

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 9

MONTANA

WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY

MULE DEER
PHOTO BY
W. M. RUSH

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MONTANA STATE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

My Souvenirs



THERE'S nothing left for me
Of days that used to be.
I live in memory
Among my souvenirs.

A FLANNEL shirt in rags,
A hunting coat that sags,
A pair of sleeping bags
Among my souvenirs.

AN empty shell or two,
A picture of a slough
With mallards flying through,
Among my souvenirs.

A FEW more relics lay
In dust from day to day,
And though they're in the way
They bring me consolation.

I COUNT them one by one,
The things that brought me fun,
And find a broken gun
Among my souvenirs—
In February.

—Outdoor America.



MONTANA WILD LIFE

The Official Publication of The State Fish and Game Commission

VOL. II.

HELENA, MONTANA, FEBRUARY, 1930.

NO. 9.

Montana Duck Bag Limit is Reduced

CONSERVATION of migratory waterfowl in Montana through reduction of the bag limit has been approved by the State Fish and Game Commission and when duckists go forth before dawn next fall they must respect the limit of 15 ducks and four geese. Action of the Commission was taken at the last meeting at Harlowton, in cooperation with the federal government which has lowered the limit from 25 to 15 ducks and from eight to four geese. Montana's limit was made to conform with that of the federal government several years ago to avoid possible conflict in law enforcement. Now that federal laws have brought about the reduction other states are falling in line. Congress and governmental departments have been besieged by requests and petitions from all parts of the nation, urging duck conservation.

During the last season in Montana, with water low and the fall extremely dry, comparatively few ducks were killed. Only a few decades ago they were shot down by the thousands by market hunters. At the last meeting of the Commission Chairman Marlowe reported that the Department of Agriculture has passed rules and regulations, signed by the President, reducing the bag limit from 25 to 15 ducks and to 4 on geese. Under the laws of Montana the Commission has authority to change the bag limits in this state on migra-

tory birds to conform with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The advisability of a uniform bag limit was discussed. Chairman Marlowe's motion prevailed that the bag limit on ducks in this state be reduced to conform with the rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture, 15 ducks and 4 geese per day, and that no one person be allowed to have more than a two days' kill in his possession at any one time.

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The meeting of the Commission was held at the Graves Hotel at Harlowton January 16. Those present were Chair-

man T. N. Marlowe, E. A. Wilson, G. T. Boyd, and W. K. Moore, Commissioners; Robert H. Hill, Secretary; Field Assistant J. W. Schofield and Acting Field Assistant Kenneth MacDonald; Deputy Game Wardens Plank and Weaver; George Phillips, President, and L. R. Daems, Secretary, and other members of the Musselshell Valley Sportsmen's Association; J. C. Frohlicher of Missoula; and S. C. Shepard, President, and W. E. Kier, Secretary, of the Lewistown Rod and Gun Club.

Petitions from the Swan Valley Muskrat Company and residents of that district for an open season on muskrats in the Swan River Valley were denied.

Game Warden Hill presented a petition from citizens and sportsmen of Sanders county, asking that the Clark's Fork of the Columbia be opened to fishing through the ice for the 1929-30 season. It was pointed out that this river has been open while most of the streams in the state have been closed since November 1, and the petition was denied.

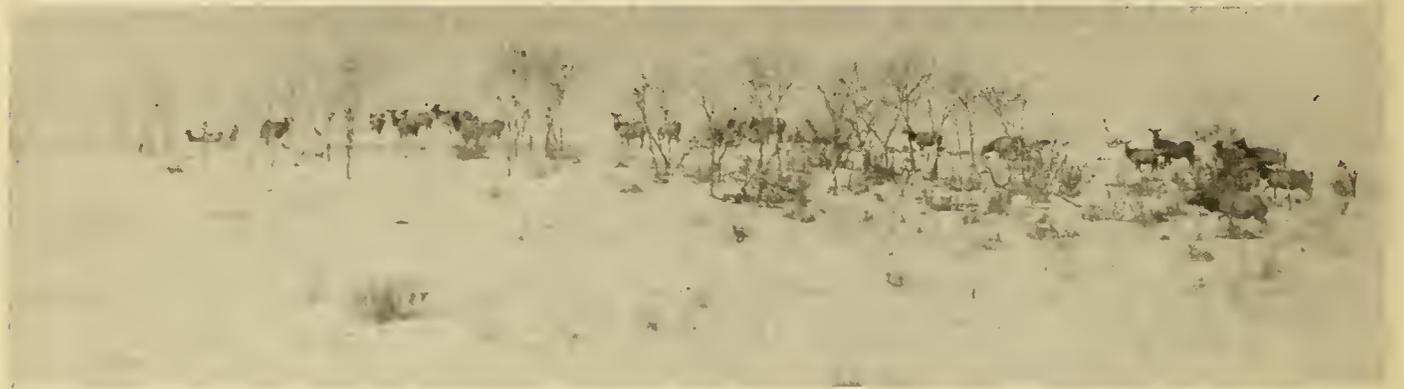
A petition from Ravalli county was also denied requesting that the Bitter Root River and tributaries be opened to fishing during the winter months, inasmuch as the majority of winter fishing in that river is for whitefish. It was suggested that by opening just one stream, however, in a district, the stream would probably be fished out.

When the West Was Young, These Humped Boys Ruled the Range



THIS striking photograph of four buffalo on the open range of Yellowstone Park causes Montana sportsmen to wonder if there isn't a war-bonneted redskin lurking somewhere in the background, a prairie schooner in the distance. Aside from the federal bison reserve at Moiese, where Frank Rose is in charge of the herd, many of these big fellows are protected in Yellowstone Park. The herds are increasing rapidly, many are sold to public parks, while at Moiese it is often necessary to butcher the bulls to hold the herd to grazing capacity of the range. This unusual picture was taken by W. M. Rush, in charge of the federal elk study in the park, who is working in cooperation with the Montana State Fish and Game Commission.

Montana Elk Are Wintering Well Despite Bitter Weather



HERE'S a splendid picture of a portion of the northern herd of elk from Yellowstone Park which annually drifts down into the Gallatin country. They are shown browsing among the bushes, taking a nip here and there and pawing beneath the crust for forage. It's a sight for the sore eyes of unfortunate sportsmen who failed to bring home anything but their outfit during the season which closed December 20. The picture is by W. M. Rush.

John L. Boardman, Secretary of the Butte Anglers' Club, asked that all of the Jefferson River, and the Big Hole River, from Twin Bridges to the Big Hole Pumping Plant of the Butte Water Company, and all of Georgetown Lake be opened to fishing until the regular closed season in March. Mr. Boardman stated in his letter that none of these waters are suffering from low water, and the fishing is good. Chairman Marlowe asked Mr. MacDonald for his opinion and that of Dr. Treece as to whether Georgetown Lake should be opened. Mr. MacDonald protested the opening of the lake that is the source of the Department's game fish egg supply, as did Dr. Treece. Mr. MacDonald suggested that, ordinarily, he would recommend opening Georgetown Lake in the winter months, and closing it to fishing during the summer months; but in view of the fact that most all the streams and lakes in the state are closed this winter, he would not suggest opening Georgetown Lake. No protest was made to the opening of the Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers. Petition for opening the Big Hole River to fishing was also read from the Twin Bridges Rod and Gun Club.

Action was rescinded on the closing of the Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers; and the Jefferson River, in its entirety, and the Big Hole River, from where it flows into the Jefferson River to the Big Hole Pumping Plant of the Butte Water Company, was opened to fishing until the beginning of the regular closed season, March 15, 1930. It is unlawful, however, to fish in these waters for game fish through the ice.

Petitions were received from residents of Anaconda and vicinity, asking that Georgetown Lake be opened to fishing during the winter months. Chairman Marlowe advised that he had a letter from the Anaconda Anglers' Club protesting the opening of the lake to fishing, and these petitions were denied.

A petition addressed to Commissioner Wilson from Logan and Manhattan sportsmen, asking the Commission to open to fishing for whitefish the East Gallatin River, from the mouth to a point near Bozeman, was granted. The

conditions as outlined in the petition are that there are very few trout in the East Gallatin, while there is a large number of whitefish.

Residents of East Portal, Montana, asked that Rainey Creek, in Mineral county, be opened to fishing during the regular open season. This stream has been closed for five years. Deputy J. J. Meany advised that inasmuch as Rainey Creek is a feeder to the St. Regis, it would be unwise to open it to fishing, and this petition was denied.

The claim from Barney Degner of Grass Range for \$500 damages to his crops caused by antelope was tabled until the next meeting.

A claim from Peter Saier of Martinsdale for \$100 alleged damages done his hay crop by the elk which had been liberated from the DuRand Ranch was disallowed.

Warden Hill advised that the members of the Forest Service who had attended the game conference meeting, held November 12 in Livingston, had asked the Fish and Game Department to pay some of the expense incurred in taking down fences and rolling up the wire on ground which has been purchased by the Forest Service through government funds for elk winter grazing ground. It is estimated that there are 18 miles of fencing, and the cost would be around \$20 per mile to take down and roll the wire. Commissioner Wilson was delegated to investigate.

Mr. Hill read a letter from Glen A. Smith, assistant district forester, relative to the work of William Rush, in making a study of the northern elk herd, diseases and general food conditions of elk. The Biological Survey had planned to pay Mr. Rush's salary, while the Park furnished him with quarters and traveling expenses, but the Survey, due to lack of funds, is unable to pay the salary. Mr. Rush's salary is \$2,800; and Mr. Smith advised that the Forest Service would willingly pay one-half of it if the Fish and Game Department would cooperate by paying the other half.

The Commission decided to enter into an agreement with the Forest Service for a period of one year and that he-

ginning May 1, 1930, the Department is to pay in regular monthly installments one-half of Mr. Rush's salary.

The request of C. A. Markham of Paradise, asking the return of his gun confiscated by Warden Goldsby was denied. Mr. Markham was fined and his gun confiscated for the illegal possession of female Chinese pheasants.

A letter from the Big Rock Creek Trout Club of St. Paul, quoting prices on rainbow trout eggs, was read by the Secretary. He was requested to write them that the Department is not in the market for rainbow trout eggs.

Mr. Hill presented letters quoting prices on game birds. In view of the establishing of the state game farm, Warden Hill was requested to write these firms that the Department is not in the market for these birds. Mr. Hill advised that the residence and garage buildings at the game farm are erected and paid for.

Mr. Hill presented a requisition from Mr. Schofield for fire extinguishers for the Big Timber hatchery, because there is no water pressure to combat fires in the hatchery building. The field assistants are to investigate and report at the next meeting.

A petition was read from sportsmen in the Missoula district asking the Commission to open the streams throughout the state to whitefish fishing during the regular open season. The general conditions in the state relative to whitefish were discussed. The motion provided that the Bitter Root River, in its entirety, the Missoula River, from Drummond to its mouth, and the Blackfoot River from where Clearwater Creek runs into it to its mouth, were opened to fishing for whitefish only from January 25, 1930, to March 14, 1930, both dates inclusive.

Chairman Marlowe read a letter from W. B. Nelson, Secretary of the Great Falls chapter of the Izaak Walton League, advising that a road will be built through the Missouri River Canyon, and suggesting that the Commission build a rearing pond at Midcanyon to make that country an ideal fishing ground. Mr. Boyd stated that it will be a year before this road is completed.

Commissioner Boyd and Field Assistant Schofield were instructed to investigate and report at a future meeting as to what, in their opinion, should be done relative to building a rearing pond.

Chairman Marlowe read a letter inquiring whether licenses should be issued to seine in Flathead Lake. There is no seining at the lake at the present time and it was decided that no more permits be issued to seine in Flathead Lake.

Mr. Marlowe asked the members of the Commission to give some thought to the method whereby the birds raised at the game farm can be liberated.

The chairman read a letter from the Western Montana Fish and Game Association, advising that their club had appropriated \$50 to keeping holes cut in the ice at Nine Pipe Reservoir. A great amount of water had been taken from the reservoir and the fish are congested. The club also asked that the patrol work in Nine Pipe Reservoir be continued under the cooperative agreement between the Commission and the club and it was agreed that the Department continue the appropriation of money for patrol work at Ronan, effective January 1, 1930, for a one-year period, the Commission to pay \$25 a month for eight months and the Western Montana Fish and Game Association to pay \$25 for four months for the salary of a patrolman.

The chairman read a letter from Mr. Patton, President of the Dawson County Rod and Gun Club, advising that their club had investigated the Fox Lake proposition and that they believe there will be no objections to putting in a dam and raising this lake so that it will be a good duck shooting ground. They stated the dam could be built for about \$600. Mr. Moore advised that he had investigated this proposition last year, but that before anything could be done toward building a dam it is necessary that the Great Northern Railway Company give consent, inasmuch as the lake is upon the Great Northern right-of-way. He has written the Great Northern officials relative to this question but has received no reply. It was agreed that Chairman Marlowe write

Foresters Report Increase of Game

REPORTS from foresters to the district office at Missoula show increases in all varieties of game animals in the Montana-Idaho district except mountain goats, moose and caribou. The census lists 748,000 deer, a gain of 47,000; 78,000 elk, a gain of 4,000; moose, 6,970, a decrease of nearly 1,000, and antelope, 8,500, an increase of 800. There were 3,400 grizzlies and 52,000 black bear found and 117,600 beaver, 19,300 mountain goats and 13,800 mountain sheep.

this club that the Commission will appropriate not to exceed \$600 for the building of this dam, providing the club secure for the Department an easement for this lake from the Great Northern Railway Company.

Mr. Marlowe stated that sportsmen around Harlowton had told him that that community had never received any duck food; and that Lake Lebo in Wheatland county would make an ideal place for ducks if food was planted there. Mr. Moore advised that duck food should be planted in Half Breed Lake in Stillwater county. It was decided to purchase duck food for Lake Lebo in Wheatland county and for Half Breed Lake in Stillwater county.

S. C. Shepard, President of the Lewistown Rod and Gun Club, requested that the Commission suspend the closed season on the Judith River, from the mouth of Spring Creek to where the river enters the Missouri, the open season to begin February 1, 1930, and the request of the Lewistown club was granted.

Mr. Shepard advised that the elk planted in the Armells district are in good condition, and asked the cooperation of the Commission in securing and planting elk in the Snowy Mountain district. Deputy Plank reported that conditions were poor in the Snowy Mountains for elk planting inasmuch as guns can be carried on the game preserve. Forest Ranger Lake advised that in his opinion the Snowy Moun-

tains were not good elk territory because there is little forage, and elk planted there would come down into the ranching district in winter.

Mr. Lake addressed the Commission relative to abolishing the Snowy Mountains game preserve and establishing a smaller game refuge, the boundaries of which could be defined by natural barriers. The chairman advised Mr. Lake that this was a matter for the legislature.

Mr. Marlowe read a letter from Glen A. Smith relative to carrying on an investigation in the Thompson River country, in Sanders, Lake and Flathead counties, with a view to bettering forage conditions for deer. The investigation can be done with little or no cost to the Fish and Game Department and it was decided that this investigation be carried on, with the Fish and Game Department and the Forest Service cooperating.

O. V. Sanderlin of Lolo was given authority to install his workable fish wheel in one of the streams.

A discussion followed as to whether or not it would be advisable to plant a few valley quail as an experiment. Mr. Hill advised that these birds had not propagated successfully in the northern part of Idaho.

Commissioner Boyd presented a petition from T. F. Carmody, Everett Naylor and Walter Fredrick for permission to seine non-game fish for commercial purposes in the Missouri River and adjoining slough below the lower dam. Discussion followed in which it was shown, from past experiences, that it would be impossible entirely to eliminate the non-game fish from these waters, and trout would be injured were seining permitted. The petition was denied.

Kenneth MacDonald was instructed to go to Lake Francis during spawning season to superintend the work.

Mr. Schofield asked whether or not the Commission intended enlarging the Big Timber hatchery. He suggested that if the hatchery is to be overhauled when weather would permit, he could start work during the winter months. Mr. Schofield was authorized to build

Monarchs of Montana Forests Bunch Up Like Contented Cows



WHEN the rigors of winter strike Montana elk, they are forced to fight the elements, paw through crusted and drifted snow for forage or wander away from their summer habitat in search of feed. This bunch of plump elk, a part of the northern herd in Montana for which adequate grazing lands are now being purchased, is shown on the pasture slope after a full meal, awaiting the migration that precedes the next dinner. The picture is by W. M. Rush.

the troughs necessary for enlargement of the Big Timber hatchery, and secure prices on the other work, making his report at the next meeting of the Commission.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the western division should have two new tanks for distribution. He was given permission to have one built for the Anaconda and one for the Somers hatchery.

Chairman Marlowe read a letter from Glen A. Smith, chairman of the Montana Sportsmen's Association, advising that that association has agreed upon J. C. Frohlicher of Missoula as secretary of the Montana Sportsmen's Association, cooperating with the Fish and Game Department. The general duties of the secretary would be:

1. To assume the duties of secretary and treasurer of the Montana Sportsmen's Association.
2. To organize local rod and gun clubs throughout the state and build up their membership.
3. To foster and encourage a high standard of sportsmanship.
4. To be responsible for and edit a section in MONTANA WILD LIFE for the State Sportsmen's Association.
5. To cooperate with the Fish and Game Department and conservation organizations.

On motion of Commissioner Boyd the Commission appointed Mr. Frohlicher, according to the agreement with the State Sportsmen's Association, to act as Educational Secretary for the State Fish and Game Department, he having been elected Secretary of the State Sportsmen's Association.

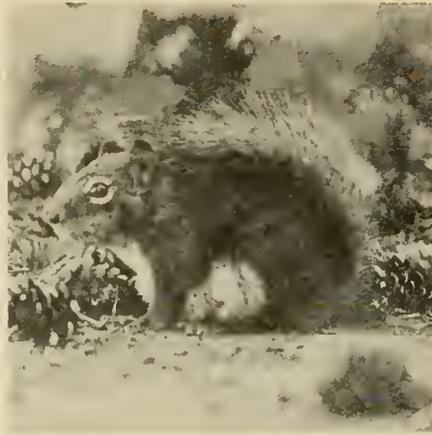
Woodchuck Film Shows Control

THE Eastern Woodchuck and Its Control" is the title of a two-reel motion picture just released by the United States Department of Agriculture. It shows the nature of the damage done by woodchucks, or groundhogs, to alfalfa fields, fruit trees, and garden crops, and also the various methods of control that have been worked out by the Bureau of Biological Survey, including the use of calcium cyanide and of carbon disulphide.

Formerly many Montana farm boys hunted this rodent so persistently for sport or for the bounty paid that hardly a one was alive to look for his shadow on "groundhog day," but now they seem to have forsaken the gun for the automobile and its opportunities for recreation and enjoyment, to the neglect of the woodchuck. At any rate, the woodchuck has increased in numbers so rapidly in recent years that it has actually become a menace to cultivated crops in many of the northeastern states.

The Biological Survey has met this situation by intensive studies of methods of control and has so far solved the problem that the farmer may keep the number of woodchucks reduced, especially in and near cultivated fields, with but little labor and at a comparatively low cost.

Recognize Him?



WHEN there's a chatter in the tree-tops, when the warning bark is accompanied by falling bits of pine cones, Mr. Pine Squirrel is sounding his greetings to visitors invading his bailiwick. They're the chatterboxes of the woods. It's seldom that a close-up picture such as that shown above is taken, except when the blue boys have been tamed. The picture is the work of W. M. Rush of the U. S. Department of Interior.

Farmers Save Fat Sum by Drive

Thousands of dollars have been saved to farmers and stock raisers of central Montana by activities of five sportsmen's associations during 1929, according to a survey of records in the common enemy control contest, conducted annually by the Fish and Game Department. The two sources of greatest potential loss were due to depredations of coyotes on stock and gophers on grain fields.

Sportsmen received credit for killing 883 coyotes during the year, and 52,791 gophers. It has been estimated that a coyote will kill about \$15 worth of stock a year, and that a gopher will destroy at least a bushel of wheat.

Numbers of other predatory animals and birds killed are as follows: 81 bobcats, 15 lynx, 1,771 weasels, 774 hawks, 7,201 magpies, 425 owls, 2,911 groundhogs, 85 kingfishers, 1,629 crows.

Clubs that have reported thus far include the Upper Musselshell Valley Sportsmen's Association of Harlowton, the Lewistown Rod and Gun Club, the Stanford Rod and Gun Club, the Big Timber Rod and Gun Club and the Northern Lewis and Clark Sportsmen's Association.

The Vagrant House Cat

AT THE sixteenth American Game Conference in New York City the following resolution, among others, was adopted:

"Whereas, the common house cat, when permitted to run at large, constitutes one of the worst of all enemies of small game and birds. Therefore, be it resolved that the American Game Conference recommends that all states enact legislation to restrict the number of vagrant cats."

When a body of 500 level-headed men assembled from all parts of North America, including federal government officials of the United States and Canadian governments and state officials of all the several states, besides scientists and sportsmen, solemnly declares that the house cat is a dangerous menace, we have a right to assume that they know whereof they speak and should give serious consideration to their declaration.

They say that the cat constitutes one of the worst enemies of small game and birds. Anything that is destructive to birds, particularly the insect-eating birds, is a menace to the welfare of our country. We can assume that it is true that success in the raising of farm crops, and all fruits and all forest trees depends largely upon the service of insect-eating birds. It has been proven over and over again by scientific research that birds have often been known to save trees and crops from destruction and that they are constantly working in that service. The greatest enemy to agriculture and forestry is insect pests. Many of these

have always existed in our country but many others have been introduced from other countries. The loss incurred from these insect ravages runs into billions of dollars. Nearly every kind of destructive insect is food for birds and nearly all birds which frequent our farms and villages feed upon them.

There is abundant evidence that the most destructive enemy to the common insectivorous bird is the hunting house cat. The volume compiled by the late Dr. Edward H. Forbush of Massachusetts is a notable accumulation of such evidence. This has been added to by naturalists, bird students and game administrators the country over. It is strange that more attention has not heretofore been given to the control of vagrant cats which are a menace, not only to bird life but to public health, as they are well known to be carriers of many diseases.

The federal government has taken cognizance of the seriousness of this problem by issuing recently a leaflet containing instructions how to make a cat trap. It is not feasible to shoot stray cats everywhere but a box trap is effective and the animals so caught can be humanely disposed of by poison gas.

No one advocates the complete destruction of all cats. It is recognized that a clean, healthy, well-fed cat is rightfully regarded as a desirable house pet and some may be useful as mousers but the abandoned homeless cat is a menace to wild bird life and to the general welfare and ought to be exterminated.

Profs are Sportsmen

Hunting, according to a recent investigation, is the favorite hobby of about 18 members of the state university faculty at Missoula. Of this number, one is the wife of a professor, and, according to reports, is far from being "the least of these." The idea of professors being stoop-shouldered book-worms who find their bliss in scholarly solicitude has been filed away in that drawer marked "obsolete."

Both students and professors seem to prefer the larger game to the wild birds, and name Fish Creek, Monture Creek, the Thompson River region and the Swan Lake country as their favorite haunts. One faculty member has his secret haunt to which he migrates every autumn. Others prefer to try them all.

February

Weather just a little cold,
Maybe so;

Snow on mountainside and wold,
Winds too impudent and bold,
Yes, I know.

But you can't forget one thing,
After February—spring.
Bleak and blustery and chill,
Well, perhaps;

Ice upon the window sill,
And the elm, as elm trees will,
Creaks and snaps.

But this thought should solace bring,
After February—spring.

Meadows brown and hedges bare,
Like enough;

Heavens dark, and frosty air,
Not a blossom anywhere,
Lonesome stuff.

But instead of sighing sing,
After February—spring.

Fur Prices Slump

The stock exchange collapse in New York may have no effect on general business conditions in Idaho, but it has been a severe blow to trappers in the Lewiston region in Idaho. There is no market for coyotes or any other fur caught in that section since the stock crash and prices have dropped \$3 to \$4. One local firm which sold 1,800 coyote pelts last season has been unable to find a buyer for its stock. The Lewiston country produces coyotes, bobcat, weasel, mink, skunk, muskrat, marten and other furs.

HUNTER KILLED FOR ELK

The body of Frank Mayash, 57, with two bullet holes in the head, was found on the Rigler ranch, near Corwin Springs. Mayash, a carpenter by trade, trapped in the winter time and went out one day to look at his lines. Officers indicate belief he was shot by some other hunter in mistake for an elk. He lived with his two sons, Frank and Tony, near Pray. A daughter, Josephine, in Chicago, another daughter, and son, and his widow live in Austria.

Laurel Kid Is 78



Missoula, Mont.

The following letter received by the editor of MONTANA WILD LIFE is worthy of publication:

Laurel, Montana.

An article in the December issue of your interesting and snappy little magazine brings to mind the fact that we can "go you one better." Another of Montana's youngsters, M. S. Hurlless, will be 78 next March. He says he would like to meet Dr. Hurlburt of Polson, whose picture you recently published, in the near future, at Billings or near by, and match shots on 25 or 50 clay birds; just by way of getting acquainted.

Mr. Hurlless gets his share of game in season, and keeps easy step with men who have numbered less than a third of his summers. He bagged ten mallards in one day during the season of 1929, and says that ten is too many, that the limit should be five.

This snapshot taken by one of his neighbors shows this young man and one of the nine Chinks bagged by him during the five-day open season. Some of the other eight played an important part in the banquet of Laurel's Rod and Gun Club, December 6.

Mr. Hurlless, who is president of our gun club, is a retired employee of the C. & N. W. railway, which company he served for 45 years, in the Badger state, then decided to enjoy the afterglow of life, "Out Where the West Begins." He has a shack in Laurel, Montana, and one in the shade of the Rockies; spends much of his time on the road between

the two places, and is at home to all young nimrods at either place.

If you want to stay young as the years speed along

Then mix all your labor with fun;
Give your job all your best, and then take a rest,

And shoulder your old shotgun.
Now some dare to say, it is work and not play

To follow the bay of the hound,
But the thrill of the chase, gives a lift to the face

Which can not be purchased in town.
If you chance to step out for a small mess of trout,

But slip on a slick stone instead,
If you find your duds soaked, and your best rod all broke,

Now don't let it go to your head.
For it won't spoil your joy, if you take it, my boy,

As a part of the price we must pay,
Though you carry a bruise, and lose hat, coat or shoes,

You can laugh at the joke the next day.

Like Calls to Like

If you walk as a friend, you will find a friend wherever you choose to fare;

If you go with mirth to a far strange land, you will find that mirth is there.

For the strangest part of this queer old world is that like will join with like.

And who walks with love for his fellow men an answering love will strike.

If you walk in honor, then honest men will meet you along the way;

But if you be false, you will find men false wherever you chance to stray.

For good breeds good, and the bad breeds bad; we are met by the traits we show.

Love will find a friend at the stranger's door where hate would find a foe.

For each of us builds the world he knows, which only himself can spoil;
And an hour of hate or an hour of shame can ruin a life of toil.

And though to the utmost ends of earth your duty may bid you fare.

If you walk with truth and a friendly heart, you will find friends waiting there.

—Edgar A. Guest.

A TRUE FISHERMAN

"Doin' any good?" asked Jim Gilgore, looking over the rail of the bridge.

"Any good?" answered the fisherman below. "Why, I caught 40 bass out o' here yesterday."

"Say, do you know who I am?" asked the man on the bridge.

The fisherman replied that he did not. "Well, I'm the game warden."

"Say," asked the fisherman, "do you know who I am?"

"No," replied the officer.

"Well, I'm the biggest liar in the country."

Sim Huggins says that when he sees something he thinks is a deer he never shoots at it if it's smoking a pipe.

MONTANA STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS.

Thomas N. Marlowe, Missoula, Chairman.
G. T. Boyd, Great Falls.
Joseph L. Kelly, Anaconda.
W. K. Moore, Billings.
E. A. Wilson, Livingston.



ROBERT H. HILL, Helena
State Fish and Game Warden
Secretary.

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GAME PROTECTORS NOW UNIFORMED

ALL REGULAR field officers of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and department heads now wear the regulation uniforms and equipment authorized by the board. The uniforms are patterned after the new uniforms of the army officer, and are olive-green. Reefers patterned after the old army officer's mackinaw have also been furnished. The hats are of campaign style. Officers are also equipped with police whistles. The Sam Browne belt, pistol holster and puttees are of tan colored pigskin, and with shoes to match present a pleasing appearance. The regulation sidearm is a .38 special revolver. Two silver white state seal ornaments are worn on each side of the roll collar of both the uniform coat and reefer. A similar ornament, only larger, is worn on the campaign hat. On the left sleeve at the shoulder of both coat and reefer is the commission's insignia which consists of a half circle of maroon flannel upon which is embroidered the words "Game Protector" in black letters and a solid black key-stone.

The value of the uniform in law enforcement work was greatly emphasized during the last season, especially when worn while stopping and inspecting cars, and a great many prosecutions resulted. Without uniforms officers were constantly in danger of their lives when attempting to stop automobiles and in one or two instances were even fired upon and almost run down, drivers believing, no doubt, they were being subjected to a "hold-up."

The uniform will be worn when searching the homes of aliens for firearms and when searching any property for evidence of the violation of game laws. Officers will also wear the uniform when appearing before sportsmen's organizations, field trials or field meets, or any meeting where the officer directly represents the game commission, and at divisional meetings when the supervisor shall inspect equipment, etc.

Uniforming game protectors was adopted by New York, Maryland, and other states some years ago. Several other states are now falling in line.

Even a tombstone will say good things about a fellow when he's down.

DUCKS WINTER IN CANADA

THOSE who believe that all the wild ducks migrate down to the Gulf of Mexico for the winter sojourn have something to learn about the habits of water birds. It is a common experience of men in the north to find wild ducks in the dead of winter frequenting some

Montana spring hole where they find open water and an opportunity to feed. Apparently, low temperatures do not affect them if they can find plenty to eat.

A report has recently come from Alberta of the work of the Calgary Fish and Game Association in feeding ducks through the winter. Last year hundreds of waterfowl along the Bow River between Calgary and Ogden were cared for under supervision of the association. The same is being done this winter. Hundreds of ducks congregate along the Bow where many of them remain all winter long.

Another report is made by the caretaker of a society in East Calgary where more than 100 waterfowl were kept during the winter by feeding. The varieties are mostly pintails and mallards.

The Calgary Fish and Game Association also has a very effective organization for feeding Chinese pheasants through the winter.

Good salesmanship is selling goods that won't come back to customers that will.

GOLFERS CARE FOR BIRDS

PROVIDING of food for birds on golf club properties this winter is urged by the Golf Club Bird Sanctuary Committee of the National Association of Audubon Societies. A publication entitled, "Winter Birds as Guests of Golf Clubs," has just been issued by the association. The Golf Club Bird Sanctuary Committee consists of Dr. Frank M. Chapman, American Museum of Natural History; Eugene S. Wilson, vice-president, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Grantland Rice, sports writer; Robert T. Jones, Jr., America's beloved amateur golf champion of Atlanta; Bruce Barton, the author; and the chairman, T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

The pamphlet states: "It is not the cold weather that kills birds. It is the lack of food. Their presence adds a touch of life and good cheer. As we feed these winter guests we come to regard them somewhat in the light of personal possessions, and with the satisfaction of one who feels that he has done the right thing by his neighbors."

A well-soaked cloth wrapped around the camp trip water bottle will keep it cool. Hang it up in a breeze in the shade.

PROTECT THE BALD EAGLE

PROTECTION of the bald eagle by federal law is being advised by the National Association of Audubon Societies. Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson recently stated:

"This majestic bird, which is the emblem of our country, has greatly decreased in numbers during recent years. Nowhere, within the limits of the United States, does it occur in sufficient numbers to be destructive to man's interests. Furthermore, its food consists largely of fish, most of which are dead or helpless when secured. Although it is given protection by the laws of most of the states, these are often disregarded, and this splendid creature frequently falls a victim to those who have a mere morbid lust to kill any large and conspicuous bird that chances to come their way.

"It is felt," Dr. Pearson continued, "by thousands of bird lovers and patriotic citizens as well, that the Congress could do a most fitting act by extending federal protection to the bird which, long ago, was chosen for our national emblem. Such protection, it is believed, would do much more than mere state legislation to safeguard the future of this regal and majestic bird."

A little vinegar in water boiled in the camp pots or pans will take away the smell of fish.

DEVELOPING PUBLIC RELATIONS

THE newly started conservation commission of Ohio has organized a public relations department which is functioning as a unit of the commission. This is being operated as a department of education and is regarded as highly important to a comprehensive and systematic conservation program. It follows the example set by Montana's commission. This department, aside from doing the general publicity work for the commission, maintains contacts with farm organizations, sportsmen's clubs, schools and other educational groups throughout the state and handles all the publication work for the conservation commission. The publication work includes the publishing of bulletins, reports, pamphlets and books, and it is expected that a regular monthly publication will soon be issued to carry current news of the activities of the commission.

The purpose of the public relations department is to make the people of Ohio "conservation conscious" and by so doing to develop a frame of mind favorable to the carrying out of the conservation commission's constructive program.

Don't drink more water than you positively have to on the trail. Ice water is inviting, but often causes cramps.

GAME CONSERVATION SUCCEEDING

ORGANIZATIONS which dedicate their efforts toward conservation of wild life will be gratified to know that there are apparent increases in the number of all big game animals in the protected areas except mountain goats, moose and caribou. This is the report of the Forest Service on its latest annual game census.

Although it is impossible to "count noses" of game animals, the estimates are based on year-long observations and studies by district rangers and other forest officers thoroughly familiar with the ground, and are considered the most accurate available. The latest estimates are made as of December 31, 1928.

Compared with the preceding year, deer on the national forests showed a gain of 47,400 in the last census, totaling 748,000 in number. The elk population increased from 74,200 to 78,200. Black or brown bear totaled 52,200, according to the census showing, while grizzly bear (including the Alaskan brown bear) numbered 3,400. The estimated number of mountain goats was 19,300, while mountain sheep numbered 13,800. Antelope increased from 7,700 to 8,500. Moose, however, fell off in number, only 6,970 being recorded, as compared with 7,950 a year earlier. The number of beaver was placed at 117,600.

In an address before the American Game Conference in New York recently, Paul G. Redington, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, noted the progress of game conservation in 1929 and enumerated the forward steps that have been taken by states, conservation organizations, and individual conservationists. "Many of the states and many of the conservation organizations concerned chiefly with the welfare of the birds and animals of the wild have moved sanely and industriously to register achievements of a distinctly progressive character," he said. "The 1929 record of action stands out clearly, and perusal of it should bring, not complacency, but a great degree of satisfaction, and a desire on the part of all to forge ahead with accelerated speed to tackle the many unsolved problems which we know exist and must be solved. Much of the progress that has been made is due directly to the unanimity of purpose and the shoulder-to-shoulder work of conservation associations of the country."

The secret of a successful outing is to see how little you can take along and still be comfortable.

MISSOURI DEER INCREASING

FOUR years ago only about one hundred fifty deer could be found in all the state of Missouri but at the present time the chief of the Missouri state parks and refuges, Martin A. Lewis, Jr., insists that there are more than five thousand deer in that state. The method by which the deer population has been so rapidly increased is through stronger protective laws and propagation of deer on state refuges where the animals have been given every possible care. A considerable number of deer were purchased and brought into the state and liberated on these parks and refuges, and natural propagation has done the rest. Deer hunting is prohibited in Missouri until 1933.

DUCKS RETURN TO HOME NESTS

A FLOCK of wild mallard ducks that had spent a year with wings clipped on the farm of Leo F. Brune, Grand Dalles, Wash., stockman and amateur ornithologist, then were permitted to fly away last spring after their wings had grown once more, have just returned, presumably from Alaska or some other northland vicinage. The ducks greeted Brune vociferously, paddled to the bank where he was standing, waddled out on terra firma and tugged at his trousers legs, and by other unmistakable signs demonstrated that they were glad to be home again, according to Bob Ballou of Portland.

"Wild ducks have a homing instinct equal to that of a carrier pigeon," says Ballou, "according to the results of an experiment made by Mr. Brune at his farm on the Columbia River in Klickitat county. Mr. Brune has for many years maintained a private preserve and feeding ground for wild ducks and has fed hundreds of the quackers every year.

"During this time he assembled a group of mallards which he kept in restraint with clipped wings. Last year he permitted the flying gear of his pets to resume normal proportions so that they could join in the annual spring migration of wild waterfowl to the northland, if they so desired, with a view to testing their appreciation of his hospitality in providing a place of refuge for them.

"Brune's flock of domesticated mallards answered the quackings of their wild companions in the air last spring and soared away to the north with them.

"Keeping a watchful eye for the return of the runaways when the first southward flights began last September, Brune was rewarded a few days ago when, much to his pleasure and interest, he was greeted by familiar quackings in a flock of recent arrivals."

The result of the homecoming firmly convinces Brune that the theory he has been advancing for a number of years in the matter of replenishing duck preserves is sound and that his slogan, "Ducks will stay where they are fed," should be hearkened to by game officials and sportsmen all along the line.

Don't follow old wood roads; they generally wander around aimlessly and lead nowhere.

FEDERAL BIRD REFUGE IN MONTANA

TWO additional bird sanctuaries have recently been created by President Hoover by executive order. One of these is located in the group of islands known as the Cedar Keys off the west coast of Florida. This will be known as the Cedar Keys Bird Refuge and it will serve as an important nesting and wintering ground for many aquatic birds, including several species of herons, pelicans and cormorants. Another refuge recently created embodies an area of 12,234 acres at Benton Lake, Montana, near Great Falls. It will be known as the Benton Lake Refuge and will serve as a sanctuary for migratory waterfowl; 3,000 acres of the tract is water area with an abundance of aquatic plant growth suitable for waterfowl food. In addition to ducks, the area is resorted to by wild geese and shore birds. Both these new refuges are being administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The "frailty of woman" allows her to be satisfied with the shortcomings of man.

PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUNDS

MONTANA sportsmen may well heed the warning and follow the example of the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners in one of its latest enterprises in acquiring public shooting grounds before they have been tied up by private clubs. During January the Pennsylvania Game Commission took title to a number of small tracts aggregating 2,139 acres. This brings the total area of state game lands to 165,061.5 acres. As a result of the deal recently consummated jointly with the Department of Forests and Waters the Pennsylvania Game Commission will obtain from the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company 51,976.32 acres. Other areas selected by the commission are scattered throughout the state.

If lost in unknown territory, find a stream and follow it down. It will generally bring you out near habitation.

Fur Farming in the Kootenai Valley

MONTANA is reaping an ever-increasing harvest of silver and gold, not from the mines, the forests or the farms of Lincoln county, but from the pelts of silver foxes, according to R. C. Smith of the firm of Smith & Budina who operate the North Star Silver Fox Farm, along the banks of the Kootenai River. For approximately 80 miles this river winds its way through Lincoln county. This section of Montana offers the finest climatic conditions for the raising of fur-bearing animals.

Standing on the threshold of the fur industry in this district, Smith & Budina are unusually enthusiastic over possibilities, which they feel are too little known, of fur farming here.

Some of the outstanding features of the district are mildness of climate, and contrary to general belief extremely cold winters do not produce the best fur; early frosts that insure cold nights, with summer nights being cool, warm days coming with the spring. There is a minimum of dampness and mud, the presence of which is detrimental to the health of the new-born fox pups; an absence of vermin, fleas, and lice to prey upon the animals; mineral in the water which supplies lime, thereby eliminating the necessity of feeding lime to combat rickets in the animals; cheap land, and low taxes. These are only the high lights of advantages which will in time be utilized by innumerable fur farmers here.

Kootenai River fur primes two to three weeks earlier than in any place in the state and among the archives of the old fur company of London, England, records more than one hundred years old are to be found where Kootenai fur ranked high in value, due to one fact, and that, owing to ideal climatic conditions, the leather was remarkably tough and when made up into fur garments had consequently more durability.

Foxes begin breeding late in January and continue until the latter part of March, according to Mr. Smith, and the pups come in April and May. Early warm and pleasant spring is beneficial for the general health of the young animals, and the absence of dampness and mud frees them from the danger of becoming chilled and cold.

"Not a flea has ever been found on one of our animals," said Mr. Smith, "nor have we ever found evidence of any vermin or lice of any kind. This insures the steady growth of a healthy and full pelt of fur, without the damage done by these mites and also the damage done by the animal scratching. A large area of this county is suitable neither for farming nor stock raising, but hillside aridness and rocks are in no way a hindrance to the well being and growth of silver foxes."

The North Star Silver Fox Farm, recently named, was started a little over two years ago with four pairs of foxes and in December, 1929, eleven pelts

were culled from their lot and shipped to the Seattle market, leaving 25 pairs of the best animals in the pens. They have 25 pens which will be increased to 50 pens this year to accommodate the growing family.

Mr. Smith explained methods of killing the foxes which are approved by the humane society, but he said he much preferred the other method as the most humane in use today.

The forming of stock companies for fur raising does not appeal to Mr. Smith. He asserts individuals should make a scientific study of the industry from every angle before engaging in it. The closest application to the successful raising and marketing of the animals is essential to the ultimate financial success. Mr. Smith is convinced that application of this study in the right district will in time be a commensurable and ever-growing industry in Montana.

But Montana's fur farmers are not picking dollars off the bushes. They have their troubles. Last spring the

bear caused consternation among owners of beaver farms in Lincoln county. The story carries a laugh, as well as a moral, but here it is just the way Deputy W. J. Dorrington tells it:

"Del Fewkes of Troy, Lincoln county, who operates one of the largest beaver farms in the state, had a lot of trouble last spring, caused by bear breaking his fence and entering his beaver enclosure. Mr. Fewkes has 160 acres of cedar swamp enclosed and has to maintain a constant patrol. While hauling grain for his beaver he ran onto a four-year-old grizzly. He returned for his gun and lion dog. The bear had entered by means of a fallen tree. In several places his fence had been broken by this or other bears. Six black bear have been shot close to this farm and 14 bear were seen around his farm. In feeding the beaver the grain is distributed around the fence, bringing them away from water. It is evident that this easy prey attracted the bear. They are unusually plentiful in the spring in Lincoln county. The amusing part of this story is that Mr. Fewkes returned with the dog and an empty gun. The dog chased the bear. Then the bear turned and chased the dog. The dog ran toward Mr. Fewkes. After discovering his gun was empty he ran toward the cabin and Mr. Talmady, who does patrol work, was in time to finish the bear."

Fox farmers, whose numbers are steadily increasing in Montana, are told how to keep their foxes in good health in a leaflet, "Hygiene in Fox Farming," issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In the leaflet the author, Dr. Karl B. Hanson of the Bureau of Biological Survey, director of the U. S. Fur-Animal Experiment Station at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., says that control of contagious diseases is one of the great problems in fox farming, but that it is possible to prevent many diseases by maintaining conditions most conducive to the health of the animals. As sick foxes frequently show no apparent symptoms of disease until after their condition becomes serious, it is better to try to prevent diseases than to attempt to cure them, says the leaflet.

The leaflet discusses the relation of climate, shade, and soil, and other factors to the health of foxes raised on fur farms, and treats from the standpoint of hygiene the matter of the location of the farm, pens and kennels, feeds and feeding, and disinfection.

Coyote Is Her Pet



OLD Man Coyote, otherwise known as Senor Yip-Yap, isn't doing so well in Montana since hunters of predatory animals of the Fish and Game Department, the stockmen and the Biological Survey have been on his trail. But here's a Yip-Yap that knows where he is safe. He's a pet at the Paramount Fox and Fur Farm near Polson where he was raised and fondled by Mrs. Thurston, who is shown holding him up for display purposes.

WE'RE STRONG FOR YOU

"Gimme some onion-skin paper."

"Must it be onion-skin?"

"Yeah. I'm writing a sad letter to my girl and I want to make sure that she'll shed tears over it."

ANOTHER "OLD SPECKS"

Eddie: "I can tell you the score of the game before it starts."

Ramp: "What is it?"

Eddie: "Nothing to nothing."

Money In Muskrats

AS a fur-bearing animal, the muskrat now heads the list in commercial importance for annual fur production in the United States, according to Ed N. Davis, president of the Montana Muskrat Breeders, Inc.

The company of which Mr. Davis is the head operates a fur farm about 23 miles southeast of Great Falls in the Missouri River valley, and 250 acres of marsh and swamp land are utilized in the undertaking. The company was organized about two years ago and at that time the farm was stocked with 500 males and 1,000 females, brought in principally from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Idaho. At the time the company was organized the state law provided that fur farms must be in operation two years before furs produced may be marketed. The first trappings on Mr. Davis' fur farm will take place the latter part of March or first of April, next, and it is expected that from 20,000 to 25,000 pelts will be taken this season.

"The muskrat," Mr. Davis says, "is the cleanest and neatest of animals. At the farm during the winter season the rats are fed carrots, a favorite food, but they will never eat a carrot or any other food without first washing it thoroughly in the water. When they finish their meal," Mr. Davis said, "they scrub their faces most industriously.

The principal food of the wild muskrat consists of the roots of water plants, pond lilies, sedge, bullrushes, cattails and other marsh growths.

"The animals multiply rapidly and the industry is highly profitable if proper breeding grounds and expert attention is given to the enterprise."

Hankies and Bears

Editor MONTANA WILD LIFE:

Over Missoula way we have a friend called King Bass Powell of grizzly bear hunting fame. Name given by certain reporter who knows Powell's weakness for that kind of fish and likes to hunt bear; in fact he likes to hunt bear so well we know of one occasion where Powell with a friend called "Hudson Bey" (well known sheik) sat up all night over in the South Fork country, waiting at a grizzly bear kill of elk calf with about all the bed clothes they had in camp wrapped around them. Powell received a Christmas present with the poem attached, and written for this special occasion:

This white kerchief has many a use,
Its existence is not a mere excuse;
First for the trumpet if it must be blown,
Don't make a noise as if a dishpan is thrown.
The second use is just as plain,
It comes handy when hunting big game,

Drape it in front when chasing Bruin,
Then he won't realize his oncoming ruin.

This red one was a second thought,
Recalling battles that have been fought;
Pay close attention to what I say,
Time may come when it'll save the day.
When Bruin's tired of play and turns tables on you,
And you run out of heel dust and don't know what to do;
Spread the red one plainly on the rear view,
Quit running, go to flying and bid him adieu.

MRS. L. H. POWELL,
MR. MARSH.

More Birds In Idaho

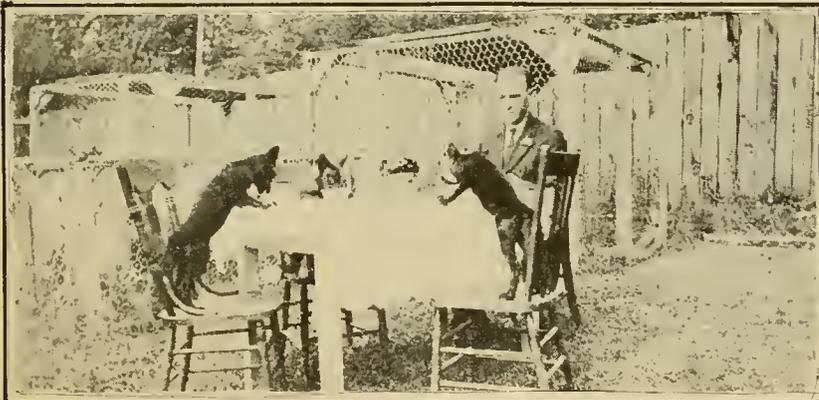
The Idaho state game department is going to increase its production of Chinese pheasants at the Lapwai game farm to 10,000 birds a year, Game Warden R. E. Thomas says.

"We shall insist on 10,000 birds this year, and will send experienced game men to assist Superintendent Charles W. Myers in producing the results we desire. The cost of production in Idaho the last two years has been too high. We expect to increase the production without increasing the costs of operation. The operation of the farm during the last year has cost about \$12,000 and about 4,000 birds have been raised."

MONTANA FOXES HAVE GOOD MANNERS



JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN AT DINNER TIME



ROY SMITH AND SOME OF HIS FOXES



MRS. ROY C. SMITH AND SOME OF THE TAME FOXES ON THE NORTH STAR SILVER FOX FARM, TROY, MONT.

Elk Control Is Puzzling Problem

IF GREAT herds of Montana elk, driven from their feeding grounds in forest reserves because of unusually heavy snowfall and the eating off of forage by cattle in summer, congregate in such numbers as to cause damage to owners of private farm property, it is probable that the Montana State Fish and Game Department will employ riders to plow through snow on horses and keep the elk out of cattle pastures.

This plan was announced by Robert H. Hill, State Fish and Game Warden, after a strenuous week spent investigating the elk situation in the Sun River district. He made a personal trip under severe winter hardships through the district where some 3,000 elk have been forced to the area on Ford Creek at the Whitcomb ranch, Smith Creek, the headwaters of Todd Creek, tributaries of the South Fork of the Sun River and the Dearborn slope. This area is just outside the boundaries of the forest reserve and the Sun River Game Preserve, east of Haystack Butte and 17 miles southwest of Augusta.

The trip from Helena to Great Falls was made by rail, from Great Falls to Augusta by car, from Augusta 17 miles to the J. B. Long ranches by sleds and the investigation in that vicinity by saddle horses. During one day the party making the trip viewed about 1,500 elk in the lowlands.

"The Sun River elk are in good condition," said Game Warden Hill. "They are active and move rapidly even in the deep, drifted snow, much of which will hold a saddle horse because of the crust. We found none suffering from lack of food and located but one entangled in a barbed wire fence.

"Keen interest displayed by ranchers and their willingness to cooperate with us in solving the problem was most gratifying. Weather conditions began to moderate on the last day of the trip, much snow was melted off the ridges, and grazing was made available.

"The elk, which normally come to the lowlands for their winter feed when crusted snow covers the ridges, have come down to find that the forage has already been eaten away by cattle. Private lands in the vicinity have been fenced. In no case did we find where hay stacks have been torn down or attacked by the herds. They have, however, invaded the pastures which have been reserved by stockmen for winter grazing for their cattle.

"Under the state law there is no recourse in damages permitted for invasions of the herds, which are pointed to throughout the nation as the few remaining herds of America. But the Fish and Game Commission, in an emergency and in an attempt to aid the farmers, may find it necessary to try out the employment of a range rider to keep the elk back away from the cattle pastures.

"Every courtesy was shown us by Baldy Buck, pioneer cattlemen, in charge of the J. B. Long ranches. He welcomed us sincerely, provided us with

Know This Rascal?



THIS is not an advertisement for canned peas. For the benefit of Montana youngsters who have never bedded down in the woods, who have never had their knives and forks carried away or some of their other utensils lugged out during the night, this picture is printed to acquaint them with the Montana woodrat. He's shown perched atop the can of peas with his tail extending way out yonder. He's a sprightly little beggar and has been known to carry away to his treasure house articles many times his size. He's a miser who collects everything to which he takes a fancy, despite the fact that it may be of no possible value to him. The picture was taken by W. M. Rush of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

horses and gave us every attention possible. His courtesy was matched by that of other ranchers. They are willing to cooperate with the department in every possible way to save the elk, yet prevent them from doing damage."

Warden Hill was accompanied on the trip by Deputy Warden A. D. Roucher of Augusta, J. T. Weiseman, rancher, and other cattlemen.

Game Warden Hill, Deputy John Plank of Harlowton and associates then made a trip of inspection to the Martinsdale region, where Harold Ingersoll of Indiana, son of J. E. Ingersoll, Illinois capitalist and owner of the Smith ranch, has been conferring with Vernon Galentine, manager of the ranch, on the possibilities of securing game to create a preserve in some of the mountain land owned by the company. Mr. Galentine outlined a plan for Mr. Ingersoll's approval, which includes fencing just below the timber line on Gordon Butte to inclose about a section and a half of timber and grazing land, building a

log lodge in the hollow on top of the butte and securing, as a starter, 20 head of the elk now running in the Delphine area.

Mr. Galentine offered, some time ago, to take some of the elk and has told Mr. DeGroate, ranger at the Musselshell station, that he believes if the animals are driven to the ranch they will stay because the grazing land offers good feed.

The ranchers in that district are eager to have the elk driven some place where they will cease to bother hay stacks and pastures.

Hungry elk, with their food supply cut off by frozen snow, are becoming a nuisance to ranchers on Cottonwood Creek near Ovando, according to information received by T. N. Marlowe, chairman of the Montana State Fish and Game Commission, from Harry Morgan, deputy game warden at Ovando. Mr. Morgan has taken steps to secure hay with which to feed the animals.

The elk are unable to feed themselves as the first snows of the winter are frozen solid in the Ovando region and the new snow has fallen on top, so that the animals can not get through to the ground. As a result about 80 head are said to have been congregating around the Linn Brothers and Harry Sharp ranches.

Reporting on conditions in the Black-foot valley, Mr. Morgan said the deer are plentiful and in good shape, and he anticipates an abundance of water this season.

It has been extremely cold around Ovando, the temperature ranging from 10 to 50 degrees below zero.

The severe winter of the northern Rockies is again taking its annual toll of the wild life of Glacier National Park, according to Superintendent J. R. Eakin. Strange to relate, there is no cause for alarm, for with one exception it is merely nature's way of keeping the various species virile and vigorous and restricting the animal population so it will not exceed the food supply. The "survival of the fittest" insures there shall be no weaklings carried over into the breeding season to lower the virility of denizens of the wilderness.

The one exception is peculiar to Glacier National Park only. The Great Northern Railway skirts the southern boundary of the park and near the area of the greatest concentration of deer. Some deer desert the feed yards, go outside the park and walk on the railroad track to escape the deep snow.

To date 30 have been killed by trains. Despite this handicap, deer are showing a gratifying increase.

Nature's way of preventing too rapid increase in wild life and keeping it virile are losses from predatory animals, breaking through air holes on frozen lakes and rivers, snowslides and "winter kill." An animal not sufficiently vigorous to rustle for food dies of cold and starvation.

Coyotes are not numerous in the park this winter. Signs of only one moun-

tain lion have been discovered by rangers on patrol and one evidence of wolves has been observed.

Contrary to the usual belief, snow-slides are destructive to moose, elk, mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Several years ago one snowslide destroyed four elk. Last winter another slide killed two moose. Deer usually drift to the lower valleys and escape this menace.

TWO OTHER FELLERS

"Hey, any of you fellers lose a wrench?"

"Yea, me."

"What's your name?"

"Mike Connors."

"You ain't the guy. This wrench belongs to Pat. Pending. His name's on it."

The Mountain Stream

Sparkling in its amber clearness,
 Dashing heedlessly along,
 Bringing message to the cheerless
 With its hum of all day song.
 Peopled with its speckled beauties
 Madly dashing to and fro;
 Adding to its many duties
 Aid to irrigation flow.
 Quickly hurtling heavy houlders;
 Fathered by the winter's snow;
 Pushing onward as it shoulders
 Countless cares of those below.
 Fed by springs of divers number,
 Branching out to greater size,
 Till at last it seems to slumber
 Threading cobwebs to the skies.

—J. Nort White.

Luck and Industry

Just being happy
 Is a fine thing to do;
 Looking on the bright side
 Rather than the blue;
 Sad or sunny musing
 Is largely in the choosing.
 And just being happy
 Is brave work and true.

SO SORRY

"There hasn't been much stirring around our house lately."

"Why not?"

"Somebody stole the spoons."

Trapping is Pastime of Montana Railroad Man



T. W. HILDEMAN, known to hundreds of Montana friends as "Hildy," has a position with the Northern Pacific as station agent at Frenchtown, near Missoula, but he has a hobby, in fact a bunch of hobbies, in which he excels. He's a mighty good railroad man and as fine a sportsman as the west has yet produced. Only a short time ago he was stationed at

Austin, near Helena. He uses a rifle, shotgun and animal trap with results. He's a keen student of ballistics, makes a specialty of knocking over rifle and trapshooting trophies and when he has a minute to spare he goes out before breakfast, kills a couple of mountain lions, bags a bobcat or gets on the trail of other predatory animals. But Hildy's a modest chap and shuns pub-

licity. At the bottom in the layout above and at the right center are pictures of cats in traps. Hildy is shown at the bottom center with a coyote almost as big as he is and at the top with a bag of snowshoe rabbits. Other pictures in the group are some of the coyotes Hildy has started on a career toward the taxidermist.

February Morn



BREER BEAVER, dripping wet with chilly waters, is doubtless comparing his bravery with that of September Morn. Here he is, snapped just as he poked his head above the frosty February waters by W. M. Rush in Yellowstone National Park. Some nature fakir or radio fau might venture the remark that he's "Singin' in the Bathtub."

Things To Forget

If you see a tall fellow ahead of a crowd,
A leader of men marching fearless and proud,
And you know of a tale whose mere telling aloud
Would cause his proud head to in anguish be bowed,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a skeleton hid away
In a closet, and guarded and kept from the day
In the dark; and whose showing, whose sudden display,
Would cause grief and sorrow, and life-long dismay,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a thing that will darken the joy
Of a man, or a woman, a girl or a boy,
That will wipe out a smile or the least way annoy
A fellow, or cause any gladness to cloy,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

"Jack, there's a motorcycle following us. Is it a traffic officer?"
"No, worse. It's the guy who collects the installments on this car."

Better DUCK Shooting



Order Wild Rice Seed Now For Spring Planting. Thousands of ducks will come to an established rice field. We also have wild celery, Sago Pond plant, Wapato duck potato and other attractions for waterfowl and fur bearers. Also parched wild rice for table use.

GEO. D. HAMILTON'S AQUATIC FARMS
Box 16 Detroit, Minnesota

Boy's Weasel Trap Catches Bobcat

A CAT tamer has been found in Missoula county. He is Robert Moore, only 12 years old. He tames bobcats. Robert, who lives up Lolo Creek, set out a bunch of traps for weasels. In one of those traps he found a big bobcat, measuring about 4 feet from tip to tip. He killed the cat, skinned it and took the hide, remarkably soft and richly colored, into Missoula, where he sold it, after asking advice of the sheriff.

Benton Bird Refuge

By executive order, President Hoover has set aside, as a refuge and breeding ground for birds, a 12,124-acre tract at Benton Lake, in Cascade and Chouteau counties, near the city of Great Falls. The new reservation will be known as the Benton Lake Bird Refuge and will be administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The new refuge will constitute an important sanctuary for great numbers of migratory waterfowl. More than 3,000 acres of the refuge is water area, with an abundance of aquatic plant growth for cover and food for wildfowl. Several species of wild ducks, as well as wild geese, are found on the Lake Benton marshes during their migrations, and some of these birds breed there. Shore birds also frequent the region, chiefly in migration. The area was formerly a part of the Sun River reclamation project administered by the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior.

For the welfare of the birds and other forms of wild life on the refuge, it is made unlawful to hunt or trap there, or to capture, willfully disturb,

Attract Wild Ducks



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FOXES

Pen-Raised Alaskan Blues and Pedigreed Silvers. Order Now—Early Delivery more satisfactory. We guarantee, in Your hands or Ours, 100% increase under ranching contract on adult Blues. 6 Bank Ref. for 25 yrs. and Satisfied customers. Breeder-Agents wanted—Your real opportunity. "One of the World's largest"—Free booklet tells all. **CLEARY BROS., Fox Farms, Empire Bldg. 524 N. TLE, U.S.A.**

or kill any wild animal or bird, or to take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird; to cut or burn any timber, underbrush, grass, or other natural growth; willfully to leave or suffer fire to burn unattended near any timber or other inflammable material; to leave a fire near any forest or timber; or willfully to molest, injure, or destroy any property of the United States.

Little Boy

Oh, little boy with the big brown eyes!
Your dreams will reach into the skies,
Your hopes will be of love and fame,
Your hand will every scepter claim;
Your joys will ever light the skies. . . .
Oh, little boy with the big brown eyes!

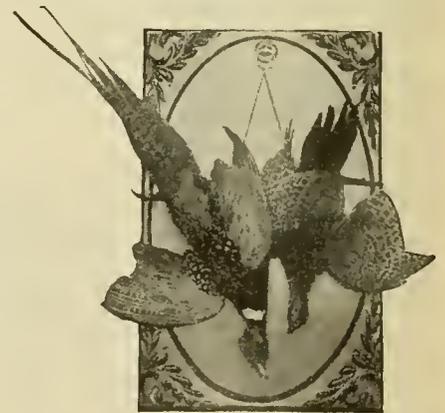
Oh, little boy with the big brown eyes!
In your small hands a future lies;
When ou Life's threshold wide you stand,
All things you'll know . . . you'll understand,
And Life will bring you naught but joy
Oh, little, happy brown eyed boy!

DEAR DOCTOR

The following letter was received by a company which manufacturers corn syrup:

"Dear Sirs: Though I have taken six cans of your syrup my feet are no better now than when I started."

Chinks; Most Beautiful Game Birds in Montana



You too will say the same thing if you have a bird or two mounted in our shop. Plan to have a specimen mounted this fall since the season may not be opened again for several years to come. Its gorgeous coloring makes this bird the ideal decoration in either flying, standing or dead game position.

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Molly Cottontail



MONTANA sportsmen who cherish wild life in forest, field and glen, seldom realize that Molly Cottontail and John Rabbit are assets. In many states they are protected and an open and closed season is declared to protect them and to insure proper growth. In the west, however, it has not been long since jackrabbit drives were popular sport in many communities where the long-eared gentry damaged crops. This bunny, however, rivals roast chicken when dolled up in a casserole.

ACCOUNTING METHODS

A wholesaler who had a lot of trouble in getting a certain retail client to pay his bills finally lost patience and wrote the merchant a threatening letter. He received the following reply:

Dear Sir: What do you mean by sending me a letter like that?

Every month I place all my bills in a basket and then figure out how much money I have to pay on my accounts. Next I blindfold my bookkeeper and have her draw as much money to pay.

If you don't like my way of doing business I won't even put your bills in the basket.

REJOINDER

Porter: "Did you miss dat train, suh?"

Traveler: "No! I didn't like to see it around, so I chased it out of the yard."

WANT MORE DUCKS



More food means more game. Complete line of planting materials suitable for Montana. Planting helps free. Write



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Forestry Foundation

PROMOTION of practical forest land management in the broadest sense of the term is the object of a gift of \$200,000 made by Charles Lathrop Pack of Lakewood, New Jersey, to the University of Michigan. This fund is to be known as the George Willis Pack Forestry Foundation in memory of the donor's father, and the income from it will be used by the School of Forestry and Conservation in carrying out the purpose of the foundation.

In establishing the foundation, Mr. Pack stated that the School of Forestry and Conservation was chosen as the medium through which to carry out his plans for the advancement of forestry in this field "on account of its prestige, its facilities for teaching the broad principles of all phases of practical forestry, and its experienced staff."

The income from the foundation is to be used for the salary and expenses

Anglers Club Takes Care of Pheasants

BECAUSE of the severely cold weather, it has been found necessary, according to Secretary Neil Grogan of the Deer Lodge Anglers' Club, to feed the flocks of Hungarian pheasants in Powell county with grain to avert the starvation of these birds. The work is being supervised by Mr. Grogan. The feeding task was carried on last year by the club and many of the birds were saved from death.



TROPHIES of the FALL HUNT

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of an experienced forester to be known as the George Willis Pack professor of forest land management, and for such other expenditures as may be necessary in carrying out the purposes of the foundation. In accordance with the wishes of the donor, who is keenly interested in the practical application of forestry, it is expected that the holder of this professorship will devote the larger part of his time to furthering the practice of forestry in the woods rather than in the class room. He may, however, assist in the instructional activities of the school, and will doubtless work particularly with graduate students.

Hercules Alaskan Silver Black Foxes

Write for information and prices.
Idaho Fox Farm Co., Porthill,
Idaho, or
Hugo Renlund, Red Lodge, Mont.

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MONTANA WILD LIFE

Official Publication of the Montana State Fish and Game Department

Montana Sportsmen's Association



Glen A. Smith

Other year of its existence, the Montana Sportsmen's Association is organizing for the pre-election campaign. A traveling secretary, John C. Frolicher of Missoula, who is in the employ of the Fish and Game Commission as educational secretary, is in the field. A definite program will be arranged at the annual April meeting in Helena. Until that meeting, suggestions will be welcomed. They should be mailed to the secretary at Missoula. And if sportsmen desire to form a club, or to revive an old club, or need help in their membership campaigns, any aid that the secretary can give will be furnished gladly. His job is to aid clubs in the state and he will welcome the opportunity.

The Montana Sportsmen's Association is the clearing house for sportsmen's clubs of the state. It is organized "for the perpetuation of Montana's out-of-doors and the sport of sportsmen."

The Commissioners are Glen A. Smith of Missoula, chairman; E. M. Boyes of Libby, Dr. W. M. Copenhaver of Helena, A. H. Croonquist of Red Lodge, Dr. J. H. Garberson of Miles City, W. B. Nelson of Great Falls and E. A. Wilson of Livingston. John C. Frolicher of Missoula is secretary.

CUSTER CLUB IS BUSY

THE Custer Rod and Gun Club has been hard at work with its program, and good success is reported, especially at Lake Garberson. The propagation of warm water fish in the eastern part of the state by the State Commission and the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries will lead to better sport over there. Not much success with game birds, especially Chinks and Huns, has been reported from sections where there is no cover. The Custer hunters have a problem before them in replenishing the prairie chicken coveys.

WE WANTA HEAR

ABOUT experiences in driving elk from one range to another. What sportsmen and trappers think of allotting certain districts to certain trappers, so the fur will be used and not mined.

Who among non-professional hunters has killed a mountain lion since January 1.

When the first bear is seen out of his den this spring. (It would be well to give day, hour and minute.)

Why sportsmen's associations don't take more interest in the common enemy control contest.

When each sportsmen's club in the

state will start its 1930 drive for members.

ANACONDA CLUB DINES

THE annual dinner of the Anaconda Anglers' Club will be held February 15, at the Montana Hotel. A whole buffalo has been secured for the occasion. Sportsmen from Butte, Helena, Anaconda, Philipsburg and other towns have been invited. Chairman Thomas N. Marlowe of the State Commission and John C. Frolicher, secretary of the Montana Sportsmen's Association, have been asked to speak.

WHITEFISH IN OPEN STREAMS

MEMBERS of the Western Montana Fish and Game Association of Missoula are catching many whitefish in the three open streams near that city. The fish are all of fairly good size, the reports state.

GREAT FALLS AT MEETING

A LETTER from H. M. Read, secretary of the Great Falls Sportsmen's Association, indicates that their membership will be represented at the annual meeting of the state association in April. The Great Falls sportsmen have been among the more active workers for game conservation in Montana.

RUSH REPORT ON ELK

THE report of W. M. Rush, who is studying the northern Yellowstone elk herd, recalls to many enthusiastic sportsmen the time when the Montana Sportsmen's Association joined with the State Fish and Game Department, the Forest Service and the Park Service in obtaining more winter range for the great wild life resources of southern Montana. All the sportsmen of the state urged the passage of house bills that made available funds for buying this winter range. Sportsmen will find that problems can be handled through the Montana Sportsmen's Association.

MONGOLIANS ARE THRIVING

CHINESE pheasant flocks of the Flathead reservation, where there was a five-day open season last fall, show little decrease in the numbers of male birds, says Deputy Warden Jack Goldsby. The supply of Hungarian partridges has not been touched. The pheasant situation is being handled during the winter. Sportsmen from St. Ignatius are feeding hundreds of the birds, in cooperation with the State Department. Deputy Warden W. A. Hill of Missoula has feeding grounds in his territory and is being helped by sportsmen and farmers of the Bitter Root valley and the lower Missoula River valley. Cecil Wilson of Helena, president of the Lewis and Clark County Rod and Gun Club, is urging farmers to open holes in straw stacks so birds may find food and shelter.

PAGE FOR ASSOCIATION

THROUGH the courtesy of the Montana State Fish and Game Commission this page will be available each month for the Montana Sportsmen's Association. Members of affiliated clubs who have something "on their chests" are urged to put it on paper.

PLANT QUAIL NEAR STANFORD

MEMBERS of the Stanford Rod and Gun Club are going to try plants of Bob White, the game bird of the middle west, it was noted in a recent news dispatch.

PARKS AND CAMP SITES

ROD and gun clubs are urged to investigate possible public parks and camp sites near their home towns. Sportsmen's organizations find that such work, in eastern states, pays big dividends in good will and friendliness, as well as in financial ways. Bring the problem to the annual meeting of the association in April.

GLEN SMITH IN EAST

GLEN A. SMITH, chairman of the state association, is in Washington, D. C., on a detail for the Forest Service. He will return to Montana in time to call the annual meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEES CUT

A DECREASE in the membership fees for rod and gun clubs joining the Montana Sportsmen's Association for 1930 has been announced. In place of the old fee of 25 cents each for members of clubs, a sliding scale has been adopted.

Clubs that wish to pay up their 1929 dues and send delegates to the annual meeting in April of this year are requested to send a list of their membership with the check for the dues. The check should be made payable to the Montana Sportsmen's Association and sent to John C. Frolicher, secretary, at Missoula.

The scale:

Clubs with 300 members or more.....	\$50
Clubs with 250 to 299 members.....	45
Clubs with 200 to 249 members.....	40
Clubs with 150 to 199 members.....	35
Clubs with 100 to 149 members.....	30
Clubs with 75 to 99 members.....	25
Clubs with 50 to 74 members.....	20
Clubs with 25 to 49 members.....	15
Clubs with less than 25 members.....	10
Individual annual memberships (not included in clubs).....	1
Memberships to dude ranches, firms, etc.	10

SAYS IZAAK WALTON

"Angling is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so. We may say of angling as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries, 'Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did'; and so, if I might be judge, 'God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling.'"