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The Game Breeder

Published Monthly



AN ADIRONDACK DEER.—PHOTO BY GEO. B. HOWLAND.

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Correspondence—Trade Notes, Etc.

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There will be a series of handsomely illustrated articles on American Game Clubs and Preserves. Many interesting places have been visited by those who are preparing these articles, and the reader will be surprised to learn that thousands of quail are shot every year on each of a number of preserves, which will be described in early issues of The Game Breeder.

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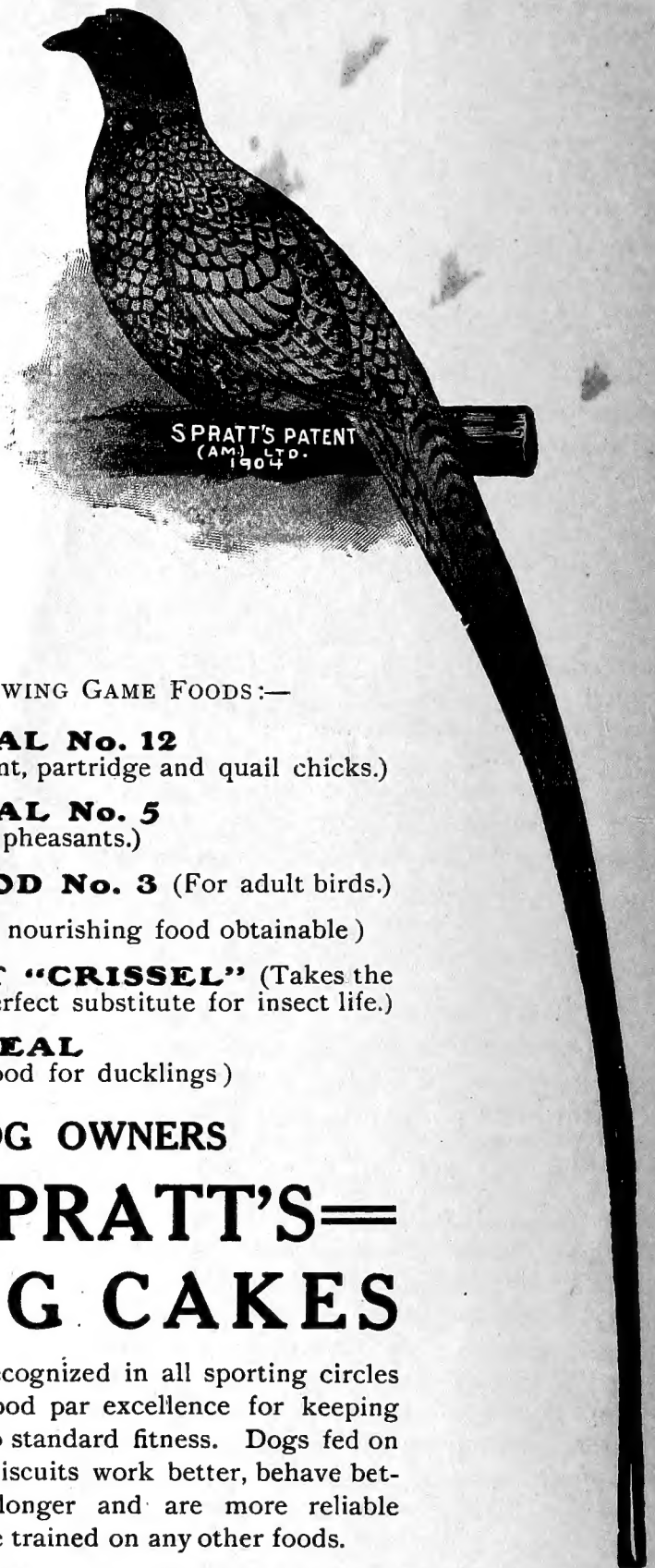
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The Game Breeder

VOLUME V

APRIL, 1914

NUMBER 1



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Good Opportunities for Good Shooting.

Many Game Breeding Associations and Shooting Clubs throughout the country, which have game in abundance and excellent shooting during long open seasons, are associated with the Game Conservation Society, which publishes The Game Breeder.

Sometimes there are vacancies in one or more of these splendid organizations and any of our readers who wish to get some good shooting can do so by joining an association. Write to The Game Breeder (Circulation Dept.) stating in what state or locality you would prefer to shoot and we will put you in the way of becoming a member or at least getting you on the waiting list. There are several excellent Game Breeding Associations quite near New York with moderate dues. Do not hesitate to use your magazine, The Game Breeder, if you wish to become a member.

The Jones Law.

The new Jones law recently signed by the Governor of New York, contains some excellent provisions. (Matter in italics is new.)

1. The Commission may issue licenses to collect or possess for propagation, scientific or exhibition purposes, and, *"The Commission may also issue a license revocable at pleasure to any person, permitting such person to possess any species of fish, game, birds, aquatic animals or quadrupeds, protected by this chapter for propagation purposes only, upon payment of a license fee of one dollar. The Commission may, in its discretion, require a bond from such person, in such sum as the Commission may determine, conditioned that he will not avail himself of the privileges of said license for purposes not herein set forth."*

The commission may issue permits to enable persons to ship fish, aquatic animals, game and quadrupeds lawfully taken and possessed for propagation, scientific or educational purposes, under such regulations as the commission may prescribe.

Fish, aquatic animals, quadrupeds and game lawfully possessed under this section may be sold at any time, by any person receiving a license under this section, for propagation, scientific, educational or exhibition purposes only.

2. Quadrupeds, birds or fish lawfully taken and possessed in one part of the State, may be transported by the taker as provided by section one hundred and seventy-eight of this chapter and may be possessed by the taker in any part of the State for the same period of time during which they may be lawfully possessed at the place where taken.

3. *All species of fur-bearing animals protected by this chapter may be kept alive in captivity at all times, etc. Every person obtaining such license shall pay the Commission the sum of five dollars as a license fee.*

State Game Farms.

A number of laws authorizing new State game farms were enacted but it was believed by those who are wise that the Governor would not sign all of them.

The N. Y. Trout Season.

Under the Jones law the New York trout season opens the first Saturday of April—closes August 31st, both inclusive.

Important to Game Breeders.

Licensed game breeders may kill their elk, deer, mallard ducks and black ducks in any manner, at any time, but mallard ducks or black ducks killed by shooting,

shall not be bought, sold or trafficked in. The species named can be sold *at any time.*

How Newspapers Go Wrong.

The New York Herald expressed the opinion that the new Jones law would tend to exterminate the game. It only relates to game produced by the industry of breeders and it is intended to encourage them. They may sell their game (at fabulous prices) under State regulations which have been found to be very satisfactory and to rapidly increase the numbers of the game quadrupeds and birds in all States which have enacted game breeders laws. The idea the Herald advances is that if a producer is encouraged to sell his product it will cause its extermination. In Massachusetts about 500 breeders are now producing game and one of them in a letter which came to-day says his pheasants cost 35 cents each. They sell for \$2.50 each in lots of a thousand or more in New York markets. The New York law only makes it worth while to produce game in New York and, of course, the Herald editor's fears are not well founded. He probably was imposed upon by some game law enthusiast. An intelligent State Game Department thinks the people should produce food without fear of the police and we agree to this.

How The Tribune Went Wrong.

The following telegram to the Tribune shows how the Tribune reporter viewed the new law:

Albany, March 31.—The labor of years to safeguard the deer, duck and other game birds and animals will be wiped out by a stroke of the pen if Governor Glynn signs the new game act introduced by Assemblyman J. G. Jones, sportsmen declare, who read the Jones bill to-night.

The Governor this afternoon said he would sign the bill to-morrow.

The present law, which is wiped out by the Jones bill, limits the season in which elk and deer may be killed between October 1 and March 1. Pheasants may be taken from October 1 to January 31, and mallards and black ducks from October 1 to January 10.

The Jones bill particularly provides that "elk, deer, pheasants, mallard ducks or black

ducks may be killed in any manner at any time."

Every prominent sportsman and naturalist regards the new Jones law as excellent. The mistake made, of course, was in overlooking the fact that the law only applies to game produced by industry and sold under State regulations. It will benefit the wild game since often game produced by breeders escapes and returns to its natural ferocity, when, of course, it becomes public property.

Instead of the game being "wiped out" as the paper suggests, a lot of it will be "wiped in." Of course editors who do not understand a subject—and they cannot be expected to understand all—will make such mistakes. New York soon will be one of the biggest game producing countries in the world. Why? Because it now pays to produce game.

Gray Partridges.

Many American sportsmen who are introducing the gray partridge (often called English or Hungarian partridge) will be interested to know about the partridge crop in England and the reason for the "patchiness" which occurs. In some districts the Shooting Times says, coveys are numerous and well-developed, but in other places it must be admitted the crop of partridges is thin. The latter instances, fortunately, are exceptions. The nesting season started well but the drought in July was the cause of the loss of many young chicks. When the young birds could not get water or even adequate cover then the young birds wilted and died. The coveys "got smaller and smaller as the dry weather extended."

Since the partridges are thriving in the well-watered lowlands it would seem that low fertile valleys which always have water are better for partridges than uplands which may become too dry in summer.

Pheasants.

The Shooting Times says pheasants have been affected in just the same way.

The pheasants on the preserve of the Game Breeders' Association on Long Is-

land were very backward last season and did not thrive at all when the long-continued hot weather caused the grass to wither and turn brown. The only water the birds had was well water and we are quite sure this is not the best water for pheasants. The young birds undoubtedly thrive on insects and tender green grass, lettuce, etc., and on Long Island, as elsewhere, the earlier birds do far better than late ones. The Game Breeders' Association was obliged to rely upon purchased eggs since it was impossible to get pheasant hens at the proper time although they were ordered.

"More Game" for Kansas.

The State Game Warden of Kansas, says: Big green bullfrogs are in demand on the farms of Kansas. "Some farmers say they want them to eat; others want to hear them sing, while others say they just want them around."

Mr. Dyche said five thousand tadpoles had been distributed from the hatcheries this spring.

Since the prairie grouse, which should be profitably abundant, in Kansas, are vanishing; since the quail are often winter killed, because it does not pay to look after them, and since it is claimed the new Federal regulations prevent duck shooting in Kansas, when the ducks are there, it seemed that Kansas soon would be a "dry" State in so far as shooting is concerned. The introduced pheasants and "Hungarians" disappeared long ago. It is gratifying to know that Kansas is to have something. Bullfrogs are better than nothing. They should be shot from the bow of a punt with very small loads of shot and powder in small gauge guns.

Our Busy Day.

The Telephone Rang: Game Breeder? Yes. Where can I get 3,000 wild duck eggs? Try W. Williams, Cedar Valley Club. Most of the dealers are sold out.

Again the Telephone.

Game Breeder? Yes. Where can I get pheasant eggs? Try the Tunxis Club, Clifton Game and Forest Society, Wheel-

ton Wild Water-Fowl Farms, Mackensen. See advertisements in the magazine.

Another Telephone.

Game Breeder—Governor has signed the Jones bill permitting the sale at any time of pheasants, wild ducks and deer reared by breeders. Fine! How about State game farm bills? Don't know, will let you know later.

Another.

Game Breeder—Advertising Department please. Increase our space to one page. Good! Send contract for a year.

Another.

How about the trout season? O. K. Governor has signed the bill. It opens Saturday. Good! More game. More fish!

Again the Bell.

Game Breeder—Send me any books you have about breeding. Put me down as a subscriber. Where can I get ducks, pheasants and eggs?

The advertisers can supply the birds. Eggs are getting scarce. Try Lucas.

Again the Merry Bell.

Game Breeder? Yes. Man just sent a dollar to American Protective Association, says he wants to subscribe to Game Breeder. Will send it over. Hear the good news from Albany? People are calling us up about it all of the time. Yes we have it. Regards to Burnham. Tell him things have been moving since the American Association was started.

Ridiculous Performance of Youngsters

A jury of six called by Justice Hildreth of Riverhead, N. Y., contained four men named Young: John Young, his brother, his son, and Frank W. Young. Eugene F. Jackson, a guide of East Quogue, L. I., was found guilty by this jury of "sailing" ducks.

Jackson had a party of New York men out for a day's shooting and it was charged that he shot some geese from a sailboat after they had been wounded

and knocked down from a battery. The party "hated" to see wounded birds get away. Justice Hildreth said he believed the law should be changed. That it seemed only humane to get a wounded duck or goose in any way possible. He felt obliged to administer the law as he found it.

One of the readers of the Game Breeder in sending this story says: "It is only too true we need more game and less laws." The fine, \$40 was paid.

The Tennessee Fox Law.

The new Tennessee fox law has produced a \$20 fine. Two gunners were fined \$10 each for shooting a fox. Laws protecting vermin should not apply to game and poultry farms or at least their owners should have the right to destroy predacious animals when observed destroying game or poultry. Some courts, we believe, hold that this is the farmers right; that he should protect his property.

More Game in Ohio.

Gen. John C. Speaks, Chief Warden, Fish and Game Division, Agricultural Commission of Ohio, says:

As a result of the recently enacted hunters' license law, Ohio, for the first time in its history, has funds with which to carry on its fish and game department.

For a beginning we have purchased some 6,000 pairs of Hungarian partridges. The birds are being placed in every county in specially selected locations where they will receive the care and attention of both farmers and sportsmen. In addition to this, one lot of some 800 pairs will be placed on a 1,200 acre tract in charge of two gamekeepers who have had some twenty years' experience on large estates in Hungary.

All of these birds are being held in enclosures until the extremely severe weather of the winter and early spring is passed.

There never has been as much interest in fish and game matters in this state as at present.

Quail are quite plentiful. They are

being fed and cared for in all sections, and should we have a favorable breeding season, there will be more quail in Ohio next year than during the past twenty-five years.

We shall probably make a large purchase of pheasant eggs for free distribution this spring.

An Interesting Experiment.

The placing of 800 pairs of gray partridges in charge of two Hungarian gamekeepers in Ohio, should result in "more" partridges.

Connecticut fed a lot of foxes, hawks and other vermin with thousands of dollars worth of partridges without providing any sport for the licensed gunners, and Prof. Dyche, the Kansas State Warden, recently reported that the foreign game introduced in his State appeared to have vanished. The partridges have disappeared in many other States where they are not protected against vermin, and the Ohio experiment will be observed with interest.

Wild Ducks in Ohio.

Ohio has a number of large State reservoirs which are suitable for wild ducks. One of them, St. Mary's, is one of the largest, and we believe the largest, artificial lakes in the country. Thousands of wild ducks easily could be produced at a duck farm beside this reservoir and the duck shooting would be much improved not only on the reservoir but on other State waters, including some of the small rivers.

The Game Breeder can furnish a capable duck breeder to take charge of such a farm and the advertisers can furnish wild ducks and eggs.

There are many small ponds and marshes where individuals also, might undertake wild duck breeding for profit. The State might well supply them with stock birds just as the Agricultural Department supplies seeds to those who will multiply them. Soon the people of Ohio would have cheap wild ducks to eat and the State Department would become of great economic importance.

FIVE IMPORTANT WILD DUCK FOODS.

PART II.—By W. L. McATEE.

Assistant Biologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Chufa.

Like some of the other duck foods mentioned in this circular, chufas are at present known to be of only local importance. Those best acquainted with conditions at Big Lake, Ark., one of the

the wood duck, mottled duck, mallard, and canvasback.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT.

The chuga (*Cyperus esculentus*) (fig. 8) belongs to the group of plants known as sedges. These are grass-like and us-

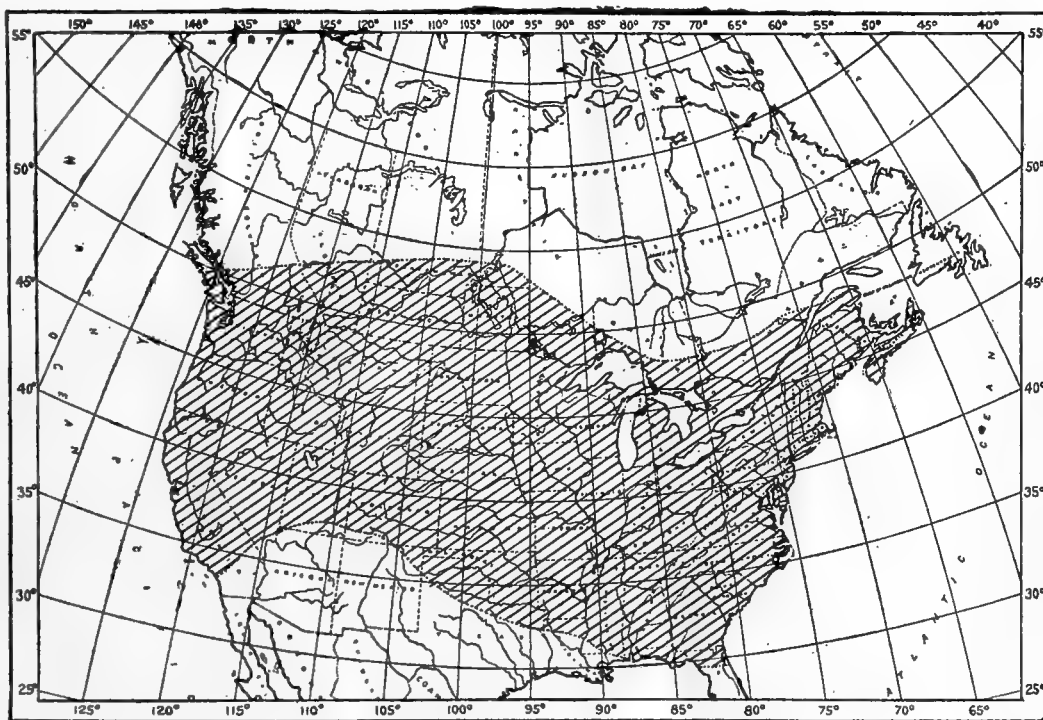


Fig. 7.—Range of the wapato. See March number.

most famous hunting grounds of the South, believe that the chufa, or nut grass, as it is there called, is the principal element in rendering that lake so attractive to waterfowl. Examination of stomachs from that locality seems to justify this belief. Six out of a series of nine mallards collected at Big Lake in December, 1910, had fed on sedge tubers, the average percentage of which in the total food of the nine was 56. Tubers of this species or others of its genus have been found also in duck stomachs from Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, and California. The species of ducks now known to feed on chufas are

usually classed with the grasses by non-botanists. Many of the sedges, however, including the chufa, have triangular, not round, stalks. The members of the genus *Cyperus* have a group of leaves at the base from which rises the stalk bearing the flowers and seeds. In the chufa these stalks are from 1 to 3 feet high. Several flower clusters on peduncles of varying length rise from the top of the stalk. From the same point three rather long grass-like leaves project below the fruiting clusters.

Many members of the genus have a very similar appearance and it is not expected that nonbotanical observers can

distinguish them. This is unnecessary, however, as tubers of the chufa for propagation may be obtained from most seedsmen. The tubers of the chufa are formed at the ends of scale-covered rootstocks. The plant is extremely prolific, cultivated forms usually producing 100

dried. Tubers from wild plants are usually much smaller and have a greater proportion of fiber. The general appearance of chufas and of tubers from a wild sedge are well shown by figure 9.

Chufas are known also by the vernacular names, earth almonds and ground



Fig. 8 —Seed-bearing and immature plants of the chufa. (Much reduced)

tubers to the plant, and instances are known in which more than 600 tubers were produced in one season from one tuber planted in the spring.

Well-developed tubers of the cultivated variety average about three-fourths of an inch in length by three-eighths of an inch in diameter when

nuts, and the plant as nut grass and cache-cache.

DISTRIBUTION.

The northern boundary of the natural range of the chufa is marked by the following localities: Southern New Brunswick, southern Ontario, northern Nebraska, New Mexico, Arizona and the

Columbia River Valley. The plant seems to be absent from most of the Great Basins and Rocky Mountain regions. From the northern line specified the plant ranges southward over the remainder of the continent. (See fig. 10.) It is widely distributed in warm climates over the entire world.

PROPAGATION.

Although the chufa seems not to grow naturally in a large area in the western

Chufas do best on light or somewhat sandy but rich soils. They are available for duck food when planted on land dry in summer and overflowed in winter. In the open they should be planted thickly so as to give the plants a better chance in competition with weeds. In timbered land they need not be planted so thickly, but they will do well only in rather sparse growths, where considerable light penetrates to the ground.



Fig. 9.—Tubers of wild *Cyperus* and cultivated chufas. (Natural size)

United States, there is no doubt that it can be cultivated everywhere except in the higher parts of the Rocky Mountain region. It is said to do fairly well at the altitude of Denver.

Chufas can be obtained from most seedsmen and are so cheap that it will pay sportsmen to buy new stock every few years, if earlier plantings show degeneration in size of the tubers and hence reduction in value as duck food.

When possible the land where planting is intended should be broken up and freed from weeds. Plant the tubers just beneath the surface in spring.

Wild Millet.

VALUE AS DUCK FOOD.

Wild millet (*Echinochloa crus-galli*) is an important food for ducks in widely separated regions of the United States. At Mud Lake, Ark., the writer found

seeds of this plant to constitute more than 10 per cent. of the food of the 41 mallards collected; at Belle Isle, La., it made up more than half of the food of the few mallards examined, and at Cam-

eron, La., over 75 per cent. of the diet of a collection of 50 ducks of the same



Fig. 11.—Part of fructing head of wild millet. (Natural size.)

species. Pintails, teal, and other shoal-water ducks are almost equally fond of it. Geese eat the stems and leaves of the

plant, as also do ducks when they are hard pressed. Testimony as to the value of the plant has come from Wisconsin and Oregon, and the Biological Survey has found seeds of wild millet in duck stomachs from Massachusetts, South Dakota, Missouri, and Nebraska in addition to the States above mentioned.

The plant is popularly known throughout lower Louisiana as wild rice and is given about the same rank as a duck

spiny appearance (fig. 11). The inner scale of the chaff terminates in a spine which is always stouter and longer than the others. This spine or awn may be very short or it may be from 2 to 3 inches long or more, surpassing by many times the length of the seed. One of the other scales also may bear a long spine at the tip. The prickly character of the seed coverings is referred to in the name cockspur grass. The longer awns in par-

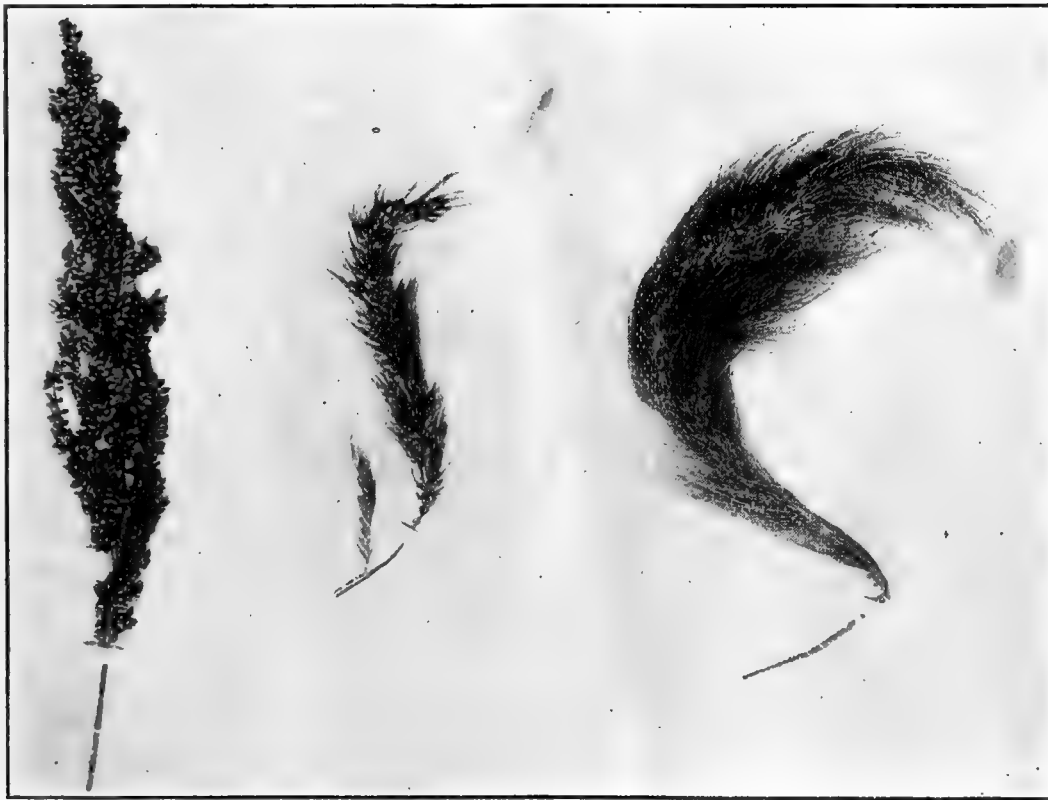


Fig. 12.—Fruiting heads of wild millet. (One-third natural size.)

food as the plant (*Zizania aquatica*) known by that name in the north. Other popular names referring to the preference of wild fowl for the plant are goose grass and blue duck food.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT.

Wild millet is a coarse, leafy grass which grows from 1 to 6 feet in height. The stems and foliage are not especially remarkable, but the fruiting head has characters which enable us easily to distinguish this from other species of native grasses. The chaff or outer seed coverings is set with rows of short, stiff, outstanding spines. These project beyond the general outline of the body of the seeds and give them an easily visible

particular and sometimes the whole fruiting heads may have a deep purplish color. This, no doubt, suggested the name blue duck food used in the Mississippi Delta. The long-awned form has been given the varietal name *longearistata* but for present purposes we may consider all the types illustrated in figures 11 and 12 under the same name. It is probable also that the form named *Echinochloa walteri* is fully connected with *crus-galli* by intergrades, and deserves only varietal rank. This form has the lower or all leaf sheaths rough hispid.

DISTRIBUTION.

The northern limit of the range of wild millet so far as known to us does

not much surpass the latitude of the northern boundary of the United States. From there the plant ranges indefinitely to the southward, occurring generally in rich moist soils or swamps at least to Central America.

PROPAGATION.

Wild millet is easily cultivated and re-seeds itself. It requires a moist and preferably a rich soil, such as the edge of a marsh or lake, and it will grow in water at least a foot in depth. Break up the soil (mainly for the purpose of discouraging other plant growth) and sow

thickly in spring. Once established, the plant will take care of itself. The nearer to water it is planted the more available it will be for duck food. It is a splendid plant to use for low lands that are flooded in winter.

The seeds are sold by most seedsmen under the name barnyard grass. A variety has been widely advertised as Japanese barnyard millet or billion-dollar grass. The plant is also known as cockspur grass and sour grass. It may be cultivated in any part of the United States having the proper soil conditions.

TO BE CONTINUED.

REMARKABLE PHEASANT BREEDING.

An Amateur's Story.

BY HENRY B. BIGELOW.

[The following instructive story about pheasant breeding should interest our readers much. The pheasants, reared at a cost of 35 cents each, easily can be sold in the New York market for \$2.50 each as soon as the laws are amended to permit the Massachusetts breeders to do what New York breeders are doing—i. e., market the food in the best market. Our shooting readers will be interested in the comment on the pheasant as a sporting bird and the covers where it thrives in Massachusetts.—Editor.]

My experience with pheasants has been as follows: The matter of chief interest, perhaps, is the cost. In my case there was no question of hiring a game-keeper; the pheasants had to take their chances with the other poultry, and neither I nor my man knew anything about handling them.

I bought three hens and a cock (Ring-necks) from which I had about 120 eggs; then by purchase and from friends I secured enough more eggs to bring the total to two hundred and twenty-two eggs. These we set under ordinary hens during May and the first part of June. The chicks hatched before June 1 all died of cold; of the others we raised sixty-five to the liberating age, five weeks, i. e., about twenty-five per cent. I have done worse with hens!

As to food. I bought Spratts little book on pheasant breeding (25 cents) and followed directions, but our success was due chiefly to insect food. Early in the game, we found that the chicks would eat

gypsy moth caterpillars and after that we fed them largely with the result that there was practically no death rate, so long as the caterpillars and pupae were available. Incidentally, the chicks cleared the birches in their yard of caterpillars.

When five weeks old the broods were taken out with their foster mothers to places here and there, the old hens still in their coops. I had supposed we would have to feed the pheasants for some time; but to my surprise the young birds were self-supporting almost at once, feeding in the rye and asparagus fields. After this they were fed no more, but shifted for themselves.

The total cost, excluding the price of the stock birds and wire netting, was thirty-five cents per bird liberated; including these items, about seventy cents. But, of course, I need buy no more stock birds or netting for this year.

Now that we have our pheasants at liberty, the question is, was it worth while? This hinges on whether the pheas-

ant is a good game bird or not. To me it is of no interest whether or not driven pheasants are hard shooting as I do not drive. But I can say, without hesitation, that the pheasant was a great addition to my game bag. He can not, of course, be compared with the ruffed grouse, but the latter is in a class by himself.

The Ring-necked pheasant is not a woodland bird but a marsh bird in his native country; and it is in rough river meadows where he can make incursions for food into farm land, that he is at his best here. On our wet meadows, a pheasant or a snipe is about equally likely to jump from before your pointing dog. When the "bottom" is open he runs but in dense cover (i. e., tall thick matted grass) he lies like a rock, and we often

find them in matted thickets of roses, elders, etc.

Of course, he is large and comparatively easy to hit in the open, but no more so than quail which give more easy shots in the open, more difficult ones in the brush, than other game birds. Finally, the pheasant, does not winter-kill if he has enough to eat, and he is a very good bird on the table. In Massachusetts he seems to lengthen out the season providing some sport before and after partridges, woodcock and quail can be killed. On the whole he seems to me well worth while on the right ground. But to raise pheasants where the range is all pasture fields and bare woods is a waste of time and money, as they won't stay there."*

THE EASTPORT ROD AND GUN CLUB.

BY ALBERT SCHWEBKE.

[This is the eighth of a series of an hundred articles about game farms and preserves associated with The Game Conservation Society and conducted by readers of The Game Breeder. The Eastport Rod and Gun Club, like the Middle Island Association, described in the March number of this magazine, is engaged in the good work of protecting our native grouse, quail and rabbits in a practical manner. They have excellent shooting every year and the game is increasing in numbers. A law prohibiting quail shooting on Long Island would put an end to the industry and would result in the extermination of the quail and other game.—Editor.]

There are about five thousand acres of farm and woodland in the preserve of the Eastport Rod and Gun Club. Our game birds, for the most part are quail, ruffed grouse, and some woodcock. The first two named are abundant. There are also many cotton-tailed rabbits and some jack-rabbits, and the club has excellent rabbit shooting during the season.

It was through the efforts of the late Mr. George Jantzer that our club was organized and chartered in 1904, and he was its president for seven years and worked industriously to restock the

grounds with quail and rabbits. The editor of The Game Breeder was instrumental in procuring quail for Mr. Jantzer from Kansas, and from time to time rabbits were purchased and liberated.

One year Mr. Jantzer purchased a lot of varying hares—the big northern rabbits which turn white in winter—and these were turned down on the preserve. This experiment, however, did not prove to be successful and none of the northern hares were found or shot during the open season although especial efforts were made to find them, with good rabbit dogs. The common rabbit and the big jack-rabbits from the western plains thrive and multiply although many are shot every season.

The quail shooting is excellent and the birds to-day are more plentiful than ever before, although the shooting has

*The Spratts Book (25 cents) on Pheasant Breeding referred to is published by The Spratts Patent Ltd., Newark, New Jersey, whose advertisement appears in the magazine. The use of maggots is advised in the book but where insects are plentiful they are the best food for young birds in connection with the foods made by the Spratts.

been good ever since the first stock birds were liberated. It is not unusual to flush 8 or 10 covies of birds during a short day's shooting and also a lot of ruffed grouse which are often called "part-ridges" on the island. A few big fall wood-cock and the two rabbits named above lend a pleasing variety to the bag, and it is not difficult for those who shoot well to get the bag-limit daily.

There is much heavy cover, including scrub-oaks and briars, and many chances for difficult shots occur during a short ramble; there are fine stubbles and weed fields and orchards where the shots at the covies and at the fleeting cotton-tails are more easy.

Some years ago the Pointer Club held its field trials on our grounds and it was largely due to some remarkable work on ruffed Grouse that Merry Girl won her derby. Bismark, another winner, had to do some splendid work on quail in the open to offset his getting beyond control and being fairly lost on points in the brush.

There are many picturesque old roads through the woods, and in places the ground is sufficiently elevated to enable the sportsman to obtain fine views of the bay, the outlying beach and the wide ocean beyond, dotted with shipping outbound or headed inward towards New York.

Although there is no duck shooting within the limits of the preserve it is an easy matter to make an excursion to the bay after ducks, from the Bayside Hotel which is the club headquarters. The bay shooting—which includes red-heads, scaups or broad-bills, geese, and other migratory wild fowl,—often is excellent and good guides, with boats, decoy, etc., can be secured at the hotel.

During the season bay-snipe shooting often is good and there are some excellent snipe bogs on the beach-side where fine bags of jack-snipe often are made when the flight of these birds is on.

The annual dues of the club are fifteen dollars. The initiation fee is ten dollars. The membership is limited to twenty-five. The club revenues are expended

for warden fees, shooting leases, trapping, restocking and feeding the game. No game keeper is employed. There is only one warden who lives on the ground and looks after the club's interest.

The game has steadily increased in numbers and last season all of the members had good shooting. Like most of the other clubs we have a trap for trap-shooting and often members visit the club in the spring and summer for a week-end practice shoot at the traps. Sometimes friendly matches are shot.

The club members have an arrangement with the Bayside Hotel, which is located on the ground, under which they pay \$2.00 per day for board and lodging.

The rooms are comfortable and the meals are good, there being an excellent market at hand for all sea foods and good gardens connected with the hotel.

Members are permitted to invite guests during the shooting season and many picturesque groups of rabbit and quail shooters have been photographed on the porch of "The Bayside" and in the fields and woods.

The shooting is good in the immediate vicinity of the hotel but parties often drive out to more distant parts of the preserve where the warden can show them some good ruffed grouse shooting.

Many little swampy thickets give the merry beagles all they can attend to and it is not unusual for them to flush and send out a grouse or wood-cock with the fleeting bunny.

The sportsman can leave New York by rail late in the afternoon, have a good dinner at the Bayside and be prepared for an early start for the fields the next morning. It is an easy trip by automobile over good roads all the way to the preserve. As I heard the Editor of The Game Breeder say not long ago: "Fortunate is the man who is in good standing in the Eastport Rod and Gun Club."

Prices now are about one-half what they will be later. Only the best dealers advertise in THE GAME BREEDER.

QUAIL LOSSES.

Climate; Farm Machinery; Wires.

BY DWIGHT W. HUNTINGTON.

The ground and winged enemies of quail and the methods of controlling them were discussed in the two preceding numbers of the magazine. Often there are some additional losses due to climate, farm machinery, and wires. Where these are controlled or prevented even partially the shooting will be much improved.

Darwin says, "Climate plays an important part in determining the average number of a species, and periodical seasons of extreme cold or drought seem to be the most effective of all checks. I estimated (chiefly from the greatly reduced numbers of nests in the spring) that the winter of 1854-5 destroyed four-fifths of the birds in my own grounds; and this is a tremendous destruction, when we remember that ten per cent. is an extraordinarily severe mortality from epidemics with man. The action of climate seems at first sight to be quite independent of the struggle for existence; but in so far as climate chiefly acts in reducing food, it brings on the most severe struggle between the individuals, whether of the same or of distinct species, which subsist on the same kind of food. Even when climate—for instance, extreme cold—acts directly, it will be the least vigorous individuals, or those which have got least food through the advancing winter which will suffer most.

That climate often acts directly in a most destructive manner to check the increase of our partridges or quails (the strongest as well as the weak) is well known to sportsmen and naturalists. The ruffed grouse, which can live in trees during severe snowstorms, does not suffer nearly so much as the more terrestrial birds do. The quail on one of my favorite shooting grounds in Northern Ohio were nearly exterminated one winter by a heavy snow when an icy crust was formed which imprisoned the birds until they were either frozen or starved

to death. On ground, where year after year we had found the birds so plentiful that it was an easy matter to bag from 50 to 100 birds in a day, I only found one small covey during several days' shooting over excellent dogs, the season after the severe winter. This destruction has occurred periodically, not only in Ohio, but also in all of the Northern States and many laws have been enacted protecting the birds for a period of years in order that they might not be wholly exterminated.

In places where the birds are properly looked after; such losses can be avoided largely and those willing to protect the birds on their lands should not be prohibited from shooting or even selling them, since it is a somewhat expensive matter to feed and care for the birds, and no one can be expected to attend to these matters properly if shooting be prohibited or if the bag limit be made very small.

It is well known that the birds are far more plentiful when the winters are mild and open than they are when the winters are cold and the snows are deep. It is due to a favorable climate very largely that the quail always are more abundant in many of the Southern States than they are in the North. They are, however, most abundant, even in the South, on the great quail preserves where thousands of birds are shot annually, because their natural enemies are controlled by skilled game keepers.

The losses due to climate, even in the most severe winters, can be largely overcome by providing shelters for the birds; by feeding them in such places, and by a persistent war on their natural enemies at this season when the game is most exposed to the vermin which is sadly in need of it for its own subsistence.

Every field inhabited by quail should have one or more shelters, the number depending upon the size of the field and the abundance of the birds. Since the

quail usually frequent certain parts of a field the shelters might well be placed in or near such places. Various forms of shelter have been tried but very simple structures made of brush, corn stalks, old fence rails or other material will afford ample protection, provided they be so made as to keep the quail from being imprisoned in the snow. I am strongly in favor of building the shelters in or near a briar patch, since the briars are a great protection to the birds against vermin.

A very good shelter can easily and quickly be made by leaning a row of old fence rails against a fence and making a roof of brush or corn stalks on these rafters. A few large corn shocks opened up in the center and with a lot of brush and briars thrown down on rails or heavy sticks so placed about the shocks as to keep the brush roof above the ground will make very attractive and safe shelters and a fence of chicken wire, with mesh large enough to permit the birds to enter, erected so as to inclose a small yard about the shelter, will lend additional safety to the place, since foxes do not like to enter wire enclosures.

Dr. Robert Morris informed me that he had good results on his preserve in Connecticut from conical shelters with cemented bottoms. The cement prevented the food, grit, and dust, which he places in the shelters, from being affected by the moisture from the ground and, later, freezing. Straw, hay or dead grass on such cement floors would, I believe, make them more attractive.

As already suggested food, grit and road dust, sand or ashes, should be placed in the shelters and the birds should be fed in and near them daily before the time for heavy storms arrives. A good keeper should know just how many covies of birds he is wintering and he should be able to find them all quickly in severe weather.

In northern regions, where the winters always are long and cold, it is not a bad plan to trap the birds in some of the most exposed fields and to house them for the winter. They can be kept safely in rat-proof barns or rooms

without heat, but their wings should be clipped to prevent them from flying against windows or against the walls or ceiling. I once wintered a flock of quail on the brick pavement of a city yard, inclosed by brick walls, using an old pine box for a shelter. The quail were fed on corn and I did not loose a bird; in fact, they were all in fine condition when spring came, and their wing feathers having grown, they all flew over the wall and escaped.

The losses, both of birds and eggs, often are excessive on farms where the crops are harvested by farm machinery. There are countless records of nests being cut out; of old birds and their young and eggs being destroyed. The birds are fond of nesting in fields of growing grain and hay and unless the nests be found and protected—by leaving the grain or grass about the nests uncut—bad losses are sure to occur.

The gray partridges of Europe which have somewhat similar habits to our quails often are decimated by farm machinery and losses occur sometimes on even the best preserved areas.

Capt. Maxwell says: "When the hay is cut the beat-keeper is always there, working his dog in front of the mowing machine and doing all he can to save his birds. . . . The farmers and the keepers live on the best of terms; the keepers can do them many a good turn in the year, and in return the farmers lend us their aid when most required, studying the interests of the game at all times, and most materially forwarding our efforts in a hundred different ways by looking after their dogs, cutting their hay and corn with regard to the birds in it, and keeping their men from disturbing the fences."

W. Barry, Esq., cited by Maxwell, says: "We suffer losses among our young birds from the machines in the hay harvest. Here every fourth field is a hay-field and cut, as a rule, during the last ten days of June. If the season is a late one, as generally happens, most of the young birds are only a few days old and probably unable to get out of the way. The result is that enormous numbers are killed in spite of every pre-

caution. I get my farmers to leave the last acre, and the keepers cut it with scythes early the next morning; but if the night is hot or cold, and the old birds have not come back, many of the little ones die. It is very necessary to have keepers in the fields whilst they are being cut. Of course, if the farmers could be persuaded to begin cutting in the middle of the field and work outwards all would be well, as the old birds would gradually lead the young ones to the outside; but I have been quite unable to persuade my farmers to do this. Numbers of old as well as young birds get killed or mutilated during the hay-cutting, and altogether I lose hundreds of birds during this fortnight.”*

To a certain extent I believe quail can be induced to nest in safe places. Undoubtedly they like to nest beside an old stump or log overgrown with grass and briars, especially if there be a post or small tree near at hand where the cock-bird can perch and whistle to his mate. I believe it would pay to make some attractive nesting sites on the lines suggested in the center and at the sides of fields of grain and grass, and if a few blackberry briars or other berry bearing briars be planted the place would be especially attractive and might well be selected as a nesting site. The experiment would not be expensive and I hope soon to give it a trial.

When a nest is located in the grass or grain the cover about it should be left standing and the farmer should be compensated of course.

Some birds are killed by flying against telegraph wires and wire fences, especially where the wires are numerous, but such losses are comparatively slight. I have known many wild fowl to be killed by wires stretched across a marsh and woodcock, which fly by night, are more often killed by wires than quail are.

The only way to prevent such destruction is to decorate the wires with strips of cloth or other material to indicate their presence at dangerous points where losses are known to occur or to change the character of the fence.

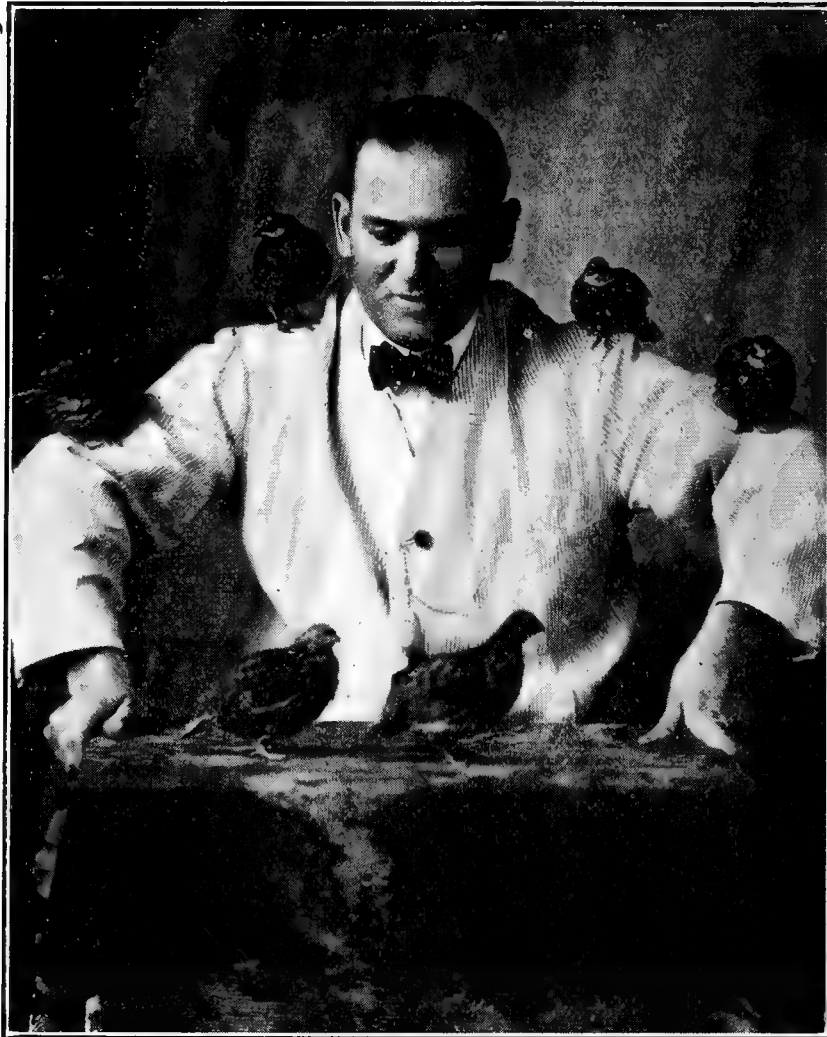
The old-fashioned rail fences are by far the best for the quail preserve, since the birds will find their many angles filled with briars and weeds which afford both food and shelter; often nests are built in safe places beside such fences.

While I was writing this article two game keepers came in to see me and I asked them if they had known of losses due to wires. Both said they had suffered such losses and one of them said he picked up a quail quite recently which had been killed by a wire fence. The other said when partridges were alarmed suddenly at night they sometimes flew against both telegraph wires and wire fences. Both agreed, however, that the losses due to vermin, to climate and to farm machinery were far greater than those due to wires.

In concluding this series of papers about the various checks to the increase of the quails I wish again for emphasis to invite the reader's attention to the fact that the birds tendency to increase is marvellous. Darwin tells us that, "Grouse, if not destroyed at some period of their lives, would increase in countless numbers." The same is true of quails or partridges. If some of the many losses be stopped, or if all of them be checked, even partially, the quail soon can be made abundant in every likely field and big numbers can be safely shot every season.

Restrictive game laws have no effect on vermin, climate, or farm machinery. When they prohibit shooting they do a lot of harm in places where the quail might be looked after and made plentiful, since no one can be expected to do anything which does not pay. It is not worth while to look after the quail in States where shooting is prohibited; it is not worth while to look after them in States where only a few can be shot in a season. While such legislation is well intended, there are evident reasons why it does not produce good results, and the breeders of quail should be excepted from restrictions and encouraged to look after their game and keep it plentiful.

*Partridges and Partridge Manors



J. A. Tally, Quail Breeder.

Mr. J. A. Tally, of Virginia, sending his portrait with quails here reproduced, writes:

"I am new at the business and just happened to get these this fall. They were caught and raised from a day old and I happened to be out hunting last fall and heard about them and went by to see them and I got them and put them in the window of my barber shop. They stayed there through the winter without even a wire to keep them in and I have them at home now. They are as fat and plump as any in the field.

I can turn them out in the yard and they will feed like chickens! They are perfectly gentle and you can handle them any way as you can see from the picture. The one on the right shoulder, also the one on the right of the table, looking at them, seem a little shy. They have only been in captivity since they were grown.

I caught them when out shooting and put them with the tame ones; they soon were as tame as the others.

As you see I have three cocks and three hens. I am going to do my best to raise these birds on a large scale and I think it will be a nice business. I shall keep all I can rear this season to breed from next season."

We hope Mr. Tally soon will be able to advertise quail and quail eggs for sale and we will guarantee to sell thousands at surprising prices.

Quail eggs should bring \$5.00 or \$6.00 per dozen, since duck and pheasant eggs sell for \$3.00 per dozen and sometimes more. A quail should produce at least 5 dozen eggs. Keep the Game Breeder and its readers posted as to what you are doing, Mr. Tally, and if you have any success at all you will be surprised at the results.

A CLEVER POACHER.

BY NIMROD.

[The following story written by a gamekeeper was awarded first prize in a competition by The Gamekeepers Magazine.]

A lot more summers have passed than I care to tell you of since I caught the poacher of whom I write this tale. He has now crossed the bourne, and will bother us keepers no more; many a one gave a sigh of relief when they heard of his death. However, I shall never forget that autumn day as I stood amongst the mourners in that quiet country churchyard and saw the remains lowered of one of the most noted poachers this country-side ever knew. It might well be said of him: "Far kened and noted was his name." He did not confine himself to any given locality like most poachers, but would travel a long distance in a train, sometimes in all sorts of disguises, for a night with his dog and hare-nets, or some nights he preferred his gun when he thought the place safe for the time.

I have known him shooting on the next moor to the lord of the manor on the Twelfth over his setter. Of course, he knew the keepers would be all engaged with his Lordship. In great glee he related the story to me months afterwards. I asked him how he was not afraid of the party hearing his shots. He told me it was a gey windy Twelfth, and besides, he had a sentinel on a point of vantage who could have given him the sign had anyone appeared coming in his direction.

He was no ordinary poacher, as he took out game, gun, and dog licences in the proper season and laid his gun up on February 1, and would have laboured to masons or broken stones throughout the rest of the year. He made money at his calling too, and bought property in his native village. Therefore, you can imagine how pleased a keeper was when he could trap Jimmy and get him convicted. I have still a vivid remembrance

of that night when we caught him and another man; I say we, for I had the assistance of a neighbour keeper and the county policeman, the latter being the man who found out that the affray was coming off. A labourer had been engaged on one of the farms on my beat for the harvest month, coming from the same village as my friend Jimmy, and, of course, it had been arranged between them should partridges be rife on this farm that Jimmy would come down for a night with his "veil". Now one day a parcel came by post to this labourer, and, as the country postmistress was a bit of a gossip, she liked to know everybody's affairs in the parish. In fact, she was known to have done some dirty tricks to gain her end. No doubt she had torn a bit of the paper off this parcel to see the contents, when, lo and behold, what should meet her inquisitive eyes but a very fine partridge net, and, of course, she could not understand such a thing, so she told the policeman's wife next door and that worthy came to me. The upshot was we got permission from the farmer to search the man's belongings in the stable loft where he slept. We found the parcel alright, and also a letter arranging the night for operations. Well, the rest was plain sailing. We took them red-handed on that ever-memorable night with eleven birds in their possession.

But now for the audacity and cunning of our friend on the day of their trial. The county town from my place was a good distance, and to get there I had to go by train, and as there was only one train in the morning and one at night, Jimmy knew I would be away all day. When his name was called in court a stranger came forward and said Jimmy was laid up with influenza, but he would plead guilty, and that he (the stranger)

would pay the fine, which he hoped his Lordship would make as easy as possible, which he did under the circumstances.

But you can judge of my chagrin when on arriving home that night my wife told me a gentleman had been there for a day's partridge shooting, and when she told him I was away getting a notorious poacher tried, he said it was a great pity and hoped he would get his deserts. However, as the Duke had sent him down, he would just go out for a few brace. When I asked my wife what

kind of a sport he was, she told me he was a little dapper kind o' a man, dressed in a knicker suit, and had a setter with him. Next morning I was told by the farmer where he had put up his horse and trap that if the gentleman was anything of a shot he must have made a good bag, as he had had a tremendous shooting. Yes, I found out the birds he took away had more than paid his fine. The cunning old beggar had rung the change on me that time.—Nimrod.

THE GAME BREEDERS' PAGE.

EARLY NESTING.

Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, of Louisiana, writes March 13: "Both the blue winged teal and the black mallards are now nesting. The wardens on Marsh Island and the wardens on the Ward-McIlhenny Preserve have reported to me in the last few days finding numbers of nests, some of them with complete clutches and incubation well advanced. I think this is the earliest record I have of these ducks breeding in Louisiana."

Mr. McIlhenny also says the mallards did not come South as usual this year probably on account of the warm winter.

WATER-CRESS.

One of our Wisconsin readers writes for information about water-cress as a food for wild fowl. He says: "I note on pp. 46-47 of *Our Wild Fowl and Waders* a reference made to an English writer who recommends water-cress for planting on pools and streams to be used for duck shooting. I would be pleased to hear further from you or any of your readers who have had experience with this plant."

It so happened that two English game keepers were in the office when this letter came and both said the wild ducks were very fond of water-cress. We know of no place in America where it has been planted especially for wild ducks. Plants and seeds easily can be

procured and it undoubtedly is an attractive food.

We would be glad to hear from any of our readers who have water-cress.

RUFFED GROUSE BREEDING.

The success that the Association has met with in breeding ruffed grouse through the second generation has naturally called forth a great many inquiries on the subject. The letter reproduced below is from Mr. Charles W. Dimick, a member of the game farm committee. He has given himself heart and soul to this matter. He writes as follows:

"We have not found it necessary to use ant eggs for the young grouse, as we have kept the chicks in a place where they were able to catch many insects. I should not feel it safe, however, to be without the ant eggs in case the insect crop should fail.

"The grouse, as soon as hatched, should be so placed that they can get as much natural insect food as possible and must not be allowed to stay long enough in any location to be affected by their own dirt. The oftener they are moved, the better.

"We have used the Spratt's chick food, which we soak in milk, and hard boiled eggs ground up with the shells. Most anything of the kind is good, but must be given in very small quantities. Most

of the deaths are caused by over-eating. Very few die of other causes. They never seem to get too many insects and rarely starve if fed nothing else. Much depends on the place where the birds are kept, and a reasonable amount of common sense is required naturally. I wish to make it most emphatic that over-feeding causes most of the troubles and lack of cleanliness the balance.

"As you know, grouse leave the nest immediately on hatching, and are ever afterwards in a clean place. We must, to be successful, keep their surroundings absolutely clean or as near that as possible.

"I should not advise keeping of water continually in front of the young grouse, but would put it in fresh every afternoon about four o'clock, taking it out at eight o'clock in the morning."—Bulletin American Protective Association.

QUAIL AND PHEASANTS.

In an old letter, written in 1908, Mr. T. S. Ketcham, who was a game keeper at the Rassapreague Club, on Long Island, N. Y., says: "The pheasants that have come under my observation do not cause quail or grouse to leave the woods. I have known a flock of 30 or more, pheasants to stay in a small piece of cedars with a flock of 20 odd quail and stayed the entire season in the same place and apparently never molested each other.

I have flushed 15 or 20 pheasants out of a small piece of buckwheat and a flock of fine quail right in the midst of them.

Still we know the pheasant is a great fighter but I believe it to be wrong information to think they drive quail out of the woods—my experience teaches me different.

SHELDRAKES AND TROUT.

Fredk. J. Davis, of Owego, N. Y., wrote to Llewellyn Legge, Chief Game Protector, asking permission to shoot sheldrakes. His letter is as follows:

"There are at least 300 sheldrakes on

the Owego Creek between here and Newark Valley and they are working havoc with the trout, and I fear that all the fine stocking we did last fall will go for naught if something is not done to rid the creek of them.

Every open space of water and every spring hole all along the creek contains from six to ten of these fish eaters. What are they protected for anyway?

Is it a possible thing for the commission to grant a permit to a few of us sportsmen allowing us to clean up a few of them. A couple of days shooting at them even would drive them away. Will you take it up with the commission at once and let me know. I will personally guarantee that only sheldrakes will be shot at for the reason that there is no other kind of duck on the creek."

AN EGG HATCHING RACE.

M. Brechemin, a French scientific poultry raiser, has just published the report of a chicken-raising contest in which he pitted three turkeys and three ordinary hens against an incubator. The race lasted three months. The preliminary heat was won by the incubator, and in the final the artificial mother simply walked away from its natural competitors. The score was as follows:

	Eggs Brooded.	Chickens Hatched.
Hens	242	158
Incubator	243	209
Alive and well after three months:.		
Hens		75
Incubator		194

In other words, 79 per cent. of the eggs confided to the incubator turned out chickens, while only 31 per cent. of those intrusted to the turkeys and hens bore fruit.

The Shooting Times and British Sportsman says: Winged game was not considered harmful at the time of the passage of the Ground Game act in England,—(which permits the grower of crops to destroy rabbits and hares in the interest of his crops) but now it has been discovered that winged game is harmful and the farmer is still further protected by recent legislation.

The Game Breeder

EDITED BY DWIGHT W. HUNTINGTON

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THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY
PUBLISHERS, 150 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK
Telephone, Beekman 3685.

A LONG SALES SEASON.

The influence of The Game Breeder plainly may be observed in the legislation at Albany. The Legislature, the Governor and the Conservation Commission are to be congratulated upon the passage of the Jones law permitting the sale of pheasants, wild ducks and deer by breeders at all times. While we have suggested that no good reason could be assigned why the owners of desirable foods, produced by industry, should not sell their game at any time, the platform of the Game Conservation Society only calls for the sale of game at all times "except during the breeding season." The Game Conservation Society adopted this platform in order to be in perfect harmony with the North American Fish and Game Protective Association, the National Breeders' Association, The Game Breeders' Association and the other organizations which are interested in the "more game" movement, and which have adopted the resolution as it was first adopted by the Breeders' Association. It is an old axiom, however, that the greater includes the less; we would have been fully satisfied with an open market for eight months, we have no fault to find with a twelve months' market. Truly great encouragement was given by sensible lawmakers to the game breeders! It is evident they are getting busy. Those who advertise report that they cannot fill all of their orders.

A REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE.

A number of the States have enacted breeders' laws encouraging the breeding of game for the market. The best market, of course, is New York City.

Breeders in New York State can sell their game in the best market.

English, French, German and other foreign breeders can sell their game in New York.

Why should New York exclude such desirable food coming from Massachusetts and other States provided it be legally produced and shipped by and with the authority of the State game officers of the States where it is produced?

We presented this important matter to Governor Glynn when he invited us to attend a conservation meeting held in his office. The Governor evidently referred the matter to the Conservation Commission.

Recently we have seen a copy of a letter, written by Mr. Van Kennen, chairman of the Conservation Commission, to Governor Glynn. The copy was forwarded by the Governor to Mr. Carman, a Massachusetts breeder residing in New York.

In his letter to the Governor Mr. Van Kennen admits that certain game reared in New York can be sold. He admits that similar species of game shipped from foreign countries can be sold in New York. and he continues as follows:

"It is true, as stated by Mr. Carman, that New York City furnishes the best market for the sale of game birds of this kind; and at first thought, it might appear that there is no good reason why the law should not permit the importation and sale of pheasants bred in captivity in the State of Massachusetts, when the sale of practically the same species of birds is allowed when imported from abroad. The argument, however, is made with much force that, if pheasants are permitted to be imported from adjacent states of the Union, it will result in the destruction of birds in those states."

Who made the forceful (?) argument?

We will be glad to print the brief if there is one.

Not a word was said on this point at the hearing. We desire to ask Mr. Van

Kennen: Did any State game officers request that his Commission favor the opening of the New York market to their people, on the same terms granted to foreigners?

We believe they did.

The only ground for the refusal to permit the sale of desirable foods produced by the industry of citizens of sister States appears to be a fear that some of the wild creatures in other States might find their way to the table. In other words, the people of New York must be denied desirable foods because of the interest of the State game officer in wild creatures beyond his jurisdiction. His fears do not appear to be well founded.

Should not the State game officers of other States who offer to identify the game legally produced by their people before it is shipped, and who offer to superintend the shipping, be the best judges as to what will happen to any Chinese pheasants or other birds which may be roaming at large in their States?

We think that Mr. Van Kennen in submitting his opinion on this highly important matter to the Governor should not have forgotten to mention the requests of other State game officers.

The Governor appeared quickly to grasp the point and to understand the situation at the hearing. Unaided, undoubtedly he would have handled the matter in a business like manner.

It is fair to say that Commissioner Van Kennen expressed to the writer the additional fear that New York breeders might be opposed to the admission of game shipped from other States.

We promptly answered this:

First, by assuring the commissioner that there would be no complaint from our readers, the New York breeders; secondly, by pointing out the wrong done to the game farmers of other States, provided the food producers in New York should be able to persuade a State officer to prohibit the marketing of similar foods coming, legally, from other States.

We believe the Governor should call for the correspondence which was not submitted to him, evidently, when Mr.

Van Kennen forwarded his important opinion.

We would like to know if the Conservation Commission passed on this highly important matter, or if Mr. Van Kennen simply disposed of it without consulting his colleagues. We had formed such a good opinion of them that it seems hard for us to believe they would concur in what seems to us to be a wrong conclusion.

THE PROPAGATION OF ALL SPECIES.

The new Jones law provides for the propagation of all species of game and game fish upon the payment of a fee of \$1.00. Often we have insisted that it was foolish to encourage only the breeding of foreign fowls and certain wild ducks and deer which are in no danger of being extirpated. Often we have insisted that we should encourage the production of our indigenous game in the same way we encouraged the breeding of foreign fowls.

The new law is a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough. Upon the payment of a dollar for a license anyone can propagate any species of game or fish. But then what? Can the owner shoot his game or catch his fish?

As a matter of fact, under the old law, which the section we now refer to is intended to remedy, no one could have gray partridges or quail in his possession even for propagation. The people, however, seemed to regard this as a mistake and at all events thousands of gray partridges were imported annually and went to their new homes without anyone being jailed. This was greatly to the credit of a good State department and in striking contrast to the old fashion of arresting people if they had a bird with a broken wing which they were trying to heal or if they received presents of game sent from abroad, etc.

No sensible game officer could be found to arrest any one for having game in his possession for propagation, provided he obtained it legally and, of course, an absurd law became a dead one. It evidently needed amendment.

THE WORK OF OUR READERS.

Mr. W. A. Lucas, one of our readers, sends a letter in which he claims credit for the recent amendment to the game laws, permitting the possession of food quadrupeds, birds and fishes for propagation and their sale for such purpose. Mr. Lucas says Assemblyman James S. Eddy had this bill introduced in the Senate and that it passed the house and was signed by the Governor. Mr. Lucas also expresses the hope that: "The Game Breeder will be careful and not claim the honor for the passage of this chapter. The writer will be aggrieved if The Game Breeder claims the honor itself."

The Game Breeder is an educator. It is well pleased and contented to create a sentiment and to set the pace, as it were, for commonsense legislation on the lines of the law referred to by Mr. Lucas. We are glad to have our readers take an interest and run to the State Capitols to secure the needed amendments suggested by the magazine. The editor only was in Albany a few times last winter and The Game Breeder willingly gives credit to Mr. Lucas for all he did. There shall be no occasion for his being "aggrieved." We believe Mr. McCormick, chief of the New York City office of the Conservation Commission, is entitled to some credit. There are others, no doubt. There were two bills: the Sanner bill in the Senate and the Jones bill in the Assembly. It was the Jones bill which became a law. These bills were much alike and were favored by the State Game Department. There is honor enough for all.

Only a few game breeders' laws of a general character have been written in the office of The Game Breeder; only a few of the Game Breeders' Associations, which now have game in abundance, actually originated here. Often our readers write for advice and help in securing the laws and in forming the associations; often we urge them to get busy and point out the many benefits game breeders have—the long season, the big bags of game, the freedom from arrest, etc. We are always glad to give readers credit for any good work. We are aware that the magazine is a power in

the land only because its readers make it strong; and, incidentally, we often suggest that they purchase only from those who advertise, because the advertisers also contribute something to our educational campaign funds.

We shall count on our readers to help when we again try to open the New York markets to game coming from Rhode Island and other states, big and small. Our best bet is that this legislation is coming although it has seemed to be a long time on the way. We wish our readers to help take the quail from the song bird list in several states and to restore quail shooting everywhere.

The only claim The Game Breeder makes is that its influence often seems to be reflected in the legislation of many states. We have always believed this was due to our many readers, some of whom are willing to let us know just what they have done.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Game Breeder:

I agree with you, that with the demand in the local market for deer, ducks, pheasants, etc., at their present prices, game breeding should prove a profitable occupation in New York State, and much of the unused and unproductive land at the present time could be used for such purposes and net good returns to those making investments.

You are a persistent worker for the benefit and justice of sport, and should be encouraged for what you have and will accomplish in that line.

W. G. LYNCH.

New York.

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Editor Game Breeder:

I dont think they need any closed season on quail. In feeding them I found more quail than I ever found before.

HARVEY GRIFFEN.

Hauppauge, L. I., N. Y.

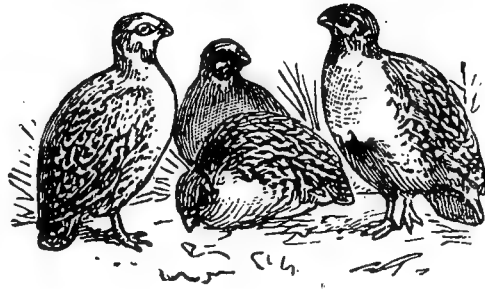
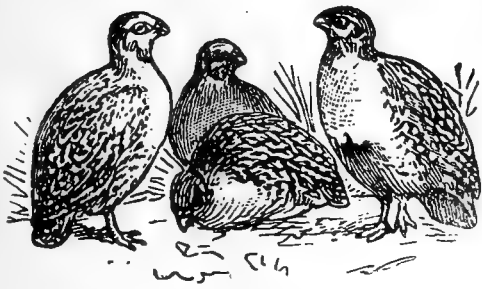
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Editor Game Breeder:

The magazine is fine; just the kind of a paper that we want. I have read every word of it. I will do some advertising with you later.

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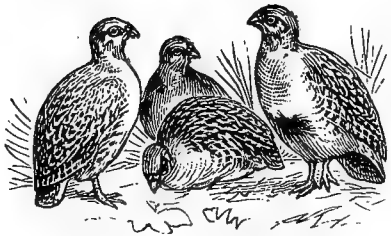
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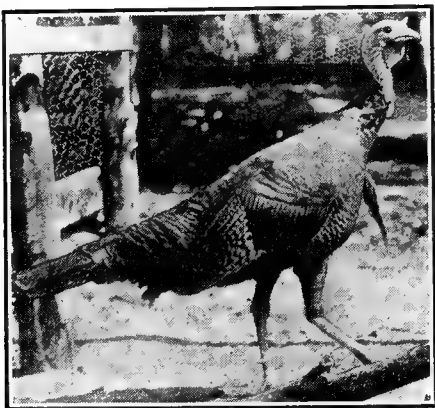
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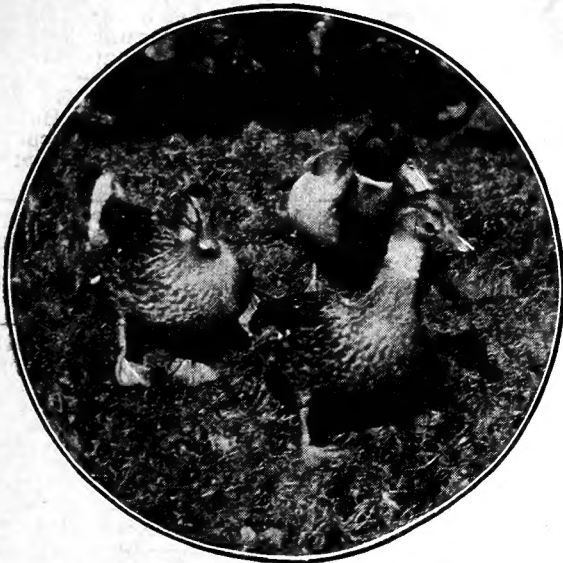
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