamp lands are found to be worth much more than the kind of gold bricks referred to when the swamps are utilized by breeders of wild ducks. Some duck swamps now are worth more than corn fields.—Editor Game Breeder.]

Depends on Circumstances.

"What's that building yonder?"

"Well," said the farmer, "if I find a tenant for it, it's a bungalow. If I don't, it's a barn."—From the Pittsburgh Post.

(Continued from page 104)

[We have shot with the "Nimrod Red-Man" and dodged some of them in the good old days long ago.—Editor.]

How long did the white sportsman, pot-hunters, gunners and game-hogs take to loot this wilderness, Mr. Biographer of Wild Life?

[Not very long. It is time to drop the game law industry and go in for "more game."—Editor.]

Very short period we learn and only too late. Now we have to substitute the civilized man's orderly semi-domestic game-preserve if we want to pose as hunters great or small.

[Not at all, we have preserves where game is bred wild in states which have abandoned some "fool laws."—Editor.]

It may be foolish to grow too sentimental about this romantic past period,

[Many grieve over past multitudes who do nothing to preserve what is left.—Editor.] but let's beware of brute character without any sentiment.

[Some of our most sentimental friends have plenty of game and shoot little or none.—Editor.]

Only the splendid sentiment of good people will prevent the vicious destructive element from killing off everything that runs and flies free.

[At this point you might cuss the game prohibition a little. We belong to the "good people" class and where the laws permit such industry we advocate the preservation of American game under conditions which so closely resemble the good old days that you would be pleased with the restoration could you see some of the places. When you come to New York we will show you how it is done. We are just now starting a place of this kind and will send all the game to hospitals.—Editor.]

Just to illustrate here is my personal experience: The past few seasons my folks and neighbors produced a fine lot of pheasants (State furnished stock). Unfortunately an open season was on lately. The licensed and untettered hunters fairly swarmed the fields. To-day not a single bird or specimen can be found.

[You need a gamekeeper. Let us send you one.—Editor.]

Let me state that I advocated rearing these birds in a semi-wild way, which proved highly successful.

[Bully for you.—Editor.]

One hyphenated game-hog hero bragged on his getting four. Four hens at that, mind you.

[We know a man who took 30 just outside of our fence. We congratulated him.—Editor.]

The greatest outrage to game propagation in Ohio is the unfortunate open season on pheasants.

[We would advise an end to propagation if there can be no open season.—Editor.]

And if we continue the free open seasons even the prolific cottontail will become scarce.

[Why not put cottontail on the song bird list? This will tend to save the quail as a singer.—Editor.]

I say close the season entirely, let it up to the landowner to get proper revenue on certain game-food animals, and if the gunner or hunter isn't of a disposition and character to pay a fee to cover the cost of such production why, dang him, let him do without.

[There can be no harm in letting him shoot on unposted land where no game breeding is carried on or on public water.—Editor.]

It is the writer's intention to own or control an ideal wilderness game-farm, but no free lance gunner will be tolerated to even have a look-in, unless he is handcuffed to a guard. I have no faith in public-owned game farms; the politician sportsman always manages to get there first.

[You should invite many people to shoot.—Editor.]

Yes, indeed, I agree with you that the only hope is in maintaining game farms, but the game will become sort of domesticated like unto the over-size mallard ducks your articles so freely comment on.

[Don't believe this for a minute. We know where it is perfectly safe to shoot several thousand quail in a season as wild as any quail ever were and true wild turkeys are shot on the same ground. The reason why this is so is the farmers and sportsmen work together. We know one place where we advised thinning the quail out after 2,000 had been shot because there was danger of an overabundance. The keeper said he had decided to do this. No one seemed to know just what the law was on the subject, excepting that the birds killed in the thinning process could not be sold. They were wasted. The reason we have many over-sized ducks is the laws prohibit the taking of breeding stock.—Editor.]

Sports like Kaiser Wilhelm and the heroic (?) chinless Crown Prince, the champion game-hogs of the world, enjoy that kind of hunting. White man, the great civilizer, cannot produce a wilderness nor a real forest unless he lets it entirely alone.

The wilderness wants none of his Kultur.

TOMS KUERTZ,
Conservationist.

[This appeal to prejudice indicates that you don't know what is going on in America. Let us take you to a club quite near New York, where sportsmen for \$15 per year shoot wild quail and rabbits. The farmers are well pleased to have them do so because they pay for the use of the land. If you will glance at the portrait of a fine old English wild-fowler, or market gunner, in my book, "Our Wold Fowl and Waders," you will see the genial face of a poor but freeman who supports his family by shooting wild ducks in a land where wild fowlers have as much freedom as the sea fisherman, who provides the codfish balls you no doubt have for breakfast, has.

The Game Breeder seems often to be misunderstood as often it is misrepresented. We favor the production and sale of game for food on game farms and preserves because, as you admit, no state game department safely can permit any shooting by a vast army of guns if there be no production.

Our preference in the matter of shooting is for wild bred game, quail and grouse especially. We prefer the shooting of wild ducks on public waters to the shooting of ducks reared on game farms. The reason why the last named are not as good as they should be is that restrictive laws prevent the taking of birds for breeding purposes.

We would like to have you visit some of the quail clubs in which we are interested. You would never imagine you were on a game farm or preserve. In some places, however, the quail are fully as abundant, year after year, as they should be. This is because they are properly looked after and kept sufficiently plentiful to afford a lot of shooting and a lot of food. Freedom would seem to require, however, that those who want an abundance of pheasants and ducks on places where there is no game should have the birds and shoot and eat and sell them. The fact that they will soon send cheap food to market is a sufficient excuse to grant them the right to produce it without danger of being arrested. There are people who find it pays to chop off the heads of chickens and tame ducks raised in barnyards and to send the food to market. To be consistent you should berate these people as "fowl-hogs" if they have many and denounce them for the slaughter. We have opposed the killing of game in this fashion, "otherwise than by shooting," as some "fool laws" have it, because we believe

the incentive to produce the food abundantly is thus destroyed and the incentive to health giving exercise in the country also is destroyed. We have had many good days with the buffalo on the Western plains when we kept an eye out for the noble Red Man to whom you refer, in order to see that he did not pot us while we were potting the bison. We have had many good days on the prairie with the grouse and many good days in Ohio with the quail and we know full well that the times have changed. No one seems to want buffaloes on the farms. There are plenty for sale to fully satisfy the demand. Still the "where are the buffalo" people continue to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in the effort to save the game by securing a few more game laws.

We are perfectly fair. We will not oppose a thousand more laws if they can be so written as to make it appear that nothing in the proposed enactments shall apply to game produced wild or tame by industry, so long as it remains within the boundaries of the farms owned or leased by the producers. We are opposed to enactments which prohibit a food producing industry.

We have old fashioned ideas about sport. We prefer to go out, as we do, and ramble over waste lands and marshes which are unposted and on farms where we can shoot with the permission of their owners. We are fully aware that if we are to shoot without exterminating the game it must be looked after properly; and the reason why we can go out and shoot quail quite near New York is that many clubs with small dues keep some quail for breeding purposes. We shall go out next Friday and shoot quail on unposted land where the birds are not preserved by any one and the reason they are there is we liberated a good lot of quail a few years ago on a club ground where they were protected. The shooting of many thousands of pheasants on the big places produces some shooting on places which are not posted. A man told us he was prejudiced against us for posting some land where a big lot of pheasants later were shot. He had been in the habit of exterminating the quail on this land and only four were left by actual count. The first season after we started he shot 30 pheasants outside of our fence and said he had not found so many quail in 20 years as he found in places quite near his house which are open to the public. It so happened the quail bred largely outside of our ground. Possibly we had too many pheasants.

Your prejudice against shooting hand reared game is based on an ignorance of the subject. The shooting at pheasants and ducks passing overhead is far more difficult than the shooting of quail over dogs and the shooting of ducks settling to decoys are. We produced one year 2,500 ducks about an artificial pond. Many guns shot safely at this place which relieved the shooting on public waters to the extent of the number of guns engaged—about an hundred.

The "more game" movement is based on sound principles. It stands a close inspection from a business and legal point of view. It is good business and it should not be criminal to produce food on a farm. The owner should kill it "otherwise than by shooting" if he wants to, but the laws should not compel such a performance. He should breed it wild under natural conditions if he wishes to do so. All real naturalists have endorsed the "more game" movement. All real sportsmen quickly adopt it when they understand it and in so doing they provide sport for themselves and for others and food for the people to eat.

The times have changed since we used to shoot quail in abundance in Ohio without any

objection. The farmers who see that such work means extermination are right in calling a halt. It is up to the sportsmen to deal fairly with the land owners; to produce before they destroy and the result where such work is done is to keep the game plentiful in a wild state or semi-wild as the owner may prefer. Laws! Laws! Laws! More laws! produce vast revenues for those engaged in the game law industry. The "more game" movement has produced a vast amount of game far more than you would believe without extending your ramble beyond the places where you have seen much. The reason you only see pheasants is your laws have destroyed the opportunity to produce or shoot better game.

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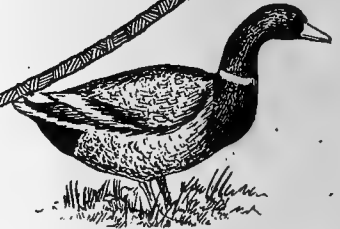
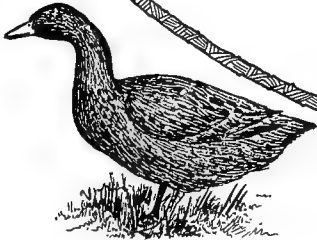
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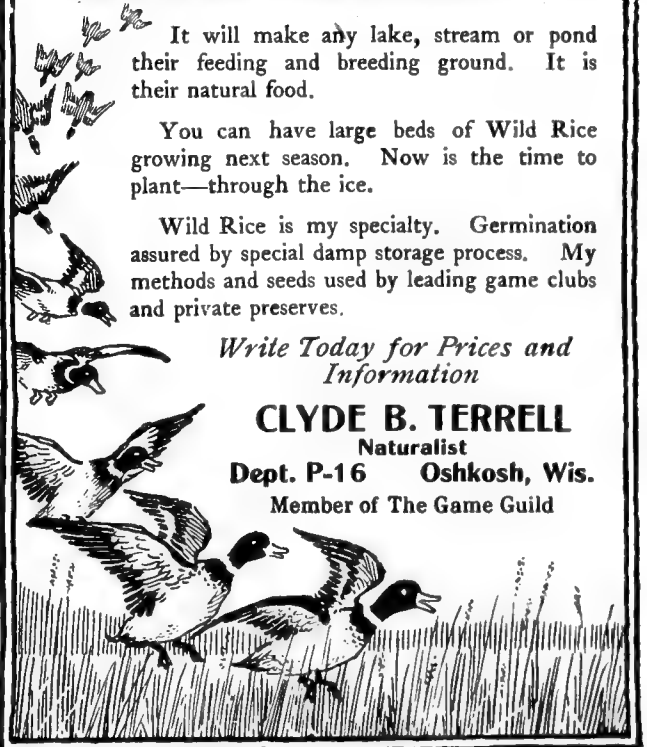
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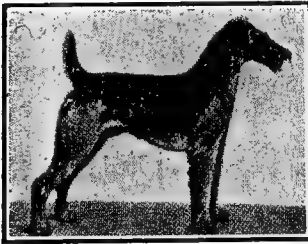
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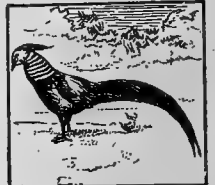
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XII.

FEBRUARY, 1918

No. 5

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

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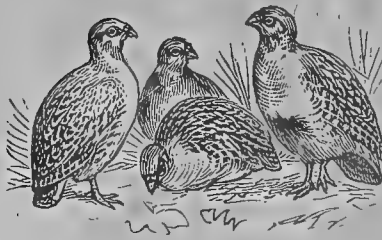
Correspondence—Outings and Innings—Trade Notes.

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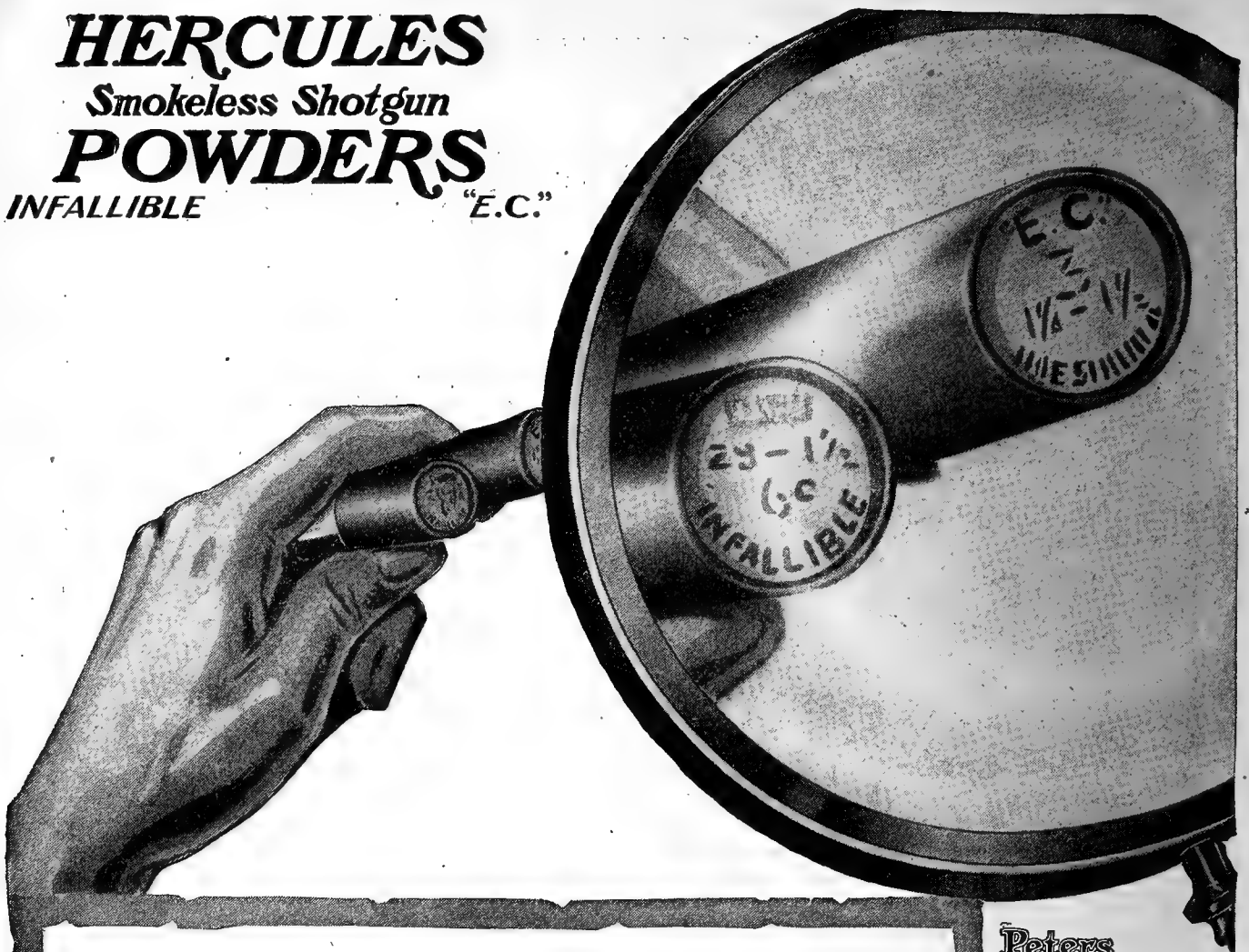
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The Game Breeder

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VOLUME XII

FEBRUARY, 1918

NUMBER 5



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Illegal Food Produced by Industry.

C. E. Caldwell of Crescent, Wash., recently shipped 20 pounds of trout to the Spokane Fish Company, taken from his private hatchery near Crescent. A letter from Mr. Caldwell stated that if the meat substitute could be sold on the local market he had a big supply of trout for the city.

Mr. Henninger, head of the Spokane Oyster and Fish Company, took the matter up with the game commissioner, R. B. Wales, who was doubtful about the sale of the fish as a conflict with the state game law, the fish which were tagged in the gills as specified by state statute, were taken to the retail store of Victor & Johnson and caught the eye of a deputy game warden, who immediately placed the retailers under arrest.

The food administration has been urging the extensive use of fish to conserve the meat supply and under the circumstances it has been urged that some emergency regulation be made by the state authorities to permit the sale of fish from privately owned hatcheries or ponds under a license number.

The matter will be taken up with Mr. Heberd on his return from the Coast.

The courts should put an end to such nonsense instantly. All that would be necessary would be for the court to decide that fish produced by industry and owned by a breeder are not wild fish owned by the State; that the legislature surely did not intend to prevent a food-producing industry.

A test case can be presented and passed on in a few minutes. We suggest to the owner of the trout that he offer the fish to an express company for shipment to a dealer. Let the express company refuse to carry the fish because of its fear that they are State fish, protected by law. Apply for a writ of mandamus compelling the common carrier to transport the food, and in our opinion the court will do the rest.

Ohio Sport.

The Fish and Game Protective Association of Ohio had a "Hooverized" dinner at Hotel Gibson, Cincinnati, recently. "A majority of the sportsmen," the Enquirer says, "appeared in sportsmen's garb. A realistic touch was given the affair by a surprise stunt—the turning loose in the room of a white rabbit and a beagle hound, a merry chase around and under the tables ensuing."

The audience sang "America."

We think a more appropriate hymn would have been "God Save the Rabbit."

Now that the wild turkey and the prairie grouse are extinct in Ohio (excepting the first named bird on a few game farms), the ruffed grouse is nearly extinct, and the quail and dove are on the song bird list, we presume the sportsmen must find something besides field sports to amuse them. We are sure, however, a good old-fashioned cock main would interest us more than worrying a white rabbit in a dining-room would.

=

Sunday Hunting and Fishing.

Fred DeWitt, a New York game protector, says, in the Kingston Leader, that Sunday hunting and fishing is a violation of law in New York, but since it is not a violation of the game laws it is not the duty of game protectors to enforce the provisions of Sec. 2145 of the Penal law, to which he refers. Since sheriffs seem to be under the impression that the game police should look after fish and game crimes the result is the anglers may be seen beside the streams and there is more or less popping of guns with no one to interfere.

Near Trout.

The Washington (D. C.) Times says: "The people here are suffering a bit of fisherman's graft because Washingtonians are determined to ask for trout. The fisherman is bringing a little fish, called Whiting, to town, and the fish peddler is camouflaging it under the undeserved name of winter trout. There is no such thing in the heavens above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth as winter trout."

We are quite sure there are no trout of any kind "in the earth beneath," but we are not prepared to venture an opinion as to what kind of trout are to be found in "the happy hunting grounds" above.

=

More Fish.

An appropriation of \$30,000 has been turned over to the Bureau of Fisheries by President Wilson from his emergency defence fund for promoting the use of new fish foods. The application was recommended by Secretary Redfield and Food Administrator Hoover. Secretary Redfield said today that approximately 25,000 tons of new fish foods already have been sold as a result of propaganda by the Department of Commerce, costing less than \$15,000.

Enactment of laws to stimulate the production of clams was suggested today to Governor Carl E. Milliken, of Maine, by Secretary Redfield. Owing to unfavorable conditions, it was reported by the Bureau of Fisheries that thousands of clams never reached full development, and Secretary Redfield wrote Governor Milliken urging that the State take steps for leasing barren or depleted bottoms for the cultivation of clams.

Why not suggest laws to stimulate the production of game? We hope it will not be long before the game is as creditably handled by the National Government as the fish are. It would be far better to encourage the production of a vast amount of game as food than to create a big number of new crimes which are unknown in any civilized country excepting America, and a vast army of policemen to arrest the people guilty of the fanciful offenses—for having stock birds in their possession for breeding purposes, etc. Congress should ascertain why it is that market gunners in other countries are permitted to supply the people with game for food, just as

fishermen supply them with oysters and fish. The question is big enough for a Congressional investigation and there are plenty of people who know how easy it would be to keep our markets full of game at prices surprisingly small. The Dean of American Sportsmen, Charles Hallock, sent a good message on this subject to the Sportsmen of America, which we published last month, shortly after his death.

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Harmful Deer.

The Newark (N. J.) News says: "The State Department of Conservation and Development has issued an appeal to the agricultural interests of the State to support a measure to be introduced by Assemblyman Hagaman, providing that any person may kill a deer at any time if it is found damaging his crops. The department states that the measure will not be opposed by the State Fish and Game Commission, though it is anticipated it may meet with opposition from other sources."

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More Laws.

The Des Moines (Iowa) Register says: "The second annual meeting of the Iowa Fish and Game Conservation Society will be held at the Elks' Club. The object of the meeting will be to formulate and discuss a program for the securing of new legislation, etc."

Often we have pointed out that the Sportsmen's Associations usually get what they go after, "more laws." We have heard of a bag as high as ninety in one State in a year, and often we wonder when the sportsmen will think they have enough.

Sportsmen who go after "more game" also get what they go after, and we are always glad to hear of places where they have made the game so plentiful that it is not deemed necessary to put it on the song bird list.

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More Hares.

The Fulton County (N. Y.) Fish and Game Club has ordered 300 varying hares, which will be trapped in Maine and shipped early in February.

This in our opinion is better than run-

ning over to Albany to secure a dozen more game laws. We would advise the club members to contribute fifteen or thirty dollars each and to employ one or more men skilled with traps and the gun to look after the grouse and woodcock on a good-sized area. Fifty cents a week from each member would produce a fund sufficient to control a lot of crows, hawks, dogs, cats and other game enemies and the result should be that each member can stop a butcher's bill bigger than the amount of his club dues. There will be some excellent sport for good measure.

We suspect soon there will be a movement to put the ruffed grouse and the woodcock on the song bird list for a period of years or forever. We believe Long Island can be kept exempt from such legislation, as it has been kept open for quail shooting. A club man from the Island (dues \$15 per year) was in the office today and said they had fine quail and grouse shooting last fall and plenty of rabbits. We suggest to the Fulton County Club to have the laws amended so they can have covies of quail in the fields and shoot these birds in addition to the hares. They will require some attention in the winter and should be amply protected during the nesting season. Try for a little "more game and fewer game laws." You will be pleased with the novel experiment. Our advertisers can supply you with some pheasants and ducks and you will find these make an interesting side show or diversion. Try it for a season or two and you will never again run to Albany for more laws.

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Announcement of Live Game Prizes.

Our announcement of prizes of live game awarded to active workers in the "more game" field, for practical communications to The Game Breeder, should have been made last month, but the report of the committee was not received in time for the January issue. Many articles were considered by the committee which were deemed worthy of prizes, but it was decided not to make awards (1) for articles for which

the writers had been paid in cash, (2) for articles written by commercial breeders, (3) for articles about the breeding of non-game species. The committee recommended that one or more special prizes be awarded at the end of this year for articles about the breeding of aviary species. Articles which already had appeared in other publications were not considered, since they evidently were not written for the competition. The following articles, which could not be considered for the reasons stated, were highly commended: "Breeding Amhersts, Golden and Ringnecks," by William Snyder; "Sample Mallards," by E. A. McIlhenney, with excellent photographs of mallards and near mallards; "Game Breeding in Maine," by R. E. Bullock; "Mallards and Near Mallards," by F. B. Dusette; "Mallards, Near Mallards and Wild Turkeys," by R. A. Chiles.

The first prize of live quail was awarded to Rev. R. W. Seigler for his article, "Raising Pheasants."

The second prize of live quail was awarded to Mrs. S. S. Hirsch for her article, "How I Raise Pheasants."

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An Increase in the Number of Prizes.

For articles submitted during the year 1918 the Conservation Society announces six prizes instead of three—and probably there will be several special prizes for articles about breeding the aviary species and about breeding quail and grouse wild in protected fields and woods. Articles about practical personal experiences in breeding any species of game, big or small, or game fish will be eligible to prizes. It is suggested that the most important matters to be described by the writers are details of feeding and rearing, protection from natural enemies, and the cost of production. In writing the articles always bear in mind that our readers want to know how you do it and what it costs. Short letters giving these facts, especially when accompanied by illustrations, make the kind of articles which the Game Conservation Society requests for its competition. Articles about the use of incubators are timely.

There will be at least one and probably more prizes for articles about vermin, what it does, and how to control it. We hope this year to induce more readers to discuss this important subject, and gamekeepers are asked especially to write letters on this subject. Plain letters telling what any species of vermin does and how to control it are what our readers want, we feel sure.

Rev. R. W. Seigler.

Dear Sir: It gives me pleasure to announce, in the absence of our Secretary, who is an officer on one of the ships, that you have been awarded the first prize of live quail. We can ship you now some California quail if you would like to try these, or a little later we can send you bobwhites. The Society only procured a few bobwhites for its experimental farm, but soon it will have more, and if you will send us shipping directions and state which birds you prefer they will be shipped soon.

Very truly yours,

E. DAYTON, Publicity Director,
Game Conservation Society.

Mrs. S. S. Hirsch.

Dear Madam: It gives me pleasure to say that you were awarded our second prize of live quail. We can send California quail now or bobwhites a little later. Please let us know which you prefer and give us shipping directions.

E. DAYTON, Publicity Director,
Game Conservation Society.

Our Policy.

We believe that the United States and Canada should be the biggest game-producing countries in the world. We believe that our state laws should be amended so as to encourage and not to prevent the profitable production of the food by industry.

We believe the state game departments should represent all of the people and should not be conducted as governmental side shows in the supposed interest of sport alone; the necessary result too often being the prohibition of sport. We believe the departments should be of great economic importance to all of the people; that they should look after the game on public lands and waters and on

the vast areas where no one looks after it; that they should license the dealers in game and see that no game stolen from the state or from individuals be sold in violation of law. We believe that the laws should be amended so as to provide that state officers may issue permits to take stock birds for breeding purposes. We believe it should be legal to produce all species of game and to sell all game produced by industry on inclosed-farms; that it should be legal to breed the game in captivity or wild in protected fields where it can be produced cheaply and without fear of diseases.

We are sure sport for all hands will be much better than it is when game is made abundant in many places by those willing to undertake the new industry of game farming.

We believe the people will be friendly to field sports and not hostile when they have plenty of cheap game to eat, as they soon will.

Why Not?

He was a new member of the harbor board in an eastern seaside town and was attending his first meeting. The board was discussing a proposal to place two buoys at the entrance to the harbor for the guidance of mariners. "I beg to propose as an amendment," said the new member, "that one man should be placed there instead of two boys, as the latter are too young for such a responsible position."

40,000 Eggs.

By an error last month the advertisement of Mr. A. J. Park, of Seattle, Wash., read 4,000 eggs. It should have been 40,000 eggs for sale.

Mr. Park in calling attention to the error writes, "If we did not have more than 4,000 it would not pay to advertise. We have orders for over 8,000 eggs now."

A few years ago Eastern Breeders were sending two or three thousand eggs to the West. 5,000 eggs was considered a big number. Now there are many Western game ranches which can furnish 10,000 eggs or more and the eggs have been found to stand the long transportation.

HOW TO PRESERVE QUAIL.

By GENERAL GEORGE W. WINGATE.

Many schemes have been devised for the preservation of quail, such as the destruction of cats and vermin, feeding the birds, and preventing shooting out of season, all of which have their merits.

There is another method, however, which experiment has proved to be superior to all of them, and one I have never seen mentioned; that is, the housing of the birds during the winter season. During this period they are almost helpless; their food supply is bad and is often cut off by snow, the snow not only preventing the birds from getting food but gravel. When heavy snow is followed by freezing, sleet forms, which prevents the coveys which have been covered during the night from escaping, and a huddle of bones in the spring indicates where a big covey has perished. Their tracks on the snow also permit their enemies to follow them, particularly boys and tramps, one shot from whom will destroy a whole covey.

Those clubs, especially on Long Island, who have spent thousands of dollars to stock their grounds, find that the destruction of the quail in winter is far greater than at any other time of the year. They have also found that however difficult it may be to retain quail in captivity during the summer, this is not the case during the winter; that if the quail are trapped and put into a good-sized pen covered with wire, and fed and cared for, they are quiet, will not injure themselves, and will be preserved from the elements and their enemies and come out in the spring in splendid shape. The practice is then to take them in pairs and put each pair into a small coop in a neighborhood where it is desired to have a covey, and after they have been there a few days with food and water, so as to have become accustomed to their surroundings, liberate them. In practically every case where this has been done a good covey has been found to be the result.

Undoubtedly this practice is opposed

to the laws of many States, which prohibit the trapping of quail. This difficulty, however, should be obviated in the same way as is done in respect to the laws affecting the raising of mallard ducks, pheasants and other birds—that is, by modifying the law so that the Conservation Commission, Game Warden or other officials who are vested with authority in the matter will have the discretion of issuing to clubs and others whom they consider to be satisfactory a license to trap and keep quail for purposes of protection and propagation under such regulations as such authorities may prescribe in order that the privilege may not be abused.

If this is done experience demonstrates that there will be an increase in the number of quail which will be found in the spring of three times what it is under the present law which prevents any kind of trapping. It will be observed that the fundamental principle in this is to vest in the authorities—and not to open the door to everybody—such discretion. These officials will undoubtedly use a sound discretion in granting licenses, and if this is done the benefits which will result will be far greater than any evils which possibly could arise.

New York, January 5, 1918.

Hail in Kansas.

A dispatch from Reamsville, Kansas, says the drifts of hail stones last July were so huge that farmers were able to scoop the stones up in great quantities and pack them in caves to be used as ice during the hot season. The stones range in size from a marble to a hen egg and melted into compact masses keep as well as ice stored in winter.

We wonder if the hail killed many prairie grouse and quail.

You can get better prices than ever before if you will send a small advertisement offering the products of your game farm.

"MORE GAME" AND CROWS.

By J. FRESTON.

I have been an interested reader of your publication for more than a year. I have gotten much enjoyment and much benefit out of the game and the hunting thereof since I was first permitted to take out my father's old muzzle-loader, so I am with you for "more game."

It is in the interest of "more game" that I am going to tell you about the crows and their work, and in the hope that we can all work to develop a remedy.

Last spring Dan Barnard had a woodcock's nest in his swamp and a partridge (ruffed grouse) nest with 14 eggs at the edge of his woods, and he kept a friendly eye on them, as Dan is a hunter, too.

One day he found the woodcock gone and the four eggs punctured and sucked by the crows, and a few days later he visited the partridge nest and found the same thing there—14 punctured eggs and the partridge gone.

Theo. Rhoades and Fred Taber of this place were hunting quail a few years ago, when quail were plenty here, and they saw a crow flying after a flying quail—diving this way and that as the quail dodged, and finally catching it when the quail dove into a bunch of deep grass. They were able to kill the crow and get the quail, which he had already killed.

Joe Kaley of this place saw a crow drop down out of a maple tree over the road and catch a young chick partly grown and only fifteen feet from him—and the crow got away with it, too.

Now we have a colony of crows that roost on the bank of the Hudson across from Poughkeepsie — thousands and thousands of them — and each morning they spread out over the country for miles around and are hunting all day long till they come home in droves or strings from all directions at night or just about dusk.

The result is that we no longer have the song of the quail in the land; the

woodcock has become very scarce, and the partridge is almost extinct; and I blame the crow more than any other one or half dozen causes for it. I have seen dozens of empty birds' eggs in my garden, under shade trees, on the road, but I never realized till Dan Barnard told me of the work they had done that it was the crow's work and that each shell meant a robbed bird's nest.

Is there anything that can be said in favor of the crow? Is he an insect eater, a weed destroyer, a food producer or an ornament? Does he sing? He is not, and he does not. But he is a persistent destroyer of the birds that do these things, and he has so increased in numbers in the last couple of years that he has cleaned out most of our game, and I come to you for a remedy.

I did not realize till a few days ago how much the crow had done. Then I spent the afternoon with dog and gun tramping through the hills and mountains, through swales, over ground that had always shown me birds before, but I was unable to find a bird—on ground that I *knew* was first-class partridge ground—but they were gone; and I had pictures in my mind of the crows searching out the nests, sucking the eggs or killing the young, as I know they can do.

They are too wise to be shot or trapped, so the only remedy left is poison. And now comes the question: Is it justified and is it necessary? Can the crow fill the place of the game and song birds he has destroyed, is destroying or is going to destroy?

It is up to you to find the answer.

Very truly yours,

For *more game*: J. FRESTON.
New York.

More About the Crow.

We have published much about the crow and the necessity for its control. We have made also some practical experiments, con-

(Continued on page 144.)

PHEASANT REARING FOR THE BEGINNER.

By E. M. MENGEL.

The pheasant industry, like poultry, is a paying proposition if it is managed right. After the pheasants are a few weeks old they are very hardy and do not get diseases if they are kept out of the wet and damp. They like the open air the best and all that they need for shelter is a shed with the three sides shut to keep out the wind. They prefer sitting out in the open if you have something there for them to perch upon. I try to make it as near natural for them as possible. I get pine trees and boughs from the mountains and put them in their pens in heaps, twice or three times a year. In a few months they trim them so that nothing is left but the wood. On a cold winter's night I can go out to my pens and find them roosting on the pine boughs, although I have perches under the roofing. I have my pens built like a shed, with a yard attached. This is about as neat a pen as you can build.

There are many different varieties of pheasants; the most popular are the English, ringneck, goldens, silvers and Amhersts and Reeves. There are also, besides the rare and higher priced pheasants, Swinhoe, Manchurian eared, Peacock, Impeyan, etc. They are all easily raised, providing you have the knowledge, and care for them properly. The beginner should get all the books he can afford on pheasants, study them, and using his good judgment he will soon be able to raise pheasants.

Do not think that you can raise them all, or that every egg will hatch. They die, and some eggs are infertile, as chickens' eggs are, and you are up against the same trouble as you are when raising poultry. One thing I like about pheasants, all you raise you can be sure will be first-class specimens, providing you have thoroughbred stock to breed from. They all come true to color, etc., while in poultry you can raise a hundred chicks and you will have trouble in finding a few nearly perfect specimens. So this

is where you gain in pheasants—you get the same price for all that you raise, while with poultry you have first culls selling at market price, next utility breeders, and then fancy and exhibition breeders, so you are getting practically three prices.

To the beginner I would say: first build your pen, say a shed twelve feet long and six feet wide (same can be built as long as desired, allowing six feet for each pen), the height can be made to suit your requirements and taste (I make my pens six in front and four feet in back, and runs six feet high). This will give you two pens, each six by six feet. To these attach your yards or runs, say about eighteen feet long; cover these runs with one-inch mesh wire netting (to keep out sparrows). If you use two-inch mesh the sparrows will eat more feed than the pheasants, and might carry lice and disease. I would use five-foot wire netting for the sides, and having a footboard running lengthwise at the bottom; this will prevent the cocks from fighting. I would make a door or gate at each end of the pen, one at the wire run and the other at back of shed. This will enable you to avoid passing the birds when you want to work in the shed and will not make the birds shy, and it will prevent them from flying against the pens and killing themselves, since if you have two passage ways the birds can always go to one end of the yard when you are working at the other end. The pens now ready, you will have two pens; each pen will accommodate as high as five birds.

The ringnecks can be mated four hens to a cock; the golden, two to three; Amherst, one to two; silver in pairs, Swinhoes in pairs. Having the pens ready, I would select the best pheasants obtainable; get a pair or a trio of whichever variety you choose. I believe the beginner would not make a mistake by starting with the ringnecks, golden or silvers,

as they are not so expensive as the others; good birds can be bought from ten to fifteen dollars a pair. Add the different varieties as you think advisable.

When the hatching season arrives have a half dozen or so cochin bantams on hand to do your hatching, as they like to hatch and are light and make good mothers for pheasants. For setting them I use regular orange boxes. I make a roof over them with roofing paper, and make a gate of half-inch mesh netting; this will keep the young pheasants from straying away as they are hatched out. These coops are set on the ground alongside of my pen or some other convenient place; this keeps the eggs moist and helps the hatching. I always like to have everything as near nature as possible.

Now after the pheasants are hatched out do not feed the young pheasants anything for the first 48 hours, then their first feed may consist of boiled eggs chopped up fine, with onion tops; a custard made of eggs and milk is very good for them. I would advise using the prepared pheasant foods in addition to the above; later they can be given the pre-

pared steam-cooked chick feed. I would advise using steam-cooked chick feed for both pheasants and chicks; it does not cost much more than the regular feed. Fine ground bone and fresh meat are very good, but great care must be taken that you do not give them any stale meat.

I cannot see why anybody cannot make a success in pheasant rearing; the demand is great and the best prices are realized. The breeders are comparatively few, but they are steadily increasing in numbers, so now is the time to get in line for this coming business while the booming is good.

Secure all the information you can and then use your own good judgment and the pheasant business will pay you better than any other business in the breeding line.

Any breeder will be glad to supply you with information on the varieties that he breeds. Now is the time to get started, and to have your pens ready with the pheasants, so that they will be used to the surroundings when the breeding season arrives.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Quail Breeding.

One of our Western members, who has been very successful in breeding bobwhite quail, writes: "Now you ask how I went about the rearing of quail. I would advise anyone raising quail to use a .22-caliber rifle to kill the king or leader of the various covies. I had about 60 pair of quail, and they divided up in bunches, with their king or leader sitting in the center, to give the alarm signal if anything approached their camp. I took my rifle and killed these leaders through a hole made in the building. From that time, after the kings were killed, I could approach the birds without seeing them go to the top of the cage, and soon the birds became very tame. As soon as the birds began to pair in the

lot (which they would not do as long as their leaders were with them) I would turn them loose and they would nest and hatch within from 20 to 30 feet from where they were kept in captivity. Nearly all mated and raised their young. Very few mated so long as their leader remained among them. The birds nested mostly in currant and blackberry bushes by the fence."

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Owls, Pheasants and Jump Traps.

Here is something about our game law in Illinois. This spring I received an inquiry for 10 owls, and they had been catching my pheasants. I thought I might get a little out of them as part pay for my birds they had caught, so I called the Game Warden and asked him about

the law on owls. He told me they were on the song-bird list and that I had better not sell any, but if they caught my birds I could kill them if they were killing my birds. I keep a few jump-traps setting around the farm and catch some now and then and crack their heads.

Illinois. G. H. HARRIS.

[Those who have heard the tuneful owl in the night readily can imagine how he was mistaken for a singer by the lawmakers. But as Little Red Riding Hood would say, Oh, my What big feet he has! These are to catch pheasants, quails and turkeys with.—Editor.]

A New Wild Goose.

BRANTA EXIMO DUSETTI.

Geographical Distribution. Local. Confined at present to one ranch in Michigan, U. S. A. Breeds throughout its range, which promises soon to be much extended.

Adult. Head and neck black, possibly with a slight greenish tinge by electric

across the under tail feathers. Legs and feet greenish gray (also by Yonkers electric light, not very good at the time, probably due to coal shortage). Bill black. Eyes shot out in specimen (probably with No. 6 shot), so no color of iris can be given.

Total length 38 inches; wing 19; tarsus 3; culmen 2; weight $9\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. Bully on the table when roasted and served, as he was, with cranberry sauce.

Downy young. Probably yellowish gray. This is a mere guess. No specimen available for description. Eggs not in season at this time of the year, probably similar to those of *Branta Canadensis*.

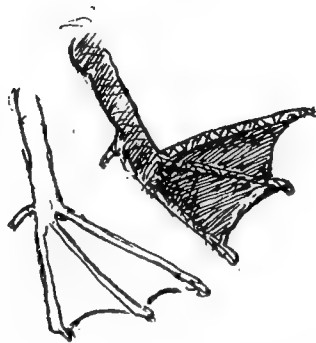
This new wild goose (sent to me for identification and for my dinner) is a most valuable addition to our family, the Anatidæ. I have described it from the single specimen forwarded by the inventor and breeder. Express prepaid (thanks). Possibly it should be listed

Plate I



Branta Eximo Duseti
skinned from death - showing eye
shot out by No. 6. See technical
Description.

Plate II



Feet of Branta Eximo
made just before he went to
the cook.

light (we looked him over at night just before he went to the kitchen to be plucked); a triangular patch of silvery white on each cheek extending across the throat (suggesting our common wild goose, *Branta Canadensis*, in his make-up or ancestry); upper parts dark brown, the feathers tipped with light yellowish brown; primaries and rump dark brown; tail black; lower parts grayish brown; anal region white; upper tail coverts white with lines of dark brown at tips of feathers and small dark lines

as a Near-*Branta* on account of its habit of breeding in a near wild State and its resemblance to *Branta Canadensis*, our common wild goose, from which, however, it is easily distinguished. This goose is said to be fairly strong on the wing and a good sporting proposition. Probably its speed can be tuned up by a cross with *Branta Canadensis* or with *Philacte Canagica*, *Branta Bernicla*, or any old wild goose, all of which are speedy. A cross with *Anser Fabalis*, the Bean Goose, would seem desirable since

this would lend additional meaning to the technical name "Eximo," which will be explained later, and the Bean Goose is said to be a very wary bird (Elliot). The flesh of *Branta Eximo* is dark, tender, juicy and delicious, strongly resembling the young of *Branta Canadensis* when feeding right.

By far the most important fact in the life history of this species is that it is totally exempt from restrictive game laws, and on this account it quickly can be made an abundant food. It can be handled in broad daylight, so to speak, even in game prohibition States, as freely as the Pekin duck or the Mallard, *Anas Boschas*, can be handled, the last named, of course, only in States which recently have repaired their game laws. On account of this peculiar advantage I have named the new species *Eximo* (*Lat. Ex, Emo; Eximo*), which indicates that this *Branta* declares "I am exempt!"

P. S. The breeder, Mr. Dusette, says this is the only wild fowl he is permitted to send out of Michigan. Warning: Don't get him on the song-bird list.

P. S. No. 2. I can only present the portrait (head profile, Plate I) of this species and the feet, Plate II (which last named are most important in enabling it to escape the attention of game wardens) since I did not have time to make a complete drawing of the body—cook said if I didn't send him right in he would not be plucked in time for dinner. He was eight days on the road from Bad Axe to New York, probably due to freight congestion on account of the war, but he arrived sound and sweet at the office of *The Game Breeder*. Seldom have I eaten a finer wild fowl.

Albino Wild Duck Shot By a Wisconsin Sportsman.

One of our Minnesota readers sends the following from the Minneapolis Tribune:

Prairie du Chien, Wis.—M. Brooks, a hunter of this vicinity, has a queer duck for a trophy and has had it mounted to preserve as a curiosity. He brought it down in the wild rice fields of the Mississippi near here. It is pure white

from head to tip of tail and has red eyes. The bird was flying in a large flock of ducks and was plainly distinguishable from the rest a long ways off.

White blackbirds, white robins, white English sparrows, and even white crows have been known, but hunters who have hunted ducks for a lifetime on the Mississippi—the greatest migratory highway for aquatic birds in the world—say it is the first white wild duck they have ever seen or heard of.

They are puzzled to understand, conspicuous in appearance as it is, how the duck was ever permitted to grow to maturity and get this far south without being shot.

Interested in Game Farming.

The Game Conservation Society:

The game farming industry is a business in which I am greatly interested and I earnestly believe it will become eventually one of the leading and most profitable of all rural industries. I take great pleasure in reading your excellent publication and anxiously await each edition. I sincerely trust that in the near future you will find it profitable to issue it weekly.

With your large acquaintance among game breeders and your intimate knowledge of the game breeding industry, I would greatly appreciate your advice as to whether or not a profitable farm could be established in Minnesota. Also, if you have any data as to the probable cost of establishing such a plant exclusive of the initial cost of the land and would appreciate receiving same.

Finally, what are the terms and conditions of membership in the Game Conservation Society?

Yours for more game,

N. R. HOFFMAN.

Subscribing members pay \$1 per year. Guild members pay \$2 per year and receive prompt answers on any subject and other assistance. Contributing members pay \$5 per year. This is simply a voluntary contribution to the general work of the society. Life members pay \$100. The resources of the society are expended in the effort to mitigate the hardships imposed by law on breeders and to aid in creating new game shooting clubs and other customers for game farmers. The industry is profitable as you can learn by writing to any

of our advertisers. Many stop advertising because they can not fill their orders.

An excellent plan is to purchase a farm containing some swamp land, ponds, etc., for ducks and geese. Pheasants and wild turkeys, quail and prairie grouse all can be reared on a farm which will produce grain. Some corn makes excellent cover and shade. It is a good plan to rent the shooting or breeding rights on some adjoining farms so the turkeys, pheasants, etc., can have a wide range and find much of their food. Prairie grouse and sharp-tailed grouse would be one of the easiest and most profitable crops—provided you can get some stock birds and your laws permit you to sell the birds. They should be bred wild on land planted with hedges of wild rose, sunflowers and other foods and covers, between the fields so that the birds will be safe when the fields are plowed under and foods and covers are destroyed. Ruffed grouse can be kept fairly abundant in a safe woodland, but in your State you can not even shoot them. We suggest that you organize the breeders, farmers and sportsmen in your State who are willing to rear game and get your laws amended so that it be no longer criminal to profitably produce the desirable foods on the farms. All intelligent sportsmen quickly adopt the more game idea when they understand it. The States which have the most liberal laws are the States where the Game Breeder has the largest circulation. The breeders do not seem to have a very fair chance in your State to breed the best birds—the grouse. It is to be hoped that some of the farmers can be induced to hold on to their prairie grouse until they can sell them for breeding stock. The man who thus saved the bison is reported to have made about \$200,000.

When the farmers understand that grouse are valuable, quickly the laws can be amended and the game made abundant and profitable. We fear the birds may be "protected off the face of the earth," before the people realize how valuable they are.

As to land values, we do not know what they are in your State. Any farm agent can inform you. You should pay 5 or 10 cents per acre rent for the additional land. This is what the big quail preserve owners pay in several States where they have made quail plentiful and keep them so.

Note From an Amateur.

I purchased a setting of ringnecks this spring and hatched nine. The hen killed one by kicking a piece of sod on it. I have the eight growing finely at two weeks.

I have them in an enclosed yard, 15 by 30, but I wish to know more about the "small movable pen" mentioned in The Game Breeder in an article on

"More About Pheasant Pens." I intend to raise all I possibly can next season and thought I would do better as a beginner to buy the eggs, as I would get the experience in raising sooner than I would by buying a pair of older birds and waiting a season.

I have had no difficulty whatever in raising them so far.

But I wish to know your idea as to whether to divide my yard into two pens "while I am fixing yard" for future use, or build a small movable pen, and how would I manage for shelter with movable pen?

I would appreciate any help you can give me.

I have been very successful with hens and chickens, for I love the work. I am very much interested in pheasants, and if I succeed with these I shall add other birds.

I purchased my eggs of Miss Helen Bartlett, Cassopolis, Mich. They cost me \$3.50 for eggs, 32 cents for expressage, but I consider the money well spent so far anyway.

MRS. MARTIN ALMY.

You can sell all the eggs and birds you may have to sell by placing a small advertisement in The Game Breeder.

More About Pheasant Pens.

Many of the most successful pheasant breeders now use a large pen made of boards with a roof of chicken wire to prevent the birds from flying out and to prevent hawks and crows from getting in. A board pen is better than a wire pen, since passing dogs and cats by day and foxes and other vermin by night do not alarm the birds. A small mesh wire should be fastened to the bottom of the pen on all sides and bent outward under ground to keep small ground vermin and dogs from digging under the sides of the pen. Rats and other vermin leave signs of their work where they have endeavored to dig an entrance and are checked by the wire, and traps set outside of the pen will catch many game enemies.

A furrow is run by a plow around the line of the proposed fence; the small mesh wire is bent flat in this furrow and

the sod should be replaced over it. A member of the Game Conservation Society, who had a pen full of pheasants and neglected to wire the outside, in the manner just described, reported that a dog dug under his fence in the night and killed all of his birds.

It is advisable to divide the large pen into two or more parts, making a cross-fence of chicken wire with a gate that can be opened to let the pheasants pass from one pen to the other. Pheasants quickly destroy the grass in a pen, and if the birds are kept out of one part of the pen until the grass is well up they can then be permitted to go to the new ground by opening the gate between the inclosures.

A good-sized pen should have some brush placed at intervals running across it so as to make small hedges or covers. The brush is best placed against a cross stick or support, leaning it up on each side, leaving an avenue beneath to which there should be frequent openings. The cock birds will indulge in fighting during the breeding season and if the pen be a small one, without the small covers referred to, one cock may kill many or all of the others. When the cocks can run into and out of the little hedges and are screened by them, when with the hens on one side or the other, the losses due to fighting are inconsiderable, and possibly the exercise incident to the birds chasing one another may be beneficial.

Movable pens that are big enough to be desirable are difficult to move. At some pheasantries they are moved by horse power, but the large pen seems to be used more on the game farms and preserves we have visited, and we have no doubt the skilled game farmers and keepers would use the movable pens more than they do if there was any advantage in so doing. The large pen is the only kind we have ever used.

If the pens are to be used year after year the ends should be made so that they can be taken down easily, so as to be able to run a plow through the pen. It is a good plan to have a second pen on fresh ground and to plow up and

plant the ground in the old pen after it has been used for two seasons. Always there is danger of disease if a pen be used year after year.

We shall be glad to have letters from keepers who have used movable pens. We have only seen them at one place and the birds did not appear to us to look as well there as we have seen them on many big game farms and preserves when the big pens are used.

Small breeders and breeders of the expensive aviary species often use small pens containing one cock and four or five hens. The big pen is the one most used on shooting preserves and game farms where large numbers of birds are reared for sport or for sale to shooting clubs.

A Summer of Calamities.

[The writer says the following description of wild turkey difficulties is not for publication. We always heed such requests but we are sure there will be no objection to our quoting the part of the letter which refers to the difficulties encountered.—Editor.]

Last summer was a summer of calamities. First crows got the eggs of my wild turkeys in the breeding pens; next a dog did the same until at last I poisoned him. Then owls got the little ones; then gapes. At last I turned them all out with tame mothers and this went well for a while, then they began rambling all up and down the river until a man who lives three miles from me sent for me to come and get them. There were thirty in that flock.

I had to put them up and a mink got one each night so I let them out and they vanished. Nor did I find them until last Sunday and five more were gone. But the one with shot in his breast and crop told the story of how that one and his brethren had been going. But I still have some beauties.

(Continued from page 138.)

trolling the crows and other vermin, with excellent results. If you could see (as we have) ruffed grouse, pheasants and quail all in the air at once within a few yards of the house, and if you could hear the rapid popping of the guns and the thump of the big birds as they struck the ground, you would

agree, we are sure, that we applied the proper remedy.

You say it is up to us to "find the answer." Here it is: A liberal use of the Remington pump and automatic guns, most valuable aids to game preserving and a liberal use of Oneida traps properly placed soon will show a decrease not only in the number of crows, but also of hawks, snakes, minks, weasels, cats, dogs, rats and other game enemies that know that eggs and birds are very good to eat.

At the place where quail, grouse and pheasants all were shot over one point in a little wood quite near the house a lot of mallards and black ducks might be seen on the ponds where they were safe not only from vermin, but also from the guns—the game being to shoot them away from their home pond.

There were crows in abundance on the ground referred to, and at the outset they beat us to a few eggs and young ducks, but soon it was amusing to see them fly high and well out of range when they passed over the preserved area. We were tempted to use poison, but did not. We do not favor it if it can be avoided. It seems to us, also, to be more sporty to circumvent Mr. Crow, et al., with the Remington and the Oneida.

You can form a protective association and procure one more game law (putting the ruffed grouse on the song bird list, as they did recently in Minnesota), in the hope that the crows will stop eating eggs and birds, or you can form a game breeders' association and hire a few beat keepers who soon will show you a lot of quail as well as ruffed grouse and woodcock with some pheasants, mallards, black ducks and wild turkeys for good measure, if you care for these. Your woods will stand a big lot of shooting and we suggest that you form a big club with a hundred or more members; make the annual dues 50 cents or a dollar a week and you all will get more than your money's worth in excellent meat.

The trouble is you and your friends have been shooting the stock birds left for breeding purposes by the crows, hawks and other eaters which always have had plenty of eggs and birds for their food and always would have if you had not upset nature's balance by your additional, and often excessive, "check to increase" as the naturalists would term shooting. There never is enough game for vermin and the guns. It is up to the guns to see that vermin does not take much of the game if they wish to preserve field sports. You can have so much game that it will pay to sell some of it to help pay for the necessary expenses and what is more important to give the dear people a taste of the game they are said to own and thus make them friendly to sport. The big danger is that field sports will come to an end at the hands of game prohibitionists, but this danger will cease as it did in England when the people get a taste of cheap game—EDITOR.

Miss Heien Barlett has moved from Cassopolis, Michigan, and now has her game farm at Niles, Michigan. We believe she would do well to move a little farther south—on the Kankakee—and add prairie grouse to her collection.

Dr. H. K. Job has an excellent article on Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure, in the January issue of the American Museum Journal in which he points out that "it is most important that legislation should encourage and promote the propagation of game and not obstruct it.

Since Dr. Job is a member of the Audubon Association, we hope he will suggest to the law department of the society the importance of excepting game breeders from the many laws it advocates putting game birds on the song bird list. Who on earth can be expected to preserve game birds for profit or sport if the laws provide that no one can take or eat a bird?

A prominent New York man, who recently spent some time in the office of The Game Breeder discussing the problems of "More Game and Fewer Game Laws" said he feared the protective organizations might be handling game breeding as a sort of camouflage for their activities in getting more laws which would put an end to the industry.

Surely the recent successful efforts to put the quail and the grouse on the song bird list do not indicate any desire to have these birds made profitable or plentiful either for sport or for pleasure. All such laws should contain a clause stating they do not apply to the breeders of quail or grouse.

Can the Heath Hen Come Back?

From Albany, N. Y., under date of March 17, comes a press report announcing that an effort is being made by the Conservation Commission to bring back the heath hen, the Eastern relative of the prairie chicken, to New York, where in a previous century it flourished and was abundant.

The Conservation Commissioner, George D. Pratt, in his annual report to the legislature, says of the new venture:

"The heath hen, one of the first game birds to be protected by law in New York, but extinct in the State for many years, has been returned to its native range as a result of co-operation recently effected by the Conservation Commission with the Commissioners on Fisheries and Game of the State of Massachusetts.

"Twenty-one of the birds have been taken from the Martha's Vineyard Reservation, where they have been protected from extermination by the careful work of the Massachusetts Commission, and have been liberated upon the State game farm at Middle Island, Long Island, where it is hoped that they will multiply and eventually spread over a large part of the territory once inhabited by them."

[We doubt much if the Heath Hen ever can come back unless it receives some practical protection. It is a very easy mark and an easy prey to vermin. It vanished quickly on Long Island when shooting was added to the ordinary checks to increase and there are more guns now and more dogs and cats than there were at the time the bird was exterminated. We hardly believe it would survive in many places if shooting be prohibited (unless game preserving be undertaken) because no one would look after it properly and being a large and easy mark and very good to eat those who are forgetful about game laws would probably take a shot at it when out rabbit shooting.—Editor.]

The Game Breeder:

Can you give me the name of any private fish hatchery or anyone else from whom I can purchase some mountain trout for stocking private ponds and aquariums. I enclose stamped envelope for reply.

Indiana.

Frank C. Evans.

Write to the Yama Farms. Address Fish Dept., Napanoch, Ulster County, New York. Our readers report excellent results from trout purchased from Yama Farms.

Black Bass.

Last month we published the advertisement of The Blooming Grove Club offering to purchase small-mouth black bass for re-stocking. We only know of two commercial black bass hatcheries in America and these, no doubt, cannot fill their orders. We shall be interested to hear from the club if they secured any

bass and from our readers if they know any places where bass can be purchased for re-stocking or for breeding purposes.

In some of the States it is illegal to breed and sell black bass, strange as such a food-producing crime may appear. But it is not so very long since we heard a resolution offered at an annual meeting of the New York Sportsman's League which advocated an amendment to the laws permitting trout breeders to sell trout. The resolution was denounced by some as an "entering wedge." It would not be long they said before some one would propose to sell game. The writer proposed this before the meeting adjourned.

We have now hundreds of commercial trout breeders who produce millions of trout and members of The Game Conservation Society now produce millions of game animals which are shot and eaten and sold both alive for propagation and as food.

It seems strange that the bass and the quail should excite the animosities of a lot of game law enthusiasts when it is proposed to make these foods plentiful.

The breeding of black bass is more difficult, no doubt, than the breeding of trout. The methods of the breeders are quite different. We hope to publish some articles about bass breeding before long and that this industry may become as common and profitable as trout breeding is.

In answer to an inquiry addressed to the Bureau of Fisheries at Washington we received the following:

"In reply to your letter of October 15 you are advised that the Bureau has no list of hatcheries that propagate small-mouth black bass. The Bureau's stock of that species for this season has become exhausted, but if you desire a limited number next May or June it is thought that they can be furnished from one of the Bureau's propagating stations. There is inclosed herewith a blank upon which formal application may be made."

H. M. SMITH, Commissioner.

Hon. J. W. Titcomb, one of the best fish culturists in the United States, and now at the head of the New York Department, wrote that he only knew of the two commercial bass hatcheries which we mentioned in our letter to him.

There would seem to be an excellent

opportunity for the starting of this industry in many parts of the country. There undoubtedly will be an increasing demand for bass to restock ponds on country places and preserves. Many people have lakes and ponds well filled with bass and would be willing to sell some of their fish if it were legal to do so.

Bass should, of course, be abundant and cheap in all our markets.

The game shooting clubs are doing far more good for the shooting public and eating than the quiet refuges do, since when the shooting is lively many birds desert and are shot in places miles away from the breeding grounds.

Over a thousand ducks went out one season from The Game Breeders' Association on Long Island, N. Y., where they were reared about an artificial pond from purchased stock birds.

It seems strange for some sportsmen to be in favor of establishing vast areas as quiet sanctuaries where no one can shoot and where no food is produced for the people to eat, and to be opposed to lively shooting clubs where game is bred and shot abundantly. There is plenty of room in America for all kinds of game preserving and the game breeders laws rapidly have resulted in many tons of game being produced and shot by those who prefer field sports to game laws.

The First Letter About It.

Editor Game Breeder:

Since talking with you about the States which would send the most game to the hospitals and the betting on the result, it occurs to me it is hardly fair to the other States for the Conservation Society to locate its new farm in the State selected (New Jersey, I understand), and give the entire amount of your game to the hospitals. This gives the State selected a decided lead in production. You know what I think my State can do. I would like to see it win.

H. R. S.

[You are quite right. We will leave out the amount of game produced on the new farm of the society. We doubt if we will produce much over a ton of game, since we are ex-

perimenters, and experiments do not always produce the best results the first year. We only produced about three tons of game the second year of our experiment at the Game Breeders' Association. Whatever we do we will leave it out when the figures in the competition are made up. New Jersey was talked about but we have lands offered in other places that seem even more suitable to our requirements.—EDITOR.]

Game Ranches.

We like much the term "game ranch" used in the article of Mr. F. B. Dusette. It is legal to have cattle ranches and sheep ranches, why should we not have big deer ranches, grouse ranches, duck ranches and ranches for quail and other game. There are no better foods than the game foods, and food production just now is popular. The Game Conservation Society encourages the game ranch for sport and for profit and we always are glad to record the creation of new ranches.

Good News.

The following telegram received by The Game Breeder is self-explanatory. It will be good news for quail breeders:

GOV'T RUSH.

Western Union Telegram.

Washington, D. C., 527P.24.

Importation Mexican Quail Will be Permitted Beginning February Fifteen.

HENDERSON,

Acting Chief Biological Survey.

"More."

What a great, big word "more" has become recently since The Game Breeder set the "more game" movement going. The race between "more laws" and "more game" is exciting. We have placed all of our money on the last named horse.

We hope our members will respond promptly to a circulation proposition which soon they will receive in the mail.

Many members are calling for our subscription blanks who say they wish to increase the circulation of The Game Breeder.

The Game Breeder

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A WONDERFUL ORNITHOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

Readers are urged to read the description of a new wild goose, *Branta Eximo* Dusetti, printed on another page.

Possibly some of the older ornithologists may regard the description as too lightly written and may criticize the statement that the goose's eye was shot out, probably with No. 6 shot, and also the suggestion to cross him with the bean goose, *Anser Fabalis*, in order to give him more speed and wariness, but we would remind them that it is such details which interest the sporting naturalist, for whose eye our pages largely are prepared. Plates I and II, specially constructed to accompany the text, we feel sure will meet their approval.

All must regard it as a great ornithological triumph to construct a wild goose entirely exempt from prohibitive game laws, as this wild goose is. It came right out of a game prohibition State directly into that tight market area, New York, and was eaten by the editor without anyone being arrested! We regard these remarkable facts as a sufficient justification for the enthusiastic details in the technical description such as "He is bully on the table when roasted and served with cranberry sauce, as he was," etc.

The discovery of this new wild goose is far more important than the discov-

ery of Bevo and other near-beers was to the thirsty citizens of Norfolk, Va. We were there when they first began to suffer. We sincerely hope that if the migratory bird treaty bill, which might catch this splendid fowl in its mesh of regulations, fails, as it should, that no constitutional amendment ever will be proposed to close all of the states to this excellent food. The discovery of *Branta Eximo* is far more important from an economic point of view than people not versed in the game laws would believe. In our opinion it far out-Bevos Bevo and the other near things for the thirsty, and if all our other game shall be "protected" out of existence and goes the way of the bison and the wild pigeon, *Branta Eximo* may survive and become abundant and cheap in the market. In future years it may be pointed out with pride by those who would claim there still is some food freedom in "the land of the free."

A near-wild food of the splendid character (see technical description) is far more important than a near drink.

THE CROW! THE CROW!

The story about the New York crows and their work sent by Mr. J. Freston is remarkable and valuable. Now that the crows have taken to hunting our song birds, bobwhite, on the wing, as the hawks do, and also "suck" all the eggs in the woodcock and "partridge" nests, it would seem high time to control some of the "beneficial crows." But who can be found to do this when the game protective societies, led by the wildlifer, succeed in putting the woodcock and the partridge on the song bird list in New York?

The remedy to us seems plain. "Keep the game laws off the game farms and shooting grounds" where sportsmen and farmers take the trouble to protect the game from its enemies and to keep it plentiful.

All that is necessary is for the protectives and the Audubons not to go too fast when they go after more game laws. Laws prohibiting shooting (or making song birds of the game, as it is commonly

expressed since The Game Breeder exhibited bobwhite in a cage on its cover) should always contain a clause that they do not apply to game produced by industry—the protection from enemies being an important part of the industry.

MORE ABOUT BRANTA EXIMO.

The inventor of Branta Eximo, described in this issue, says when we wish to shoot something larger than a duck we go after the geese. The half-bred wild goose, for which enclosed find express receipt, I shot flying at fifty yards with No. 6 shot which we always use in all our wild goose shooting.

QUAIL IN WINTER.

The paper by General George W. Wingate, "How to Preserve Quail," printed in this issue, is interesting, timely and important. The losses of quail due to climate often are severe not only in New York but in all of the Northern States. It is the habit of our quails, which are terrestrial birds, to sit quietly on the ground until the snow covers them, often to a depth of some feet. If the snow does not freeze the covey will burst through it and fly away in search of food, which unfortunately cannot be found on many of the closely cultivated fields, where the wild rose, the sumac, the wild sunflower and other wild foods have been destroyed in the interest of agriculture. When the snow freezes on top and an ice crust is formed the quails are imprisoned and perish miserably. Often not a bird survives on vast areas.

On one of our favorite shooting grounds in Ohio, where it was an easy matter some years ago for a party of four guns to shoot a wagon-load of quail in a week, the quail were practically exterminated during a severe winter storm when an ice crust formed on the snow. We tramped for several days, the following autumn, over this famous quail ground, and although we had excellent dogs we failed to find any quail excepting one small bevy of twelve birds which flew up into the beech trees, where we

left them without firing a gun. We had become convinced that the quail practically had been exterminated.

The enactment of laws prohibiting shooting for a term of years may result in an increase of the game, but a little shooting in States where the covers and the foods are gone seems to be too much; and every few years we can count on a severe snow, when our quail are sure to be almost annihilated. It is a very easy matter to break up the snow crust with a snow plow and to feed the quail on one or more long lines across the game farm or preserve, where it pays to have quail. It is easy to trap and house the birds from exposed situations, as General Wingate suggests, and also to invite many quail to come to the barnyards to be fed and sheltered; but who will undertake to care for the quail in a practical and somewhat expensive manner if the reward for doing so is a term in jail or a heavy fine.

Quail at \$5.00 or even \$3.00 a dozen in the markets can be made a wonderful food crop. Sport need have nothing to fear from such abundance. Quail on the song-bird list, with a standing army of game police to arrest anyone who even attempts to look after the game in winter, never will be a success either for sport or for food.

The time has arrived, as often we have pointed out, for the sportsmen to deal fairly with the farmers. Working together, easily they can make the quail abundant and keep it plentiful both for sport and for profit.

We published some years ago the story of a sportsman-farmer who trapped the quail on his farm, anticipating a hard winter, and kept them securely in his barn. Practically all of the quail in his county were killed by reason of a crust of ice forming on top of a deep snow. In the spring the liberated quail bred nicely and in a few years they had restocked many fields throughout the county.

Of course the laws should be amended so as to make it no longer criminal to look after the birds properly; to trap them for winter protection and in order to separate them and turn them down in

places where covers and foods have been planted.

Quail should be handled by breeders on the same terms as pheasants are. Permits should be issued to land owners to trap and sell quail for breeding purposes. Soon they would become plentiful on every suitable area.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Good Idea.

Editor, Game Breeder:

The initial expense in connection with breeding pheasants and ducks is so considerable that but few clubs have sought licenses in this state to breed birds for their preserves.

Would it not be greatly to the interest of small clubs if the laws were so amended that they could purchase their pheasants and ducks from other breeders and release and shoot them on their wholly inclosed preserves in the same manner as if they were bred by them under a breeder's license? I drafted the original breeders' bill and have given this matter much thought and believe that such an amendment would result in the organization of many small clubs and a far wider market for the breeder and would prove a distinct step toward a greater game supply.

HENRY M. BRIGHAM.

New York.

Dear Mr. Brigham:—The suggestion is excellent. If you will write the amendment and send it to Albany it no doubt will be approved by the Conservation Commissioner and be enacted by the Legislature. While you are in this laudable public service why not also write an amendment providing for the trapping of a reasonable amount of breeding stock so we can put a little more speed in the targets.

We have always favored contract-rearing. As a matter of fact many game birds are now reared under contract in America and we believe many sportsmen shoot the game they have thus purchased. We have not the slightest doubt that the courts will uphold them in so doing. The laws intended to preserve wild game are not intended to prevent a food-producing industry of vast economic importance. We believe where semi-domesticated birds are killed for food by the owner the burden of proof may be on him to show that the game is his property and not game owned by the State and where such evidence is plain we believe the courts will hold that the members

of the Legislature can not be presumed to be demented.

The Pekin duck and others are related to wild ducks but a raid on a Long Island duck farm would not be popular just now and we are quite sure sportsmen who own wild turkeys, near-mallards and other game birds produced by industry are quite safe in shooting them for food or taking them "otherwise" if they so prefer. It would be well, of course, to have the law amended in order to remove temptation from boodling game wardens. There seem to be a few rare specimens of this species still in existence. Most of the States, however, are entirely freed from them and have State officers who would not tolerate arrests made evidently for the purpose of boodling, where it is evident that the game is owned by the party the warden wishes to "touch."

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Something Wholesome.

The Game Conservation Society:

I heartily congratulate you both on the spirit and purpose of your magazine. There is something wholesome about it. I can not figure that your editor has written anything in the last two years that he did not believe. I am inclosing \$5.00 for which please send me *Our Feathered Game*, *Our Wild Fowl and Waders* and *The Game Breeder* till the money runs out. I will run all risk of delivery and I live seventy miles from a customs house.

VANCE FOSTER.

Canada.

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Bought Much From Our Advertisers.

Editor, Game Breeder:

I am a subscriber to *The Game Breeder* and have bought several hundred dollars worth of pheasants from your advertisers, also wild geese, ducks, swan, deer, etc.

Please send me booklet regarding the formation of game preserves, clubs, game farms, etc.

E. B.

Tennessee.

Your letter was received long ago; like thousands of others it had to wait its turn for an answer. It would take an army of stenographers to keep up with the mail of the Game Conservation Society politely. The article about the formation of game clubs appeared in *The Game Breeder*, but the edition was entirely sold out at the time your letter was received. There will be another article on this subject soon and we hope to print it with other matter in a booklet—Editor.]

A Bob-Tailed Heading or Camouflage.

I notice one of the Game Protective Associations has started a department in Forest and Stream, using as a heading part of your old slogan, "More Game and Fewer Game Laws." The new heading simply has "More Game" and looks sort of bob-tailed to me. I have an idea the protective societies all want more laws all the time.

J. S.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

[The words "more game" in our opinion can not be given too much publicity. Our trade mark and also the magazine purposely are not copyrighted. We are glad to have anyone use all or any part of our ideas. It would hardly seem proper for game protective associations (which are seeking more laws international, national, State, county, etc., including laws putting the ruffed grouse and other birds on the list with bobwhite and the other singer) to say, "fewer game laws."

A man from your borough who was in the office a few days ago said, "more game" seemed with some people to be used as a sort of camouflage to secure safety in getting more game laws.—Editor.]

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More Game and Fewer Game Laws.

It must be evident to all intelligent game officers that if non-residents can put over laws prohibiting sport they may keep themselves well supplied with funds but the game departments hardly can expect money from shooting licenses when it is illegal to shoot.

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Another One From Brooklyn.

Editor, Game Breeder:

What doth it profit a man if he save his pump gun and loose his own field sports?

My full name and address are inclosed to show I am a member in good standing.

[Probably you have been reading the gospel according to St. Matthew. Your note strongly suggests, "What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world," etc. Your inquiry is referred to The Game Protective Society for investigation and report.—Editor.]

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The prices for pheasants seem to be rising. A number of advertisers report they can not fill their orders.

Members who have not tried an advertisement in The Game Breeder will be surprised at the excellent returns they

will get if they will offer game or eggs or fish.

Letters come often saying, my advertisement in your magazine sold everything I had to sell.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.**Pheasants Warn of Approach of Hawks.**

A dispatch from Hood River, Oregon, to the World, N. Y., says:

Forest L. Moe, a rancher of the Odell district, says he has lost no chickens from the numerous hawks that frequent the neighborhood because of a well-defined system of signals maintained by the Chinese pheasants on the place and the barnyard fowls.

The old pheasant cocks, according to Mr. Moe, usually sight the hawk first. Their cries are taken up by the barnyard rooster, who warns the old hens.

"The latter," says Mr. Moe, "immediately hurry their little chicks to safety, and thus the Chinese pheasants have solved the hawk problem for us. The birds eat up a good deal of corn, but I figure that they are worth it."

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Eagle Stole First Papers.

Lawrence Maeir is searching over Greeley County, Nebraska, for his naturalization papers. An eagle took the document from his coat while Maeir was working in a field. Maeir has petitioned the Naturalization Department at Washington to grant the clerk of the District Court here permission to reissue the papers.

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Meatless Days in Maryland.

(From the Baltimore American)

Maryland observes meatless days with an extra portion of terrapin!

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A New Yorker.

(From Life)

"You say he's a New Yorker?"

"Yes; he lives in New Jersey, has a country home on Long Island, spends his winters in Florida and comes to New ork occasionally to business."

Probably has a quail preserve in North Carolina.—Game Breeder.

AGAIN THE MIGRATORY BILL.

The American Protective Association has sent us for publication a copy of a resolution adopted by six State game officers, the Executive Committee of the National Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, favoring the enactment of Senate Bill 1553 intended to give effect to the migratory bird treaty.

We are a little surprised that some of the officers should favor the bill in its present form. We do not believe they fully understand its objectionable features.

There can be no possible objection to a proper law prohibiting the spring shooting of migrants (if it be constitutional and we are inclined to believe it may be so held) provided the law be written as all criminal laws should be in simple language making it easy for the people to know what is criminal. We have repeatedly urged that crime is a serious matter not to be treated without due consideration and, since the people are presumed to know the law, the law should state the offence and not delegate to others, especially to those who are to execute the law, the right to make numerous criminal offences.

No members of The Game Conservation Society favor shooting their ducks or those which are said to belong to the State during the nesting season. There will be no objection here to a law putting an end to spring shooting provided it defines the crime and fixes the penalty so that all who read may know what the law is. Such a law, no doubt, can be made permanent and not subject to repeated changes as regulations will be to suit the whims of prospective criminals. Such a law can be made uniform and universal as all criminal laws should be.

We hardly believe that the bill in its present form can ever become a law. It is easier to secure legislation "by Stampede" in the State Assemblies than it is in the Congress.

We would like to see the present bill referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate for a cursory glance. If that committee will say that this bill is a proper criminal enactment, that the

United States should delegate the right to make numerous crimes to those who are expected to execute the law, and that a big appropriation should be made to secure the numerous crimes and their repeated changes and for their execution, we will say, amen, and we will advise game breeders to keep as well posted as they can concerning the fleeting changes which are as sure to occur as the changes in State game laws do.

Blackstone tells us what a criminal law should be. We believe he was not consulted when the present bill was drawn.

We again say we are not opposed to stopping shooting in the breeding season. We are quite sure a bill can be written to cover this idea and that the destruction of song birds also can be prohibited at all times. We believe such a law will be obeyed especially if it is known that the United States Marshals are instructed to make some examples of violators.

Prairie Grouse Enemies.

The principal ground enemies of the prairie grouse are coyotes, foxes, weasels, minks, cats, dogs, rats, skunks, snakes and in some places turtles, no doubt. Winged enemies are the prairie falcon and some other hawks, including the marsh hawk; and there are some individuals among the smaller hawks which will bear watching; crows and, in the vicinity of timber, great horned owls. The golden eagle undoubtedly takes many grouse where the birds occur.

Anyone who undertakes grouse breeding will be surprised at the number of game enemies which will be found on any given area and also at the number of visitors which will drop in to get some of the excellent food when it becomes plentiful.

It is important to bear in mind that it is impossible to control all the enemies on a moor or prairie; that there will be many losses, but if these can be kept down the grouse quickly will become very abundant on attractive ground and remain so even if thousands be shot every season. Briars are a great pro-

tection to grouse and many ground and winged enemies find it difficult and, in fact, almost impossible to take grouse in briar patches. The wild roses and black berries are important plants for the grouse preserve since both give protection and winter foods which often can be found above the snow.

The Work of the Society.

REAL ESTATE.—We are prepared to give advice about the purchase of real estate and the renting of shooting. It is important to select ground suitable for the game it is intended to introduce. Many failures have resulted from attempts to breed game on unsuitable areas. We can send an expert to look at land and to suggest food plantings for upland game and for wild fowl.

GAME FISH.—We are prepared to give advice about the selection of waters suitable for the propagation of fish, the erection of fish hatcheries and the purchase of fish.

GAME BREEDING ASSOCIATIONS.—We are prepared to give advice to those who contemplate forming game breeding associations and shooting syndicates.

GAME BIRDS.—We are prepared to give advice about the purchase and introduction of game birds, the creation of pheasantries and breeding enclosures for the hand rearing of true game birds and wild fowl. We can send an expert to lay out the grounds and advise the planting of suitable covers and foods where wild breeding operations are contemplated.

The Grouse and the Farmer.

When the farmers receive the amount of their taxes from the shooting club, they will not be friendly to legislation of the kind which was nearly slipped over in North Dakota and which has already been slipped over in many states as far west as Idaho, where grouse shooting, pheasant shooting and quail shooting are prohibited.

We have shot on many places where practical protection is carried on and we found the farmers well pleased with the sport and glad to have some one always

on hand to kill the hawks and other vermin which were taking their poultry.

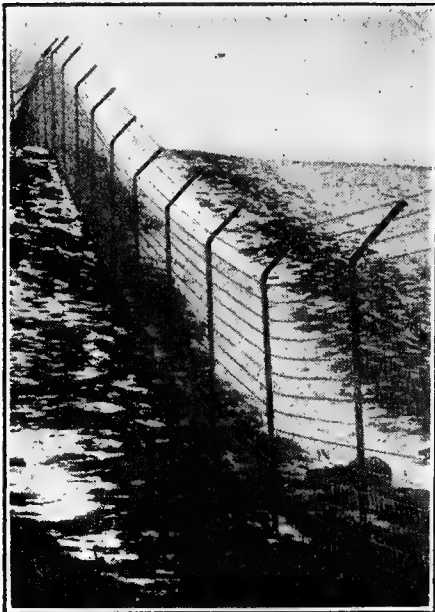
There is plenty of room in North Dakota for grouse clubs for all of the sportsmen and those who do nothing will find some fair shooting far better than any they can find under the existing conditions. We would like to see the new Protective Association become a grouse club. We furnish plans and estimates.

The quail clubs recently prevented the slipping over of a regulation to prohibit quail shooting on Long Island, N. Y., thereby keeping the shooting open for their members on the small part of the island preserved and also for all who wish to shoot on the larger area not used by the clubs. This is far better than universal prohibition in Ohio. It is quite wise to interest the farmers and quite fair to see that they get something out of the game. They hold the whip in agricultural states and it sooner or later is easy for mischief makers to slip something over with the aid of the farmers if their interests be wholly disregarded.

Betting on the Result.

Already there has been some discussion among game breeders as to which state will send the largest tonnage of game to the hospitals. There has been a little betting on the result. We placed a small bet recently on a state where some big breeding operations are going on.

Readers who wish to stake an opinion as to which State will be the winner can send sealed cards to The Game Breeder, stating the name of the State selected. These will be opened at the end of the distribution when an announcement of the winner will be made. Since several may pick the same State as a winner, we have decided to number each card (naming a state), which is first opened, No. 1, if it appears that this State sends the most game the first card opened which names the State will receive the first prize. This prize will be a fine lot of northern quail, suitable for breeding purposes—birds like the bunch bursting into view on the new Remington calendar.



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The accompanying photograph shows one of our Non-Climbable "RIOT" fences, erected by us, with our indestructible steel fence post 8 feet high, surrounding the Yale Bowl Field, New Haven, Conn.

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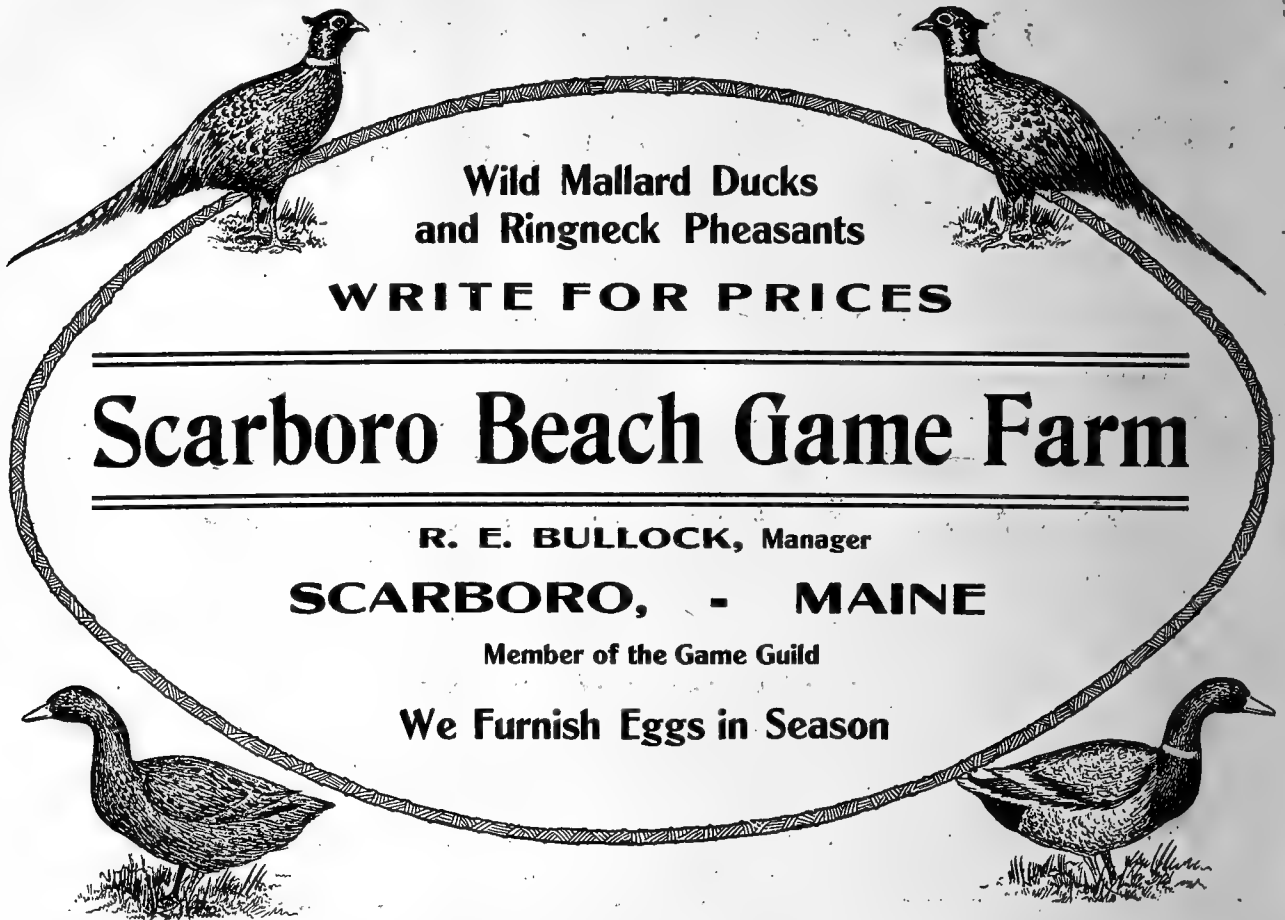
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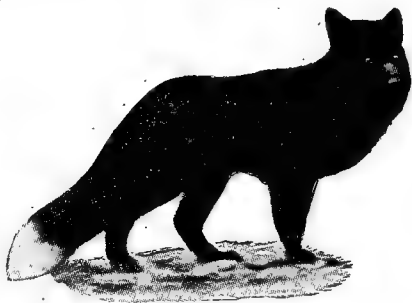
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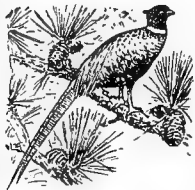
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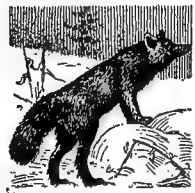
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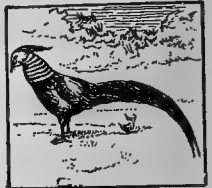
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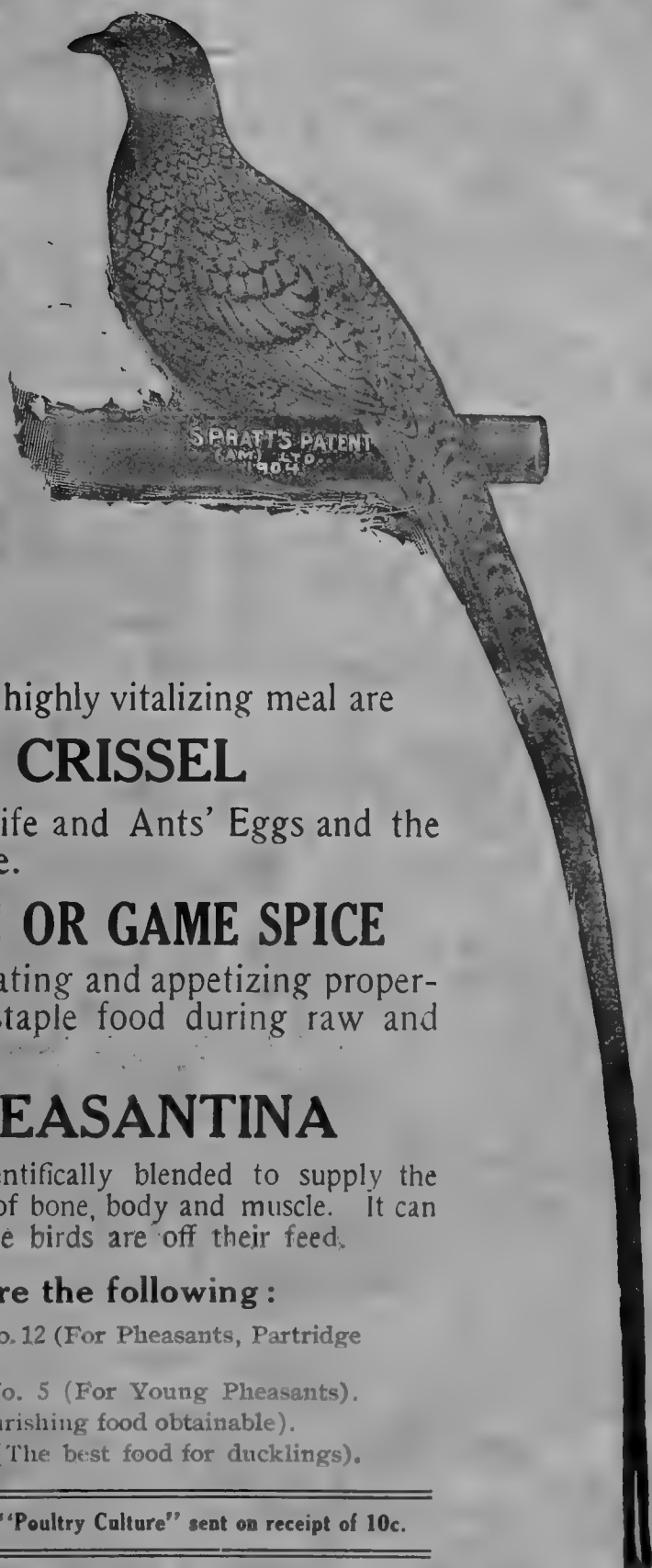
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XII.

MARCH, 1918

No. 6

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

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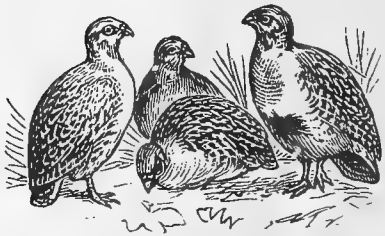
Editorials—Food Abundance—The Attitude of Sport—War Governors—Game for the Hospitals—Hunter or Husbandman.

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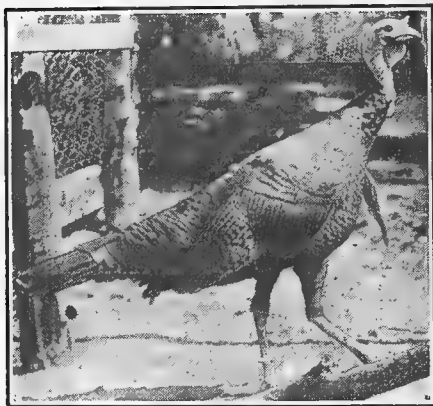
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The Game Breeder

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VOLUME XII

MARCH, 1918

NUMBER 6



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

More Quail and Grouse.

Many of our readers promptly sent us three new subscribers in answer to our circular letter asking them to help extend the circulation of the magazine and to contribute to our experiment with quail and other American game. The pheasants and some species of wild ducks rapidly have become plentiful and any reader who wants these birds or even wild turkeys and their eggs can procure them. Pheasants and ducks have begun to come to the New York markets in good numbers from the progressive States which have intelligent game officers and the sale of these birds as food will tend to keep the business good. Our big experiment with ducks and pheasants had much to do with starting the industry with these birds.

We now propose to set the pace for the industry of quail and grouse breeding and it is highly important that these birds should be made plentiful in States which do not enact "fool laws" putting them on the song bird list, thus destroying a profitable industry and sport at the same time. The State game departments, which prefer politics to game may save a few quail and grouse for the crows and other vermin, but they surely will not have the revenues from sport which they now have when field sports are made illegal. A few breeding farms in every county will make it not necessary to put the game on the song bird list and we are quite sure we are the best friends the game departments have since our work will make the departments of great economic importance in the States which have intelligent officers. Everyone can

shoot quail and grouse on Long Island, N. Y., because our members produce these birds on many protected areas.

We hope our readers who have not done so will get busy and send in their contributions to our experiment with quail and grouse. We especially wish to have a large number of people interested in this work who, we are sure, will enjoy saying, "we did it."

=

The Hen Now a U. S. Ward.

Five million dozen eggs will be added to the nation's food supply because of an order which will be put into effect tomorrow prohibiting the killing of egg-laying hens at any time before May 1.

The hen will thus become one of the country's war wards and it will be a crime punishable at the discretion of the food administration to wield an axe over her sacred head. Not only are farmers and others prohibited from killing her, but transportation companies are forbidden to carry her, dead or alive, and dealers, wholesale and retail, must not interfere with her egg-laying proclivities.

The slaughter of roosters may continue as usual, and chickens which have not reached the egg-laying stage of life are still left to the mercy of the squab consumer.

It is the first time in the country's history that legal protection has ever been thrown about the hen.—N. Y. Tribune.

We hope the statement that "transportation companies are forbidden to carry her dead or alive" may be found to be erroneous. Otherwise we will have another case of restrictions which may do more harm than good. The Game Con-

ervation Society, for example, wants a lot of bantams for its experimental work in food production. Since the society has decided to donate the food produced to hospitals it would seem that such industry should not be prohibited. Bantam eggs are not very desirable for food. We believe that with grain at present prices it would not pay to keep bantams simply to sell eggs for food. Should a farmer be compelled to feed grain to bantams which he cannot sell?

=

Some Trapper.

Miss Patsy Reese of Sierra County, California's only girl trapper, walked nearly 200 miles to register for the second semester at the State University at Berkeley.

Before she left the summit of the high Sierras, where she makes her home, she shipped her expense money for the half year on ahead. It consisted of pelts of 2 lynx, 25 coons, 18 skunks, 15 foxes and 5 coyotes.

From the proceeds of their sale Miss Reese will be able to pay her expenses in the College of Journalism.

=

More Fish in Massachusetts.

All fish streams in this State (Massachusetts) are being stocked more heavily than usual and regulations governing fresh water fishing will be made as liberal as possible in an effort to reduce the high cost of living, William A. Adams, chairman of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission announced to-day.

In addition to the usual work of fish propagation, two innovations are being tried this season. The commission is artificially hatching smelt eggs to stock streams and has obtained thousands of salmon eggs from the Pacific Coast streams.

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Bobwhite Quail in Washington.

Ira D. Light, game warden of Pierce County, Washington, writes: The bobwhite quail were introduced about fifteen years ago and liberated in different parts of the country and I am sorry to state that they have been a complete failure and have become almost extinct.

I am constantly traveling through the county and I have not seen a single bobwhite during the past six months. We liberated ten dozen pairs early this year but I have heard nothing from them and I am afraid that I never will, although we hope that they will get along and do better than the others have done.

[Quail introduced into strange country often fall an easy prey to vermin. A good quail farm where quail are reared in protected fields for sport and for profit quickly will stock a good sized area adjacent to the game farm and those who wish quail for breeding purposes can obtain birds which are acclimated.—Editor.]

=

Ohio Game.

At a recent conference of the Ohio game wardens it was reported that the quail had been nearly exterminated by climate in the northern parts of the State but the pheasants everywhere seemed to have survived. The superintendent of the London hatchery said the pheasant was well able to take care of itself in the severest winter.

Mr. John R. Gammeter, of the Portage Hights game farm, who rears thousands of pheasants, said the owl and the fox were the worst enemies of the game; the pheasant has demonstrated its ability to stand severe and prolonged winter weather and comes out right side up with care.

Since Ohio undoubtedly was one of the best quail States a few years ago we hope the sportsmen will not decide to let this bird remain on the song bird list and substitute the pheasants. It is not a difficult matter to protect quail by the proper planting of hedges and other covers, foods and some inexpensive quail clubs easily can keep the shooting good every year provided they deal fairly with the farmers and pay a small rental for the shooting as the quail clubs do in many places where the birds are shot in good numbers every season without fear of extinction.

=

Change from Deer to Antelope.

There has been some speculation in the northern part of Arizona as to whether it would not be a good plan to close the season on deer and open the season on

antelope, which has been closed for the past fifteen years. Every year marks a decline in the number of deer, while many of the range riders claim that there are around 2,000 antelope ranging in Coconino County, and that this condition justifies a reversal in the game laws. Wild turkey, however, are still to be had by the wily hunter, but are practically unattainable to those who lack experience in locating and stalking this shy bird.—Remington Live News Notes.

=

More Rabbits.

In a recent report of the Biological Survey we are told that in a single county in Oregon about 75,000 jack rabbits were poisoned. We hope the poison did not reach the prairie grouse and other desirable foods. We believe it would be good business for the survey to point out the food value of the rabbits, the grouse, the quail and other game and to urge amendments to the laws encouraging the profitable production of all species.

The report about the work of the survey is as follows:

"Serious depredations by jack rabbits upon wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa and other growing crops and stacked hay necessitated continued efforts for their control in eastern Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Effective methods of poisoning the animals were demonstrated and successful campaigns in farming communities organized against them. This work was very successful and enormous numbers of animals were killed. In a single county in Oregon about 75,000 were poisoned at a cost of less than one-tenth of a cent each.

Cottontail rabbits have damaged orchards, grain and truck farms, especially in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey, and advice and demonstrations have been given for protection against them.

The European hare, introduced into New York some years ago, has increased and is spreading rapidly in southern New York and adjacent States, where it has done extensive damage to orchards. Investigations have been started to discover methods for the control of this

animal, which threatens to become a dangerous pest.

Will Can Rabbits.

The W. H. Dyer Company, operating canning factories in Evansville and Owensboro, Ky., has decided to can rabbits as a war measure and to help reduce the high cost of living. Rabbits have not been canned previously, and Evansville will be the pioneer in this field. The country surrounding this city will provide an abundance of rabbits for canning, it is believed. Business men in the Green River territory in Western Kentucky have agreed to provide from 50,000 to 60,000 rabbits yearly. Experiments already have shown that canned rabbit is palatable and nutritious, and that the plan is feasible.—World, N. Y.

Mottoes for the Gun Room Wall.

The American Field informs us that one of the numerous game protective associations has put forth the slogan, "Sport for sport's sake," and will conduct a drive in order to secure \$1 each from 5,000 sportsmen. Endorsing the idea, we have adopted the slogan and we will put the new motto up in the gun room of our new shooting syndicate, with a few others. Our mural decoration will have the following:

Sport for sport's sake.

Trap shooting for trap shooting's sake.

More game and fewer game laws, for goodness sake, and God bless our home.

The last-named motto will be found often in country houses, rented for shooting purposes and we retain it since it lends a home-like appearance to the walls. No special charge for the idea.

"Otherwise Than by Shooting." Nonsense.

We are surprised to see that the Michigan Commissioner advises in his report that the game breeders' law should provide that "ducks may be killed any month of the year for which such permit is issued, but if said ducks are killed by shooting they shall not be bought, sold or otherwise disposed of."

Why should a State game officer who

says his department is now wholly sustained by money received from sportsmen be opposed to shooting? When shooting is permitted a good part of the ducks depart, since they quickly become tired of the game, and these birds afford sport for all comers in the neighborhood and often the ducks are shot many miles away from home. We have had nearly a thousand ducks depart in a season and we have had many gunners thank us for the good sport set on foot or, more properly speaking, on wing.

Since shooting is a great incentive to wild duck breeding and when sportsmen produce far more than they can eat the result is cheap game for the people to eat, the game commissioner seems to be opposed to the best method of filling the markets with cheap game. We have said often that a State department should represent all of the people and those who would like to have cheap wild ducks are in the majority. They have saved field sports in some countries when sport was attacked for the reason that they enjoyed cheap food.

Michigan breeders can sell many wild ducks to sportsmen in other States (a small ad. in *The Game Breeder* will sell them all) where "the otherwise than by shooting" nonsense has been eliminated from the statutes, but why should a State game officer not favor a plan intended to keep many of the ducks in Michigan? They will sell for more alive outside of the State than they will when hatched for market. Let the sportsmen shoot and sport will stand the loss and send the food to the Michiganders to eat.

The "otherwise than by shooting" nonsense only survived for one year when it was slipped into the New York breeders' law. It disappeared soon after the appearance in *The Game Breeder* of a cartoon illustrating the sporting method of killing a mallard with a hatchet. We will loan the cut to any Michigan paper on request. It is warranted to be effective.

Zoo Animals.

There has been some discussion about the propriety of feeding animals in the

Zoo large quantities of desirable foods at a time when food administrators are urging the people to save in order that we may win the war. Since the head keeper of the Zoo has collected over one hundred thousand dollars in order to secure more game laws we would suggest that sportsmen and game breeders will be well pleased to see the fund used to feed the animals.

Stocking Streams With Food Fish.

In continuing its plan to make every stream in the state a productive source of food supply, the State Fish and Game Commission, by a great distribution of fish from the state hatchery at Hackettstown, is increasing the stocking of streams in every county, this fall.

The season now closing has been the most successful since the opening of the state hatchery for the rearing of trout, salmon, perch and bass. The present "plantings" are chiefly of large trout of the brook, rainbow and brown species. Other varieties will be distributed later.

Commissioners believe that the brown trout will thrive in many streams not suited to the brook trout or rainbow trout. The brook trout needs clear cold water and the rainbows are great sea-runners and often work their way down stream to the rivers and eventually to the ocean unless a dam intervenes. The brown trout, on the other hand, will not leave the stream in which it is introduced, except to enter some similar stream in search of spawning grounds. The adult fish weigh from six to ten pounds, with every ounce full of fight.

The trout and salmon from the hatchery are from six to fourteen inches in length when distributed. They are shipped by express in car-load lots in cans of iced water to South Jersey distributing stations while in North Jersey they are carried from the hatchery ponds to the streams in big motor fish-cars. Large and small-mouth bass will be distributed later in the year, a large supply being available from the hatchery ponds and from canals and city water reservoirs which the state nets annually.—*Lakewood (N. J.) Times*.

HUNTER OR HUSBANDMAN.

DR. JAMES G. NEEDHAM,

Professor of Entomology and Limnology, Cornell University.

Extract from an address recently delivered before an audience of farmers at the New York State College of Agriculture.

The assumption that all the wild life growing upon the land belongs to all the people, and that any one who can do so is free to take it, is, of course, a direct inheritance from the day when all the game belonged to the king; when the king could do no wrong. We, the people, have succeeded the king. We have acquired his rights and privileges—his right to kill, his right to overrun the fields of the farmer, his right to get something for nothing.

We need now to recognize that the day of wanton exploitation is past, and that we have entered upon an era of conservation during which we must live on the increase of nature's products that our own hands have secured for us; no longer something for nothing, but everything for care and forethought and the application of science to bettering the conditions of life.

The primary assumption should be that the region where farmers live is an agricultural community—not a howling wilderness or a hunting preserve.

Hunting there must be to satisfy the human craving for sport—sport of a kind that is normal to the growing up of every youth, and that is a legitimate part of a man's recreation. But hunting is, at best, a savage sport that is pursued with dangerous weapons; and it should be pursued in civilized society only in places set aside for the purpose. The farmer should possess his farm in peace. The part of the public that desires to hunt should have proper places provided, and these places should be publicly marked for hunting; and peaceful farms where the wild life is treasured should not have to be marked against it. As there are public waters stocked by the state in which any one may fish, so there should be public game and forest preserves where one may hunt.

The farmers want freedom from the nuisance of the hunters who are merely

raiders and economic pirates, and should unite to secure it. Every man's farm should be his own, free from ravage by hunters, free from menace by guns. All its wild products should be in his own keeping, subject only to his neighbor's interests, rights and welfare. The farmer should be free to raise on his farm any kind of plant or animal without permit or license from any source. Such artificial barriers ought not to obstruct the path of forward-looking agricultural enterprises.

The conservation measures that will best secure these ends are those which will protect and preserve the wild life in suitable places and provide hunting for the future; for men will hunt, and many of the farmers themselves desire this sport. The measures already before us that will go farthest toward removing the hunter from the farmer's premises are these:

1. State game farms, where wild game may be propagated, for distribution to public and private preserves.
2. Reserves, where the wild life may be maintained—forest and game preserves.

There should be not only one great state preserve like the Adirondack State Park, but every county in the State of New York should have its own smaller reserve, made out of the waste land that is still cheap and available. There is land in every county of the State that would be of far more worth if put to raising timber and game. We have talked much about reforestation: we have practiced it little.

Portions of such public reserves should be kept as sanctuaries, free alike from the hunter, the lumberman and the engineer; and in these every wild thing, not harmful to the public, should find a place, and should be let alone. These places would serve as centers of natural propagation

and dispersal for wild game species; but they would also keep from extermination many other things in which the hunter is not interested.

They would serve the interests of the public at large by preserving to future generations some of the wealth of life with which nature has endowed our country. There are three important reasons why it should be preserved:

1. Its esthetic value. Many of the wild things, both plants and animals, are interesting and wonderfully beautiful.

2. Its educational value: many of these things are important for teaching purposes; and the youth has a right to know what the native life of his native land was

like; otherwise he will not be able to understand its early history.

3. Its possibilities of undeveloped economic values. We are only at the beginning of knowledge how to best utilize our natural resources. We should not exterminate the wild species. We do not know what use the future will have for them. Though they are all products of the evolution of the ages, they may be quickly destroyed, as the history of the passing of the wild pigeon shows. Once gone, they are gone forever. The interest that the public has in keeping them is in the long run far more important than the interest of the hunter in shooting or the farmer in raising crops.

THE GREATEST ENEMY OF THE BIRDS.

By EDWARD H. FORBUSH,

State Ornithologist of Massachusetts.

A mature cat in good hunting grounds kills, on an average, fifty birds a year. Kittens and half-grown cats do not catch many birds, but the old cat that wanders off into the fields and woods is terribly destructive. Mr. William Brewster tells of an acquaintance in Maine who said that his cat killed about fifty birds a year. When asked why he did not get another cat, he said that it would be of no use, for they were all alike. Mr. A. C. Dyke writes that his family owned a cat which was well cared for and a particular pet. They watched it through one season and found that it killed fifty-eight birds, including the young in five nests. Nearly a hundred correspondents scattered through all the counties of the State report the cat as one of the greatest enemies of the birds. The reports that have come in of the torturing and killing of birds by cats are absolutely sickening. The number of birds killed by them in this State is appalling. It is quite true, however, that some cats do not kill many birds, and that some intelligent or high-bred cats may be taught not to kill any. Some cat lovers believe that each cat kills on the average not more than ten

birds a year; but I have learned of two instances where more than that number were killed in a single day, and another where seven were killed. If we assume, however, that the average cat on the farm kills but ten birds a year, and that there are two cats to each farm in Massachusetts, we have, in round numbers, seventy thousand cats killing seven hundred thousand birds annually.

If we add to the cats kept on farms the enormous number of village and city cats, many of which have good opportunities for catching birds, we shall see the chief reason for the great mortality to birds and their young about our villages and cities. If cats are allowed their liberty at night during the nesting season, they, unnoticed, rob many birds' nests. The cat is more dangerous to birds than any native mammal that roams our woods, for it is nocturnal, a splendid climber, a good stalker, a strong leaper, and is very quick and active.

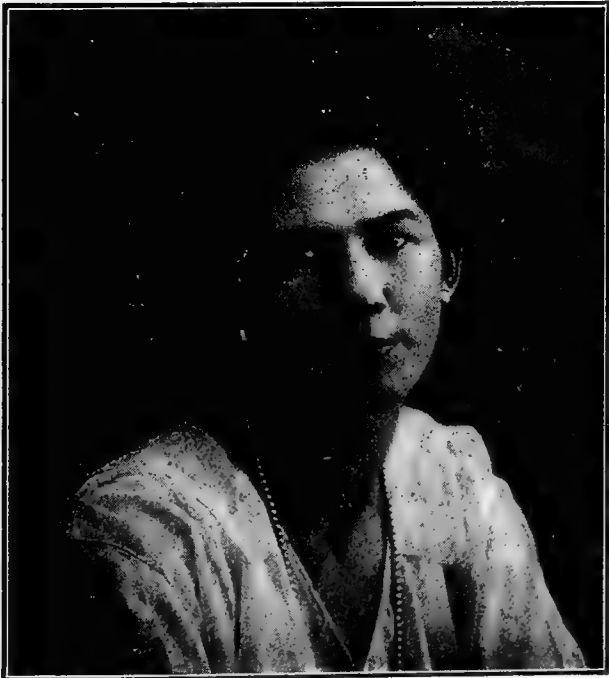
Unfortunately, the cat is only half domesticated and easily goes back to a wild state. If the dog loses its master it will soon find another, but the mature cat is more likely to run wild. Thou-

sands of these wild or half-wild cats roam the country destroying game birds, squirrels, field mice, chickens and any animal they can master. The effect produced by cats is convincingly shown where they have been introduced on islands and have nearly exterminated rabbits, and greatly decreased the number of birds.

John Burroughs says that cats probably destroy more birds than all other animals combined. William Dutcher, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, considers the wild house cat one of the greatest causes of bird destruction known. He says that the boy with the air gun is not in the same class with the cat.

PLAYING WITH NATURE.

By LILLIAN E. GALLUP.



The Author.

It was while I was convalescing after a short illness several years ago that my enthusiasm became aroused at a little advertisement in the corner of a local paper—"Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure."

I wrote the Hercules Powder Company, originators of the little booklet "Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure" and I received their booklet together with a liberal list of names to whom I might write and secure eggs and stock.

I decided to try the rearing of pheasants from eggs, as I have always been an ardent lover of nature in its every form and always admired its wild birds

and animals so this little booklet prompted the idea that I might have these beautiful birds, enjoy them and also make a goodly profit beside the pleasure they afforded me by their presence.

Whereupon, I sent several orders and secured eggs from several dealers near home. By securing eggs from several sources I would have several varieties of the same stock for the coming year. Of course I awaited the termination of the incubation period of twenty-four days with the keenest interest. I had set the eggs, 15 to each hen, under the lightest hens I had—Rhode Island Reds—which had set before so I could select the ones I knew would be good mothers. Many chicks are lost by nervous and fretful mothers, so I used considerable care in selecting the hens which were to mother the chicks.

After they were hatched—and I had a 90 per cent. hatch from the three settings—I placed them in a divided cracker box until they were twenty-four hours old. This was covered at the bottom with sand and after the chicks came out from under the mother's wing and began to show their appetite they had their first meal, consisting of hard boiled eggs and bread crumbs. They were fed five meals a day until several weeks old. Their drinking water should always contain the correct proportion of "Germazone" to keep the young chicks from contracting gapes or suffering from other internal disorders.

When the chicks are two weeks old their rations are increased and varied and

they are fed a little oatmeal, in addition to a little chick food or small grain.

It must always be remembered that the birds eat very sparingly and care must be taken not to overfeed; keep them a little hungry, it is better than overfeeding.

Out of my first year's settings of 45 eggs I raised 36 birds and their cost was so little that it would really be difficult to furnish an exact amount of their feed expense. I fed them with the chickens and allowed such a little bit more than the usual portion that the expense in rearing them was practically nothing. Most of the eggs fed them were infertile eggs taken from the incubator after the first testing and their food while young is mostly hard boiled eggs.

Of course there are many ways to rear pheasants successfully, but I have found during my years of experience that this one is simple and efficient. A little ground raw meat is also a very tempting food while the birds are growing and a variety is always relished by the birds as they are delicate eaters.

An occasional apple cut into small portions, or lettuce, sliced raw potatoes and fresh berries are also very suitable food.

When the birds are old enough to start to fly, they are put into movable pens and each pen moved daily to give them a clean pen—they must be kept absolutely clean—this gives them fresh ground from which they can secure many tiny bugs and insects.

When they start to get their plumage a small portion of red or cayenne pepper on hard boiled eggs each day for several weeks will give their plumage a full, deep color. So many birds reared in captivity have a faded appearance because the bird lacked the necessary food for the coloring of his plumage.

When the birds are old enough to leave the hen and care for themselves, they are put into permanent quarters; a pen as large as you can afford for them, and in this they are wintered and left until after the next breeding season.

The pens are always cleaned thoroughly each year and replanted with small grain so the birds can feel at home when

they are put into new quarters. One should keep their environment as close to their natural one as possible. This keeps the birds healthier, and I might add here, I have never been troubled with any disease and I think it is because they have had ample opportunity to care for themselves.

Chicks that are hatched early in the season seem more vigorous, that is, it has been my experience, as they are strong poults before mites bother any of the birds. For this trouble I use a mite powder dusted under the wings at frequent intervals until the birds are free from them. All birds have more or less trouble with these summer mites and birds raised in captivity should be watched closely. If steps are taken before they get bad no loss in young birds will result, but if great care is not taken death will surely result as the baby birds are very delicate and mites take all the vitality from the young birds.

Some form of shelter should be provided for the matured birds in the winter especially in climates with severe winters.

My birds roost on cornstalk stacks, which I have put in their pens for that purpose, and when Nebraska's wind blows a gale the pheasants seem perfectly content to hide on the lee side of the stalks or under the small growth of underbrush in their pens, away from the direct exposure of the winds and cold.

I have always had good success in disposing of my stock, the first year's surplus was disposed of locally, but as one's stock increases one must advertise. It is generally a conceded fact that things that are not worth advertising are not worth buying.

When the breeding season opens the birds sell very readily for from \$5 each to \$8.50 per pair, but in the fall of the year the birds can be purchased for \$5 per pair from some local breeders.

I have always realized a goodly sum each year from my surplus stock of birds, but this is secondary to the great amount of pleasure I have derived from watching them grow and the pride I have in keeping them.

THE GAME AND THE FARMER.

By the EDITOR.

A few years ago Professor L. H. Bailey, director of the State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, N. Y., in a letter to the editor of *The Game Breeder*, said:

"Looking at the subject from the outside it has appeared to me for years that the most unsatisfactory, chaotic and uncorrelated of all laws relating to the open country are those that have to do with game. I have been more, or less in touch with our own State Legislature on other business for some years, and I have always been impressed with the inadequacy of the kind of game legislation that is nearly always on foot. If you can bring some system out of the game law matter you will render a great service. The sportsman is ordinarily set over against the farmer. The two are really antagonistic. I think the only real solution is in some way to bring about a community of interests between the two, or at least to eliminate the antagonism. In other words. I think that the farming interests must be distinctly consulted in the game laws, if we are to have game laws that will serve the interests of the people and which will stand the test of a reasonable length of time. * * * I am sure that your fundamental idea that the farming interests should be considered in game protection laws is sound."

Later Professor Bailey asked us to write an article on the game laws for his *Encyclopedia of Agriculture*, which we did.

The influence of Professor Bailey and many other prominent men who have looked at the subject not only "from the outside" (Professor Bailey in his letter said he was not a sportsman) but also from the inside, has resulted in the success of what is popularly known as the "more game" movement advocated by *The Game Breeder* and calling for a practical and intelligent handling of the game and the bringing about of the community of interests between the farmer and the sportsman.

We believed that the best way to handle the subject was to encourage amendments to the laws intended to promote game breeding on the farms for profit as well as for sport. All of the naturalists quickly endorsed our idea that the game must continue to vanish, no matter how many laws we made for its protection

provided shooting be permitted and no game breeding be encouraged, since shooting, unduly, is an additional and fatal check to the increase of every species when it is not properly looked after. All species have many natural enemies and all at certain periods are decimated by climate; and as civilization increases there are losses due to many other causes; prominent among these are fires, farm machinery, telegraph and telephone wires, fences, the loss of proper covers and foods, the destruction by dogs, cats and rats.

Many prominent men have written us discussing various phases of the subject. All are in harmony with our fundamental idea that the farming interests must be considered. All, without exception, have endorsed the idea that the way quickly to make game abundant and keep it so is to commercialize it.

The farmer cannot be expected to give his time and his money to the production of a game crop so long as the results of such industry surely will be the attracting of a horde of licensed trespassers who will shoot up his place and too often will injure and destroy farm property.

Sportsmen who deal fairly with the farmers, paying shooting rentals and for any land planted especially for the game, easily have made the game abundant and they keep it so by controlling some of its worst natural enemies and by proper protection and feeding in winter. Clubs with small dues should sell some of their abundant game to help pay the cost of production.

Under amendments to the laws favored by *The Game Breeder* there are many clubs which have an abundance of pheasants, ducks and deer; some have quail and grouse; there are many game farmers who sell thousands of birds and eggs every season. The farmer's interests have not been properly looked after, however, in many States, because, absurd as it may seem, the laws do not permit the profitable increase of the best birds

for the farms, the grouse and the quail. In many States, recently, the legislatures have been stampeded into hurriedly enacting laws prohibiting the killing of these birds for terms of years or forever. The farmers have willingly favored such laws because they know that they put an end to the trespassing sportsmen who too often have disregarded the posted notices of the landowners. The farmers evidently depreciate the value of their farms when they secure laws which prevent even themselves from having some of the most desirable foods which the farm produces. They make it impossible to profitably produce and sell the game and for reputable sportsmen to pay them a shooting rental which in many States now is a substantial source of additional revenue to many farmers.

Where laws are enacted prohibiting shooting the farmers should always see that the principle of our game breeders enactments be applied to the quail and the the grouse. The farmer who gives the game a little attention can, under such laws, easily have all the game he can eat and quickly he can sell stock birds and eggs at excellent prices; or he can rent the shooting to agreeable people who will pay an amount equal to or more than the entire taxes on his lands and buildings for the right to shoot a part of the game produced.

We have visited many farms in States where the farmers' interests have been distinctly consulted and where the community of interests between the farmers and sportsmen, to which Professor Bailey refers, have been established and the farmers and sportsmen of all classes are well pleased with the result: game is always plentiful.

It seems surprising that some of the agricultural States, notably Kansas, have not enacted laws permitting the farmers to breed and sell game and eggs and to rent the shooting if they so prefer. New York alone will soon be sending hundreds of thousands of dollars to farmers who sell game. Already many thousands of dollars pass through Kansas on their way to Colorado and other States where it is not criminal to produce game for profit; and the amount of money which will go

to the Kansas farmers for grouse and quail will be surprising as soon as the farmers who have the power to do so put some common sense in the game laws.

We refer to Kansas especially since it is one of the few States which are far behind the times and which have not enacted laws encouraging game breeding. It is one of the best States for this highly profitable industry. Quail and grouse can be bred in vast numbers very inexpensively and there is a market for every bird at excellent prices. Quail will sell readily for \$24 per dozen; grouse for \$60 per dozen. The eggs will sell for \$4 and \$6 per dozen in large lots and we can see no possible reason why the Kansas farmers should not have the money. We saw a substantial check recently which came back from a Kansas farmer in a letter stating he was not permitted to ship the birds he had reared by industry. The money was sent to a farmer in another State. It would be far better for the farmers to sell the game they easily can produce than to enact laws preventing them from even eating the desirable food. We predict when the farmers in Kansas and a few other backward States understand what they should do they will act quickly and we are quite sure the legislator who will oppose them will soon return to private life.

Often we have insisted that sport has nothing to fear from an abundance of game produced by proper methods. For the most part the farms are posted against shooting. In many States shooting is prohibited for a term of years or forever. It is absurd to say that the laws should prohibit the farmers from producing all species of game for profit, or in order to rent the shooting if they would prefer to get a revenue from their game in this manner as thousands of American farmers do in the States where the sporting politician is not permitted to say what a farmer can do, or not do, on his land. The best sportsmen in the country have endorsed the "more game" idea of The Game Breeder and are friendly to laws permitting game farming. The sporting politician easily can be defeated in Kansas and in all other States where he needs the attention of the farmers.

THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN—DESTRUCTION BY MAN.

L. P. TURNER

At a glance, therefore, it is plain that the prairie chicken has had an unusually heavy struggle for existence during the past few seasons. This struggle has been constant for at least two years. But if the birds' natural foes have increased and combined to besiege it from all sides to such a degree as to render its reproductive powers and protective instincts temporarily futile, these are nothing as compared with man's unremitting onslaughts.

Under normal conditions grouse show a rapid natural increase. By normal conditions is meant that perfect balance which undisturbed Nature maintains in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. When Nature's laws, in this respect become disturbed, the results are usually injurious or fatal in one or more of her many spheres of organic life. And man is usually the great disturber.

A growing scarcity of wild game must be expected in close proximity to intensive settlement and increasing centers of population. Adverse conditions stem the reproduction of wild life. As the haunts of game become encroached upon and hunted more and more each year, and as the characteristics of the country become changed, many forms of wild life are pushed back; and move to more congenial retreats, or become exhausted. And here we have, beyond a shadow of doubt, the direct solution of the chicken scarcity in many thickly settled districts. Being a bird of thinly wooded country and small prairies interspaced with scrub, and being inclined to hug the wild tracts in preference to the cultivated lands, the sharp-tailed grouse gradually retires as the country is subjected to the axe and the plough. For this primary reason, the sharp-tails are not found as plentifully in many districts as formerly, nor is it likely that they will ever be. On the other hand, the pinnated grouse being a lover of the open country, the treeless prairie, and above all, the wide, cul-

tivated fields bordered by grasslands, holds his ground or flees from one open tract to another, until no longer able to avoid the encroachment of the increasing army of hunters, he succumbs to the vanishing point or entirely disappears. Except in very severe weather, the pinnated grouse rarely seeks refuge in the thick woods, as does the sharp-tail. Thus, the pinnated grouse is in far greater danger of being exterminated in his chosen haunts, if subjected to heavy pressure, than is his sharp-tailed cousin of the wild and wooded country. And it would appear that the only panacea when birds become abnormally scarce in the settled districts is an occasional period of immunity from all hunting to enable them to become re-established. Under such protection, and it must be absolute, the pinnated grouse, if not overpowered by a preponderance of natural foes, or continuous adverse weather conditions, should increase; but the sharp-tail will not likely come back in any great numbers from the borders of his beloved wilderness to districts whose growing uncongeniality drove him out.

In spite of stringent laws to the contrary, a price hung above the prairie chicken's head for many years in this Province. Only the scarcity of the birds in the past two years has closed this market. Not long since, grouse by scores and hundreds flowed through the channels of a secret traffic. Hundreds of homes in Winnipeg and elsewhere annually enjoyed their quota of bought birds; and only in the last few years has it been impossible to purchase them in the restaurants, hotels and clubs. Wherever the birds could be killed in profitable numbers there were men to do the killing and spirit them by devious ways to the always-ready purchasers. Hundred upon hundreds of prairie chicken and partridge succumbed annually to this illegal hunting and marketing, and the authorities were practically helpless to

unearth all but a few flagrant cases. Lack of co-operation of the public, of sportsmen and of others interested in game protection, has been, as it will always be, the greatest obstacle in the way of our force of game wardens rendering the most adequate service.

Co-incident with the gradual decrease in prairie chicken in the settled parts of the country, there has been an enormous increase in the number of people who annually go hunting. With improved weapons and ammunition, and aided in scouring the country by the use of motor cars,

people have turned afield to hunt in ever-increasing numbers, and in many districts have all but succeeded in exterminating the chicken.

By natural inclination the prairie chicken frequent the more open territory which is now pretty well occupied by settlement; and in this entire area the present outlook is that, aside altogether from the destruction of birds by natural causes, a continuance of existing conditions will mean that the birds will go on decreasing, as has been the case in the older settled States to the south.

THE PRAIRIE GROUSE IN CANADA.

Mr. J. P. Turner, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, writes that he prepared the booklet on the two species of prairie grouse (from which we published quotations) at the request of the Minister of Agriculture. The object was to stir up public opinion toward the better protection of these birds and to hold up the hands of the government in proposed legislation to that end. The booklet was distributed throughout Manitoba and the Canadian west and had a good reception. Aided by the publicity given the subject of this and others means, the government saw the advisability of placing on the statutes an indefinite closed season for all grouse. As we say in the States the grouse has been placed in the song bird class.

Mr. Turner expresses disappointment because we only printed part of his booklet. We had already printed more of it in our November number, which appeared before he became a reader of *The Game Breeder*. We take pleasure in printing in this issue what he says about the destruction of grouse by man.

Mr. Turner in his letter, after informing us about the securing of an indefinite closed season, says:

"The question of suitable game-bird propagation was then taken up by us, in the hope that governmental and public support could be secured toward re-stocking and permanently supplying our grouse covers with ample

birds for all public requirements. This matter is still in the lobbying stage. The way must be paved by creating a wider public support and a stricter recognition of the game laws among our cosmopolitan population, before we can launch out upon the re-stocking plan; otherwise our best efforts must be of no avail. But we will succeed.

I have been connected with practically every movement for the better protection of game birds and animals in Manitoba for nearly twenty years, and I can assure you I have had a fairly complete knowledge of the countless obstacles to be overcome forced upon me in that time. Not the least of these has been the exasperating and selfish indifference of the man with the gun and the legislator with the vote; and most of all the meat-hunting proclivities of the thousands of settlers in our midst from older lands. Before adequate propagation of our native game can be even attempted we must make this latter class amenable not only to the law but to our good resolve. This we are gradually doing. It is work for the stout-hearted and tactful men who have a perfect knowledge of local conditions. It cannot be achieved from a distance, though friendly advice is sincerely coveted.

In your letter to Mr. J. A. MacDonald you state:

"I believe it would be a very easy matter to make the prairie chickens tremendously abundant and to keep them so provided the subject be handled by proper methods." Your theory in this regard commends itself. As for it being a "very easy matter" to put into effect even if handed by "proper methods" is I fear another thing. I think I could convince you of this were you to become a resident of Manitoba for say twelve months. But, in going along hopefully toward the ultimate at-

tainment of our dreams, I trust we may have the benefit of your personal experience in those parts of the United States where the "proper methods" have brought the "tremendous abundance" we desire.

I was not a little disappointed to find in the copy of *The Game Breeder* forwarded by Mr. MacDonald that portions of "The Prairie Chicken" (together with two of the cuts) had been printed in a way that, to the casual reader, if not to all, must needs give an entirely false impression. I take it that, although portions only have apparently been culled for publication in your journal, you have perused the entire context. In your December article over my name, entitled by you "The Enemies of the Grouse of the Open Country," you have entirely eliminated my remarks as to man's destruction of grouse. In the face of your editorial comment this is most misleading. I pointed out in the "Prairie Chicken" that man was the outstanding destroyer. I stated that "a growing scarcity of game must be expected in settled regions." In these contentions I was incontrovertibly correct—the Game Conservation Society not withstanding. I regret that you saw fit to make it appear that I claimed the crow, goshawk and coyote to be the chief enemies of our prairie grouse, whereas these were cited by me as accessories to man as a destroyer. My claim that as portions of the country become settled by intensive farming and the consequent destruction of natural covers and nesting grounds takes place, a scarcity of game must be expected, is a fact supported by all rational authorities on game protection. May I ask why the heath hen has come so dangerously near extinction, and this in the face of frantic efforts, for many years, to save it? Settlement and its consequences must give the answer again. Editorially you remind me that whereas I noted the divergence of opinion as to the cause of the decrease of prairie chicken, and whereas I anticipated the controversy which must surround anyone who might attempt to arrive at a conclusive verdict, you were ready to come to the rescue by telling me upon request why the grouse vanish. Why not volunteer the reason? Had you printed my complete treatise in one issue of your journal or even had you shown that portion printed in your December number as being part of a continued article, there would have been no grounds for the attempted "rescue," since my article deals pretty fully with every phase of the scarcity of grouse, including prairie fires and loss of winter food, and brings out the fact that the grouse have chiefly vanished from the destructive methods employed by man. Your editorial quotations from Darwin merely corroborate what I stated in my brochure, but are used in a sense to put me right.

Again, you state editorially that "We have never seen any occasion for the wonder, speculation and argument to which Mr. Turner refers. Mr. Turner is wrong in saying there is no one who would care to assume the risky

honor of deciding what is the matter with the American grouse." Please let me say again, that were you, Mr. Editor, free to spend twelve months here, you would be nonplussed by the complexity of arguments on the subject; and I venture to say that neither *The Game Breeder* nor its editor, nor the Game Conservation Society are at this present moment in a position to "*forward a solution which will amount to a perfectly satisfactory demonstration,*" if asked to explain the fact that whereas as late as three years ago native grouse of all kinds were plentiful in the huge area of the Riding Mountain Preserve in Manitoba, where no gun has been carried, no trapping has been done and no hunting has occurred in six years, only one single ruffed was observed.

[We cannot say what disasters of the past are due to, in any case, without having the necessary facts. Had there been a game keeper on the ground he would have told to a certainty what happened. Probably nature's balance was upset in some manner, most likely by an overabundance of natural enemies when compared with the game. This may have been due to shooting at some period, possibly at a time when it was supposed not to occur. What we are able to demonstrate is the proper method for making any area so safe and attractive that no disasters will occur of sufficient importance to put an end to the shooting. Our quail breeders shoot year after year, in some places thousands of birds each season. The grouse breeders in Scotland shoot thousands of grouse every season and the only serious trouble we have heard of was due to an over-abundance of game which resulted in disease. Some of the big Hungarian breeders can shoot many partridges and also sell thousands alive for propagation every season. The methods by which such abundance is maintained are well known and we have plenty of literature on this subject written by capable pens.

Having successfully produced several thousand wild ducks on a place we were obliged to make the pond, and having enjoyed the shooting, we feel confident that it would be an easier matter to make the prairie chickens tremendously abundant and to keep them so provided the subject be handled by proper methods. Mr. Turner should forget all about the "lobbying stage," to which he refers. This would indicate that he expects to make the grouse plentiful by some more legislation. If he will form a grouse club and let us send him the game keepers he soon will see the grouse plentiful and the shooting good on any suitable area, even quite near a city or town. Since thousands of game birds can be shot year after year on places quite near New York, in a region where one-tenth of the entire population of the United States resides, no good reason can be assigned why thousands of birds should not be produced and shot on any suitable area in Manitoba. We were

obliged to send to England for some of our ducks, when we made our first experiment, on account of our game laws. There are thousands of breeders in the United States today who sell wild ducks and eggs.

The law Mr. Turner secured no doubt will prevent any one from getting grouse or grouse eggs in order to apply the proper methods and no prairie grouse can be purchased in England. Certainly no one can be expected to make any area safe and attractive and to keep it so if the result of his industry must be a fine or jail sentence if he fires a gun.

We happen to have a library of real "rational authorities" and they all agree that a scarcity of game is not "to be expected" in settled regions when "proper methods" are applied; on the contrary they point out how to offset and overcome the difficulties due to "intensive farming," the destruction of covers, nesting ground, etc. We have plenty of fake authorities in America who know nothing about game and the causes for its increase and decrease and these will be found too often trying to get it into the "lobbying stage" possibly because they do not know enough to know that laws never can produce game abundance or good shooting, in populous regions. These are often the easiest places to make game plentiful because there are not so many natural enemies, where many reside on the land they are more easy to control.

We know all about the Heath Hen. When it was in charge of a mounted warden it did not do very well. Later, when some proper methods were partially applied it increased in numbers rapidly; still later, when the man in charge was obliged to be away on other duties, a fire resulted in the loss of most of the grouse and made much of the area where they occurred unsuitable for their existence. Our game keeper once stopped a similar fire and saved our grouse and quail.

As soon as Mr. Turner is ready to apply the "proper methods" we shall be pleased to send a plan for the preparation of a prairie showing where the hedges of wild rose and other covers and foods should be planted, and we can send the men who will produce the grouse in big numbers every season. The cost of producing grouse should be much less than the cost of hand-rearing a similar number of pheasants, because the grouse should be bred wild on safe and attractive areas where they will find most of their food.

We fear the kind of authorities Mr. Turner seems to rely on are those who collect vast sums to keep the birds in "the lobbying stage" and these people always get what they go after—"more laws." We have so often gone after "more game" successfully, in spite of the efforts of such "authorities," that we feel fully competent to give advice. If you don't believe what we say read some of the books written by real authorities who have filled their works with common sense stories about how

game of all species has been made plentiful in populous regions.

Mr. Turner, as we said, pointed out enough reasons why the grouse vanish. It can not stand any shooting and all the other causes of destruction at the same time. The books say remove or control some of the natural causes for destruction and the shooting becomes good and highly proper. Our objection to Mr. Turner's efforts is that they result in the prohibition of sport and in destroying the incentive for any one to apply "proper methods."—
[Editor.]

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The numerous game protective associations will advise Mr. Turner to have many quiet game refuges created on the prairie in the hope that by some means they some day may be stocked with prairie chickens.

We advise him to buy a few stock birds and eggs, hire a game keeper (we can send good ones) and look forward to some lively shooting every August.

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The same mischief makers who would advise Mr. Turner to see that the pump gun be prohibited and later the double barrel and single barrel and later to put the grouse on the song bird list will advise him to hope that his descendants may have some shooting because he quits. We think the descendants will fare better if Mr. Turner will take our advice and go in for more game and fewer game laws and for some lively shooting every season. Some small fortunes are gathered in New York by those whose advice Mr. Turner relies on, but the more gameists have their money invested in game and eggs. Our people can now take orders for 10,000 and up.

More Song Birds.

Nevada places the quail, the dove and the plover on the song bird list.

It would seem absurd to enact a law prohibiting the farmer from having an axe in his possession in order to stop his chopping off the heads of his chickens.

It seems to us equally absurd to say that a game farmer or shooting tenant can not shoot the game produced with pump guns, double barrels, singles or any old guns.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

How to Detect Vermin By Its Work.

Good game keepers when game birds, young and old, and eggs are destroyed often are able to say what species of vermin is doing the damage before they see the culprit.

Upon one occasion a keeper asked the editor of *The Game Breeder* for traps, saying the owls were taking his ducks and pheasants. When he was asked how he knew the owls were doing the damage he replied, "every vermin leaves its signs." The heads had been torn off of the dead birds.

Owen Jones, the talented author of "Ten Years of Game Keeping," writing about owls, says: "I had shifted a batch of pheasants to covert, which an assistant was to look after. The man came to me the morning following the bird's first night in covert and said there must be stoats on the war path, for he had found a bird with its head off. I went to investigate. There was no doubt about the bird's head being off, and the flesh was picked off the neck, which told me that the crime had not been committed by stoats. The body of the bird lay at the edge of the ride, and at dusk I set a trap to it, leaving instructions that it was to be thrown at daybreak next morning, if necessary, so as not to catch the pheasants. When I saw my assistant's face beaming with triumph, I asked him how many stoats had been caught. He replied: "Ne'er a one; but we've bin and ketch'd the devil"—who turned out to be a long-eared owl. And no more pheasants were decapitated.

Blue Jays and Game.

Owen Jones says, "In one season, in one wood, I lost over two hundred pheasants' eggs, their shells (each with a neat hole through which the contents had been sampled) remaining in the nests. I came to the conclusion that it was the work of jays, and rightly, for as soon as I had trapped a pair of jays to pheasants' eggs my losses entirely ceased, at which I was not sorry." Rabbits' eyes or sheeps'—

in fact any sort of eyes—he says—are very attractive baits for jays, provided the trap is skilfully hidden. But the best bait that I know of is a piece of the yellow fat from the interior of a fowl.

Blue Jays Beneficial.

A judicious thinning of hawks and magpies is quite enough to satisfy the demands of any sportsman, and their extinction is bound to react to the detriment of the selfish few. In many parts, too, jays are getting comparatively scarce, though I am glad to say that, like stoats and weasels, they are too cunning ever to be wiped out by fair means.

No sane keeper would wish to be without a sprinkling of jays in his woods, for he has no more vigilant and useful sentinels. In a wood where there are jays, neither cat, nor fox, nor man can stir without being spotted and proclaimed. Jays also take a somewhat uncalled for delight in mobbing a barn-owl should it get abroad in the daytime.—Owen Jones.

Pheasants and the Incubator.

Many pheasant eggs have been successfully hatched in incubators by Duncan Dunn, superintendent of the New Jersey State game farm. Mr. A. R. Miller, superintendent of the State farm, Brownville, N. Y., also has been successful in rearing pheasants hatched in incubators. During the last season he raised about 1,000 pheasants in this manner.

Wild Ducks and the Incubator.

Since tame ducks are hatched in incubators and reared in big numbers there would seem to be no good reason why the eggs of wild ducks should not be hatched profitably in incubators; in fact, they have been on some game farms and preserves. Mr. Duquette of Bad Axe, Michigan, using a mammoth incubator, hatched nearly 2,000 eggs of mallards and black ducks one season.

The Game Conservation Society will

make some experiments with black duck eggs and possibly teal and other wild fowl, using incubators at its experimental farm. Some of the members of the society also will experiment with several species of wild fowl in this manner. The results of these experiments will make interesting reading for our readers, no doubt.

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Safe Trees.

Very curious facts about the preference of lightning for certain kinds of trees have been collected by scientists in some foreign countries. It has long been noticed that oaks are more frequently damaged by lightning than beeches. As a partial explanation it has been suggested that the smoother leaves and bark of the beech, by producing a uniform wetting of the surface in a storm, may cause lightning to reach the ground from such a tree with less damage than in the case of an oak. But the statistics just referred to indicate that the beech is comparatively exempt from lightning strokes. In ten years, within a certain district, fifty-six oaks, about twenty firs and three or four pines were struck by lightning, but not a single beech was struck, although the beech was actually the most abundant tree in the district, outnumbering the oaks almost seven to one. It has been further suggested that this furnishes a practical hint as to what kind of tree to take shelter under in a thunderstorm, that is, if there are any beech trees available for the purpose.

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The Kingbird.

In these days, perhaps, it would be better to write about the man-of-war bird than any other, but as kings figure in the present fighting and the kingbird figures in the fighting all the time, a word or two about him may have a place in the stricken field.

The scientists call the kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*, doubling up on the tyrannical significance of the thing because this bird of ours tyrannizes over other birds, but it is grateful to say that his pecking pugnacity restrains itself in the cases of birds smaller than himself.

There are some good friends of the kingbird who will tell you that the tyrannus of his name is used in its extremely ancient significance, which was that of ruler rather than tyrant, but the kingbird is a tyrant, nevertheless, as one can find out by asking any crow or hawk which flaps or sails within the domain of this guardian of the fields.

Some country folk call the kingbird the bee martin, because he occasionally in his insect-catching life snaps up a bee. The kingbird loves the orchard. There, while his mate is covering the eggs, he takes to a tree-top to look over the landscape and the skyscape. When a hawk or a crow comes in sight the kingbird is off for a battle in which he does all the fighting. Occasionally he takes a ride on the enemy's back for a yard or so, pecking his hardest to make his victim exceed the speed limit.

The farmers like the kingbird, because while he is about the chickens are safe from those pirates of the air, the sharpshinned and the Cooper hawk. There are kings and kings. The days of some of them, we hope, are numbered, but long live *Tyrannus tyrannus*!—Chicago Evening Post.

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A "Coon-Cat" or a Nature-Fake?

We shall be glad to hear from some of our Maine readers about this news sent in a clipping to *The Game Breeder*.

The so-called "coon-cat," which is common all over Maine, is held by natives to be a cross between the cat and the raccoon. Biologists ridicule this belief; nevertheless many half wild cats in Maine have the typical raccoon tail with short forelegs, pointed snout and long hair.

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Turtle and Hawk.

In a despatch to the *Evening World*, N. Y., from York, Pa., "The fable of the hare and the tortoise" is surpassed.

Miss Mabel Griest, walking through a field, noticed a bird in the grass frantically beating its wings. Approaching she found it to be a hawk with one leg securely caught between the jaws of a turtle. The girl struck the prisoner with a stick, killing it.

More Coons.

More coons are being taken in Texas than ever before according to the following clipping sent to The Game Breeder:

Marshall, Tex., Feb. 16.—Coon skins are bringing wealth to the negroes of East Texas. The hunting of these animals is now a commercial pursuit instead of being merely a sport. The skins are now selling for \$2.50 to \$3 each, instead of 25 to 35 cents, as they were only a few years ago.

Coon hunting is so profitable that many farmers are unable to keep their negro laborers. It is not unusual for a negro to trap or kill as many as ten coons in a single night. Although trapping is the favorite method of capturing the animals, the coon dog is still used extensively. The swamps around Caddo Lake and extending into Louisiana are overrun with coons. Their habitat, however, extends throughout all the wooded portion of East Texas.

Hundreds of negroes and many white men have established camps in the more likely localities. The skins are assembled at the different railroad shipping points, where they find a ready market.

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Raising Game for the Market.

In many parts of Oregon there are uncultivated places that might be used to good advantage in raising deer, elk and other wild animals. There is no reason why deer or elk cannot be handled much the same as domestic animals. According to the tagging law, which was passed at the last session of the legislature, deer or elk, when raised in captivity, can be sold in market the same as a sheep or a calf is sold.

A deer recently sold in one of the Portland markets according to the tagging law attracted wide attention and brought a good price. It also was the cause of a large number of complaints coming from hunters who did not know of the tagging law, but who thought the game laws were being violated.

A very profitable industry might well be started, especially through the Willamette Valley, in rearing game birds for market and for breeding purposes. A farmer who can make a success at raising turkeys can readily raise Chinese pheasants. The demand for pheasants is very large. Oregon is known throughout the United States as the home of the

Chinese pheasant. Orders for these birds come from far and wide. For table use the Chinese pheasant brings a price of \$1.50, while a chicken of the same size will sell for half the amount. For breeding purposes these birds retail from \$4 to \$6 per pair.

The demand for Chinese pheasants and other game birds is much greater each year than can be supplied. If some of our energetic farmers could only be interested in the matter, there is no reason why our markets and hotels could not be supplied with pheasants throughout the year just as they are supplied with chickens.

It is a very easy matter to govern the marketing of these birds by the tagging system and their rearing in large numbers would mean an attractive resource to Oregon.—Oregon Sportsman.

=

Night Trapping.

A reader said to the editor not long ago that he knew he had plenty of rats and other vermin about but he was afraid to set traps because he knew his young chickens and turkeys would get caught.

He will find a useful hint in reading what Owen Jones says in the note "How to Detect Vermin" in this issue. He set the trap at dusk and ordered it sprung at daybreak if necessary. It turned out not to be necessary since the game enemy was captured. Many traps can be set safely at night, the time when game enemies do the most damage, and sprung in the morning before the game is liberated or before it is astir if it be wild bred.

Most amateurs do not use nearly enough traps. The traps are very cheap and since their use is followed by an abundance of both hand reared and wild bred game we would strongly urge our readers to use plenty of traps.

Pole Traps.

We again advise our readers to set their traps for hawks and owls and crows on high poles and in tall trees and not on fence posts and low branches which are frequented by quail and song birds which should not be destroyed.

The Game Breeder

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Mr. Turner, whose story about the Prairie Chicken is continued in this number, seems to think we have misunderstood his argument about the prairie chicken and the causes for its disappearance. Mr. Turner has cited abundant causes for the disappearance of the grouse. His booklet seems to us able and thorough. Our difference is one relating to the remedy—the restoration of grouse and shooting. He succeeds in putting the grouse on the song bird list forever. We favor making it quite worth while for any one to have an abundance of grouse for sport or for profit. Mr. Turner's ideas on this point are those of the old style game protectionist. Our ideas are those of the modern more-gameist. We have tried the "more game" plan in so many places that we are sure it works well. Game always is plentiful. The people have some to eat.

FOOD ABUNDANCE.

Our readers will find some suggestions about good places to go rabbit shooting in the extract from the report of the Biological Survey. Now that there is so much talk about food scarcity we would think brer rabbit might be reduced in a better way than by poison. Make the food a commercial proposition and it would seem that the destruction of rabbits otherwise than by poison might

become effective. It is gratifying to know that we have some kind of food which is abundant.

THE ATTITUDE OF SPORT.

All intelligent sportsmen have endorsed the "more game" idea or at least are not inclined to oppose or obstruct the movement. The tremendous circulation of the booklet on "Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure," written by the editor of The Game Breeder for the Hercules Powder Company, brought the subject to the attention of practically every sportsman in America and the enthusiasm of many evidenced by their letters, and the quiet acceptance by practically all sportsmen, of the ideas advanced, indicate that the rank and file are prepared and willing to have "more game and fewer game laws."

The Hercules Powder Company performed a big public service when it published its booklet on game farming, not only for the sporting public but also for the farmers and all who would like to see game abundant and cheap in our markets. As an advertising "stunt" the successful campaign of the Hercules Company takes first rank in the wonderful field of modern advertising.

WAR GOVERNORS.

During the Civil War some of the State governors became prominent on account of their activities in the right direction and became noted as "War Governors." Governors who at present are not afraid of the political influence of their game wardens and the game politicians have a rare opportunity to become noted as "war governors" if they will speed up the production of game as food. Although even the food administrator at Washington seemed to shiver a little at the idea in a letter sent by one of his underlings in answer to a suggestion on these lines and possibly he may favor the political activities intended to create a national game police force which, no doubt may make a record in arresting and fining food producers, as some State officers recently have, we are convinced that a statesmanlike governor has noth-

ing to fear in advising the farmers and the sportsmen, not accepted for war services, to produce all the game they can and to donate a part of their crop to the Game Conservation Society for the hospitals.

The governor of Massachusetts and the game department of that State will appear as shining lights when contrasted with the governors and the game departments of such States as Kansas and Alabama, which States can not contribute a feather to our hospital donation. Indiana had a war governor, if we remember rightly, during the Civil War. We believe there will be something doing in Indiana now, since there are some game statesmen in that State who, no doubt, will go to the front as the game politician retires, if we are not mistaken in our guess.

GAME FOR THE HOSPITALS.

A lady member of the Game Conservation Society wrote that she proposed to send half of the game she produced this year to the committee of the society which will provide game for the hospitals which may entertain soldiers and sailors returning from abroad. The entire crop of game produced on the game farm which will be operated by the Game Conservation Society will be donated to such hospitals. In addition to this a good part of the game produced by a shooting syndicate, also conducted by members of the society, will be donated.

The annual dues of members of this new syndicate have been made \$52, or \$1 per week, the idea being to demonstrate that good shooting can be provided for this amount. The syndicate will be managed by a board of directors made up of members of this society who have had practical experience in the Game Breeders Association and other successful shooting enterprises.

The number of members in this syndicate is limited to 100 and any member of the society who wishes to join it can send his application to The Game Breeder.

Since it seems evident that the list soon will be filled and that there will be a waiting list, it is probable that the society

will take an active interest in the formation of other clubs or syndicates next year.

We will soon issue a request to all of our members to donate some of their game to the hospitals after the shooting. We suggest that all good breeders set at least a dozen eggs in anticipation of this call in order that they may contribute. We believe very small donations from those of our members who are willing to "do their bit" will provide all of the game that will be needed and we believe all good breeders will take a patriotic interest in what the society has undertaken. If the society does (we are quite sure it can) furnish a large amount of game to the hospitals we believe the result will be to demonstrate that "more game" is far more desirable than "more game laws."

HUNTER OR HUSBANDMAN.

The article with the above heading by Dr. James G. Needham of Cornell University, printed in this issue, is excellent and timely. It will do much to expedite the "more game" movement. As we have pointed out often, there are vast bays and public marshes, vast and uncultivated areas and mountain areas where the public can be permitted to shoot, and there should be public shooting parks or refuges for game as Professor Needham suggests where under proper regulations anyone can shoot during the open season.

Shooting on the farms without the owner's permission and without the farmer getting proper compensation for the game he produces is quite another matter. "The farmer should possess his farm in peace."

One of our objects has been to open up some of the posted farms for shooting where the farmers want the money.

Professor Needham well says:

"The farmers want freedom from the nuisance of the hunters who are merely raiders and economic pirates, and should unite to secure it. Every man's farm should be his own, free from ravage by hunters, free from menace by guns. All its wild products should be in his own keeping, subject only to his neighbor's interests, rights and welfare. The farmer should be free to raise on his farm any kind of plant or animal without permit

or license from any source. Such artificial barriers ought not to obstruct the path of forward-looking agricultural enterprises."

He should rent the shooting or not rent as he chooses.

The New York State College of Agriculture announces a course of instruction in conservation and game breeding in which all members of our Game Conservation Society and all readers of *The Game Breeder* will be much interested. We would point out, however, the futility of teaching any one to breed quail or wood duck or any of the most desirable species of game, which most need the breeder's attention, so long as the laws provide close seasons for such food and no one is permitted to take, eat or sell a bird. The matter of first importance is to amend the laws so that the breeding and sale of all species of game may be a legal industry. Why should the college teach the youth of the country to become criminals?

Professor Needham's idea that the wild products on the farm should be in the farmer's own keeping; that he should, in fact, own the game within his boundaries and raise it profitably easily can be formulated and enacted as a proper amendment to the game laws, provided those who propose to lecture on game breeding will join the farmers in a request for such legislation. The farmers should unite and see that the laws be promptly amended so as to permit them to own the game on their farms and it will be a highly profitable crop.

CORRESPONDENCE.

One We Finished.

The Game Breeder:

I am in receipt of notice for my renewal of *The Game Breeder*. Kindly cancel this, as I do not desire the magazine any more. Your attack on the Enabling Act has finished me. C. M. O.

This is the only letter we have received in opposition to what we regard as a serious legal absurdity. We asked the young lady who has charge of the subscription department how many new subscriptions came in the same mail. There were eleven. The letter was dated the 8th and the report for the month to the date of the receipt of the letter was 73 subscriptions. It would appear therefore that

the editorial policy of the publication is not causing it to run behind. The writer of the unique and remarkable letter probably does not understand that it is not proper to delegate the crime making power to those who are to execute the laws when made and that criminal laws relating to game should be written like all other criminal laws in simple language defining the crime and fixing the penalty so all may know what the law is. We are quite sure if any one were to ask him to bound the area where the dove is a migratory bird and where it is not a migratory bird, within the United States, and to say where any one is likely to be seized by an amateur U. S. game policeman and where he is not likely to be apprehended for shooting a dove, he would be unable to give the boundary or name the penalty. We knew this at one time but we have mislaid the pamphlet containing the nonsense, and there is nothing about this in the United States statute book where all other crimes are listed. It should be remembered that only a few regulations have been made thus far. The number of absurdities will be rapidly increased, no doubt, and the officers seeking to make a case in order to prove their prowess and importance, will no doubt find sportsmen easy marks for fines and possibly jail sentences when the mystery has been amplified.

We do not publish the writer's name since we are sure he will live to be ashamed of saying that we, "finished him."

Another "Good For You."

In a letter received recently a prominent New York lawyer says the dean of sportsmen, Charles Hallock, was right in saying that we had won our fight for "more game" and the encouragement of profitable game breeding. He wishes to join the dean in saying: "Good for you!"

We are gratified at the numerous testimonials which come in the mail and sometimes by phone. What pleases us most is the fact that most of the State game officers are contributing members of the Game Conservation Society and say they will favor the prompt enactment of breeders laws in the States which are somewhat behind the times.

The fact the National Association of Audubon Societies, the North American Protective Association and the American Protection and Propagation Association have endorsed our policy and the "more game" movement will aid much in working out the details needed to make North America the biggest game producing country in the world.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE MOOSE BOOK; Facts and Stories from Northern Forests. By Samuel Merrill. E. P. Dutton & Co., 1916. \$3.50. Pp. 366.

Although the moose is the largest of our American game animals, and is the giant of the deer family, we have never before had a book devoted solely to its natural history as viewed by the sportsmen. The book treats not only of the American moose but also its old world relative, where it is known as the elk. The first and larger part of the volume is devoted to our American form and that of the old world less fully. The moose is discussed from almost every standpoint, as indicated by chapters on its history, its geographic range (illustrated by a map), habits, methods of hunting, hunting equipment, heads and horns, moose meat as food, future prospects of the moose, names, mythology and superstitions. The account of the old world elk is handled in a similar manner. It was an excellent idea to discuss the species as a whole. There are so many interesting items in a book of this character that it is difficult to select some for mention. Several recipes are given for cooking moose meat. The muffle, the large nose and upper lip is a rare dish, known mainly to a few fastidious hunters. Merrill states: "Like the beaver's tail it is a useful substitute for a hand, and like the beaver's tail it is the choicest tidbit which the animal can furnish for the table." The author calls attention to the desirability of some one making a weekly photographic record of the development of the antlers, and a full record from youth to old age. One writer claims that the food influences the character of antler growth. We are told that the full grown bull moose is "six feet or more in height at the withers." Very little reliable information is recorded of the live weight of mature animals. Moose are thought to live for 18 or 20 years. The cows usually produce one or two calves, rarely three. The moose feeds upon twigs, leaves, bark, moss, lichens and in the summer on various water plants, or fresh water "salads." Burnt over land, with one or two seasons of fresh growth,

is a favorite feeding ground. That several kinds of deer may be kept in the same forest is advocated as follows: "He (the moose) consumes little of the forage on which the white tail subsists, and still less of the moss and other things which support the caribou. The three species of deer live in harmony in the same woodland home, practically ignoring each other's existence" (p. 224). Very little success has attended the efforts made to breed moose in captivity. It is to be hoped that renewed efforts will be made to make this a success.

The book bears evidence of careful preparation and accuracy and for that reason it seems strange to meet with the reverie where the bear (during the hibernating season) attacks the moose when harassed by deep snows. The author states that on Isle Royale, Lake Superior, a few moose are found, but he does not state on what authority. When the reviewer was upon the isle in 1905 he did not learn of its certain presence there. The book is a valuable one and will find a welcome in the libraries of many sportsmen.

Charles C. Adams,
N. Y. State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y., U. S. A.

Camouflage—The Art of Make Up.

The use of this word in connection with military affairs has tended to create the impression that it has a hidden military meaning. This is contrary to the facts, as it is simply slang, borrowed from the French stage. Its real meaning is "make up." In its original use it applies where

"Little grains of powder,
Little dabs of paint,
Make a girl of forty
Look like what she ain't"

—*Du Pont Magazine.*

Something for Senator.

Senator James Hamilton Lewis was telling somebody that he had half a notion to cut off his famous whiskers.

"I suppose," suggested John Sharp Williams, "that you'll get a taxidermist to mount them for you."



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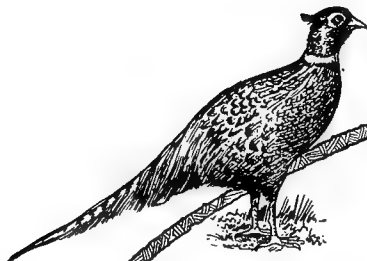
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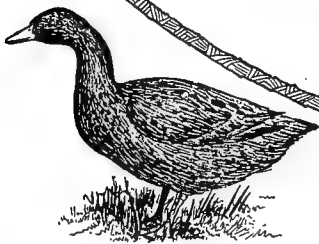
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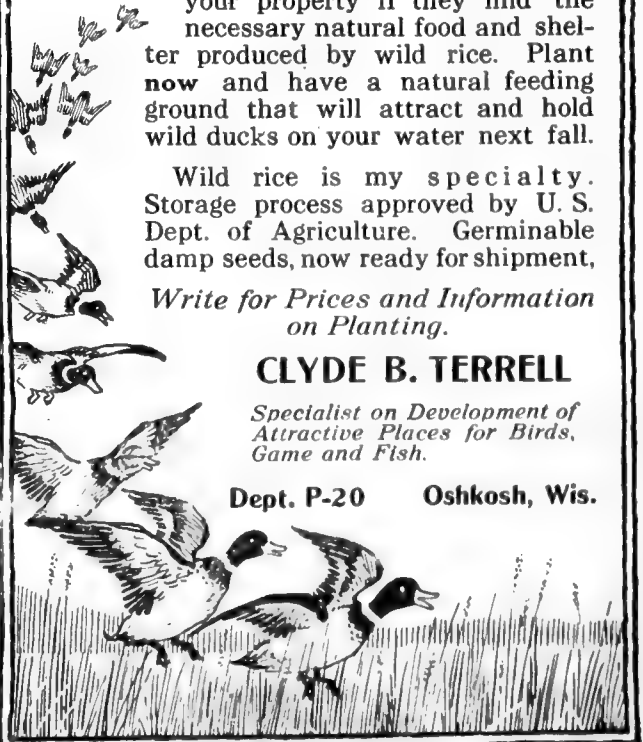
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150 Nassau Street

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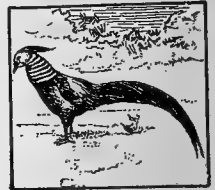
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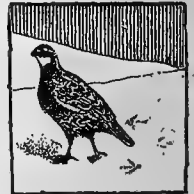
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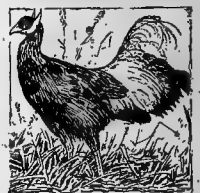


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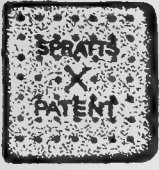


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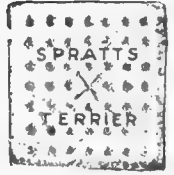
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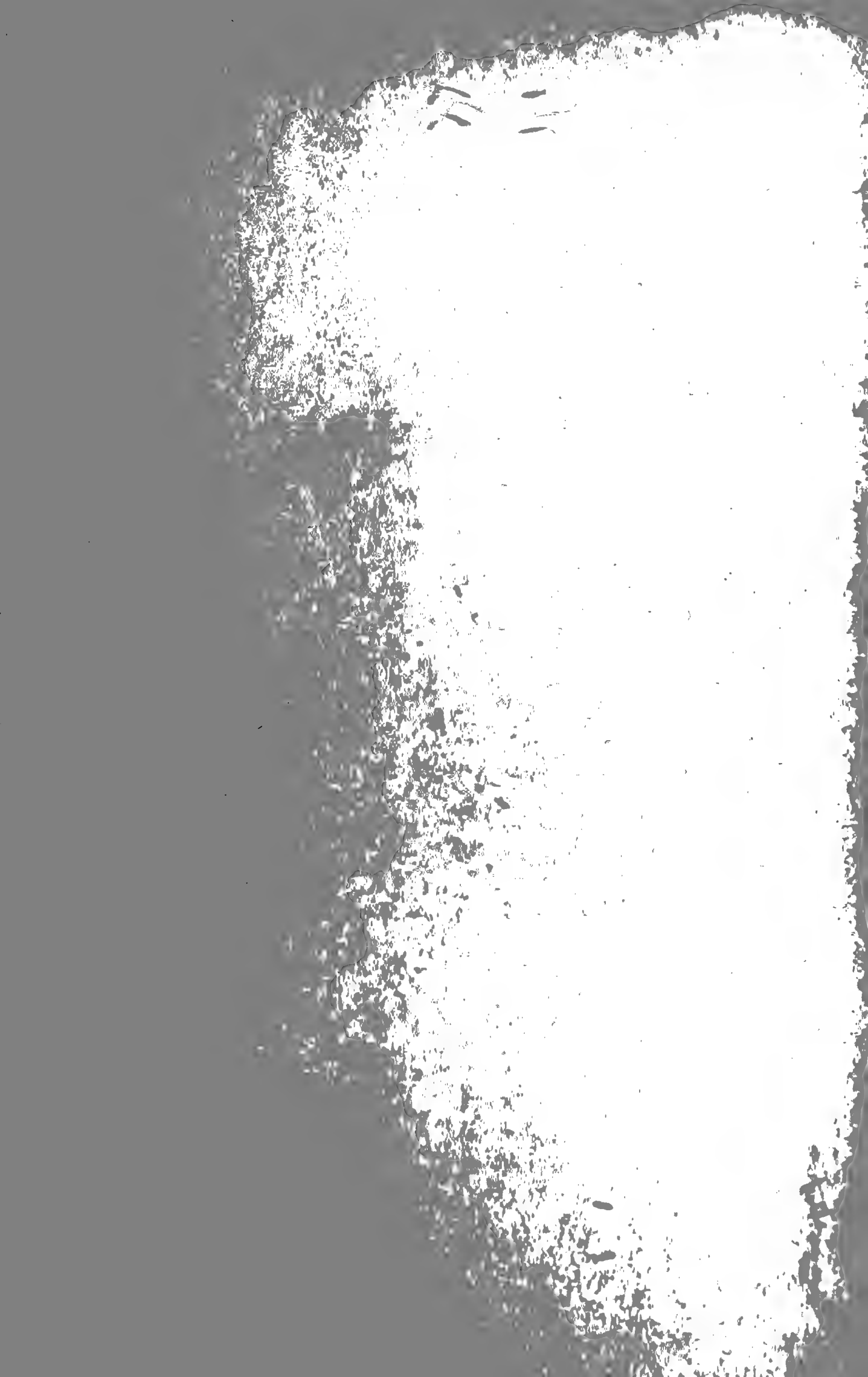
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