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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XIII.

APRIL, 1918

No. 1

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



THE LEAPING MALLARD

Photograph sent by F. W. Pickering

PUBLISHED BY THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Inc. NEW YORK CITY U.S.A. C. B. Davis - '18



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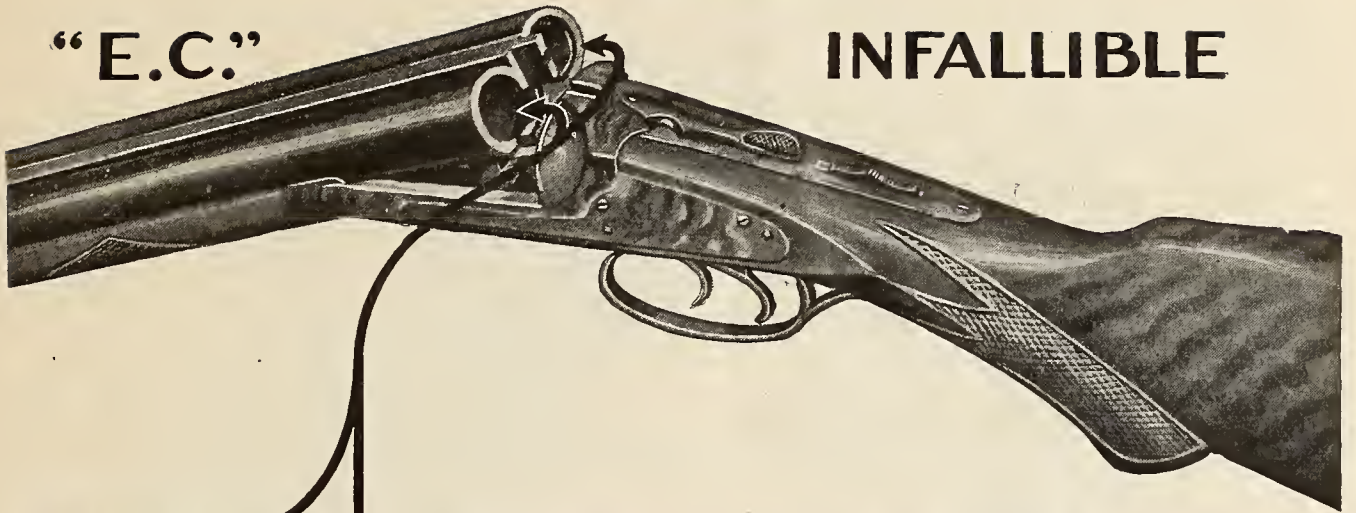
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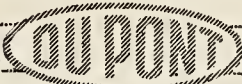
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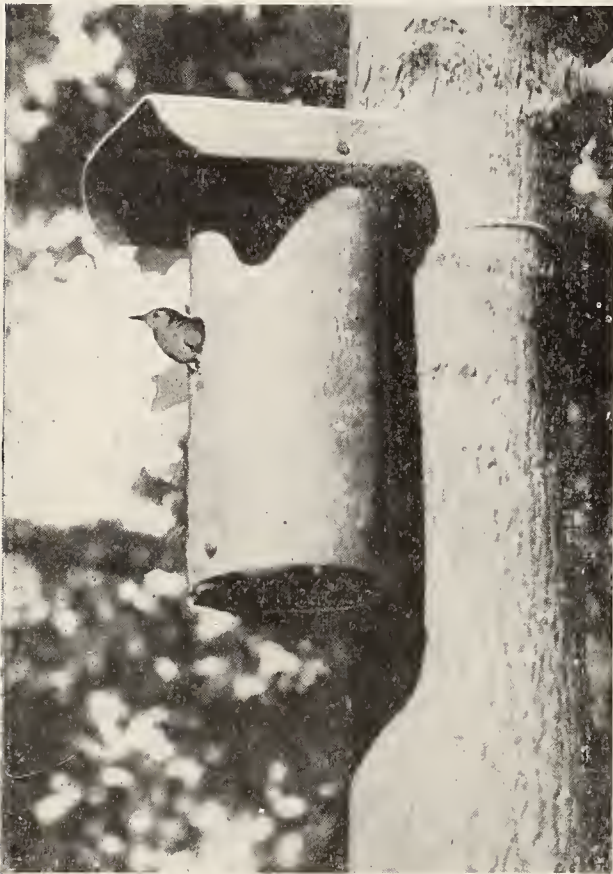
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BIRD HOUSES.

Field sports undoubtedly tend to keep people in the country and to make country places attractive. Since the laws have been amended making it legal to have game birds for sport and for food many rural owners have taken an interest



in producing and protecting the game on their places and many people have created country estates where game always is plentiful.

The practical protection given to the

game causes a rapid increase in the numbers of song and insectivorous birds and we have been pleased to observe that sportsmen who have country places have begun to take a great interest in the smaller birds. Many readers of *The Game Breeder* provide special shelters, nest boxes and foods for the birds and all, we feel sure, will be glad to learn that a new and attractive bird house has been placed on the market, for fifteen cents, postpaid.

It is not often that we become sufficiently enthusiastic about anything to write any special notice of it. This bird house, however, appealed to us at once as something which our readers should have for their country places. It is well made, watertight and in color and texture closely resembles the gray tones of the back of a tree.

We had an idea when we first read the copy that the price, 15 cents, must be a mistake. A few minutes after a sample box was sent to us. One of our readers who owns a country place came in and when we observed he was interested in the box we asked him what he thought the price was. He said he would guess \$2.00. When we told him the price he said he had many small birds on his place and they certainly could have houses at that price.

We think it likely the price of the bird boxes like the price of other things will go up and we advise our readers to read the advertisement on another page and to send their orders for bird houses promptly.

The Game Breeder

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NUMBER 1



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

More Canvasbacks.

Milliard Cantler, a local hunter, killed 36 canvasback ducks off Mill Creek, four miles from Annapolis, and John Crandell appeared in Annapolis with three canvasbacks that he was offering for sale at the modest price of \$1.25 a piece. He had killed them on the bay about twelve miles from this city.—Live News Notes.

The price \$1.25 for a canvasback does seem modest at present. We can remember, however, the time when \$1.25 was rather high. We bought teal, which we prefer to the larger ducks, for 10 cents each. We predict that before long the low prices for dead game will again appear and since they will be founded on common sense they will be permanent as the low prices for wild trapped and shot game are in all civilized countries excepting America. We refer to dead game, because the prices for live game and for eggs will remain higher for well-known reasons.

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Quail for Anne Arundel.

Remington Live News Notes quotes the Evening Capital, Annapolis, Md., thus:

The experiment of introducing quail has proved successful. One thousand Alabama birds were liberated last year in this county, and hunters bagged them or their brood during the late hunting season.

We did not know that Alabama furnished birds to be shot in other states. We presume the Anne Arundels will be in the market for another lot for next fall's shooting and will keep buying while they last.

Professor Pearson, when he was acting as game officer for North Carolina, decided, rightly, that it was bad business for

his state to ship job lots of quail to Pennsylvania, there to be promptly exterminated for sport. Rare old Dr. Kalbfus kicked some but we think he knows enough to know that the professor was right in not permitting the reduction of game in one state simply to let the people exterminate it in another.

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Quail for Breeding Purposes.

Professor Pearson agrees with us that it is quite another matter to permit the trapping and shipping of live quail for breeding purposes—in order that thousands of quail may be made to grow where few or none grew before.

Upon one occasion the professor issued a permit to the writer, who in good faith wished to procure a few dozen North Carolina quail for breeding purposes. Due to our careless handling of the matter a notice was published in a local paper calling for quail. The idea spread that we were about to move all of the quail in the country and excitement galore followed. The legislature was in session at Raleigh and a bill was passed in record time—a few minutes, we were told—prohibiting the shipping of quail from the state. A few letters from us explained the matter satisfactorily and we understand North Carolina is today as quiet as it ever was. We found it so upon recent visits. No signs of the riot remain.

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Game Scarce on the Staked Plains.

George W. Symonds of the Texas Herald says:

Too late the early settlers on this section of the Staked Plains, and their descendants,

learned the value of game conservation. Forty odd years ago, when I was a Texas Ranger, these wide and treeless prairies teemed with game—antelope, buffalo, some deer, prairie chickens, quail, and, after a rain, myriads of water fowl in the lakes.

Today there are a few antelope privately owned and rigidly protected. There are some quail, an occasional prairie chicken and a few migratory water fowl.

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Reading Notices.

We are glad always to publish reading notices about what our advertisers are doing and also stories about how to rear any species successfully. Such matters no doubt help the advertisement but it is such matter we are sure which most interests our readers.

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Changed Times.

Since the arresting of breeders for having stock birds in their possession is going out of fashion, we are called upon less frequently to defend members of the society in the courts. We are glad of this. We never liked the practice of criminal law, and it is only from a sense of duty that we have denounced the arrest of people for doings which are not criminal in any civilized country excepting America.

One result of our activity has been the amendments to many laws; another has been to reduce the number of fool arrests by grafters for the sake of moieties.

Our readers, no doubt, will be glad to know that the atmosphere has been cleared sufficiently in many states for us to forget about many silly game law crimes and to record the excellent work of many breeders in the sunshine of the present more happy conditions.

We never believed our readers cared so much about reading stories of how ladies and gentlemen were arrested for taking home food legally procured or about arrests and fines for taking eggs from irrigated fields and other exposed situations, in order to procure "more game," as they do for stories about how to make money with game, how to supply the people with food and how to have good shooting. These topics will fill our pages in the future. Now that quiet reigns

we hope our readers will send more and more notes about their experiences in the rearing fields and fewer and fewer notes about the outrageous arrests of breeders.

Although we were rejected for military duty we still keep our fighting clothes, so to speak, and if necessary we will turn on the searchlight of publicity when an occurrence may require it, and we will defend any breeder threatened with an excessive fine when it appears that by so doing the result will be to invite attention to a legal wrong and to see that the law permitting it be repaired by amendment.

We care far less about such controversial matters than we do for the brighter work in the rearing fields and with the gun, over dogs or decoys, and we are glad to report that the times have changed.

Now is the time to send advertisements of eggs and it is well to offer birds, one day old and larger stock, for summer and fall delivery.

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Conference of the Protectives.

The annual conference of the American Game Protective Association was held Monday and Tuesday, March 4 and 5, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Several score of people attended and the conference closed with a dinner at the hotel which attracted more people than could give the time to the day sessions.

The program included an able opening address by the chairman, Wm. B. Boulton, reports of the various committees, a plea for experiments in breeding the grouse by Dr. A. K. Fisher, a paper on standardized practices in the sale and shipment of game by R. A. Chiles, Louisiana the winter home of America's game (with moving pictures), M. Alexander conservation commission of Louisiana, the need of more widespread knowledge of game preserving in America, A. G. McVicar; the conservation of fish, Geo. D. Pratt; the menace to bird life in a weakening of game laws, T. G. Pearson; supply of game and relaxation of laws, T. W. Hornaday; sportsman's

attitude to impair laws, J. B. Burnham; the status of the Heath hen, W. C. Adams, chairman Massachusetts commission; the bob-white quail, George G. Phillips, chairman commissioners on birds, Rhode Island; Teaching game farming at Cornell University.

We regret that Mr. Chiles could not attend since he is a member of our game guild which believes, as he does, in requiring fair dealing in the sale of eggs and game.

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The Second Day.

The program for the second day included papers on the following topics by the persons named:

Statement regarding formation of joint committee for the protection of wild life during war time, Ottomar H. Van Norden, chairman.

The attitude of the United States Food Administration toward the conservation of game and fish, Frederic C. Walcott, U. S. Food Administration.

The conservation of fish in inland waters during war time, George D. Pratt, conservation commission of New York.

The menace to all bird life involved in a weakening of the game protective laws, T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary, national association of Audubon societies.

A history of the unsuccessful attempt to annihilate wild life in the state that winters the nation's birds, M. L. Alexander, conservation commissioner of Louisiana.

Discussion.

Does the supply of game justify any relaxation in the laws that regulate its taking, William T. Hornaday, chairman, permanent wild life protection fund.

Why farmers want birds protected in war time, ———, United States Department of Agriculture.

How can the salt water fishes best serve the food situation with due regard to the preservation of the species? H. M. Smith, chief, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

The sportsman's attitude toward the proposal to impair game laws, John B. Burnham, president, American game protective association.

The proposal to relax protective laws from the viewpoint of the scientist, E.

W. Nelson, chief, U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey.

Conservation of wild life in war time from the point of view of the agriculture college, J. G. Needham, New York State College of Agriculture.

We regret that Dr. Needham was unable to attend. We published an article by him in our March issue.

The Dinner.

At the dinner excellent moving pictures of western big game were exhibited by Norman McClintock. Jack Minor also had moving pictures to illustrate his remarks on "My Wild Goose Sanctuary."

Both speakers seemed inclined to favor hunting only with the camera. The first named also exhibited some movies of song birds and said these interested him more than the big game animals.

Jack Minor said he had been a market gunner, and he seemed to be proud of his reformation. He spoke of placing bands containing quotations from the scriptures on the legs of his wild geese which spread the gospel in their migration, and there was moisture in the eyes of many of his auditors when, with a burst of pathos, he told how one of his geese was wounded by a naughty gunner and came home to die beneath a bush near the house. "There is the bush, gentlemen! There is the bush in the picture—right near the house! The lady near it coming this way is the daughter of my mother-in-law." It was suggested that possibly the eye moisture was due to smoke in the room but it may be that the speaker converted some of the sportsmen to the idea that the camera is the only proper weapon.

A gentleman seated at one of the tables fainted and was carried out; but the doctor with him said the collapse was due to something he had eaten before coming to the dinner and that the patient quickly recovered when the cause of the disorder came up. The trouble was not at all caused by Jack Minor's pathetic oratory.

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Grouse Breeding.

It is one thing to confer about grouse breeding and quite another to breed grouse. There can be no doubt that the grouse quickly can be made tremendously

abundant and kept so on suitable areas provided proper methods be applied. Our markets always should be full of grouse at attractive prices. If Dr. Fisher knew how much trouble the game conservation society has had in procuring grouse for breeding purposes in order to show the proper methods for increasing their numbers he would, we feel sure, change his "Plea for experiments in breeding the grouse family" to a "Plea for a change in the game laws to enable the conservation society to procure more grouse for breeding purposes."

It has been almost impossible for us to get all the prairie grouse we want or in fact any number suitable for good experimental work, and we are inclined to think the biological survey has had a hand in producing the undesirable conditions. We never let up, however, when we go after anything and we will in time get plenty of grouse; but the delays are unfortunate, to put it mildly. We shall be obliged to the doctor if he will inform us if the biological survey can legally secure for us a few dozen prairie grouse at, say, \$5 per bird or any old price within reason.

If the survey can not secure the stock why should a public officer put in any time on a "Plea for experiments in breeding the grouse family"? We will do the necessary work if the survey will furnish the stock—at our expense.

It is one thing to advise and confer; it is quite another thing to get busy breeding grouse for sport and for profit. We sometimes think one of our members may have been right when he called at the office to say that conferring might be only another name for camouflage in order to cover the securing of more restrictive game laws prohibiting the sale and shipping of game.

Read the restrictions in the pending migratory bird law, proposed, we understand, by the U. S. biological survey in consultation with the great and only wild-lifer, and handed to the protective association to put over on the congress. Is there anything in the proposed law which would suggest a "Plea for experiments in breeding the wild duck family"?

As we read the proposed law no one can sell or transport a duck. Will not future pleas for experiments with ducks be as idle as a plea for the grouse now is? Was not the naturalist, Dr. Shufeldt, right when he intimated that the game was being protected "off the face of the earth"?

The main plea now seems to be that we can save the game by prohibiting field sports, putting the game on the song-bird list, etc. We insist there is a better way and if the survey has any sincerity in its pleas it might be exhibited in an amendment to the proposed law reading, "Nothing in this statute shall apply to game owned by breeders and they shall be given permits to secure fowls for breeding purposes."

Quiet vs. Noisy Refuges.

We have no possible objection to the creation of numerous quiet refuges advocated by the protective associations and professional wild-lifers. The country is big enough for those who are opposed to shooting to have such quiet refuges where foxes, hawks and other vermin will keep the game from becoming abundant.

We believe some lively noisy "shoots" and game farms in every county will produce better results for all hands and that it will not be found necessary to make entire states into quiet refuges with the food birds on the song-bird list.

Often we are asked, "Where can I purchase game?" Our answer invariably is: "You can purchase with perfect safety from advertisers in The Game Breeder. Those who carry large spaces probably have the most game." It would be unfair for us to especially recommend any particular dealers. In some cases where we happen to know a dealer has fresh trapped birds of the species required we may mention the fact in the magazine since we think it important that our readers should secure all the fresh trapped game which appears for sale.

The best and the safest places to buy game and game eggs are always advertised in The Game Breeder.

CLOSED SEASONS.

BY THE EDITOR.

The U. S. biological survey and the game protective associations seem to rely chiefly upon laws prohibiting shooting for a term of years in order to save the game from extinction. Such laws are only a temporary makeshift. It is admitted that the natural enemies of game and the fatal domestic cat; the close cultivation of the land and the draining of marshes; climate, floods, fires, farm machinery, wires and other ills due to civilization all contribute to reduce the numbers of birds. All of the losses due to these causes continue during and are unaffected by the closed season; and where rabbit shooting is permitted it is very generally conceded by state game officers and other capable observers that there will be considerable illegal shooting of the protected game.

All naturalists know that when the game enemies are over-abundant when compared with the game that nature's balance is upset in the wrong direction and the species will decrease in numbers. The cat and the other checks to increase, above referred to, are enough to prevent any increase of the game birds in many areas provided the game be not properly looked after, especially during the breeding season when young birds are an easy prey to cats and many eggs are lost to vermin and during the open season for rabbits when there are losses due to illegal shooting.

At the end of the closed season it is usually deemed best to extend it and there is danger of the farmers taking a hand, as they did in Ohio, and making the closed season perpetual.

If the game appears to have shown an increase in any region and the shooting is again permitted, history will repeat itself, the additional check to increased shooting, soon will be found to produce extermination and the whole performance must be repeated. During each closed period there is a loss of interest in shooting. The older sportsmen put away their guns and the young men coming of age who should be taken to

the fields learn nothing about field sports because it is illegal to shoot everything but rabbits, and these often do not interest those who should instruct their younger relatives in the art of shooting over setters and pointers.

There can be no doubt that a long closed season will not restore game to vast areas where it no longer occurs. A closed season in Ohio on wild turkeys, made at a time when there were some wild turkeys in the state, did not result in an increase in the number of wild turkeys; the turkey became extinct. The law was repealed as unnecessary. There are many wild turkeys in Ohio today, introduced and produced by private industry. Should another law be enacted closing the season on wild turkeys and prohibiting the sale of birds and eggs the result would be to exterminate the turkeys. If such a law be applied to poultry it would exterminate the poultry.

Granting that closed seasons may seem expedient and necessary, we insist that when they are made the laws creating them should provide that they do not apply to food producers who by their industry are willing to produce the desirable food on lands which they own or rent for such purposes.

The laws permitting pheasant and wild duck breeders to breed and sell these birds and their eggs have resulted in a great abundance of pheasants and ducks on places where the owners produce the game. Much of it is now sold in the markets as food.

Quail and prairie grouse and the sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse can be produced in vast numbers much cheaper than pheasants can be, since the quail and grouse find most of their food in the fields and woods. A law prohibiting the shooting, eating and sale of these birds for a term of years or forever puts an end to the industry of those who have quail or grouse and prevents any one from giving them the attention needed to make them and keep them an abundant food.

All that the game breeders ask is that when laws are enacted closing the season for terms of years or forever the game farmers and those who look after their game properly be excepted and given the same rights which the pheasant and duck breeders now enjoy in most of the states.

It seems a great pity to encourage only the breeding of foreign birds on the upland and to prohibit the production of our native grouse and quail which are the best game birds in the world. The last named easily can be produced in good numbers very cheaply in a wild state; they quickly can be introduced and made plentiful in states where they are extinct or nearly so. It is evident no one will undertake the necessary industry during a closed season. Those who find it profitable to put in their time securing closed seasons should remember that there are people who like to shoot and who are willing to introduce game and make it plentiful in places where there is little or no game today and where there never will be any until it is introduced and properly looked after.

Had the silly attempt to close quail shooting on Long Island, N. Y., been successful the many places where quail are properly looked after would have been abandoned and the rabbit shooting and the other enemies of quail soon would have exterminated the birds. There are many quail on Long Island and many more will be liberated and properly looked after this year. Had the season been closed no birds would have been purchased and liberated during the closed season and no doubt an increasing scarcity would have made it necessary to keep the season closed as it is in some of the states.

We fail to see why the arms and ammunition makers are willing to support a society which favors closed seasons without excepting game farmers and syndicates of sportsmen who should be their best customers. A little syndicate in which we are interested will use many thousands of cartridges next fall. Already the members are buying guns. Not a cartridge or a gun would be purchased should a protective society or a professional wild-lifer succeed in making a

closed season. We cannot comprehend how state game officers can contentedly draw large salaries simply to see that laws prohibiting shooting be enforced. It is fair to say that most of the state officers do not favor closed seasons and that the best officers favor game breeding on some of the farms which keep the game sufficiently plentiful everywhere to make the closed season unnecessary.

We read with great interest today a letter from one of the most capable of the western state game officers in which he said he proposed to purchase a big lot of birds and eggs and give them to all those who would look after them for sport or for profit. The state surely soon will have an abundance of game of the species which can be procured legally and when the opulent non-resident wild-lifers and protectionists blow in, seeking laws to suit their fancy in states where they do not reside the people easily will run them out and send them home with some good advice.

A few big quail and grouse farms where thousands of birds are reared to be sold to intelligent state officers, similar to the one referred to, and to others who may wish to buy birds for restocking soon will put an end to closed seasons not only in the states where the birds are produced by the thousand for sale but also in states which can be restocked by intelligent state officers operating in harmony with those who will aid the good work.

The state officer who will encourage quail and grouse ranches will bring thousands of dollars to his state just as any other industry does.

Two Interesting Books Just Issued.

The DuPont Company of Wilmington, Del., has just issued a very interesting booklet entitled "The Giant Laborer." It points out and proves the advantage of using DuPont explosives for various agricultural and miscellaneous uses. It explains what benefit explosives have been in land clearing, ditching, drainage, subsoiling, tree planting, orchard cultivation and other uses. It is a companion or sequel to "Handbook of Explosives," another recent booklet, the latter book containing full instructions as to "how" to handle and use explosives. Both books will be sent on application.

MALLARD BREEDING IN MICHIGAN.

BY A. B. DUSETTE.

Your December number of *The Game Breeder* makes me want to say something even if some of our big breeders and dealers may say the little fellow writes for notoriety and to save expense in advertising. For my part I can say I have grown to maturity 2,500 duck-mallards in a single season and sold every bird before I had even a classified advertisement in any magazine. I am still in the game only not so large; but I have the stock birds that I can guarantee are the very best to be had; they are not only ornaments but they will lay and produce birds the same as our best marshes produce. Our state game department does not allow me to capture or trap wild birds for market or sale. My experience has been that I have had a hard time and no end to expense getting what breeders I have and it has taken me five years to get them tame enough so they will lay enough eggs to pay for their keep, but at the present time they will lay at least 30 eggs each and their offspring is as pure as the trapped birds and more profitable to the breeder, as they are the second generation and are naturally more contented in confinement or as I keep them which I will explain. This may help some of our brothers that have poor flyers. All my birds are wing clipped from the 1st to the 15th of September or just before the open season. They do not get their new feathers until the next July or August; this gives them from four to six weeks with full wing to teach their young the knack of flying. I, of course, keep one feeding place which is enclosed with fine netting, same as fish nets are made of. Every pair bring their young in this yard to feed. When it is time to clip their wings I merely close the gate or entrance. This way of freedom for a part of the season keeps their wild instinct alive. I have birds that were trapped six years ago and no one can tell them from birds taken two years ago. I have one black drake that went south

in the fall of 1916; he returned last spring and stayed with the bunch all summer and went south again this fall. I am sure he will return again in the spring of 1918, as he is wise enough to keep a safe distance from any one with a gun. I, of course, lose some birds each season. Last September or the last of August a few parties, not sportsmen, killed some 25 birds for me. I at once offered \$25 reward for proof of the party. No one claimed the reward but I lost no more birds until after the season opened. Then there was better duck shooting around our city than there was in our big public shooting grounds in Saginaw Bay. I am convinced if our gun clubs and organized sportsmen would stock their shooting grounds, protect and feed their stock and keep all breeders clipped, as I do, they would have all kinds of cheap sport and tons of the very best food. I do not think, however, the kind of stock that is now being used for some of the big shoots will be very satisfactory as I doubt if such birds could get off the water and even if they could they are no comparison with the pure bred mallard which I believe will come into its own as soon as a few of our higher class sportsmen learn the difference. As Mr. Hoffman says of our advertisers, I say they should take a good look at a pure-bred bird, then eat a few and then they would realize the difference between a mallard and the near mallard or puddle duck. This difference can be seen more plainly if the young are allowed to fly at will to their marshes or creeks and get their natural feed. Don't worry, they will return if you care for them and you offer rewards for any one shooting out of season. Regarding the name advertisers should use there is only the tame mallard or puddle duck and pure bred wild mallards and at the present time the demand seems to be for the former, outside of a few breeders. When they get the prices of pure-bred mallards and black ducks

and compare them with near mallards they buy the latter if any. This used to be the same with pure-bred poultry and live stock but not so today; the only man that can show any profit in poultry, live stock or ducks with feed prices as at present is the breeder that has the pure-bred stock that is always in demand at fair prices. For example, two years ago I could buy a thousand half-breed mallards in a day from small breeders in our state. Last week I had an order for 500 to 1,000 mallards for a big dinner to be held in Detroit. I did not have the birds so I called up all the breeders I knew and I could only find 125 birds; this not being enough I had to turn the order down. So I ask where have the small breeders gone with their near mallards? Answer—out of business, the same as the larger breeders will do unless they improve their stock so they can get prices high enough to make them pay out. Better stock birds is what we want and more of them. The price will take care of it-

self as soon as the real sportsmen learn what a pure-bred mallard is when compared to the overgrown half breed or even some not more than one-quarter mallard. Not only the difference in the swiftness of their flight but the quality of the meat after they are shot and most of all the satisfaction to the shooter and sportsmen that they have not spent their time and money to kill a brace of barnyard ducks. After you have a stock of pure-bred birds for breeders and handle them as I do they will not cost more than 75 per cent. as much to keep as it will to keep a grade that can not get home if they happen to fly over a fence. I have not given these facts to discourage any breeder or dealer in half-breed mallards but to encourage improvement in stock birds; and to cut down the cost of keeping a bird that is not able to fly to some natural feeding place for a part of his feed. This act alone increases the flying value of the bird.

Bad Axe, Mich.



BLACK DUCK AND HOW TO RAISE THEM.

BY R. E. BULLOCK,

Manager of Scarboro Beach Game Farm, Scarboro, Maine.

We all know that up to the present time black duck have never been raised to a great extent.

I have had experience in raising black duck ever since a boy, and I find that one has to be on the job for a wild black duck is surely wild.

First, to pick a place to raise black duck "we will say that we have six pairs for breeders," a small pond not too deep with plenty of brush and undergrowth along the shores.

We will say that the pen is 100 feet long and 50 feet wide; one-inch mesh wire, the length of the pen being along the shore. Let the pen be out of the way of passers-by and in a quiet place; the less you have to do around them

the better off they will be. If, for instance, you visit a nest too often the old duck will surely leave it and if you try to enclose the old duck after she hatches with her young she will by brooding the little ones so close starve them to death.

To raise black duck successfully they should be left entirely alone, make your pen and turn your birds in to it and leave them alone and they will do the rest. If you want the first eggs laid for setting, pick up once a week and leave two to three eggs in each nest. You will have a hard time to find the nest as a black duck's nest, if the old duck is on or off, is a pretty hard thing for the eye to catch. The best time to look up

a nest is in a rainstorm. A black duck will lay between 8 and 13 eggs the first litter, the next will be about 10, but only one litter will be laid if the eggs are not taken away.

If you hatch the first of the eggs use a R. I. red hen for foster mother, not too heavy. Set on the ground in a wooden box to shed the weather; line the nest with sand and cover this with moss about one inch thick, and if the weather is very hot or dry soak moss in cold water, wring out by hand, place the eggs on it and let the hen go right on to it and shut her on. Of course if it is damp, rainy weather this does not need to be done.

The hen should be let off every day to be fed and watered.

The best food for young ducks at the start is dried bread crumbs soaked in milk and fed in a low pan or R. I. cornmeal scalded and made mushy by adding milk with plenty of clean sand mixed in and also plenty of good fresh water.

But the best results, I think, come from letting the old duck hatch her brood in her own manner.

I have nearly 100 breeders, all clear wild stock, trapped here in the state of Maine. Breeders should give these birds more attention. They are our own native birds and live with us the year round. The black duck is one of the best game birds in the duck line that flies.

My holler is, raise black duck, don't let them go out like the wood-duck did; go to it, brother breeders, while the going is good.



THE WEASEL.

By M. J. NEWHOUSE.

The greatest enemy of the poultry or game farm is the weasel. While there are several quite distinct species, both as to size and color, their habits are identical. The most common in the Eastern and Middle States are not much larger than the red squirrel and in summer are of a brownish red color with a white breast. Their small size makes them especially destructive, as they enter holes none too large for rats. Being extremely bloodthirsty and very courageous, they are a terror to rats, hens, rabbits, partridges and game birds in general. While the blood of two hens would furnish all they require, either for sport or downright cussedness, I have known of their killing twenty-seven hens in a single night. Passionately fond of blood, full of curiosity, extremely active and not suspicious, they are easily caught in steel traps.

If the trapping is to be done inside the enclosure where game and little chicks are kept, I much prefer a small trap like the No. 0 Newhouse Victor or Oneida

Jump, taking especial pains to secure one with a spring stiff enough to hold a mink.

An excellent set can be made by taking a wide board or an old door, leaning same against the building with base five or six inches away from building. This leaves ample room in which to set a trap at each end behind the door. The traps should be set six or eight inches from opening so as to be out of reach of a hen. Care should be taken to conceal the traps with litter, leaving it looking as old and natural as possible as by so doing you would lay claim to a passing mink. A handful of feathers between the traps makes an attractive lure. When the door is placed in position, the entrance should be reduced by driving a stake or narrow board at the opening, leaving entrance only large enough for a mink to enter. Chickens will naturally run to cover at sight of a hawk and as further protection I take a short board four or five inches wide and set it edgewise, as shown in Fig. 1. A chicken may occasionally alight on this board,

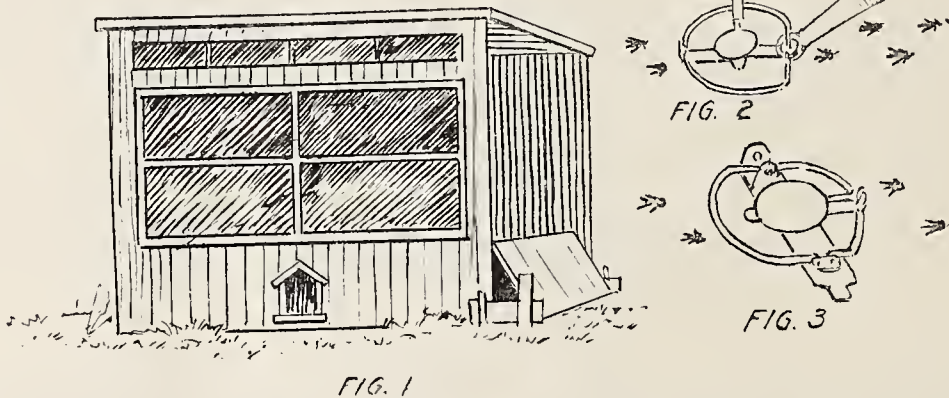
but his body shuts out the light and he fears to enter the dark.

The aforesaid method of catching weasels is also excellent for rats and if set under a shed can be utilized the year round and catch every newcomer. Where rats have become well established, but few can be caught before they get wise and a successful trapper will resort to many methods—in fact, it is a matter of wits against cunning before all are exterminated.

Another good set is to take a box such as is used for canned goods, make a hole three inches or less in diameter in one

Another good set is to take two six-inch tiles, placing them end to end, and set a trap in each and about six inches from the outer end, leaving opening just large enough for rats or weasels to enter. Oftentimes a trap placed in a pan of sawdust or chaff with meal or grain over the pan or trap, placing same in a box with cover off enough to allow a rat to enter is quite successful. For bait use bread, cheese, cooked meat or grain. All traps should be made to spring very easily and should also be concealed by some light litter.

In setting a trap in a runway it should



end and about five inches from bottom of box, placing the trap about where the animal would naturally land after gaining an entrance. The cover to box should be removed every day to see that rat is not left long enough to scent up the box. The rat and trap are easily removed as the entrance hole is so small that the trap would not pass through; consequently, the trap does not require fastening.

be so placed that the animal would pass over lengthwise the jaws as shown in Fig. 2, turning the spring to the right so as not to oblige the animal to step on the spring. Never under any circumstances place the trap so that jaws are at right angle with line the animal travels (see Fig. 3) as with short-legged animals the jaws when springing would strike the animal on the belly and often throw him out.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

GAME BREEDING AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

Instruction in Wild Life Conservation and Game Breeding.

Recognizing that we are at the beginning of knowledge of our plant and animal resources, this new educational enterprise takes for its scope the wild life

of New York State and the conservation of all that is valuable in it. Beginning with the rearing of game birds and waterfowl, to replace in some measure these rapidly vanishing wild groups, it is expected that this work will be extended to the conservation and care of fur-bearing animals, of valuable song birds, of wild flowers and useful native shrubbery,

and of every wild thing that gives promise of being used for the material or educational betterment of the people. All life was once wild life. Agriculture has grown by selection and care of the best that nature offers. This work is initiated in the firm belief that the sources of our benefits in nature are by no means exhausted.

By recent act of the New York State Legislature, establishing a state game farm in connection with the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University and authorizing the college to undertake instruction in game breeding, opportunity has been made for obtaining practical instruction in wild life conservation. Under authority of this act, options have been obtained on a farm near Ithaca, excellently located, and possessed of unusual natural advantages for the purposes for which it is to be employed. Breeding of ring-necked pheasants and mallard ducks will be carried on on this farm during the first season of its operation, and in succeeding years the work will be gradually enlarged to include other species of useful game birds, fishes and other animals. Game breeding as a farm enterprise will be studied, and students will be afforded ample opportunity to engage in practical game-breeding work on this farm. Wild species will be reared to determine their possibilities for increased food production and for utilization of waste lands in the State. Emphasis will be given to the correlation of game breeding and the different types of farming in New York State.

Instruction in wild life conservation and in game breeding is offered by the college of agriculture in the following courses:

1. The regular four year course in agriculture in which students may include among their elections the subjects that are fundamental to wild life conservation and game breeding.

2. A short course of twelve weeks (to be followed by one or more seasons of work on a game farm) to give practical training in the technique of game breeding.

3. A series of public lectures to be

given by experts in the various lines of wild life conservation.

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Buying Eggs.

One of our largest advertisers wrote not long ago that he had decided not to sell more eggs than he could produce on his farm; that he would not purchase eggs in order to fill orders beyond the capacity of his place.

There can be no doubt that the purchaser will get better results if he purchases eggs directly from a reputable game farmer or preserve owner who advertises in *The Game Breeder* than he will if he buys from a broker. A large percentage of the controversies handled by the game guild are due to transactions in eggs. A recent case which was decided against a dealer in eggs and which terminated his right to advertise in *The Game Breeder* disclosed the fact that he had taken an order for eggs and had purchased the eggs from a dealer in another state; that he, in turn, had purchased the eggs from another dealer who he found later had undesirable stock.

The safe way for those who wish to purchase eggs is to buy them from our advertisers who produce them on their premises. In the future we will not accept advertisements from brokers since we believe eggs should be shipped promptly from those who produce them.

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Losses Due to Transportation.

We are often surprised at the excellent reports of the successful hatching of eggs purchased at a distance from the rearing field. In a clever little rearers' manual issued by an English firm the writer says, "No matter how perfect eggs may be when dispatched, and how carefully they may be packed after the most approved principles, the shaking they receive in transit is liable to render a certain percentage sterile." When game breeding was in its infancy in America we sent to England for a lot of wild duck eggs, and, although we were not prepared to handle them properly upon arrival, and we sent some to an incubator company to have them hatched, the results indicated that eggs can be

shipped long distances and that a good percentage can be hatched.

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Removing Eggs from the Nests of Game Birds.

The breeder should be careful how he visits and removes eggs from the nests—especially from the nests of wild breeding birds. He should wait until the hen leaves the nest of her own accord and, of course, he should leave an egg or two. Infertile eggs disinfected by boiling in lime water make excellent nest eggs and if a few of these are marked and left in the nest the fertile eggs can be removed and hatched under hens.

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Sham Eggs.

It is well known that domestic hens will lay to nest eggs. We read a story recently about a snake that mistook and swallowed a door-knob, used as a nest egg.

It is said that where artificial nests are made on the English preserves and sham eggs are placed in them the birds lay freely to them. By this means the quick and easy collection of the required number of early eggs is assured and the nests may be located in safe situations.

There are tremendous losses in America due to the destruction of nests by the plow and later by the mowing and reaping machines. If strips of grass weeds and briars be left at the sides of the fields and suitable nests be made in which sham eggs are placed we believe many prairie grouse and quail can be induced to nest in safe places and the result will be fine covies in the stubbles in the autumn.

Of course no farmer can be expected to attend to such matters if the only inducement is the offer of the state to license trespassers to shoot up his birds after he produces them. We have some farmers who are taking an interest in producing game, believing as we do that it will not be long before quail and grouse can be sold as freely as pheasants, wild ducks and wild turkeys and their eggs now are sold by those who produce them. The grouse and quail undoubtedly are worth something as insect destroyers but

they will be worth more even in this capacity when they are kept profitably plentiful.

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Importance of Dusting Places.

Game birds and doves often are seen in the roads where they go to dust themselves and possibly to find grit. During the incubation period dusting is quite important and necessary for the hens to free themselves from lice. In England game birds are said to often select nesting sites near roads on account of the facility offered for the dusting. It is quite an easy matter to make a good dusting place near a nesting place and if it be made near or in a briar patch the bird will be safe from enemies when taking its dust bath. Spading up a small area and adding a little sand is all that is necessary to make a good dusting place and it has been well suggested that a little insect powder in the dust bath is desirable. Grit placed near the nests, when found, and a little seasonable food will tend to make the nesting place attractive and to prevent the nesting birds from wandering into dangerous places. If there are briars near the nest by all means leave them standing and a few briars can be cut and placed about nests in exposed situations.

Remember that old traps sprung so as not to catch the setting bird when placed near a nest will tend to keep the fox away.

Cat briars and other briars cut and laid in a broad circle should tend to keep snakes from eating eggs and ground nesting birds. We hope some of our readers who own grouse in a good snake country will experiment and report.

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Quail and Grouse Breeding.

We hope many of our readers will make experiments this year with quail and prairie grouse. If they will leave suitable nesting sites at the sides of the fields when the fields are to be plowed and take the trouble to place sham eggs in nests made in the grass and weeds we are confident they can induce grouse and quail to lay their eggs in safe places. An old stump surrounded by briars or

a few rails laid to make a panel or two of an old-fashioned rail fence will make very attractive nesting sites; and weeds and briars should be left as cover and food. A little clover, lettuce, buckwheat and sunflowers will make the nesting site very attractive and weeds, grass and briars will save the birds from many natural enemies.

The state game officers, we are quite sure, will prefer to see the sportsmen and farmers work together and produce "more game" to seeing the game protectionists (who gather vast funds in order to save the game) succeed in putting our best game birds on the song-bird list. In some states the laws now permit the profitable production of quail and grouse and even in states where these birds have been placed on the song-bird list the laws quickly can be amended so as to favor the producers provided they will show that they have game.

No good reason can be assigned why the laws should say you can produce pheasants and some species of ducks but you must not produce birds which most need the breeders' attention and which will be far more profitable than pheasants and ducks.

We expect soon to have many advertisements of grouse and quail and the eggs of these birds.

Big Demand for Pure Bred Wild Ducks.

Mr. Dusette of Bad Ax, Michigan, writes to change his advertisement, striking out the offer of mallards and black ducks. He says he has noticed there is a very big demand for pure-bred wild ducks and their eggs and that those who at one time were satisfied with near mallards now want only pure-bred stock.

Mr. R. A. Chiles of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, also reports an increasing demand for pure-bred wild ducks and says they command much better prices than the semi-domestic birds and their eggs do.

Black Ducks.

Mr. Bullock of the Scarboro Beach game farm, the largest game farm in New England, writes that he secured permits to trap a lot of black ducks which were

suffering from climate. The birds quickly recovered and with these added to his flock he believes he now has the largest flock of pure-bred wild black ducks on any game farm. His advertisement of eggs appears on another page. We predict that all of the game farmers who have black ducks will quickly sell all of the eggs they are willing to part with. The same is true of the dealers in pure-bred wild mallards.

Bad Luck With Heath Hens.

Mr. Llewellyn Legge, chief of the Division of Fish and Game, stated that all of the heath hens placed on the New York State Game Farm at Shoreham, Long Island, in a three-acre enclosure of scrub-oak, had died, apparently having "gone light." The birds were sent by the Massachusetts Commissioners on Fisheries and Game from the heath hen reservation at Martha's Vineyard, where the species it may be is making its last stand. A similar consignment was sent to Dr. J. C. Phillips at Wenham, Mass., in the hope that a new breeding colony might be started. Some of the birds sent Dr. Phillips died, although the experiment at his place was not as unfortunate as that at Shoreham.

As Dr. Phillips has entered the service of the United States, he has sent his birds to Mr. Joshua Crane, who has placed them on his game preserve on No-Man's Land.

As stated in a recent issue of the *Bulletin*, the heath hen, which had increased to such an extent as to seem to justify hopes that the species would be saved, is again gravely threatened, owing to a disastrous fire which swept its haunts on Martha's Vineyard.—*Sportsman's Review*.

Quail Breeding.

We hope many of our members will breed quail this year for sport and for profit. Quail will lay many eggs if they are paired arbitrarily and quail eggs have been successfully hatched under bantam and light weight hens. If the hen be permitted to run with the young birds in gardens, hedged with briars, and containing brush heaps and other covers,

many quail can be produced. Quail which have hatched broods in wire enclosures also should be permitted to take their young into small gardens especially planted for them.

All garden vegetables furnish insect food and sweet corn furnishes shade. The garden weeds furnish many seeds, and lettuce is especially attractive. See that the garden has plenty of briars. It is an excellent plan to make the garden adjoining berry patches and to plant hedges of blackberries, raspberries and currants, and these may well be bordered with clover grass, sunflowers, etc. At very small expense a garden can be made for the quails which will be safe and attractive. One or more dusting places should be spaded up, and if sand and ashes containing some insect powder be added to the dust bath the quail will use it and not be induced to go to the roads or other exposed places for the dust bath. Briars beside or surrounding the dusting place will make it safe, and some small grit should be distributed where the birds easily can find it.

Quail eggs will sell for more than pheasants' eggs and the demand for quail far exceeds the supply.

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Rice Damage by Ducks.

There has been much newspaper publicity given to the depredations of ducks in the rice fields of the Sacramento Valley. It appears that some of this publicity has been the work of selfish hunters desiring to hunt ducks before the season opens. Proof of this is apparent in the fact that most rice growers will not allow duck hunters in their fields. On the other hand, it appears that some growers have received severe loss from ducks. Certain it is, also, that many of the ducks shot this season had their crops filled with rice. The Fish and Game Commission realizes that the problem of protecting the rice fields in the Sacramento Valley is a serious one and it is anxious to reach a solution fair to both the grower and the hunter. Especially is it desirable to rightly settle the controversy, owing to the food situation. Consequently, the Commission plans to

hold in the near future a conference with rice growers to obtain their point of view. Furthermore, during the fall of 1918, a special investigation will be made in those districts where depredations are reported.

Fireworks Used to Frighten Birds in Rice Fields.

Some experiments to determine the effectiveness of fireworks in frightening birds from rice fields have recently been made in the Sacramento Valley. The location selected was on the Gingg and Cooper ranch, four miles west of Live Oak, where birds did considerable damage last year.

In talking with Mr. Cooper in September regarding co-operation by the Fish and Game Commission in order to find a remedy, and knowing the effect of black powder, which is both loud and smoky, we suggested to him the use of some form of loud explosive that would carry fire and smoke. We secured several samples of rockets and bombs from San Francisco and commenced the experiment by setting some of them off after dark. However, the birds were still numerous on the rice fields at daylight in the morning. We then fired more bombs and still more while the birds were in the air. To say that the ducks were demoralized does not convey an idea of how much they were frightened.

Mr. Cooper was so impressed with the effectiveness of the bombs that he sent for four dozen of the kind selected, at five dollars per dozen. After using half of this number night and morning there was not a bird of any kind to be found on his fields. In a few days some mudhens and ducks returned, presumably new ones. He then used the balance of the four dozen effectively, and sent for five dozen more for emergency use. On Sept. 26 Mr. Cooper stated to us that he had had no occasion to use or open the last five dozen, as at that time there was not a bird on his fields and he had not suffered a particle of injury. Judging from this, the experiment may be said to have been a success.

Conditions on Mr. Cooper's fields made it harder to protect them from the birds than any other fields in the district, the

water being deeper in spots, which induces the birds to congregate there. Of course, when the birds were driven from the Gingg and Cooper grounds, some of the other growers certainly suffered from the addition of these birds. This only demonstrates that entire relief for all growers can only be had through the co-operation of all the growers. Each can protect his fields, but the one who does not will be the greatest sufferer.

We are certain that the experiment referred to above is the only logical remedy, although many other methods have been suggested. Some rice growers, and many who are not growers (and, by the way, the last-named class is the loudest in its complaints) have advocated an earlier open season for ducks. This positively will not remedy the situation. It might, if every one would kill blackbirds and mudhens, as well as ducks, but they want to kill ducks only, as the other birds are not considered good eating. So by killing ducks only, the worst menace would still remain. Again: The rice grower will not permit trespassing on his fields, as the hunter will do more damage at this time than the birds. Many of the rice farms are posted with signs prohibiting shooting and trespassing. Further, if the season was opened earlier than at present, a large number of club members would be out shooting at the club grounds, which are not on the rice fields, but on open water and tule marsh lands adjacent thereto. Thus the ducks would be driven from the club and open shooting grounds back to the rice fields, where the rice farmer does not permit trespassing while the rice is growing. Consequently, the club members would be the only ones benefited by an early season, while the rice would suffer more than at present.

Before night shooting was prohibited, and before the use of smokeless powder, some of the best duck shooting ponds have been spoiled by shooting after dark and by using black powder. Any duck hunter of long experience can testify to this. Ducks will not return to a pond that has been shot on at night. The idea of using bombs came from this experiment. Smokeless powder is used in fixed

ammunition because it does not frighten game, for it makes very little noise and smoke. The use of smokeless powder to scare ducks is money wasted. This form of ammunition is made to kill, not to frighten, but it has been used by the rice grower and he receives no relief except from the bird he kills.

Although the experiments above outlined were tried on a limited area only, they demonstrated that there is a feasible method of protecting crops from the depredations of birds.

We are sure that if the rice growers themselves will co-operate, a plan of defense can be worked out as suggested, which will make it unnecessary to threaten the extermination of the wild duck without obtaining relief from the other birds which are the worse menace. But the growers should eliminate the voice of the man who is not a rice farmer and who only takes up the cry for the purpose of slaughter. He does not kill mudhens or blackbirds, because he does not eat them and cannot sell them.—
GEORGE NEALE in California Fish and Game.

Safe to Purchase From Our Advertisers.

From present indications it seems likely that all of our eastern advertisers will have more orders for eggs than they can fill. We have records of eggs shipped from the Pacific states which were highly satisfactory and we also have records of thousands of eggs sent by our readers to the western states. It is highly important, however, that eggs should be packed and shipped properly and we believe the advertisers in *The Game Breeder* understand their business. Our readers will do well to purchase eggs directly from those who produce them and advertise them in *The Game Breeder* and if they are not satisfied with the result the game guild will investigate any transaction when a complaint is filed stating that the purchase was made on account of an advertisement in the magazine.

The game conservation society insists upon fair dealing; and the right to use *The Game Breeder* for advertising purposes—a valuable right—will be denied

in all cases where the guild decides the advertiser has not lived up to the standard. People do not like it when we cancel their membership and return the dollar paid to receive the publication and the check sent for an advertisement. Fortunately this does not happen often, but our readers can rest assured that the best place to purchase stock and eggs is from those who are interested in the more game movement and have the right to use *The Game Breeder*.

All of our advertisers report excellent results from their advertisements in *The Game Breeder*. Often they write to discontinue the advertising because they can not fill their orders and do not like to answer a big mail.

The reason why the advertising produces such results is that the magazine goes to practically all of the clubs and preserve owners, state game officers, game farmers and in fact every one likely to purchase. We are continually helping to start new places and we have a large number of people who are just starting big and small places. The sane and in fact the only way to reach the new customers is through the columns of *The Game Breeder*. Since our rates for game advertisements are very low, the object of the magazine being to quickly build up the new industry, it will certainly pay all of our breeders who have not done so to try an advertisement in the magazine. By thus benefitting yourself remember you are helping the cause and helping to make the only paper published in your interest better and more influential as it should be made.

Increase of Fanatics.

BY P. R. ROBESON.

We have been developing quite a percentage of fanatics in recent years who are strongly opposed to their fellow men (and women) having any pleasures the fanatics do not indulge in. These pleasures run all the way from cigarettes and beer to Sunday baseball, dancing and sexing, and include shooting and angling distinctly for sport. Have you not noticed that writers in the so-called sportsmen's papers and magazines even condemn the

use of a dog in hunting the game birds, claiming it gives the hunter too great an advantage, etc. The writers are simply ignorant; probably never saw a dog work; know almost nothing of shooting on the wing. It can not be otherwise. No sane man with knowledge of wing shooting over dogs can object unless he is a fanatic. And why these writers are given space in sportsmen's papers to condemn their fellows is one of the things which mystify me. Yet the editors are often fanatics. I believe one of our friends could not be induced to shoot a game bird or catch a game fish. I never could get him to come up to Sidney for choice woodcock and quail shooting. Objects to taking a life he can not restore, and similar bosh, possibly. His columns were far freer to fanatics than to sportsmen.

Sportsmen are between the devil and the deep blue sea, fanatics who oppose all killing, even to poultry, on one side, and game commissioners, wardens and their especial pets, the hoodlums who want free shooting, more properly free trespassing, on the other.

General Wingate's article is all right. I used to know a farmer who trapped quail in early winter to liberate next spring; he was a sportsman as well as a farmer or would never have done so. I have kept quail in a cage from December to May. They do well in close confinement and on grain feed. All over the north quail should be trapped every fall and liberated the next spring, *but not for trespassers*.

Gulls as Submarine Detectors.

Dr. A. D. Pentz, Jr., of New Brighton, Staten Island, has developed a plan for using gulls to disclose the presence of submarines. He suggests that hoppers fifty-four inches long be made of sheet steel and bolted to the tops of submarines, to be filled with chopped fish which may be released from time to time by means of a crank operated inside the vessel.

In the way gulls will be taught to associate submarines with food and will gather clamorously over any submarine that may appear in the waters.

The scheme has the indorsement of the National Association of Audubon Societies and is receiving serious attention from the United States naval authorities.

Aviators Study Birds.

Washington, D. C., March 9.—Despite the strenuous and engrossing character of their occupation, a few aviators have found opportunity to note the height of flight of various migrating birds.

Thus from French soldiers of the air it is learned that swallows have been observed to maintain an average altitude of 700 yards and wild ducks one of 1,800 yards, while green plover have been seen at a height of 2,150 yards.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the ducks were moving at a speed of 65½ miles an hour when flying upward and 69 miles an hour when flying horizontally.

From another aviator it is learned that when he was flying at 9,500 feet he saw swallows high above him.

And another, whose observations were made at a height of 6,000 feet during a heavy bombardment "with anti-aircraft shells bursting in all directions," states that he observed 200 golden plover, perhaps driven higher than usual by the fact that the vicinity was "an unpleasant belt to cross."—*Maine Woods*.

More Sentiment.

We offer the suggestion that there be founded the "Order of the Double-Cross," membership therein to be restricted to "birds" of the genus "clay pigeon," for it is "theirs not to reason why; theirs but to do and die."

Now this doin' and diein', while primarily for the pleasure of some half-million trapshooters, incidentally, lets gunners get a perfect natural desire to shoot out of their systems without making the feathered creatures of wood and field victims of the skill of the shooters.

Aside from sentimental considerations, the protection of bird life is an economic question of greater importance than is generally realized.

Unfortunately for the country and equally so for the clay pigeon, it is not an insectivorous "bird" nor is it a song-

ster, at least not so you would notice it. But, as we have intimated the "birdie" faces fusillades of shotgun fire with utter abandon; a willing sacrifice to man's desire to demonstrate his prowess as a marksman.

In flocks of millions, the "clay bird" challenges the shooter to pit his skill against the speed of the target and its predilection to be where the shot is not and leaves the gunman the poor consolation of having punched a hole in the atmosphere at a cost of several cents per punch.

True, many trapshooters continue, in season, to follow the legitimate and royal sport of hunting, but a sportsman of the type that will shoot fifty to one hundred shells every Saturday throughout the year, just for the joy of shooting, is not the withered-souled and greedy-eyed individual who would "hog" all the game of a county during both "open" and "closed" seasons. And, too, the trapshooter, believing in sport for sport's sake, would sic a game warden on the aforesaid g. i. and w. s. individual the minute he was caught with the goods.

Other hunters have forsaken field shooting for "the patriotic sport," finding in the inanimate-target game a satisfying substitute, without combats with bramble bushes, wading of swamps or marshes and a spell of "rheumatiz" that lasts from the end of one hunting season til just before the opening of the next.—*Maine Woods*.

[We are by no means opposed to trap shooting, all of our game breeding associations and shoots have traps for a diversion and for practice during the summer. We hope our game also can be saved from extinction and the great naturalist, Darwin, tells us the best way to keep game abundant is to encourage shooting as a means to induce production.—Editor.]

Breeding Marketable Game.

Lovers of wild life and devotees of the chase are now at odds over the question of Federal game laws. Violent protest has been made against the winter slaughter of migratory birds in Louisiana, and the hunters of the South have been asked how they would regard the collect-

(Continued on page 25.)

The Game Breeder

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THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, INC.
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Telephone, Beekman 3685.

KEEP THE MONEY AT HOME.

Why should we send many thousands of dollars to Mexico for small quail when bigger and better birds can be produced on the western farms?

The best state game officers now are aware that it is far better to encourage grouse and quail ranches, where thousands of birds can be produced and sold, than it is to have these birds placed on the song-bird list by people in New York who raise thousands of dollars annually to secure restrictive laws in other states.

People are permitted and invited to create cattle and sheep ranches and great wheat and other grain farms, and it is well known that such industry often results in the extermination of the game birds on vast areas. A few game ranches and a few game preserves in any region soon will improve the shooting on vast areas since when game is made and kept plentiful on any place it overflows and restocks the surrounding country.

The state game officer who wishes to purchase quail should not be obliged to send vast sums of money to Mexico. He should send it to American game farmers who can produce plenty of game as soon as it is legal to do so.

The big wheat farms in the west where there are few or no game birds today easily can be made to produce all the game necessary to supply state depart-

ments, shooting clubs and commercial breeders.

Sport will fare better in states where game is made abundant than in states where it is placed on the song-bird list.

TWO REQUESTS.

We would like to have our readers suggest what they would like to see in The Game Breeder. The promptness with which subscriptions are renewed, and the interest which readers take when we ask them to send us new subscribers, indicate that the matter we furnish interests them, but we are well aware that The Game Breeder can be made more interesting and more useful and instructive. We are glad to see an end to the arresting of people for having birds in their possession and for other crimes which should not occur on game farms. Common sense has made some rapid strides, and we believe it will not be necessary for us to devote much space in the future to the defense of food producers or to controversial matters. Our inclination is to have more practical articles about game breeding, its pleasures and profits, and we hope our readers will not only send us short letters giving their experience, but that also they will tell us what they want to see published. We know where to go after almost any information about any subject relating to game breeding, and we regard it as the duty of an editor to select and gather the material the readers want. So please write to us.

Request No. 2.

The postage of the Conservation Society and Game Breeder letters is now 3 cents instead of 2, as you all know. The printing costs more than it did. The paper ditto. Everything costs more, but we wish to keep the price for subscribing members at \$1 and guild members at \$2, as heretofore, and at the same time to make the magazine better and give more for the money. Our guild cases, complaints for unfair dealing, etc., cost us more to handle than we receive from guild members. In some cases we have saved a member hundreds of dollars, and it is worth something to have the correspondence service which the guild fur-

nishes on any subject. Our request is that our readers send names of people who should be interested in the work of the society as often as they occur to them. Also that all those who have anything to sell place at least a small advertisement in *The Game Breeder*. It will surely result in a good mail, a desirable acquaintance, and the sale of the game, eggs or whatever is advertised. You can help make the paper more interesting by advertising in it. One of our readers informed the editor that the most interesting part of the magazine was the advertising pages.

A QUAIL AND GROUSE YEAR.

The pheasants and some species of wild ducks are now reared in big numbers at so many places that all who wish to have pheasants and ducks and their eggs for breeding purposes can procure them easily by writing to our advertisers. In a few years the dealers will be abundantly supplied and these foods will become common on many tables.

The work of the society this year will largely be devoted to the development of quail and grouse breeding for sport and for profit and we hope many members of the society who have pheasants and ducks will take up quail and grouse breeding and be prepared to furnish quail and grouse eggs for breeding purposes. We are quite sure that this industry will be fully as profitable and possibly more so than pheasant and duck breeding are. There certainly is a big demand for quail and breeders need have no fear of selling all the quail and grouse and the eggs they can produce.

When the birds and the eggs secured from stock birds are acquired by purchase they undoubtedly are the property of the producer and we do not believe intelligent State officers will make any objection to the sale of live game for breeding purposes, when it has been produced by industry. If they do we believe the courts will set them straight since the tendency of the decisions is in the direction of common sense which distinguishes between game produced and owned by breeders and the rare wild

game said to be owned by the State.

If many of our members will give some of their attention to quail breeding we can make 1918 a big quail year. The experiments made by the society will set the pace for quail production, just as the experiments with ducks and pheasants at our Game Breeding Association preserve set the pace for duck and pheasant breeding.

THE WEASEL.

The article in this number on the weasel is timely and authoritative. The weasel is certainly one of the worst enemies of the game breeder and hunts both game and eggs wantonly. We published some time ago an account of the killing of 57 hens in one night by a weasel in Iowa. It seems the weasel was protected by law and a game warden arrested the farmer for killing the weasel. He elected to go to jail and declined to pay any fine. Today hundreds of people are breeding game in Iowa. Although a \$2.00 license is provided by law many who were in the business before the license law was enacted have neglected to take out a license and we are told continue their food producing industry without police interference. This is highly creditable to the game officers of Iowa. The most they should do would be to notify the breeders to pay the \$2.00 fine, but, no doubt, the law soon will be amended so that no payment is required from food producers.

More Trout.

The Rome, N. Y., Fish and Game Protective Association is enlarging its trout nursery. It has done so before and other associations have similarly found their work growing. But that is not the significant fact about the Rome nursery. The feature that stands out in Rome above every other is that several of the big manufacturing companies in Rome have seen so clearly the social and economic value of better fishing to their community, and incidentally to their own business, that they have provided the funds for the enlargement.

Fish and game associations have long raised money for their work in various

ways, chief among them being dues and contributions from sportsmen. This is the first instance that we know of where the work has been made such a community undertaking as in Rome. Last year 200,000 trout fry supplied by the Conservation Commission and the bureau of fisheries were raised by the association to fingerling size. Next year the number is expected to be doubled. What this means to Rome as a community can never be stated simply in terms of fish caught, even though the trout fishing there is probably better than that in any other well settled portion of the State.

Community playgrounds have become a universal public institution, publicly supported. Rome is showing the entire State how the streams of any suitable locality may be made one of the most profitable and appealing of playgrounds.

The action at Rome is but a start. Associations in other places will emulate it. As the Conservation Commission stated in the annual report for 1915, "through all of these organizations runs the spirit of social service. Their conduct entails much work and sacrifice upon their officers and guiding minds. That this work is faithfully and consistently performed and supported as universally as it is, but another proof of the social value of conservation—proof that places it on a plane with education, child welfare work, the labor movement, the various campaigns for public health, and every other activity for social betterment. Conservation, no less than those other movements, has its social workers in all parts of the State, who understand and are striving earnestly for the attainment of its ideals."—*Conservationist*.

FISH AND GAME LAW CHANGES

Mississippi Rejects Commission; Nevada Establishes Department.

Of several radical changes made in the administration of the laws probably the most important is the establishment of a department of game and fish in Nevada.

In Illinois the Game and Fish Commission, established in 1915, was abolished and the work placed under the

Department of Agriculture with a chief game and fish warden in direct charge.

In Maine a single Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game has been substituted for the commission of three members which has been in charge of the work since 1899.

In Mississippi the law enacted last year creating the department of game and fish and placing the work in charge of a commissioner was submitted to the voters under a referendum petition and rejected at the general election in November, 1916, thus leaving the State without any general officer in charge of game matters.

In New Jersey the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners has been increased from four to seven members.

In Pennsylvania the provision requiring game protectors to enforce the fish and forestry laws, as well as the game laws, was strengthened and made more explicit.

The salary of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game in Maine was increased to \$2,500, that of the State Warden of South Dakota to \$2,400, and that of the chief protector of New York to \$5,000 per annum.

In Florida the county warden system was reestablished in conformity with the decision declaring the law of 1915 unconstitutional.

Preparedness.

The Game Conservation Society announced that it would supply game to the hospitals during the war. It is the only society equipped to undertake this work. The New York conservation commissioner, in his annual report, offers to furnish mineral water to the surgeon general of the United States. It seems highly proper if we furnish the birds that the State should furnish the drinks. Our readers own the game farms and "shoots" and the State owns the springs at Saratoga.

We shall be glad to have game breeders write what they think of our plan to keep the hospitals full of game. Any who are willing to offer game for this purpose are asked to write promptly,

stating what they will give. Our postage on this "stunt" will be tremendous, so we hope many will write at once, stating about what they can give. We wish to make up a preliminary estimate as soon as possible. Let us show the opposition what game breeding has accomplished and what the breeders can do.

Cat Disdains Shells, Dog Shows Terror.

The Daily News correspondent at Antwerp quotes a refugee from Alost, when the German attack was at its height, as follows:

"A dog and a cat followed us down the street and as the shells burst the dog went dodging about from one side of the road to the other, but the cat never turned a hair. It minced along behind us, seemingly unafraid.

"The men and the dog made me nervous, but the cat was reassuring. Further down the whistle of shells followed us again, trying to pick up the Belgian retreat; but before the boom came that time I managed to break in the door of a shop and get inside.

"It is surprising what one will do in emergencies like that. Fortunately for the cat and dog it was a butcher's shop, and I thought they might as well have some meat as the Germans, so I handed them down a leg of veal and left them eating it when I came out."

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

Snakelets.

The following short stories about snakes, sent to the editorial department, division of publications of the Game Conservation Society, have been referred to the vermin committee of the Game Guild.

Transcripts were ordered sent to Dr. Allen S. Williams, president of the Snake Society, for special study and report.—*Editor.*

=

Snake Uses False Teeth.

Ludio, Cal., Oct. 27.—While Cynthia Stone, spinster, was hauling a bucket of water out of her deep well her false teeth fell in. They were appropriated by an old and toothless

water snake which, though somewhat of a pet, has learned how to use the teeth and is gnawing away the wall of the well, letting the water leak away into the sand. Workmen are afraid to give it battle.

=

"The Parson Told the Sexton and the Sexton Told the Bell."

Laurel, Del., Oct. 27.—A six-foot blacksnake fell from the belfry of the Riverton (Md.) Methodist Church onto the shoulders of Sexton Benjamin F. Kennerly, while the latter was ringing the bell. After a lively chase the snake was cornered in the church auditorium and killed. It evidently had made its home in the belfry and fed on birds which roost there.

All persons intending to buy game should place their orders with those who advertise in *The Game Breeder* and thus support those who support their publication.

(Continued from page 21.)

ing and storing of wild fowl eggs in the North for food purposes. There should be some common ground for settlement which would result in the protection of game in all its forms. Incidental to the main purpose, each State should adopt the plan of licensing the breeding and sale of now protected game. Already many thousand pheasants and mallard ducks are being produced annually by game farmers, who find a minimum of trouble in raising these birds. The plan is delightfully simple. Serially numbered leg tags are issued to producers to be attached to slaughtered birds sent to the market, a record to be kept of the sale in a book open to the inspection of the State Fish and Game Commissioner and his deputies. In this way the food supply can be added to in large quantities and delicious tit-bits placed in reach of the ordinary purse. Under present conditions there is no incentive to propagate these birds which are left to precarious chance. If it were now permitted to raise quail for the market the producers would have seen to it that the rigorous winter did not kill most of the coveys, as was the case in Ohio during the past cold season. Through the licensing system the desires of both hunter and bird lover can be gratified and the stock of game increased.—Cincinnati Enquirer.



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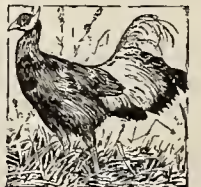


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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XIII.

MAY, 1918

No. 2

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

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A New Long Island Game Breeders Association

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C. B. Davis - 18

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The Game Breeder

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

VOLUME XIII

MAY, 1918

NUMBER 2



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

A Bad Session?

Under the heading, "A Bad Session at Albany for Game Conservation," The New York Sun says, "Certainly the Legislature which adjourned last week will not receive the thanks of the sportsmen of the Empire State."

The Sun is right in its criticism of the abolishment of the office of State Fish Culturist, but The Sun should remember that an election approaches and the fact that the fish culturist is capable may be more than offset by the fact, stated by The Sun, that he was not a resident of this State when employed.

=

A Wrong Idea.

Whoever suggested to The Sun the idea that the ruffed grouse season should be closed for two years has evidently no knowledge of natural history and little, if any, knowledge of the effect of such legislation. The heath hen became extinct in New York while a closed season was in force. Real conservationists know that laws preventing anyone from having ruffed grouse to shoot, to eat or to sell are very likely to result in the extermination of the grouse in settled regions, at least, and it is in such regions the birds should be kept plentiful, as they easily can be, for food.

The late Mr. Whitehead well said, "It requires the extinction of a valuable game bird to teach the average American the importance of its preservation."

=

Abundant Game.

It has been shown beyond a reasonable doubt that it is a very easy matter to make game birds abundant. Only a

few years ago we secured a law making it legal to produce certain species of birds for food. As a result the pheasants and mallards rapidly have become abundant in many places. Had the law closed the season there would have been no production.

Two thousand birds have been shot near an artificial pond where they were bred and where, of course, no ducks bred when there was no pond. An advertisement in The Game Breeder of 40,000 pheasant eggs for sale does not indicate that the Legislature should prohibit the production of pheasants or the shooting and sale of the birds, for two years or for any other period.

=

Practical Experiments.

The Game Conservation Society contemplates making some practical experiments with ruffed grouse. To do this it is necessary to have funds, which intelligent sportsmen are willing to furnish. Those who collect vast funds in order to secure foolish legislation never have any money to expend on game and like the dog in the manger they do not want anyone else to produce or eat game, possibly because such conduct might interfere with their game-saving activities. Millions surely, and possibly billions of dollars, have been expended in the effort to save the game by law.

The criterion of abundance is found in the markets. Judged by this standard America appears to have become gameless.

The Sun is right in saying the Legislature had a chance to strike from the Penal Law the section relating to Sun-

day fishing. It is wrong in our opinion, decidedly wrong, in complaining that the Legislature missed the chance of "doing a half-dozen constructive things"; making about a half-dozen more restrictive laws.

=

More Game and Fewer Game Laws.

The real constructive methods contemplated by those who favor the more game and fewer game laws idea include amendments to existing laws so that it will be no longer criminal to profitably produce any species of food on a farm. The fact that not only half a dozen old style constructive things were overlooked in New York is fully offset by the fact that as many as ninety of the old style "game protection" laws have been enacted in a single season and professional wildlifers and protectionists have been at this game of getting more game laws for over 50 years with the result that the enactments are so numerous that no lawyer knows what all the laws are about. The people, however, are presumed to know the law and The Sun as well as other papers has denounced fool arrests which, in our opinion, are especially objectionable, oftentimes, because nothing like moral turpitude appears in the offences and, in fact, the things done are considered right and laudable often in the older countries—the taking of wild birds and eggs for breeding purposes for example.

Certain it is that after 50 years' trial, the game laws have not made the grouse and the quail plentiful in the markets. Certain it is that thousands of birds freed from the game law restrictions are shot every season and many are sold as food in places where the laws permit the necessary industry required to produce the food.

=

Wild Duck Abundance.

It is said there will be a shortage in the sales of straw hats this year of over a million hats because Uncle Sam will supply that number of hats to men who will not buy "straws."

The fact that a great number of the Canadian sportsmen are not shooting

wild ducks and have not been for some years furnishes a sufficient reason for the increase in the number of wild ducks which has been noted. A million gunners in Canada and the United States not shooting 30 or even 10 ducks each in a day during a long open season or during the days given to sport resulted, no doubt, in many ducks, possibly many millions being spared, and, of course, that many ducks should produce many more ducks in the Northern States, where State laws for years have prohibited shooting in the nesting season.

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The Migratory Bird Bill.

Those who are endeavoring to put over on the Congress the legal absurdity, known as the migratory bird bill, urge as a reason for its passage the fact that since it has passed the Senate it has resulted in all the ducks becoming numerous as reported. These people may possibly believe that one more game law half made has produced a big lot of ducks, but real naturalists know that ducks are not made that way.

The law evidently was suggested by someone entirely ignorant of natural history and we have charged repeatedly that it was not written by a lawyer or by anyone having an elementary knowledge of what a criminal law should be and no one has challenged our assertions. The idea always seems to be when such legislation is afoot to keep as still as possible about its demerits and to sneak it through quietly at the end of a session.

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Statesmen and Careless Politicians.

The statesman who carefully reads a bill and who considers it carefully is apt to vote right, but too often the careless politician who listens to those whose living may depend upon their getting more laws and who are always running to the people for more "stuff" to get more laws appears to be in the majority and the result is a mass of absurd legislation which is worse than absurd when it creates a lot of fanciful crimes, especially crimes which often we have properly designated as "food production crimes"

or crimes preventing the production of food.

Why on earth it should be legal to have and to eat oysters and fish but not game in America no one seems able to explain excepting on the theory that those who are in the game law industry seem to be able to scare legislators or possibly to hoodwink them.

When the oyster was not properly looked after there was danger of its extinction. Had laws been enacted preventing anyone from looking after the oyster industry we would have no oysters to eat.

A law providing practically that no one can transport or sell a wild duck may kill an infant wild duck producing industry in America, but we would like to see the bill amended before it is enacted so as to provide that the oysters shall be regulated in the same manner as it is proposed to regulate the wild duck industry.

Read the bill, Members of Congress, and decide if you must to put an end to the production, transportation and sale of desirable foods.

If the proposed law can be amended so as to read, "nothing in this act shall apply to wild fowl produced by industry and those charged with making the criminal regulations shall issue permits to breeders to take wild fowl for breeding purposes," we will not object to the passage of the bill. If, however, there is an objection such an amendment (we are told there is) it would seem to be evident that the intention is to prohibit a food producing industry which is making rapid strides in the States where it no longer is criminal to produce any kind of food on a farm.

If those who ask the Congress to make the most remarkable grant of power to make and also execute criminal regulations are unwilling to except food producers, it would seem that they must look forward to arresting people for having food birds or eggs in possession for breeding purposes. Such arrests have been made by State wardens and such arrests were becoming common when we called for a halt.

DU PONT PHOTOGRAPH CONTEST.

The Du Pont American Industries Offer Fifty Prizes for the Best Photographs.

To increase the interest in Du Pont products and to secure suitable photographs to illustrate the advertising and publicity of their various companies the Du Pont American Industries offer \$500 in prizes for the fifty best photographs.

The prizes are as follows: First prize, \$100; second prize, \$50; two third prizes, \$25 each; fourteen fourth prizes, \$10 each; thirty-two fifth prizes, \$5 each.

The photographs have to illustrate the following subjects, and be submitted before September 1, 1918.

Agricultural Uses of Explosives, Fabrikoid (Artificial Leather), Industrial Uses of Explosives, Painting, Trap-shooting and Hunting, Miscellaneous.

Any subjects illustrating the use of any Du Pont products, will be given equal consideration.

Some of the conditions of the contest are:

No employes of the Du Pont American Industries are eligible in this contest.

Each photograph to be eligible for a prize, must be accompanied by the negative (film or plate).

On the back of each photograph submitted must be plainly written the name and address of the contestant, the subject illustrated, the place where the photograph was taken and any other helpful data.

The number of photographs that can be submitted by any one contestant is unlimited nor is there any limit upon the number of prizes that can be won by any contestant.

All photographs submitted, whether or not awarded prizes, are to become the property of the Du Pont American Industries.

All photographs submitted will be judged by a committee to be appointed by the Director of Advertising of the Du Pont American Industries. Prizes

will be awarded not later than September 15, 1918.

The Du Pont Photograph Contest will close on September 1, 1918. No photographs postmarked at Wilmington, Del., later than September 1, 1918, will be accepted in this contest.

Each contestant must fill out and mail an entry blank to the Advertising Division, Du Pont Company, Wilmington, Delaware, *with the first photographs submitted or the photographs will not be accepted in the contest.*

All photographs entered in this contest must be plainly marked "Photograph Contest" and mailed to the Advertising Division, Du Pont Company, Wilmington, Delaware, full postage prepaid.

Regulation for the Protection of Deer on Certain Islands in Alaska.

(Effective April 1, 1918.)

By virtue of the authority conferred upon the Secretary of Agriculture by section 2 of the act of May 11, 1908 (35 Stat., 102), entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act for the protection of game in Alaska, and for other purposes,' approved June 7, 1902," regulation 5 of the Regulations for the Protection of Deer, Moose, Caribou, Sheep, and Mountain Goats in Alaska, approved July 24, 1916, and amended July 23, 1917, is hereby further amended, effective April 1, 1918, so as to read as follows:

REGULATION 5.—DEER ON CERTAIN ISLANDS.

The killing of deer on Kodiak Island and Long Island; on the following islands in southeastern Alaska: Duke Island, near Dixon Inlet, Gravina Island, near Ketchikan, Kruzof Island, west of Sitka, San Juan Island and Suemez Island, near Klawak, and Zerembo Island, near Wrangell; and on the islands of Hawkins, Hinchinbrook, and Montague, in Prince William Sound, is hereby prohibited until August 1, 1919.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of Agriculture to be affixed this 13th day of March, 1918.

(SEAL)

CLARENCE OUSLEY,
Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

[This law like all other prohibitive laws should contain a section providing that nothing in the act shall be held to apply to game breeders. Otherwise a food-producing industry may be prevented.—Editor.]

America Is Now the Biggest Pheasant Producing Country in the World!

Mr. Rabb, one of our Oregon members, well said, in our November issue, "This country will never again be compelled to import her game birds."

Our readers will remember that at the outset of the more game movement we pointed out that hundreds of thousands of dollars were sent abroad annually to purchase wild food birds; that we insisted that this money should go to American farmers. It is gratifying to announce that they are now getting the money and that they are making good use of it.

It may be said that this is a benefit which the war has brought to America. We believe the result would have been the same and that it would have come even faster than it has if there had been no war.

Had the importation of pheasants remained possible American breeders would have been able to procure many more thousands of pheasants than they have been able to procure for breeding purposes and we believe we could have made the announcement that America is now the biggest pheasant producing country in the world a year earlier.

There will be another legislature in Ohio before long and we then expect to restore the quail to the food bird list where Audubon placed it and where all real naturalists say it should be placed.

The way to save the grouse is to make them tremendously abundant and cheap in the markets. The sale of some of the birds will furnish the money to enable any protective association to provide excellent shooting for all of its members during a long open season. Plans and specifications furnished by The Game Breeder on request. State game departments, inclined to food production, easily can point out the way, as they do in Massachusetts.



The Club House.

NEW LONG ISLAND GAME BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

A new Game Breeders' Association, or shooting syndicate, has been formed to breed game of the species which legally can be produced for shooting under the New York Game Breeders' law. Experiments also will be made in breeding quail and other American game birds which can only be shot in limited numbers or not at all.

Many members of the old Game Breeders' Association at Wading River, who dropped out when the club was moved to Orange County, often have talked about starting a new association on Long Island, which is more accessible to New York and Brooklyn sportsmen than the preserve near Port Jervis was.

The new grounds are not quite as far out on the island as the old grounds were and in some ways they appear to be more suitable for game. The soil is better and foods for the game can be more easily produced. The house is perhaps not quite so good as the old house was but it is steamheated and those who go down to shoot can be made comfortable. From some of the fields views of the sound are obtained and the woodlands are pictur-

esque and very suitable for ruffed grouse. The association hopes to be able to procure some grouse and grouse eggs for experimental work in order to improve the grouse shooting. It is most fortunate that the bill to put the ruffed grouse on the song bird list for a period of years failed in the Assembly. Since, of course, no one could be expected to give the grouse any of the much needed care and attention if the laws prohibited the shooting and eating of grouse.

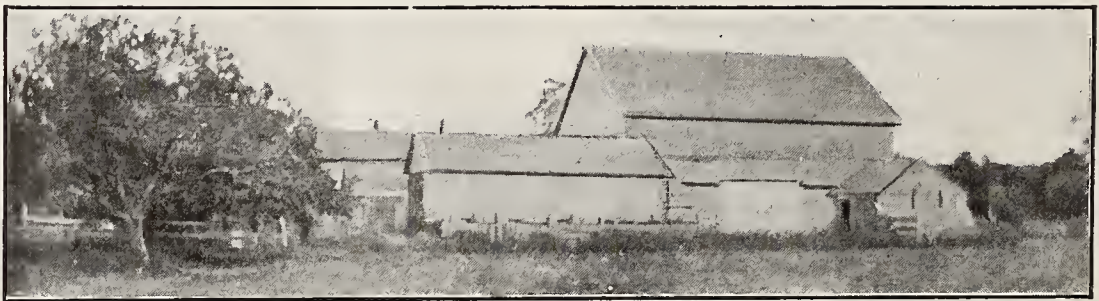
The dues in the new club are fifty-two dollars a year and the reason for fixing this amount was to be able to demonstrate that good shooting can be had for a dollar a week provided the game be properly looked after. Many members who shoot well can, if the place is as successful as it promises to be, take home enough meat to largely offset the amount of the club dues and the members will donate a lot of game to hospitals entertaining soldiers and sailors returning from abroad. The new club is composed largely of residents of New York and Brooklyn; others residing at Great Neck, St. James, Northport and other Long Island villages. It seems likely the

club soon will have a waiting list since the opportunity for excellent sport and the chance to produce a good lot of game are inviting. Although members of the old club may not think the quarters quite as attractive as the old house was, the opportunities for breeding upland game certainly are far better than they were on the sandy fields and scrub oak barrens at Wading River. Those who have organized the club have proceeded on the theory that it is more important to have good shooting than it is to have elaborate quarters and it is evident that there is a limit to what can be done with small annual dues.

Although the club has made a late start it seems likely the shooting will be very good next fall. The rules of the club will probably be made similar to the club rules of the older association. Small shooting parties were permitted to take the place two days at a time and to visit it often during the season; those who had shot one or more times giving way to those who had had no shooting where two applications were made

for the same date. The bag limits will be fixed as soon as the amount of game produced is ascertained and the managers hope to be able to make them large.

Members can visit the club and see the breeding operations at any time during the summer and they can remain overnight if they wish to do so. As soon as the rooms are ready for occupants cards for visitors who may wish to visit the preserve during the breeding season probably will be issued as they were by the Game Breeders' Association. These resulted in many people becoming interested in the production of game, some of whom started places of their own or introduced game breeding at other clubs in which they were interested. Some visitors came from a distance and it is to be hoped this educational feature may be preserved. Visitors, of course, could only visit the club before the shooting season opened. A club with a large membership should not be expected to provide shooting for many guests. The rules will be made simple and as liberal as the older rules were, no doubt.



Barn, Kennel and Hatching Houses.

MY EXPERIENCE IN GAME BREEDING.

By J. B. Foote.

All I have ever done so far has been for our own home amusement. We raised several hundred ducks last year without much effort, and I thought if we could sell the surplus it would be better than letting them go and at the same time give employment to the children on the farm.

In regard to my experience in raising

geese and other birds, will say I have had more experience than profit. This is not because there is no money in the proposition nor because of inexperience on my part. It is because I have not done as well as I knew how.

If I were twenty-five years younger and interested in things as I was then or if twenty-five years ago I had had the

opportunity I am certain my profit in this interesting occupation would have been quite large.

The individual like myself who raises game, wild birds and animals to study and play with, will make a failure as far as profit is concerned.

Geese, turkeys, ducks, pheasants and even quail can be raised profitably, but to say that the average person can do it as easily as raising so many broods of chickens, is going far beyond the truth. Of all the wild game I have tried to raise I have had by far the best experience with ducks.

One of the drawbacks in getting people interested in raising game is that the propagators live too far apart. There are only about so many people that become interested and they are so well distributed over the country that they do not get to see one another often enough to keep up interest. In regard to wild geese, a number of years ago I ordered a trio of wild geese from one of the leading game breeders who wrote me in reply that it would be of no use to order the third one as he had never known of a polygamist in the wild goose family. I have also been told this a great many other times by men of wide experience. I bought two, a male and a female. The party from whom I purchased them sent me an extra goose which he said he had had about twenty years and had never mated.

Last year each of the females hatched

six young goslings. This year about the middle of February the old gander commenced manifesting his imperial authority choosing one of the females for his consort. After he got her comfortably settled in a feather lined nest with her seven eggs what did the old rascal do but desert her entirely and he is now bestowing his affection and attentiveness on the other goose which at this writing has four eggs to her credit.

Last year about the same program was followed. About two or three days before the first eggs were to hatch the gander came back to his first mate, chasing everyone and everything else off the premises. When the second brood began to hatch he again turned traitor and gave his attention to his second mate.

After both broods were running about the gander was shown up properly as neither of the females would tolerate his presence. Instead of him strutting around them then he followed an old plymouth rock hen, trying his best to persuade her to be his mate. I believe he thought himself to be quite guilty in his Brigham Young tactics.

I know a good many, and perhaps all game breeders will say they do not believe this story, but nevertheless I have two nests of fertile eggs and in about two weeks will show you some fine goslings.

[We shall be glad to have you send us photographs of the goslings. Let a professional photographer make their portraits and send us the bill.—Editor.]



PRESENT STATUS OF THE HEATH HEN.

By HON. W. C. ADAMS.

I was greatly interested in reading about your plans for experimental work with American game birds in place of your customary annual dinner, and nothing would give us greater pleasure than to help you in this if it were in our power. On the matter of the heath hen, however, in view of the present condition of the colony it would be most unwise for us to use any of these birds

for purposes of experiment, as I think you will readily see. The situation in regard to the heath hen is this: as you probably know, under the protection given these birds for some years past, they increased until there was a substantial colony on Martha's Vineyard, and it appeared that the future of this bird was practically assured. In the spring of 1916 a disastrous fire swept

over the reservation, about nesting time, which resulted in greatly diminishing their numbers, either directly at the time of the fire, or indirectly by exposing the birds to the attacks of vermin on account of the destruction of their covers.

The following report from the State Ornithologist, under date of September 28, 1917, shows that the birds have so decreased in numbers that not only must the most careful protection be given them in their present habitat, but all thought of removing birds from the island must be given up for some time to come, for every bird is needed now for breeding, and this will go on best on their accustomed grounds:

"I returned yesterday from Martha's Vineyard, where I had time to spend but one day. If I were to judge from my one day's work and the observation of the superintendent,

I should say that the heath hen is now fewer in numbers than at any time within the last nine years. I was able to find but two birds, and I believe it has been nine years since I have had such an experience, but of course the number of the birds cannot be judged from the experience of one man in one day.

"I also went over the field where the birds feed, but did not see a bird there. I crossed and re-crossed the alfalfa field a great many times, looking to see if I could find any place where the birds had nestled or fed. I did not find a spot, although there were a few plants from which a few of the leaves had been nipped by something. This is remarkable, as the birds are fond of alfalfa, but I could not start a bird in the field. It seems quite possible that the birds are now down to about the point that they were when the commission first took hold of the work of protecting them. If that is so there will be very few next spring at the beginning of the breeding season."

I think the above report will tell its own story.



MUSIC AND FOOD.

By the Editor.

Orchard Hill, Rhinebeck, N. Y.,
March 29, 1918

My Dear Mr. Huntington:—

Mr. Dows and Mr. Strong have handed me your letters of March 22 for reply in my capacity as Secretary of the Rhinebeck Bird Club.

The desire for continued protection on the quail as expressed in the columns of the Rhinebeck Gazette, is merely the sentiment of residents in this neighborhood as shown in a long petition which they forwarded to the Conservation Commission in Albany. There may be farmers who wish to shoot quail and there may be others who, like yourself, would not buy a place on which they could not shoot quail. I can merely say that I have not met them about Rhinebeck. In this neighborhood, which is chiefly an agricultural community, the farmers look upon quail as among their best friends, and they long for the day to return when the sound of their cheery whistle may again be common in their fields.

One might almost gather from your letters that all that is necessary to bring back the quail is for the farmers to plant plenty of currant bushes and protect the resulting nests. Our experience is that in spite of protection the bird is having great difficulty in holding its own, and so far as nesting "quite close together" in a wild state is concerned, our

observations of the pugnacity of the males and of the habits of the birds in general make such a hope in this part of the country very remote.

Very truly yours,
CLINTON G. ABBOTT,

Secretary Rhinebeck Bird Club.

The letters referred to by Mr. Abbott were written to The Editor of The Rhinebeck Gazette, who wrote us, sending a clipping from his paper about the work of the bird club and to Mr. Dows, one of our Rhinebeck readers, explaining that he believed it would be better to encourage the production of quail than to enact laws preventing such industry. There can be no doubt that a country place where it is legal to produce food is more valuable than one where such food production is criminal. We have records of people who were about to purchase farms who decided not to do so when the State game department advised them that it was illegal to produce quail for sport or for food.

Our objection is to the kind of "pro-

tection" proposed by the bird society, which in effect makes criminal the practical protection of quail which is quite necessary to make and keep the birds plentiful. It does not contemplate the planting of berry bushes and other briars and the purchase of stock birds for breeding purposes which we have found effective.

Professor Pearson, secretary of the Audubon Society, in a letter which we published, said he believed farmers and land owners should have the same right to produce game birds for profit as they have to produce a pig. Protection laws such as are proposed by the bird society destroy the right to produce quail for food, for sport or for profit and undoubtedly they tend to decrease the value of the land; to prevent some people from living in the country. I was perfectly sincere in saying I would not live on a country place where it is illegal to shoot, eat, or sell a game bird. There are many people who can be induced to live in the country where there is no danger of arrest for producing food on the farm. There are plenty of country places in America where no game occurs at present which can be utilized to produce a big head of game.

As to birds nesting quite close together there is nothing new in the idea. The gray partridges are fighters but there are thousands of records of partridge nests in the hedges and in corn quite close together; the pheasants are known fighters but there are plenty of similar records of pheasant nests close together. We have succeeded in inducing quail to nest quite close together in safe places and all people who preserve game know that wild pheasants and partridges often lay eggs in the same nest. There has been much discussion about this in the English books and magazines. We recently had a big lot of quail eggs hatched for us under hen quails which nested in a wild state, quite close together.

We can readily understand how it is that people, who put in their time procuring long petitions and forwarding them to the Conservation Commission urging laws preventing the production of

quails by proper methods, do not have any time to study the habits of birds made abundant under favorable conditions, when it pays to create such conditions. Audubon and all the other ornithologists praise the quail highly as an article of food. We endorse their opinions. There can be no doubt that the quail whistles for a short time in the breeding season but we believe and know there will be ten quails whistling on the fences where there are one or none today when the farmers are told how easy and how profitable it is to have an abundance of quail.

We do not object to the activities of the bird societies when applied to public lands. We are aware that some of them take in more money every season than some of the smaller game farmers do. All that we ask is that when they stam pede the legislature (as they too often are able to do, having vast revenues at their disposal) into enacting closed seasons when no food can be taken, sold, shipped or eaten, that they provide in their prohibitive laws that nothing in them shall affect honest game farmers who would like to produce food on their farms or even sportsmen who would like to keep their country places sufficiently attractive to induce their boys to spend part of the time in the country.

The historian Lecky well says that field sports tend to keep people in the country and form a sufficient counterpoise to the pleasures of the town. Dr. Sweeney, when he was state game officer of Indiana, wrote to us that it was far better to provide sport for our young men in the country than to drive them to the town saloons for recreation.

It is a very easy matter to get long petitions signed on any subject when plenty of money is expended for plausible solicitors.

We do not think, however, that our laws should be made exclusively by bird societies even if they spend a lot of money getting signatures to petitions which too often are obtained under false pretenses, since *suppresio veri* is as bad as *suggestio falsi*, as the writers on equity say—the holding back of the truth

about any important matter is as vicious as falsehood.

Will a farmer sign a petition to prevent his neighbor from rearing any kind of food for profit on his land if he is told that the right to do this always increases the value of the land, when game is the crop introduced and cultivated. Certainly not. There are records where the value of the land has been more than doubled. Will a farmer sign a petition to prevent him or his neighbor from having plenty of quail to eat if he is told that he can do so easily and that the crop will be profitable?

The petitions usually are signed by people who do not wish to entertain trespassing shooters and who are led to believe that the only way to stop them is to prohibit sport. The average farmer we are sure is going to vote right when the matter is properly presented at the polls, as it no doubt will be some day. We believe the state game departments which permit themselves to be run by bird societies are likely to experience something which happened to the renowned Humpty Dumpty who sat on a wall.

The New York commissioner recently had the opportunity to close quail production on Long Island and to exterminate the quail there. He was urged to do this by one of the big bird societies—big financially—although it contains, we believe, only one member and a treasurer to hold the bag. It is said to take in as much as an hundred thousand in a year. This amount seems trifling when compared to the revenues of some of the real big bird societies and protective societies which go in for more laws and to the state departments which spend millions of dollars every year in the effort to save the wild food birds with rather bad results, thus far, if we are any judge of food abundance in the markets.

The game commissioner rightly denied the application to prohibit quail production on Long Island. We can see no reason why he should not advocate a law permitting any one to have quail on his farm in other parts of the state if he wants to. No one can be expected, of course, to purchase and introduce stock

birds and to donate a little land to their use unless it pays to do so. Those who take a real interest in birds which are good to eat easily can have plenty of the highly desirable food and when the food is made plentiful no doubt there will be plenty of music. The abundant singers may help some by eating weed seeds and insects. If, as the farmers are told, the birds are beneficial why should laws be enacted preventing them from making the beneficials profitably plentiful and keeping them so. Why say they may have pheasants but not quails? Are not laws which say in effect say you may have red birds but not brown ones ridiculous? Especially when the naturalists say that the indigenous birds are highly desirable for food and are beneficial to agriculture. Would it not be far better if the bird societies would make some practical experiments with the food birds than to put in their time securing laws making it criminal for any one to do so profitably?

Would it not be a good idea for the Rhinebeck Bird Club to tell the farmers, "who long for the day to return when the sound of the cheery whistle of the quail may again be common in their fields," how they quickly can hasten the coming of the longed for day and that it will be found profitable to do so. Mr. Abbott says in his letter, "in spite of protection the bird is having great difficulty in holding its own." Why perpetuate the difficulty the causes for which are well known to naturalists? The better way would be to remove the difficulty. A little practical protection which includes a little planting especially for the birds, a little protection from cats and natural enemies and the purchase of some stock birds, is all that is necessary. Laws preventing such industry are not creditable to any bird society or beneficial to the game or the farmer. Laws permitting and encouraging the profitable production of pheasants quickly made America the biggest pheasant producing country in the world. Why substitute pheasants for our indigenous birds which quickly can be made as plentiful as partridges are in

the older countries? The country is big enough to have all kinds of game in abundance, but it is far better to encourage such abundance than to prevent it by ill advised legislation.

Laws making a closed season on poultry would not make the poultry plentiful on any farms. Laws similar to those advocated by the bird society if applied to any animals abundant on the farms as food would exterminate such animals.

It would be far better to expend public money in encouraging the production of quail and other game on the farms than to expend vast sums in executing laws prohibiting the production and shooting of game a most desirable food. The farmers are perfectly right in prohibiting trespassers from shooting their quail. They should not prohibit their neighbors from breeding them for profit or sport.



NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

BY OUR READERS.

Rearing Ring-necked and Golden Pheasants.

MRS. EDGAR TILTON.

Editor Game Breeder:

I have been raising Chinese ringneck and golden pheasants for the last four or five years. Rhode Island red hens hatch the eggs. I keep them in small runs with waterproof coop attached. For the first week or two I make a soft custard, consisting of a well beaten egg mixed with two tablespoonfuls of sweet milk and baked in the oven. I pour boiling water over a small portion of Spratt's pheasant food and let it steam until it softens. I also have Crissel, a preparation of Spratt's, made from meat, and the first month I give them no water. After that age they are quite hardy and I feed Spratt's food and chick grain, with chopped onions, lettuce, etc. Adult birds are very hardy, small eaters and only require a shed open to the south with wire fence enclosing the run and overhead as well. I have shipped full grown birds to South Dakota and eggs to Missouri, Ohio and California. Orders came through my advertising in The Game Breeder, but I have never shipped day old pheasants. The cost of rearing pheasants is very small.

Texas Game.

Colonel W. G. Sterett, former State Oyster, Fish and Game Commissioner,

told members of the Legislative investigating committee, the other day, that Texas could have as abundant a supply of game and fish as it had before the Civil War if proper methods were used to propagate them. He advocated planting sunflowers in the Western part of the State to provide feed for quail, which, he said, thus encouraged, would soon become plentiful, and that oyster production could be greatly increased. He is expected to write out his views on the subject, to be incorporated in the report which will be made by the investigating committee.

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Owls Devour Pigs.

Patriotic Chinaman Loses Ten of Them.

Chemanius, B. C., April 20.—Sam Yik Kee, Chinese patriot and pig raiser, is distressed and the potential pork production of Canada has been reduced by ten fine pigs as the result of the depredations of horned owls.

Sam Yik Kee had ten sturdy little pigs. Then there were nine, and he couldn't account for the shortage. Next day another disappeared. Each day thereafter the Yik Kee piggery was shy another suckling animal.

After the nine had disappeared the Chinaman happened to look upward and saw the carcass of one of his choice pigs hanging from the limbs of a tree. The

mystery was solved. He had been robbed by horned owls. An active war is now being waged against the feathered thieves.—The World.

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Prize Quails.

Received Gambel quails, which had been shipped March 6th, today, Tuesday, at 5.20 p.m., seemingly in very good condition. They're certainly most beautiful birds. Thank you very much for them.

Very truly yours,
Wisconsin. C. W. Siegler.
Oklahoma City, April 6, 1918.

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The Innocent Cat.

CAPTAIN DARWIN.

In the vicinity of dwellings, there is no more dangerous enemy to pheasants than the common cat. Captain Darwin, in his "Game Preserver's Manual," writes as follows: "There is no species of vermin more destructive to game than the domestic cat. People not aware of her predatory habits would never for a moment suppose that the household favorite that appears to be dozing so innocently by the fire is most probably under the influence of fatigue caused by a hard night's hunting in the plantations. How different also in her manner is a cat when at home and when detected prowling after the game. In the first of the two cases she is tame, accessible to any little attentions; in the latter she seems to know she is doing wrong, and scampers off home hard as she can go. Luckily there is no animal more easily taken in a trap, if common care be used in setting. Box traps, however, with drop doors open at both ends, are much the most efficacious, as the victims, whether cats, dogs, rats and even foxes, walk into them without suspicion, and, treading on the platform in the middle, cause both doors to fall simultaneously, when the animal is secured unharmed, and may either be liberated or shot into a sack and drowned.

The Use of Poison.

Laying poisoned meat is now illegal, and restrictions are placed upon the sale

of arsenic by statute; nevertheless I would caution anyone against the use of that drug, the employment of which is attended with much cruelty, as with some animals it is immediately rejected by vomiting, but not before it has laid the foundation of a violent and painful inflammation of the stomach, from which the animal suffers for weeks, but rarely dies. If it is absolutely necessary to use poison for cats, a little carbonate of baryta, mixed up with the soft roe of a red herring, is the most certain and speedy that can be employed, but a good keeper should know how to keep his preserves clear of vermin without the aid of poison."—*Tegetmeier on Pheasants.*

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Dogs and Cats.

By M. T. RICHARDSON.

I have noticed an article on the different effects the explosion of shells had on a cat and on a dog, as reported by the correspondent of some daily paper. The first thought is why does an exploding shell frighten a dog when it does not frighten a cat?

Some years ago I had a Scotch Collie and he nearly went into convulsions when there was a thundershower and the thunder was rolling severely. He would crawl under the bed, get into a closet and whine until the storm was over. What is the explanation?

In my opinion it comes from the fact that all the cat family have broad heads, which give them a stability that cannot be found in the narrow heads of a large number of dogs. It is my opinion that a bulldog would manifest about as much indifference as a cat to the exploding of a shell.

Of course you have noticed that all animals which have been created to kill other animals have broad heads—the lion, the tiger—all of the cat family from the house cat up to the tiger, and all of the carnivorous birds—eagles, hawks, owls, etc.

The house cat with her meek and innocent face has fooled the human race for hundreds of years.

An Oregon Deer Farm.

G. D. Gorm.

Editor of The Game Breeder:

Last April I bought twelve head of deer, natives of this part of Oregon. Six of them were bucks and six of them does. From five of the does I raised eight fawns this year. I have an enclosure at present of 70 acres and am fencing 80 acres more. At present will fence 300 acres in all in the next year. I hope to raise six hundred deer on this place. Eighty acres of this land I will have in clover and alfalfa hay. Will cut two crops, then turn the deer in and pasture it off until winter. Then they live mostly on browse. I have a beautiful trout stream running through the place. The game business in western Oregon will be very profitable as this country is an ideal place to raise deer, elk and wild turkeys. The law is favorable for game breeding in Oregon. I would like to correspond with one of your readers who has experience in raising wild turkeys.

Most respectfully,

G. D. GORM.

Oregon.

[Write to Jno. R. Gammeter, Akron, Ohio, Miss Mary Wilkie, Beaver Dam, Va., H. P. Bridges, Baltimore, Md., Johnson and Sund, Blabon, N. Dak.—Editor.]

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More Dog.

Albert—I see California has passed a law allowing a hunter to hunt with one dog. Wonder what would happen if he should use a dachshund which you know is said to be "a dog and a half long."

Ben—True, the dachshund is a dog and a half long but he is only "half a dog high," so in reality he is no more than one dog.

=

Pheasants and Blackbirds.

"We want to get a suggestion from you," one of the pheasant breeders writes. "We are simply having the devil of a time this year being annoyed by black birds, which we have never had before. Our ring-necked pheasants are in open aviaries or runs, no wire over

the top, and the minute the ringnecks lay a black bird swoops down and eats the egg. As you know we cannot shoot as that frightens the ringneck and cuts off their laying and injures their fertility. If you can make any suggestion in regard to this same will be duly appreciated."

[You should have a gun. A Parker double barreled gun or a Remington pump gun can be used as in the manner described.]

The only two remedies I know of for the black birds is to cover the pens with netting. String netting will do for a season or two, and second, the shooting of black birds at a little distance from the pens. If you can get a boy who is fond of shooting who will shoot light loads of smokeless powder at the birds on the line of their approach, I think you will find that they will soon learn the danger and keep away. After a few days shooting it might be a good plan to put up a scarce crow with a black broomstick in its hand slightly concealed in the ambush where the shooting has been done.

The best remedy I have ever seen suggested for the pest of English sparrows which eat up a big lot of the food in the English pheasant pens was to net them out, but I am sure a little persistent shooting at any birds will make them wild. I am inclined to think the biggest losses are early in the morning. This is the time when the crows are most active in stealing eggs. We had a big lot of crows at our Wading River preserve but a little shooting early in the morning soon made them very wary and we took a good lot with traps.

I think it would be a good plan for you to write to M. J. Newhouse, Oneida Community, Oneida, New York, and ask his advice about trapping black birds.—Editor.]

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In-breeding.

A western state game officer wrote to inquire about the fertility of quail eggs from birds of the same covey. Our opinion about in-breeding is that it is best to separate the birds and to breed birds which are not related. In a state of nature the covies are much broken up by the destruction due to hawks and other vermin and the birds, no doubt, find non-related mates. On shooting properties where the birds are protected against vermin the covies are broken up by shooting and undoubtedly the birds left after the destruction by shooting find non-related mates.

On the foreign preserves partridge eggs often are removed from one nest and exchanged for those laid in another

and eggs sometimes are exchanged by breeders or game preservers owning different properties.

Robert Bill, head keeper to Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart, says eggs are constantly changed from one part of the estate to another.

Lord Elphinstone says, "Some eggs are lifted and put in other nests." Col. A. Trotter says, "eggs are often lifted from insecure or forsaken nests and added to others." Sir George Houston Boswall, Bart, writes that "a lot of eggs are lifted from impossible places and put into other nests. Eggs also are changed from one side of the place to another." Captain H. Heathcoat Amory writes that, "eggs are lifted from the outside of the estate and brought into the center to fill up nests to 20 or 22 eggs, which works well, and often has the advantage of changing blood to a certain extent."

There are many other English records indicating that partridge breeders entertain the opinion that in-breeding is not desirable.

We do not know if eggs produced by birds of one covey are apt to be infertile. We would be inclined to guess that they might be fertile but that the progeny would be improved by the breaking up of the covies by vermin in a state of nature or by shooting in places where the sportsmen decide to protect the game and to shoot the birds which would have been destroyed by vermin.

We wrote a few letters to people we thought might know something about the subject but we doubted if they could inform us as to the fertility of eggs produced by birds of one covey. Dr. Herbert K. Job was the only one who answered our inquiry. He writes:

"In the matter of which you inquire, about the fertility of eggs produced by quail that were brother and sister, I have no direct data. I happen, however, to know this, that in my joint experiment with breeding canvasbacks on the William Rockefeller estate, under my friend Arthur M. Barnes, the mother canvasback mated with one of her sons, produced fertile eggs, and raised young in 1916. Next year, 1917, they bred again,

apparently the same birds, but that time the young seemed to lack vitality and died quite early. This may have been due to in-breeding, but one instance would hardly settle the point. It is evident that young can be raised from members of the same family, but it is clearly best not to press this too far, but to introduce new blood."

In California we have been told that covies which were not broken up sometimes did not separate in the spring and the birds apparently did not breed.

The truth of the matter is, however, that game breeding is in its infancy in America and we all know comparatively little about it and have a great deal to learn. The problems of game breeding are properly discussed in *The Game Breeder*, the only magazine devoted exclusively to the interests of game breeders, and we shall be glad to have our readers discuss this problem or any other in which they are interested.

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The Game and The Farmer.

A western farmer writes to *The Game Breeder*: "I don't want to see good food producers made criminals through special privilege laws."

The idea that state game departments should arrest farmers for having stock birds in their possession for breeding purposes is vanishing rapidly and when the farmers generally realize that they should have the right to produce any kind of plant or animal on their farms without being arrested we believe the legislator who opposes them quickly will retire to private life.

Our correspondent says there is a move on in the western agricultural states and men will be sent to make laws for the people who now have very little representation in the government of the states.

Laws which prevent the profitable breeding of game undoubtedly tend to decrease the value of the farms since a farm where a high-priced food can be produced is worth more than one where such industry is criminal.

Since it is legal to post the farms against shooting, and most of the farms

are posted, sport has nothing to fear from the farmers who may make the game profitably plentiful or who may rent the right to shooting clubs to produce and shoot the wild food birds.

The farmers who have been stampeded into putting the quail on the song bird list in Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and other states should know that they have prevented themselves from producing birds which sell readily for \$20 and \$30 per dozen and which lay eggs worth \$6.00 per dozen. When they learn that these birds can be produced abundantly at a very small cost, since they find their food in the fields and woods, and only need a little special planting and protection in order to become abundant, we believe the farmers easily can be stampeded in the direction of making laws permitting them to produce the food for profit.

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Sport Lovers Form Outdoor Life Club. Miroc Lodge, Name of New Organization—Hunting and Fishing Objects.

The formation of a large social organization by Minneapolis men for the promotion of outdoor life and sport was made known yesterday in the incorporation of the Miroc lodge. The lodge is capitalized at \$25,000.

The site of the lodge, which will be devoted to hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor sports, has not been decided upon. The officers of the club have two places in mind south of this city, but have made no decision.

Robert M. Laird is president of the Miroc lodge; H. R. Shepardson, vice-president; C. M. Odell, treasurer, and H. K. Zeppinger, secretary. There are 17 directors.

More than 150 local men have joined the club. According to Clinton M. Odell, there will be no limit to the membership. As soon as the site is determined upon it is planned to start work on a suitable clubhouse.

Directors and officers of the Miroc lodge stated that there will be a hunting preserve as well as one of the biggest trap shooting ranges in the state. Most of the members of the club are members

of the Minnesota Game and Fish Protective League and part of the work of the club will be to better the conditions of game birds.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Quails Plentiful; Eat With Chickens. No Meatless Days Foreseen in Northeast Oklahoma.

Bartlesville, Okla., Oct. 6.—Quail are so plentiful in this section this fall and are becoming so tame the "Bob Whites" are coming into the city. Most any morning they can be seen flying around the residence streets or eating in chicken yards.

Hunters do not want to see the season closed on quail, but farmers and others do. Hunters argue that there are more quail this season than ever before and that if the game laws are rigidly enforced as to pot hunting, killing them out of season and killing more than the number in a day, not many will be killed in a season. On the other hand, farmers are driving home an argument that will likely do more to have the season closed on quail than any one thing. Farmers argue that the government and the country need the crops; that quail do more to save crops from attacks by bugs and insects than any one thing, and that "Bob Whites" are the greatest friends of farmers.

There will be no meatless days for many people in this city and county not so long as there are plenty of squirrels and rabbits to be had. Hundreds of squirrels are being bagged and soon the rabbit season will be on in earnest. Ducks are coming in in large flocks. So meat and pork can be stricken from the daily meals of many homes and there will be no complaint.

They May Be War Birds.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The Army Signal Corps has requested the public to refrain from shooting pigeons.

Many complaints have been made that carrier pigeons of the racing homer type have been shot by hunting expeditions, and the important work of training the birds for military service has been seriously interfered with. Army pigeons are labeled "U. S. A.-18."

Roast Pigeons.

One of the British divisions, General Kuhn relates, which was occupying a sector of the French front, had as its nearest neighbor a unit from Portugal. The Portuguese troops had no carrier pigeons, so the British commander decided to make them a gift of some birds to act as dispatch carriers when other methods of communication were put out of commission. Six dozen or more birds were sent over by a detachment of Tommies who neglected or were unable to explain their use, because of lingual difficulties, and the British command was very much surprised to receive a note from the Portuguese officers' mess the next day saying that the pigeons had been roasted and proved a most welcome addition to trench fare.

Dogs in School.

Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Jan. 26.—The training of dogs for war service in Europe started here recently when Lieut. W. L. Butler and a squad of twenty-seven men came in. They will train Airedale and other breeds of dogs to carry messages to the various firing lines. They will also train pigeons for similar service. As the dogs and pigeons are trained they will be sent over to France.

Grabbed by Germans.

Chicago, Ill., April 24.—Adolph Leinburger registered today as an alien German enemy. He is thirty-four years old, black as a hoodoo cat. "I am a Pullman porter," said he. "I was born in Hamburg and my parents are there now. My grandfather was grabbed in Africa by Germans."—The World.

Partial Report of Minnesota State Game Farm.

August 1, 1916, to November 15, 1917.

The following report is not complete, for the reason that almost one-third of the applicants to whom pheasant eggs were shipped during the past summer have not as yet sent in reports as was promised when applications were filed.

The Game Farm was started January

1, 1916, on a small scale by the Minnesota Game Protective League and a short time later the State Game and Fish Department became interested by supplying prairie chickens or pinnated grouse and quail for experimental work and paying the salary of keepers. A report was made to the state August 1, 1916, covering the work accomplished to that date. Although the state did not take over the full control of the farm until May 1, 1917, this report is made for the period beginning August 1, 1916, so that those reading the reports may get a full conception of the work to date.

It will be noticed in comparing the last and this report that there were less quail on hand to breed from during 1917, than there was in 1916; this condition being due to carelessness on the part of the gamekeepers during the winter of 1916-17 in giving the quail too long a period before trapping them up for wing clipping; consequently the majority scattered out and flew to the mainland, making it necessary to start all over again this year. If the quail reared this year can be successfully wintered over for breeding next spring, enough birds can be reared to start distribution of this species the early part of the fall of 1918.

The prairie chicken experiment this year was an absolute failure, in that the birds did not breed, due to the serious mistake of placing them in a small, enclosed yard to keep the hawks and owls from killing them. When it was found that they would not breed they were turned out in a large field the same as last year, but too late for breeding.

During the moulting period the latter part of the summer, the prairie chickens died off, apparently from some digestive disease. Some quail went the same way, as did a few domestic fowl. The experience seems to show that the most dangerous period with wild gallinaceous birds in captivity is during or immediately following the moulting period. The experience on the Big Island Game Farm may, of course, be different from that had by other breeders, but the cause seems to be wing-clipping. Even the least impeding of flight has caused trouble with the pinnated grouse. When full-

winged they are apparently not troubled. It may be that much flying exercise is needed by the birds when their new feathers start growing. All other species of upland birds, including the ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse that we have had experience with, can balance themselves fairly well when slightly wing-clipped, but this is not the case with the pinnated grouse, as they become helpless when clipped, the same as pheasants. They are also the most nervous of any of the birds we have had experience with in captivity, and yet the young chickens that were reared last year were the tamest. They were full winged and almost matured and yet one could pick them up at any time. This was done with one bird just after it had made about a half-mile flight to and from the field where it was reared. We have not as yet had an even break with the prairie chicken in that we have never had enough females to give them a fair tryout. It has always been a case of not taking any chances, for fear of losing the small number on hand. It is hoped that at least thirty pair can be had for a real tryout next year. With this number chances can be taken in experimenting with them in various ways.

The work with the pheasants and quail during the past season was entirely satisfactory: On account of not having enough of setting hens for pheasant eggs incubators were used to take care of the surplus eggs not distributed. The records following give full information as to number hatched, percentages, etc., but at the same time it is necessary to state that, although the hatch from incubators was fairly good, the birds so hatched were not as strong as those hatched under hens; they are, therefore, more subject to contagious diseases and the elements. However, the incubators come in very handy on the game farm to take care of eggs left by bad hens and in various other ways. It is not, however, advisable for the average individual to use incubators except in a tight place when a hen wants to leave her eggs. The period of incubation of various birds

(Continued on page 57.)



Mallard Pin Tail Hybrid.
Reared by Geo. J. Klein, Ellinwood, Kansas.

A Late Season.

The breeding season everywhere seems to be very late. There is a big demand for game eggs and now is the time to send advertisements to The Game Breeder.

Now is the time to advertise young birds for summer and fall delivery.

We would urge those who have pheasants to sell to offer one day old pheasants.

An experiment made by the Game Conservation Society last year proved that young pheasants can be shipped safely. Eighteen out of twenty birds which were three days in transit arrived safely.

In offering one day old pheasants it is wise to sell broods with the hen, which hatched them. The young birds bring excellent prices and when a hen is shipped with the brood the result should be satisfactory.

Those who have had no experience with pheasants should learn how to feed the young pheasants upon arrival. Excellent results have been obtained by those who let the hen and young pheasants range in protected fields and gardens feeding the young birds very sparingly and, of course, shutting them up at night.

Look out for stray cats—a shot gun should be kept at hand with a few shells ready for instant use.

The Game Breeder

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IMAGINATION.

Du Pont Magazine says imagination spells the difference between the blind detail-doer who, from the economic standpoint, dies long before his last breath, and the never satisfied delver who lives long after he is dead.

Napoleon said, "Imagination rules the world." The Game Breeder imagined that America quickly could be made the biggest game producing country in the world. Rapidly the details are being worked out by thousands of intelligent breeders with excellent imagination about new methods. Some articles of especial value written by these readers soon will be published. One of the first will be the practical experience of a Long Island pheasant breeder who says he seldom loses a bird.

WHERE ARE THE BUFFALOES?

The Globe, N. Y., says:

The question raised by Rudyard Kipling as to what the crocodile had for dinner is not in the least more important than one that is agitating the American Bison Society. For it is proposed to kill the herd of nine bison in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and, as a war conservation measure, feed them to the bears of the zoo.

If only the bison were carnivorous the problem might be solved by having them eat the bears. Or, like the gingerbread dog and the calico cat in the Eugene Field poem, the bison and the bears might eat each other up. But

this would hardly satisfy the American Bison Society, either.

Perhaps the suggestion of the president of the American Bison Society will solve this bristling problem: he suggests a diet of horse meat for the bears.

Thousands upon thousands of dollars have been collected in America by officers of various game saving societies who say, "Where are the buffalo?" Hundreds and possibly thousands of protective game laws have been secured by those who have used the question in their arguments to legislative committees.

A large herd of the bison, however, when offered for sale brought no purchasers in the United States and the herd was sold to Canada and placed in a park. The proper place for bison is on a range in a large park where they can find most of their food. The land where we used to shoot them in abundance has been sold to cattle and sheep ranchers and to farmers, and it would be impossible to restore the bison as a sporting animal on such areas.

The attempt to introduce deer and to increase their numbers in agricultural regions is always followed by claims for damages against the state. The attempt to license trespassers to shoot up the quail and other game birds on the farms is followed by laws putting the game birds on the song bird list and prohibiting all shooting for a term of years, renewed from time to time, or forever, as in the recent Ohio legislation.

The times have changed and we must change our methods of handling the game in settled regions or give up field sports altogether in such regions. Many posted farms can be used as shooting grounds by those willing to deal fairly with the owners. Thousands of our readers now have an abundance of game and look after it properly. Shooting syndicates or clubs with small dues can have good shooting during long open seasons and the vast bays and marshes and large areas of mountain, forest and uncultivated lands for many years can be utilized as shooting grounds for the public. The state should encourage

game breeding for sport and for profit on the farms and it should properly look after and endeavor to increase the game for the public on the public areas referred to.

Our markets rapidly will become filled with game for the people to eat when the subject of game saving is handled in a statesmanlike manner. The people who eat cheap game will be friendly to the sport that produces it. Field sports in America can be saved and the sporting area can be much enlarged provided we encourage all those who are willing to do so to deal fairly with the farmers and to breed game abundantly.

The Dollar-a-Week Club, promoted by the Game Conservation Society, will provide excellent shooting for its members. The annual dues, \$52 per year, were fixed in order to demonstrate that those who wish to do so can have good shooting for small dues, using land on which little or no game occurs at present. The easiest and the best game birds and the cheapest to rear are the native birds which formerly inhabited the region selected by the club. The meat secured by the members goes a long way towards offsetting the amount of the annual dues so that the sport costs little or nothing.

Those who can afford to do so should, of course, have thousands of pheasants and other hand-reared game. They should sell all they can not eat and the sales at present prices will produce a good annual revenue for any club or country place where game breeding is properly carried on.

The Game Conservation Society will lend a hand and help any sportsmen who may wish to organize game shooting clubs. We are not opposed, as often we have pointed out, to those who wish to collect dues from sportsmen in order to create quiet refuges where no one can shoot. There is so much land in America that all plans for game saving can be carried out. But we like the noisy places more than posted farms without shooting.

MORE GAME AND FEWER GAME LAWS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor, The Game Breeder:

I want to thank you for your favor of the 3rd instant relative to your experience in the breeding of quail. I assure you that you offer some suggestions there which are valuable, and I take it from your letter that while you think it very possible, or even probable, that fertile eggs can be produced by in-breeding of quail, but you really believe the better way is to cross flocks.

Again assuring you that I appreciate your information and stand ready at any and all times to cooperate with you, I am,

Very truly yours,

G. A. Smith,

State Game and Fish Warden.

More Rabbits.

Great Britain and Ireland consume 30,000,000 rabbits as food annually.—Telegram.

Corn for Wild Turkeys.

The cold weather last fall caught many Center County, Pa., farmers in the midst of corn husking, and early snow in December made it impossible to get in the corn, with the result that a large number of farmers still have corn in the field, and it is very probable that because of this fact many game birds in Center County have been able to survive the severe winter instead of perishing with the cold or for lack of food.

An investigation shows that almost every ear of corn on the outer stalks of the shock has been picked clean of grain, only the bare cob remaining. Flocks of wild turkeys have been seen and they all appeared in a good, healthy condition. Pheasants have also been seen, looking none the worse for the severe winter.—The World, N. Y.

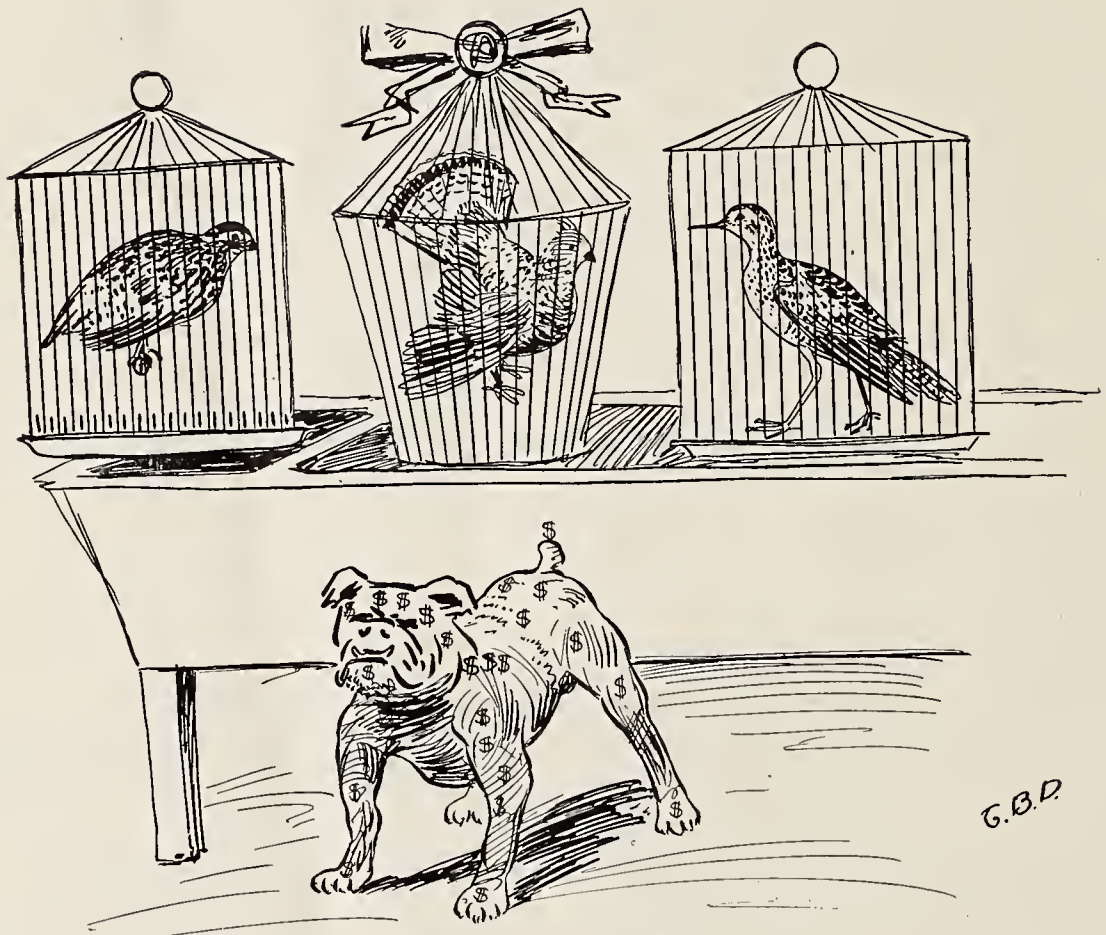
Pup Wanted.

"Listen, ma," said Johnny Cupp.

"Let's trade baby for a pup."

When his mother said: "No, sir!"

Johnny made a face at her.



The Dog in the Manger.

The Game Protectionist takes in a lot of money but often puts birds which he don't eat on the song bird list.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

Angler and Warden.

A man walking along a country road met a farmer with a fishing pole on his shoulder and this conversation followed:

"Well, did you catch many fish?"

"Nope, not today, but I caught fourteen fine bass yesterday."

Man, turning back his coat to show badge, "Do you know you are talking to the game warden?"

Farmer—"And do you know you are talking to the biggest liar in Knox County?"

More Whiskey.

At an Irish assizes a deaf old lady, who had brought an action for damages against her neighbor, was being examined, when the judge suggested a compromise, and instructed counsel to ask

what she would take to settle the matter. "His lordship wants to know what you will take?" asked the learned counsel, bawling as loud as he could in the old lady's ear.

"I thank his lordship, kindly," answered the dame; "and if it's no inconvenience to him, I'll take a little whiskey and water."

More Game.

A gentleman complimented a lady on her improved appearance.

"You are guilty of flattery," said the lady.

"Not so," replied the gentleman, "for I vow you are as plump as a partridge."

"At first," replied the lady, "I thought you guilty of flattery only, but now I find you are actually making game of me."

(Continued from page 52.)

has a wide range, mainly due to their different temperatures. When more is found out about these variations in temperatures of the game birds, it may be that incubators can be so arranged that they can be made to produce better results.

A great interest was taken in the distribution of pheasant eggs for the first time by the state and the demand for eggs could not be supplied. The success of those who received eggs was fairly good, considering that it was the first experience that almost all had in hatching and rearing pheasants. Quite a number blamed their failures on infertile eggs. This could not have been the trouble in all cases reported, as reports from others more successful show, and as does the report of hatching on the game farm. Most of the trouble, as reports show, was that many of the hens used were not free from mites and insects. In some cases the kind of nests and coops used were not suitable. The loss of birds hatched by individuals can be attributed to the following causes: open coops and yards, allowing young birds to get away from the hen too soon; tramped by heavy hens; wrong kind and too much feed; fouled ground; pet dogs and cats; lice and mites; weasel, and one report stating that English sparrows killed three young pheasants.

In but very few instances were instructions followed carefully and in these few very good results were obtained. One individual reared 25 out of a hatch of 28 birds. Another had a hatch of 24 birds out of 30 eggs. One distributed his eggs to neighbors and kept tab on them, reports 105 birds reared out of a hatch of 136 birds. This is the best report in number of birds reared from any consignment of eggs.

Vermin or Predatory Species Killed.

August 1, 1916, to November 15, 1917.

HAWKS.

Sparrow	29
Copper	19
Broad-winged	16
Red-tailed	14
Goshawk	26
Sharp-shinned	4

Ferruginous rough-legged.	1
Prairie Falcon.....	1

OWLS.

Great Horned.....	71
Barred	16
Screech	9

MISCELLANEOUS.

Weasel	9
Crows	12
Mink	3
Redheaded Woodpeckers.	*65
House Rats	*215
Garter Snakes	*550

*Estimated.

Ducks Eat Substitutes.

Ducks, as well as humans, must eat substitutes.

Small potatoes, too small in fact for the farmer to have paid any attention to ordinarily, are said to have solved the problem when mixed with carrots and other materials, minus wheat.

"No wheat is to be used for duck feeding," said W. B. Ayer, Oregon Food Administrator. "Substitutes must be found, and I am told that patriotic owners of duck lakes have discovered a remedy and have applied it. They are paying high prices for small potatoes which in former days would not have been dug at all. These they are mixing with other materials and the ducks are thriving on them."

New Sporting Weekly.

The first issue of the National Sports Weekly has just made its appearance in time to catch the opening of the baseball season.

It is published and edited by Shepard G. Barclay.

The new weekly features baseball, billiards, golf, tennis, automobilism, trap-shooting, hunting, fishing, boxing, racing and other branches of clean sport.

Muskrats in Bohemia.

Introduced into Bohemia twelve years ago, the American muskrat has spread over a wide area and now is regarded as a serious pest, the government advocating the destruction of the animals wherever found.



FENCES FOR GAME PRESERVES

The accompanying photograph shows one of our Non-Climbable "RIOT" fences, erected by us, with our indestructible steel fence post 8 feet high, surrounding the Yale Bowl Field, New Haven, Conn.

This fence held in check 80,000 people who attended the Harvard-Yale Game, November 25th, 1916, and 60,000 people who attended the Princeton-Yale Game, November 13th, 1915.

We have this fence and many other excellent designs. It will be to your advantage to secure our Catalogue, that shows many of the best erected fences in this country; also tells about our posts in detail; how to erect a fence; how to paint the fence wire to keep it from rusting.

Become acquainted with our fence building system: It will save you many dollars and a great deal of worry.

Fences for every purpose, with either straight or non-climbable post, tennis court back stops, etc., erected by our trained men anywhere.

J. H. DOWNS

38 ROOSEVELT AVENUE Suite A JERSEY CITY, N. J.

RIVER LAWN GAME FARM

R. H. SIDWAY

GRAND ISLAND, ERIE CO., N. Y.

Pheasant and Mallard Eggs for Spring delivery from extra fine, healthy non-related birds.

My birds are raised for my own shooting and are very strong on the wing.

Member of The Game Guild.

Member American Game Breeders Society.



Attract Wild Ducks

Plant wild rice now and have a natural feeding ground that will attract and hold wild ducks on your waters next fall. Terrell's damp seeds grow—storage process approved by U. S. Dept of Agric. Now ready for shipment. Booklet free. Plant now.

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Dept. P-34 Oshkosh, Wis.

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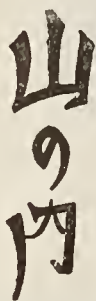
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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,

OF THE GAME BREEDER, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for April 1, 1918.

State of New York, County of New York, ss:— Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared D. W. Huntington, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of The Game Breeder, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit: 1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; Editor, D. W. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, None; Business Managers, The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.) The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; Stockholders: C. B. Davis, Grantwood, N. J.; A. A. Hill (Deceased), F. R. Peixotto, 55 John St., New York, N. Y.; J. C. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. (at present U. S. Ship Montgomery, in service); D. W. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; Dwight Huntington 2nd, Ft. Houston, Texas. 3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None. 4. That the two paragraphs next



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above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.—D. W. Huntington (Signature of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner).

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of March, 1918.—Everett W. Jones, Notary Public. Certificate filed in New York County 100, Kings County No. 41. (My commission expires March 30, 1918.)

[SEAL.]

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AND

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DOGS

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THE GAME BREEDER

150 Nassau Street

New York City

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Department V.

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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XIII

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

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The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

A Congressional Hearing.

The most important matter to be surveyed this month is the hearing before the Congressional committee on the District of Columbia on a bill to prohibit the sale and the having in possession of all species of game in the District.

As usual the bill was so poorly written that members of the committee expressed a doubt about its meaning. Fortunately the committee was advised that the bill would close a good market to desirable food produced by industry.

Game Breeders' Objections.

The game breeders who now own millions of game birds, and soon will sell as many every season, have objected and seriously continue to object to the increase of legal absurdities creating many new crimes which seem to be intended to put an end to a food producing industry of economic importance to all of the people. There was a time when the hundreds of thousands of dollars invested annually in getting new game laws caused the game law industry to overshadow the game producing industry, but this is not so to-day. The producers now far outnumber those actively engaged in procuring more game laws, and the amounts invested in stock birds, eggs, appliances, etc., are much larger than the amounts invested in procuring more game laws although the amount invested in the game law industry is tremendous.

Those who now produce game in most of the States do so by reason of amendments they have secured to the restrictive game laws. In some states these amendments only permit the production

of certain species of game. It is significant that such species rapidly have become plentiful and that the grouse and quail rapidly have vanished. All game breeders know that our quail and grouse can quickly be produced in vast numbers just as partridges and grouse are produced in the older countries as soon as it be not criminal to produce such foods on the farms and the people learn how to produce it. Already there are places in America where quail have been made tremendously abundant. These birds can be produced at a very small expense and no good reason can be assigned why the game farmers should not sell the food they produce in the best markets.

The objectional features of the bill under discussion appear in its title, "To prohibit killing, trapping, netting, ensnaring, hunting, having in possession and sale of certain wild birds in the District of Columbia."

Game as a Food.

The Congressmen evidently seem to be aware that game is a highly nutritious and palatable food. Audubon and all of the other ornithological writers have expressed this opinion. Mr. Wheeler, a member of the committee, properly exclaimed, "Well, I would like to have a woodcock once more before I die." We can assure Mr. Wheeler that he will eat many woodcock provided Congress does not make it a crime for the farmer or sportsman who produces these birds to dispose of the result of his industry. We know places in America where the woodcock already are breeding in good numbers because they

receive the practical protection given to other game. Woodcock are sold as food in the English markets.

It is said that some species of game are somewhat beneficial to agriculture. The game breeders, conceding the fact, insist that it should not be a criminal offence for any one to keep the species profitably plentiful in his field or garden. It would be wise for the Congress not to destroy the incentive to produce food by enacting a law making it a crime to have the stock birds for breeding purposes or the food "in possession." The bill should be amended so as to permit and encourage the sale of all species produced by industry.

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An Unfavorable Contrast.

The game law enthusiasts, who appeared before the committee, have secured thousands of State laws preventing food production but the result of such laws has not been good. In striking contrast to the efforts of those who wish to make the District of Columbia a food prohibition area are the efforts and industry of thousands of food producers—the number rapidly is increasing. These men and women now produce millions of game birds and eggs and they respectfully urge the Congress not to close one of the best markets to their food products. They have added to the value of farms and in many cases they pay all the taxes on lands and buildings of many poor farmers.

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Attitude of the Audubon Association.

The National Association of Audubon Societies, a highly reputable and influential organization, fortunately sent a representative to the hearing who knows something about the natural causes for the increase and decrease in the numbers of any species of birds suitable for human food; who knows, in fact, how easy it is to make any species of game profitably plentiful and who knows the futility of laws preventing any one from looking after the game properly as it must be looked after if it is expected to survive in populous regions.

Dr. Herbert K. Job, who represented the Audubons, well said:

"I want to add a word, if I may, in regard to the propagation of game. I have a Government Bulletin here, "Disposition of Game Reared in Captivity," and here is a paragraph which says, "About two-thirds of the States now have some special provision regulating the possession, sale or export of game raised in captivity, and I think, as has been agreed upon already, we certainly should have a clause in this bill to make that possible. That will obviate an objection that has been raised on the commercial side of the question. There is a good industry being started in our country now. There is one advertisement I have read recently of a California firm which advertised to sell 40,000 eggs of game birds for propagation purposes, including the ring-necked pheasant, several kinds of wild ducks and some species of quail. Now when any firm can offer for sale 40,000 eggs in one season for propagation it does show that the industry is getting a footing in this country. It is very important not to discourage it and rule out good markets here and there, for if we can raise some tens of thousands of birds which otherwise would not be raised, it is very much worth while and will give the country an increased food supply."

MR. GOULD—Mr. Chairman, may we have the name of that publication put in the record in case any of us want to refer to it?

MR. JOB—The publication is "Game Laws for 1917." It can be had from the Department of Agriculture.

MR. GOULD—Then that firm selling eggs in California. I think it would be a good thing to have that in the record.

MR. JOB—I am awfully sorry but I cannot give that offhand. They advertise in *The Game Breeder*, a well known little magazine published in New York, and they carry an advertisement in every spring number. I have read it several times, and there are a number of other firms—there are a hundred firms—over the country who are raising game, especially the pheasants and mallard ducks and black ducks."

The reason why quail, grouse and other birds beneficial to agriculture are not produced so abundantly is because "fool laws" still prohibit their profitable production.

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An Under-Estimate.

Mr. Job's estimate that there are an hundred firms who are raising game in

America is far too low. There are, probably, ten thousand game breeders or more, not counting hundreds of clubs, which have from 25 to 250 members each, which produce game for sport and for food. The Clove Valley Club, for example, breeds thousands of mallards and black ducks and the ducks not eaten by the members of the club are sold to a New York hotel and appear regularly on the bill of fare as Clove Valley wild ducks, during the open season.

The Game Breeders Association, a Long Island, N. Y., sporting club, with \$30 per year annual dues, produced one season several tons of game. All of this industry was criminal a few years ago—made so by the activities of those who wish to make the District of Columbia a food-prohibition area.

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Oysters, Fish and Game.

Mr. R. B. Lawrence stated at the hearing that once a distinguishing feature of every butcher store in New York City was the festoons of wild pigeons. Not claiming that the extinction of the pigeons was entirely due to market gunners, Mr. Lawrence said they were absolutely extinct.

The fact is significant that during the period when the American wild pigeons became extinct the English wild pigeons became so abundant as to be regarded as pests in some parts of England and everywhere they remain a common and cheap food. While we have been expending enough money on game laws to feed the world with cheap game, if it could have been properly applied, our game of the ulpands, the grouse, quail, woodcock and certain species of ducks have steadily and rapidly decreased in numbers, although the markets have been closed to them for many years, and some States, besides the District of Columbia, have prohibited the shooting of the best game birds at all times.

A few years ago the sign, "Oysters, Fish and Game for sale," was a familiar sign in every town and city. The oysters and fish still appear on the signs, but the word game has been eliminated in many States. It is significant that the game

has had the benefit (?) of thousands of game laws. It is true at one time that the oysters appeared to be in danger of extinction and there was considerable alarm in Baltimore about the oyster industry. The records of what happened show that laws were not hastily enacted prohibiting the sale of oysters. Efforts were made to encourage the production of oysters. Oyster beds were leased and common sense was applied to the production of oysters. A price was put on the head of the oyster (if an oyster may be said to have a head), but no intelligent person agrees with the Zoo superintendent when he says "it is really marking the death warrant of any particular species to allow a price to be put on its head." It is the price which causes an abundance of any species when the price is used for production. The trouble with the game in America is that people have been forbidden to get the price of the industry which is absolutely necessary if game is to be used abundantly as food as it should be.

If the opportunity to obtain the price should be removed from poultry such laws would soon exterminate poultry. The same is true of other food animals, and of horses, dogs and of everything else.

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Exciting Prejudice.

Mr. Burnham, representing one of the game protective associations, thus advised the committee:

"We could not follow the English principle here without upsetting what most Americans consider a system way ahead of the old continental and European system where only the rich men have the privilege of shooting. We don't want that system in this country."

We have a notion that the association which employs Mr. Burnham solicits and receives contributions from the preserve owners whom he denounces. As a matter of fact these game food producers are performing a great public service; they produce thousands of tons of game every year and, using an insignificant amount of the vast areas of land in America suitable for game, they not only provide food for themselves but for many others.

We can inform Mr. Burnham there are in America many thousands of men and women who are not rich and who are now engaged in producing game for profit on the farms which they own. There are thousands of good American sportsmen of small means who produce game at a small annual expense per gun—in some cases \$15 per year. We deny Mr. Burnham's assertion that most Americans consider a system which scientists say must result in the extermination of game if shooting be permitted, is "way ahead" of the system now used by American game farmers, men and women, which results in game becoming quickly abundant and profitable on private lands. All intelligent American sportsmen who understand the subject, all the game breeders, all the farmers, hotel men, dealers and the people who like to eat game and say it should not be a crime to profitably produce it, will agree with us that Mr. Burnham is wrong in his opinion—that the people are in favor of the legal criminal absurdities which appear in our game laws.

We are surprised that Mr. Burnham does not know that the poorest classes in England are permitted and encouraged to shoot the migratory fowl on all public waters and saltings and to sell the food they secure just as our oystermen and fishermen sell the foods they secure. Thousands of market gunners or wild fowlers bring game to the London markets. Many game farmers in England make a living selling game and game eggs. Their advertisements appear in English magazines, just as the advertisements of similar people now appear in *The Game Breeder* since we have ridden down Mr. Burnham's notion that it should be criminal to produce and sell food.

The English wild fowlers who support their families in rural habitations by taking and selling food, would seem to have a better excuse for their existence than those who claim to destroy only for fun. In England the true sportsman is very friendly to the wild fowler and it has been said by English magazine editors there is more freedom in England than in "the land of the free."

It is a well known fact that the English wild fowlers are not only permitted to shoot wild fowl on all public waters and saltings, with huge guns which often kill several hundred fowl at a single discharge, but also they are permitted to take the public fowl in great wire traps, called decoys, and to send the birds to the markets. These decoys are described in the book, "Our Wild Fowl and Waders," written by the editor of *The Game Breeder* and for sale by the Game Conservation Society.

In the *Shooting Times* and *British Sportsman* there was an article not long ago about the formation of shooting syndicates or clubs in England formed to produce great quantities of partridges and other game, the members sharing the expense of the production. The editor remarked that before long he expected to see advertisements of shares in *The Loamshire Shooting Syndicate* and others offering shares representing good shooting for 5 pounds or some other small sum. This system already is popular in America not only with sportsmen, who enjoy plenty of game to shoot and to eat, but also with the farmers who enjoy having their taxes paid by those who wish to introduce and keep the game plentiful on the farms.

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Game on the Farm and Game Politics.

Since most of the farms are posted against shooters and some States prohibit the shooting of quail at all seasons, all intelligent sportsmen now agree that it is desirable to deal fairly with the farmers and to produce game abundantly on places where shooting now is prohibited. The U. S. Agricultural Department could and should do much to further such industry. Unfortunately it has a bureau devoted largely to the game law industry and it seems to entertain the idea that possibly food production might be unpopular. We have a large acquaintance among sportsmen and all agree that it should not be a crime to produce any species of food on a farm. Can any one imagine a sportsman, outside of those who seek to make a living from game politics, being opposed to the production of game on the farms?

MY EXPERIENCE WITH PHEASANTS.

By THOS. F. CHESEBROUGH.

A little more than three years ago I was looking one day over a magazine and noticed the advertisement of a well known game breeder regarding pheasants for sale. I have always been a pretty fair shot with a gun and have hunted partridges, quail, woodcock, snipe, ducks, rabbits, deer, etc., and even rattlesnakes in Florida; but up to this time (three years ago), odd as it may seem, I had never seen a pheasant.

I had no idea what one looked like but I made up my mind I would soon find out. So I read over the breeder's list of pheasants and I chose the golden because I liked the name. I purchased fifty eggs and not having bantams, had to set them under big clumsy hens. Thirty-six hatched and I was somewhat disappointed that I did not see the golden glitter as I had expected. Well to make a long story short, the hens with their big feet killed most of them and head lice did the rest. I was a novice at the game then but I DID SUCCEED in raising two beautiful cock birds, and I have them to this day. I call them my mascots and I would not part with them.

I relate this, my first experience, in order to show I have been through the game and have learned my lesson; practical experience is the best teacher. I have read books on pheasants but no two writers seem to agree. Some say, for example, feed custard; some say, don't feed custard; give water; don't give water, and that is the way it went right along until I became disgusted and tossed the books aside. I made up my mind I would go to work in my own way and I did. I have been in the game for over three years and now I know pheasants from A to Z, or I think I do at any rate.

I will now tell how I raise and take care of my pheasants. For setting I use bantams, buff cochins and Japanese silkies. To get the best results and have strong chicks it is better to set the eggs in a nest on the grass sod, but I don't always do this myself. Great care should

be taken that the hen is free from lice; insect powder or spray solution will take care of that part of it. I also keep a sharp watch on the chicks from time to time, for if the wing or head lice get headway, it's generally good bye chick. I do not give the chicks anything to eat until they are twenty-four hours old and very little then. They get no water to drink until they are a month old, then I give it to them gradually for another two weeks; after that they can drink all they want. I myself do not believe in cooked food such as custard, etc. The only cooked food they ever get from me is shredded wheat and sweet corn on the cob. They don't have anybody to cook for them when they live in their natural way, and that's the way I try to make them live. I have a food I give them which is all my own composition, made of chick grain, mixed canary bird seed, powdered charcoal, shredded wheat and salt-water fine sand. I really believe the sand is the secret of my success. The sand is the grit for them and has just enough salt in it to keep them in good condition. I also give them green food, such as onion tops, lettuce, clover and chickweed. I give them more of this as they get older, also meal worms and the best food of all—grasshoppers. I give them the sweet corn (boiled) on the cob about once a week as this is very fattening and too much would do more harm than good. Ants are very good for them and I give them all I can catch or set the pens over ant beds.

I use movable pens so they can always have fresh ground. I find the ringnecks and goldens the easiest to raise although the Amherst and Reeves are my favorites, especially the Reeves. I think the Reeves is a glorious game bird. I feed the adult birds in winter a mixture of ground corn, wheat, buckwheat, charcoal and ground oyster shells; in summer I give the same, also green food, insects, etc.

I make them hustle for most of their food in summer as I am careful not to

overfeed. Once in a while I give them the sweet corn I before mentioned, also apples, grapes and berries, in fact I alternate and try not to give them the same old thing all the time.

I live right near Northport Bay, Long Island, N. Y., so that I am able to catch the horseshoe crab and I feed them the eggs from this crab. I know for a fact that chickens are very fond of these eggs and these help their laying. The food is very rich though and must be fed with judgment and not very often. I keep my adult pheasants in yards completely wired in. I have evergreen trees in these yards for shade. In the winter I put up corn-stalks all along the outside of the wire to break the cold winds, leaving the southern part exposed, also put a few stalks in the yards. This is the only shelter they have as I use no shade of any kind. Everyone knows what a severe winter we had; I want to say right here that I did not lose a bird. They are exposed from overhead to all kinds of weather. They won't take refuge in the stalks but prefer to sit on the perches no matter how cold it is. My birds are surely acclimated to all weather condi-

tions and I guess they can stand most anything.

I do not pinion any of my birds with the exception of silvers as I give silvers full freedom like chickens. Ringnecks and Reeves are as a rule rather wild but mine are quite tame; I have a Reeves cock that struts all around my feet feeding time and none of these birds are pinioned. I am also inclined to believe that they will breed better if they are not pinioned or have their wing feathers cut. Of course where one has a large number of ringnecks they would have to have too much ground to wire over the top, so consequently the birds would have to be pinioned or wing-clipped.

In closing I will say that perhaps some breeders will not agree with me as to my methods of raising pheasants, but all I can say is that I have had very good luck and never lose a bird unless it be by accident of some kind, such as a hen stepping on them, etc. I have never lost a bird through sickness. Perhaps it is just luck after all. I do not want to go on record as saying I have better birds than anybody else, but I will say that I think I have as good and as strong, hardy birds as anybody.



FOOD FOR WILD DUCKS FOR FOOD AND FOR SPORT.

By D. W. HUNTINGTON.

Hundreds of thousands of wild ducks are now reared for sport and for food.

The problem of feeding the ducks has been much discussed among members of The Game Conservation Society and in the columns of its bulletin, *The Game Breeder*. Mr. Dusette, of Bad Axe, Mich., lets his ducks fly and they find much of their food on the natural feeding grounds for wild fowl in the vicinity. He only lost a few ducks which were shot by gunners during the closed season. These losses stopped immediately when he offered a reward of twenty-five dollars

for information leading to the conviction of the shooters. Mr. Dusette's ducks return regularly to the game ranch with their young and during the shooting season their wings are clipped and the birds are kept at home.

Dr. Henry Heath, president of the Long Island Game Breeders Association, who also preserves wild ducks on his place at Orient, Long Island, lets his wild ducks breed in a small marsh back of his house where they find most of their food. A small canal or ditch, made by dynamiting, makes the place especially

attractive to the ducks and they are called up every evening by a whistle and fed a very little corn. It is surprising how little grain is needed to hold the ducks and keep them in good condition. Some of these birds go South in the winter but many of them return.

The editor of *The Game Breeder* made an experiment with black ducks on Long Island letting the old birds fly with their young which were reared about an artificial pond made by sinking a washtub to the level of the ground. The ducks spent much of their time on the bay a mile or two from the house but returned late every afternoon when they were fed with scraps from the table. Late in the summer they did some damage to the garden, eating cucumbers, watermelons, corn, and in fact sampling almost everything in the garden. They were permitted to do this in order to ascertain what they would eat. Almost any garden vegetables and melons planted roughly about a duck pond will furnish a lot of inexpensive food when the owner has the time to make such plantings for the ducks.

Water cress, wild rice, wild celery, wapeto, pond weeds and other natural foods can be planted to advantage where the waters are suitable. The dealers in these plants are prepared to furnish plants and seed with instructions how to plant them. At the Game Breeders preserve on Long Island, N. Y., a few thousand wild ducks which were reared on the preserve ate all the water lilies in a good sized pond.

Mr. Clyde Terrell, of Oshkosh, Wis., reported that his ducks which were permitted to fly about on the farm procured much food in a field of buckwheat especially planted for them. They ate the newly sprouted plants and later the grain in addition to the natural foods above referred to.

In the Western States many duck clubs have fed their wild ducks large quantities of corn and wheat. When grain was cheap this was an easy way to hold a big lot of wild fowl on the club lakes and marshes. But at the present prices for grain it has been found necessary to pro-

vide some other food for the ducks. There are complaints from Southern California about the wild ducks eating rice. The ducks should be shot and sold as food to offset the damage.

Mr. W. B. Ager, the Oregon Food Administrator, said recently, "No wheat is to be used for duck feeding. Substitutes must be found and I am told that patriotic owners of duck lakes have discovered a remedy and have applied it. They are paying high prices for small potatoes which in former days would not have been dug at all. These they are mixing with other materials and the ducks are thriving on them."

The wild ducks seem to be omnivorous, or nearly so, and many waste products of the garden can be utilized in feeding them. They have been observed in peach and other orchards, feeding on the fruit rotting on the ground. Where mast bearing trees are near the duck rearing grounds the ducks may be induced to feed in the woods. At the old Game Breeders Association preserve ducks ate acorns in the woods. All sportsman are aware that about the Western streams the wild fowl eat many acorns, beech nuts and other waste, besides the wild rice, wild celery, pond weeds, watercress and other natural foods. There are many places where it would pay to gather the acorns and other mast and feed them to the ducks.

On game farms and preserves near the seashore many cheap foods for wild ducks are obtained. On a Cape Cod preserve the young ducks are fed largely on the horseshoe crabs which are found abundant on the beach. Young and old ducks will eat fish eagerly and on a Connecticut preserve small worthless fish are netted, cut up and fed to the ducks. About the Long Island bays, and elsewhere, the fishermen take many fish which are not very marketable on account of their size or the undesirability of the species. I have purchased fish at very small prices and have had many given to me as too worthless to sell. Although a fish diet does not add to the quality of the flesh of the ducks, and in fact it often impairs its value as food, there can be no objection to feeding fish,

as part of the daily ration, to ducks young and old during the closed season when wild ducks are not marketed and the diet can be changed to acorns, grain, vegetables, etc., a short time before the ducks are to be shot or marketed. The ducks as I have observed can be permitted to fly about and obtain natural foods. They may go a long distance but will return if properly handled.

Since it is now well known that ducks permitted to fly about and obtain many natural foods can be trained to return home at a feeding time the best way to save in the food bill undoubtedly is to rear the birds unpinioned and to encourage them to find their food in the marshes. Wild ducks respond quickly to a whistle or horn when it is used repeatedly at feeding time to call them to their meals and they can be induced to visit a place where there is food by sounding the dinner call there, provided, of course, the place be within hearing of the ducks.

On a New Jersey preserve, which has a canal running through it, the ducks were trained to fly to dinner, when a horn was sounded and the gamekeeper told me that the canal boatmen, observing the performance, procured a horn and called the ducks over to the canal where some were shot much to his annoyance.

Since many thousands of wild ducks are now reared for food and for sport in places where there are comparatively few natural foods and since the feeding of grain at present must be almost or entirely abandoned, it is important for the wild duck breeders to learn that they can use small potatoes and other garden vegetables which are not marketable. Often there are a little more sweet corn, tomatoes, beets, cabbages, potatoes (including the small ones not worth gathering) and various other vegetables that are needed for the house and all of these can be fed to the wild ducks in order to reduce the cost of rearing. Wild ducks of the common species, mallards and black ducks are excellent food and the birds always command good prices now that the laws have been amended so as to permit and encourage the industry of

duck breeding. The license to breed wild ducks costs nothing in Massachusetts. In Indiana no license is required. New York charges \$5.00 for a license to breed wild ducks and other game which is \$5.00 too much since no food producing industry should be penalized to this extent. In some States the license costs \$25.00 per annum. In many States it is \$2.00.

The wild ducks sell readily for \$3.00 and \$4.00 a pair for breeding purposes and bring nearly as much when shot and sold as food to the New York hotels and clubs. The eggs sell for \$20 and \$25 per hundred and many thousands of eggs are sold since many new commercial breeders and sporting clubs always are ready to purchase both ducks and eggs.

Wild ducks undoubtedly are the easiest game birds to rear. Often it is stated that pheasants are as easy to rear as poultry but gamekeepers and preserve owners know that this is not true for beginners at least; there is much to be learned about pheasant breeding before the breeder will be able to rear the young birds successfully. Wild ducks, however, are very hardy and they are comparatively free from diseases; thousands of people with little experience have reared them successfully. The ducks are such big eaters that some have complained that the food bills were disproportionate to the profits but if wild ducks be introduced on any farm or country place where there is a little pond or other waters they quickly can be reared in large numbers and at small expense provided they be permitted to fly about and find much of their food in marshes or besides streams or ponds.

It is wise to clip one wing of the ducks at certain seasons. At the Game Breeders Association the ducks' wings were clipped just before the nesting season in order to compel them to lay their eggs in a wire inclosure. This was made of 5 foot poultry netting inclosing a little land about an artificial pond. If the ducks be permitted to fly about during the nesting season many nests will be made at a distance, often outside of the owners' premises and, of course, all of

the eggs cannot be found and gathered as they are when the ducks are confined. Some or all of the drakes may be permitted to fly about but they will spend most of their time on the pond or its shores in company with the ducks. Three or four ducks to each drake are claimed the proper proportion of sexes by most gamekeepers. The ducks will lay sixty or even more eggs if the eggs be gathered and hatched under barnyard hens or in incubators as they should be.

It is a beautiful sight to see a good

flock of wild ducks wheeling about in the air, the sun shining on the bright wing markings and on the brilliant green heads of the mallards. I observed many wild ducks last summer from a car window which were put on wing by the noise of the train and since they wheeled about and were returning to their pond before the train had passed, I knew they were hand-reared fowl attached to the place. The number of places which have wild ducks is increasing very rapidly in America.



MY PHEASANTS.

By MRS. MARTIN ALMY.

I have read with much interest the articles on the hatching and rearing of pheasants. I purchased a setting of Chinese ringneck eggs last May and used a Plymouth Rock hen for hatching. She had chosen a corner in my brooder house for her nest so as I did not wish to disturb her I had my husband cut a large piece of sod and this I placed in brooder house. I hollowed out the sod in the center, putting in straw enough to prevent eggs from rolling out.

I hatched nine chicks from twelve eggs. One the hen killed by kicking a piece of sod on it. I left the hen and chicks in the brooder house for three days during which time they ate very little. I then put the hen and chicks in an enclosed yard 22 feet by 30 feet. I put an old umbrella in the yard and that was all the shelter they have had all summer.

I fed them boiled eggs and boiled potatoes, both mashed very fine, with lettuce or onions cut fine and mixed. This I fed for ten days. I then gave them whole hemp and canary seed, half and half, alternating this with cheese curd which I made quite dry. This was their staple food for two months. I then

gave them the same as I fed my hens scratch feed with plenty of green food. They are especially fond of lettuce. I keep plenty of shells and fresh water before them.

I have had no trouble whatever in raising my birds, but as this is my first attempt I do not know what luck I might have with a larger number. I think they will prove profitable to me as several have declared their intention of purchasing eggs in the spring.

My birds have cost me about 17 cents apiece so far, for I had the milk for curd and had my own eggs with which to feed them. I expect to sell eggs and raise more pheasants next spring.

I have made a shelter of cornstalks fastened securely to a stake driven in the ground and they use it whenever we have a severe wind or rainstorm. I do not know how it will work this winter but will keep the snow away from the openings and I am sure they will use it as they seem to feel more at home in it than in a building.

I hope my experience will encourage some other reader of *The Game Breeder* to raise more pheasants.



NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

New Places.

We were consulted about four or five new game preserves last week which have just started or are about to start. These, with the Experiment Station of the Game Conservation Society and the large preserve of the L. I. Game Breeders' Association, indicate that the game breeding industry is keeping up well considering the times. The combined capacity of these new plants will be large. Hundreds of elk and deer, and many thousands of pheasants, quail, wild ducks and some grouse, wild turkeys, rabbits and hares will be produced annually and added to the nation's food supply.

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Importation of Live Quail.

We have heard many excellent reports of shipments of live quail, including many from far away Mexico. There also have been some losses due to the overcrowded condition of express companies or carelessness. One shipper reported that the food sent for the quail in transit from Mexico was delivered by an express company as a separate shipment some days after the quail arrived in a Northern State for the most part dead, we believe. The losses may be made the excuse for advising the Biological Society that the importation of quail is all wrong. We hope that importations again will be permitted not later than September or October, and if they are not we shall want to know the reason.

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Shipping One Day Old Pheasants and Ducks.

We advise all breeders to try the sale of one-day old pheasants and ducks. Just before the war started the sale of one-day old pheasants had begun in England with good results. Broods of pheasants with a hen were shipped successfully for considerable distances. An experiment made by the Game Conservation Society last year proved that one-day old pheasants can be shipped safely and

those who have eggs unsold should hatch them and advertise one-day old birds, offering to send with them the hen which hatched the young birds.

We intended last year to make experiments with one-day old mallards and black ducks but the matter was delayed owing to the press of other business until it was too late and the breeders could not furnish the young ducks. We shall make experiments with one-day old ducks this year.

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Ducks and Incubators.

Since there has been a great scarcity of hens for breeding purposes this year and the prices are high, breeders should try hatching duck eggs in incubators. Duck eggs undoubtedly can be hatched in incubators provided they have the proper moisture and we hope our readers who use incubators will report results to *The Game Breeder*. Remember always that you like to read about what others are doing and that they will enjoy reading about your experiments, both the successes and the failures, if the cause of the failure is stated.

There are many big commercial duck hatcheries where thousands of Pekin and other domesticated ducks are reared annually. The Game Conservation Society will have many wild duck eggs hatched by these commercial breeders and the results of the experiments will be reported in *The Game Breeder*.

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Bobwhites.

The demand for quail far exceeded the supply as usual. All of the Northern and Western birds offered quickly were sold at excellent prices. We heard of a Western breeder who had a good lot of bobwhite quail and at once sent an order for them but he reported that they were all sold the day before our letter arrived.

There is a growing and intelligent disposition to regard quail bred and owned by game farmers as entirely distinct from

wild quail said to be owned by the State. In some States, Indiana, Massachusetts and others, quail breeding is a legal industry and we have heard of sales by breeders without interference in States which have not yet repaired their game laws so as to make it no longer criminal to profitably produce any kind of food on a farm.

The game officer who would attempt just now to break up a food producing industry would not help the political party to which he belongs much. It is gratifying to observe that the best State game officers are inclined to favor the food producers and to encourage them rather than to arrest them as criminals.

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Mexican Quail.

The importers found great difficulty in getting all the quail they wanted in Mexico. An absurd ruling of the authorities at Washington prevented the breeders from attempting to trap quail until the breeding season was nearly at hand and although the date was advanced a little after we protested against the ruling it was too late to make the importations a great success.

One of the larger importers reported to *The Game Breeder* that there was a strike among the trappers who refused to work during Holy Week and immediately thereafter corn planting began and the trappers were engaged in this industry.

There were some complaints about losses of birds in shipping. The express companies were not able to handle the birds as promptly as they should.

It seems strange that the Government should persist in surrounding a food industry with restrictions which are sure to work out badly, but this, of course, is one of the necessary incidents to game politics. We have pointed out often that the poultry business quickly would be killed in America if the game politicians applied their efforts to poultry.

Quail should be imported at any time during the year when the importer deems it wise to make the shipments. The birds

should not be held up in crates at the border until they become diseased or weakened so as to not stand the long journey. They should be shipped promptly to reputable game farmers who would quickly release them in large inclosures and see that the losses be obviated. If the Government persists in its desire to have the bird looked over by "hoss-doctors," as one of our readers says, the inspection might be made on the game farm of the importer and before any sales be made from such a place.

Thousands of Hungarian partridges are imported annually to England (or were before the war started) without any nonsense being applied to the industry and the result was that the people during a long open season could buy cheap partridges in the markets. Game often was much cheaper than poultry or other meats and with the vast areas at our disposal in America we could have cheaper game for the people to eat than any country in the world provided some of the game officers who regulate importations and other matters can acquire a little common sense.

Sport has nothing to fear from game being made tremendously abundant on many game farms and very cheap in many markets.

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Profits in Eggs.

It is true as Mr. Foote said in *The Game Breeder* for May that it is not as simple and easy to rear game as it is to rear poultry. For those who have learned the art of game keeping the rearing of pheasants is not much more difficult than the rearing of poultry is and Mr. Foote will agree with us, no doubt, that the rearing of certain species of wild ducks is about as simple and easy as the rearing of domesticated ducks is.

The sale of eggs tends to make game breeding profitable for the beginner. Any one can pick up eggs and they are safely shipped in numerous excellent containers or egg boxes. Pheasants will lay numerous eggs in comparatively small inclosures and all breeders admit that

the birds require less food than the ordinary barnyard hens do.

Pheasant eggs are small and the shipping charges are light. These are paid by the shipper and it is a rule of the game breeding business that cash payments for birds and eggs accompany the orders so that there are no losses due to bad accounts. Pheasant eggs sell readily at the beginning of the season at \$3 and \$3.50 per dozen and at \$20 and \$25 per hundred in large lots. Late eggs sell for \$15 per hundred and we once heard but only once of a sale of eggs in America as low as \$10 per hundred. This was at the end of the season and only a few hundred eggs were sold at the price named. The eggs needed for hatching purposes had been more than supplied and the late eggs offered at \$10 quickly were sold without an advertisement.

In England, where game keeping is common and in fact quite universal, early pheasant eggs usually sell for two pounds or about ten dollars a hundred and there is a slight reduction as the season advances. No doubt when game farms and preserves become numerous in America as they are in England we may expect a reduction in the price of eggs. But for several years we predict that pheasant eggs will sell at from \$15 to \$25 per hundred and those who place their advertisements early in *The Game Breeder* will get the best results.

Just here we would remind our readers that too often they wait until May to send in their advertisements or until they are reminded that they should do so by seeing a big surplus of eggs after they have all they can set. It would be a good plan to put up a little notice in the hatching house or feedroom stating that egg advertisements to get the best results should be sent to *The Game Breeder* in December and January at the latest.

Those who carry space advertisements or even a breeder's card by the year of course come first when the rush is on to buy eggs and the late advertisers cannot expect to get the good results obtained by the provident who advertise early and keep the advertisement standing through the breeding season.

Wild ducks are easily handled and the eggs bring about the same prices asked for pheasant eggs.

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Remarkable Shipments of Quail.

Quail shipped to the Long Island, N. Y., Game Breeders Association from Mexico and other distant points arrived alive without the loss of a single bird. A loss of ten or twenty per cent would not have been surprising, but to have large shipments of several dozen birds each come through without the loss of a single bird is gratifying as well as remarkable.

One shipment of blue quail from a far Western State was headed for the preserve when the editor of *The Game Breeder* heard that the State Department had not issued the license to have them in possession which he had been informed was applied for and which he presumed was issued. The birds instantly were ordered shipped to Northport and the express agent was notified to deliver them to a licensed friend of the association the presumption being that he would gladly take care of the unexpected guests when the situation was explained. The editor of *The Game Breeder* is such a stickler for obeying the laws no matter how rotten they may seem that he would not favor having birds overnight without a license even if the error be due to neglect. On the other hand when fool arrests are made of persons who are unaware that they cannot have birds even after they have paid the fine or initiation until the clerk having the matter in charge decides to issue the license, the editor of *The Game Breeder* is glad to go to the assistance of such criminals and see if a jury will convict them and send them to jail for having birds in possession after they have paid the fine or license because a clerk has neglected to issue it. Why should there be any license charge or penalty applied to food producers? Massachusetts charges nothing for the right to produce game as food.

It is now time to begin advertising pheasants, ducks and wild turkeys, quail, etc., for late summer and fall delivery.

Hen Shortage.

From all over the country reports come indicating a difficulty of procuring hens for breeding purposes and there are complaints about high prices. The new Game Breeding Association, on Long Island, N. Y., like the other syndicate shoots, clubs and preserves, has experienced this difficulty. Duncan Dunn, superintendent of the New Jersey State Game Farm, said it is a hard job to get hens this year. It keeps us on the road all the time after setting hens—40 cents a pound for an old hen, some price, eh? And they are hard to get at that. The price of young pheasants and pheasants for fall delivery will be affected, no doubt, by the scarcity of hens.

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Use of Incubators.

The incubator will be used more than ever this year and we hope many of our readers will keep records of their work with the incubator and send them to *The Game Breeder*. Remember always that you are interested in reading about what other members of the society are doing and that they will be much interested in reading your experiences.

The Long Island Game Breeders Association and the experiment station of the Game Conservation Society will have many wild duck eggs hatched in incubators this season, including eggs of some of the more valuable species. The results of these experiments will be published in *The Game Breeder* and the reports undoubtedly will be favorable since many breeders now entertain the opinion that good strong wild ducks can be produced by incubators.

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Licenses for Aviary Species.

It seems to be generally conceded that no State licenses are required to breed the aviary species of pheasants. Intelligent State officers see that there is no necessity or reason for asking the breeder of aviary, or non-sporting pheasants to pay for a permit to have them in his possession or to sell them. The birds always have been sold to zoos and private owners of aviaries without buyer

or seller paying any license fee. This is highly proper since there is no more sense in a State game department collecting license fees from the owners of non-game birds than there would be in the collection of fines from those who have canaries, poll-parrots or other singers or squawkers. We are told that this matter has been passed on properly by at least one State commission. It seems peculiar that any commission should be called on to pass on such a question. The State department which would attempt to collect from the owners of aviary or non-game pheasants should with equal propriety call upon the owners of barn-yard hens for a tip.

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Abundance of Eggs.

Many reports come from the game farms and preserves that the hens are laying finely. There will be a tremendous yield of pheasant and wild duck eggs this season. Certainly hundreds of thousands and probably millions of these eggs will be sold.

Grouse and quail eggs are not so plentiful in the market as we would like to see them but this is due to the exterminating effect of game laws in many States which often do not permit the owners of grouse or quail to sell their eggs. This is so silly that many owners are beginning to argue that it cannot be the law; that the legislators cannot be presumed to be fools and that when laws are enacted protecting the rare and vanishing State quail and their eggs they were not intended to apply to birds and eggs owned by individuals. We have long believed the courts would so decide if any of the food producers be arrested and of course intelligent State officers do not wish to see any more arrests of people for selling eggs or food which they own. The warden of the old style who delighted in making trouble has for the most part passed into "innocuous desuetude."

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Gambell's Quail.

The Game Conservation Society will make an important experiment with Gambell's quail this season. The birds

are handsome and very good to shoot and to eat and if they can be established in the Eastern States they will add a pleasing variety to the bag. The first shipment of these birds from the Far West came through safely without the loss of a single bird.

The Long Island Game Breeders' Association.

Although the Long Island Game Breeders' Association, one of the new shooting syndicates, made a late start it seems likely the members will have some very good shooting next fall. Here, as elsewhere, there has been difficulty in gathering enough hens for breeding purposes, but there are many ways of getting around this trouble. One-day old birds will be used. Wild duck eggs will be hatched in incubators and these added to the wild nesting game on the preserve and some hand-reared pheasants and ducks should make the shooting good in October. It will be interesting to report that shooting can be provided even when a late start is made.

The membership in this new shoot is filling up rapidly and it seems certain there will be a waiting list before the shooting opens.

Chicken Growing Scarce.

J. H. McKeever, Aberdeen, S. D., says: The chicken shooting was exceedingly scarce, the coveys being few and far between. Chickens are rapidly disappearing from the prairies of South Dakota as a game bird, and it is estimated that unless the law be invoked to protect them during a period of years, it will not be long before they are wholly exterminated. There was talk last year in this State, as well as in North Dakota, of placing a closed season on chickens for the next five years, but nothing has been done in that regard.

A Blue Report.

Del Dunning, *Union Star*, Schenectady, N. Y., says: Game conditions in Schenectady County are poor. There are many enthusiastic hunters in Sche-

nectady, however, and it is said that some of them have so preyed upon their imagination as to make themselves believe that there really is game in Schenectady County, but there isn't. I have gone over the wilder parts and have talked with others who have "explored" the county and it is generally agreed that when it comes to real live game Schenectady County can't be included on the list. A few rabbits, partridge and pheasants are seen now and then and sometimes an occasional fox is reported but they are never actually shot and brought in, just "seen."

Good County to Start Game Breeding Associations.

HAS MANY SPORTSMEN.

However, as I have already said, Schenectady boasts of a large number of enthusiastic sportsmen. These fellows have gotten together now and then and formed rifle clubs for target and trapshooting, but none of them has flourished and all have petered out except the Niskayuna Rifle Club, which has a range near the city of Schenectady. The Schenectady Fish and Game Protective Association is a sportsman's club formed of real sportsmen who know the game. Their activities have run along fishing to a large extent in this county, while annually most of the members make a trip to the Adirondacks for deer hunting.

There has never been any real objection to trapshooting or the formation of rifle clubs, the only trouble being that interest could not be kept up and the fellows began to lag in enthusiasm. A good organization could be started in the city, I believe, formed of trapshooting men, that would prove to be permanent if a real effort were made to get all the enthusiastic gunners together.—*Remington Live News Notes*.

Good Work.

It was reported last month that the N. Y. legislature had voted the able fish culturist, Mr. Titcomb, out of office. The Governor promptly vetoed the bill, and Mr. Titcomb remains.

A Poor Time.

It seems to be a poor time for the game politicians to trifle with such an important food supply as game and game fish, which are becoming plentiful under the influence of the more game movement advocated by The Game Breeder.

Ornithological Fun at the Hearing.

At the hearing on the bill to make the District of Columbia a game prohibition area there were as usual some humorous remarks. Mr. Wheeler, a member of the committee, observed: "Well, I would like to have a woodcock once more before I die. They are the finest eating in the world." Mr. Graham, another member of the committee, describing a visit to the local market, said:

"Red-heads were \$1.75 a pair. That was when they were quite cheap. I paid \$2.50 for a pair one day myself in order to see what they were like."

MR. WHEELER: "In order to what?"

MR. GRAHAM: "In order to see what they were like."

MR. WHEELER: "You didn't eat them!"

MR. GRAHAM: "Yes; and they were not very good, because they had been brought in here from a distance."

MR. REED: "Are cranes considered a food bird?"

MR. GRAHAM: "Well some of them are. The sand bill crane is edible. It is quite a good bird."

MR. MASON: "All except the drumstick."

MR. GRAHAM: "Yes." (Laughter.)

A Catechism.

At the hearing the following:

MR. WHEELER—Let me ask you this question: What do you consider to be the chief object of these game laws? Are they only for the protection of sportsmen or what are they for?

MR. BURNHAM—I think the chief object is to keep up the supply for shooting.

MR. WHEELER—For shooting?

MR. BURNHAM—Yes; just so the supply will not be destroyed.

MR. WHEELER—Then it is to secure sport.

MR. BURNHAM—To keep breeding stock up; yes.

MR. MASON—You do not mean entirely for sport, do you? What we call the sportsman doesn't shoot entirely for sport. He doesn't shoot a bird that is not eatable.

MR. BURNHAM—No, it is for sport and for food, and the general recreation, and also incidentally it benefits the farmer, because these birds all have some agricultural value.

MR. CROSSER—Of course, if you are looking at it from the standpoint of the agricultural value, you would not be thinking about shooting them at all would you?

MR. BURNHAM—Well, perhaps not. It is utilization to the greatest extent possible.

MR. CROSSER—I am not quarreling with you. I just want to get your viewpoint from a rather fundamental standpoint, whether you had objection to the killing of game, or whether your purpose was to increase the supply of game.

Some Answers That We Would Make.

Paradoxical as it may seem, shooting may be made to cause a rapid increase of the game and cause an abundance on places where no game can be found today. Such shooting has a great economic importance. Darwin says if shooting were prohibited in England there would be fewer game animals than there are. The reason is that sport properly conducted controls the natural enemies of the game and the sportsmen safely can shoot, eat and sell great quantities which would have been eaten by vermin had it not been controlled in the interest of sport and the food supply. Game birds are beneficial to agriculture because they eat insects. Shooting and the sale of game which cause game abundance for food should be encouraged and not prevented. Often when game properly is looked after the insects become so scarce that there are hardly enough to go round. Ant eggs are sold to supply the deficiency.

S. A. Tucker.

A note from Parker Bros., makers of the celebrated Parker gun, informs us of the death of Mr. S. A. Tucker, who served the company continuously for forty-two years. The letter concludes: "In his death we lose a trusted and faithful employee and his death is a great loss to us all."

The Massachusetts Report.

The Annual Report of the Massachusetts Commissioners on Fisheries and Game, as usual, is an excellent public document filled with valuable information. One of the best suggestions is "the possibility of establishing State owned reservations for hunting. We have long entertained the opinion that the State never would be able successfully to sell the right to shoot up the farms for one dollar a year, and that the result of shooting game on private farms where no attempt was made to look after the birds properly and to protect them from their natural enemies, to feed them in winter, to plant covers and preserve suitable nesting places. The vermin and other natural checks to the increase of the game are sufficient to reduce it every year to a point where scarcely enough stock birds are left for breeding purposes in order to prevent a continued diminution of the supply. When sportsmen are permitted to shoot the stock birds left after vermin has freely dined it is evident the game must become extinct, as it has on vast areas throughout the country.

The place for public shooting is on the public bays and marshes and on the uncultivated and waste uplands, but as the vast breeding grounds in Canada are drained the wild fowl must decrease in numbers, no matter how many game laws be enacted, provided shooting be permitted, unless some game breeding be done. It is highly important, therefore, that some of the marshes where wild ducks are bred be preserved both as public reservations and as private breeding grounds where the production of ducks will be carried on because it pays to do so.

The mountain and waste lands also

will not stand much shooting unless a part of the area be set aside for breeding purposes, and there can be no doubt that noisy refuges where game is produced for sport or for profit will produce far more game, when properly handled, than any quiet refuge where game is not properly looked after will. The game which will go out from preserves where the shooting is lively will be far more abundant than the game which will overflow from a quiet refuge where most of it is eaten by vermin.

There is much valuable matter in the Massachusetts report, and we hope to publish some of it later.

Birds Versus Cats.

(A good poster issued by the Massachusetts Game Commission.—EDITOR.)

The nesting season of the birds has arrived. Whether or not there will be the desired increase in birds this season depends very largely on the protection which will be received by the adult birds during the hatching period, and the young birds until they can fly and have learned to shift for themselves.

One of the greatest menaces to the bird life of the country today is the house cat. There are very few cats which, if given the opportunity, will not kill a mother bird on the nest or a helpless fledgling fluttering around on the ground. The great tragedy is as likely to occur in the clematis along the porch, or in the flower garden, as it is in the remote places frequented by the so-called "wild" hunting house cat.

This is no attempt to indict the cat. We have great sympathy for and appreciation of the affection between Tabby and her owner. We are simply asking that at this crucial period the birds be given all benefit of the doubt.

We earnestly ask the owner of every house cat during the next three months to assume the responsibility of seeing that the cat will not be given an opportunity to kill birds.

The country is at war. To win the war we must have food. It is common knowledge that the birds are a tremendous factor in the protection of the food

supply from insects. Cats, if unrestrained, especially at this season, will tremendously weaken that protection. The logic is simple. The birds are trying to do their bit. Let us all help them.

Commissioners on Fisheries and Game.
May 15, 1918.

Practical Results

The Hercules Powder Company well may feel proud of the practical results which largely are due to its splendid advertising campaign urging game farming in America. We do not know who wrote the following lines quoted from the advertising of the powder company, but the writer should be given full credit for performing a great public service.

Our readers will please take their hats off to the writer when reading the following:

Whether or not you are in a position actually to raise game, you are bound to profit by this movement. Although the primary benefits to be derived from an increased production of game will accrue to those who have the land on which to produce it and the sportsmen who shoot it, there is practically no class in the country that will not be benefited by a large increase in the available food supply.

The game crop of Europe is a very valuable asset to the countries that raise it. In a report on pheasants made in 1913 by the Commissioners of Fisheries and Game of Massachusetts, we find the following:

"The pheasant crop of England is an exceedingly important one, not only for the money derived from the sale of birds both at home and abroad, but particularly in controlling the gypsy and brown tailed moths, army worms and other pests which have devastated large areas where the bird population was abnormally deficient."

To the farmer and the farmer's wife, game breeding offers a splendid opportunity for increased profits. The demand for eggs and breeding stock is so much greater than the supply, and will be for a long time to come, that no one who produces game birds has any difficulty in disposing of them. There are two ways in which farmers make the game crop pay; through the sale of birds and eggs direct, and through renting the shooting privilege on their lands to groups of sportsmen. In the latter case, it is often advisable for a number of farmers with adjacent lands to combine for this purpose. The sportsmen's club pays a price agreed upon for each bird raised to maturity and liberated. In this way, good sport is provided and an appreciable addition is made to the farm income.

Moreover, the rank and file of shooters

who may not care to incur the slight expense necessary to obtain this class of shooting, will be greatly benefited because the more game that is produced the more shooting there will be for everybody. No idea could be more erroneous than one which shooters sometimes express to the effect that game farming limits the average man's opportunity for sport by creating rich men's preserves and encouraging farmers to post their lands. It is impossible to keep all the game raised on any preserve or posted area, and wherever they are located, shooting in surrounding territory is greatly improved. This applies wherever game is actually produced. The idea is somewhat new in this country, and it may take time to educate the public to realize that if we grow one thousand birds on land that formerly produced only one hundred, we shall all share in the increased sport which will be provided. However, it is such a logical proposition that in most cases it only needs explaining.

Game or Vermin?

In a recent issue of the state conservation commission's magazine some interesting figures are presented regarding the damage done to small game by marauding vermin. In a little over six months there were killed on a farm near Syracuse the following deadly enemies of game: Ten large wood owls, eighteen hawks, twenty-three skunks, ten weasels, eighteen cats, fifty-seven rats, nineteen crows and thirty-six water snakes. This is surprising in a farming section, with scanty wood land to provide cover for these marauders. On another farm, in a section well wooded, there were taken in only three months thirteen large owls, twenty weasels, twenty-six skunks, five cats, six large hawks, five hedgehogs, seventy-six barn rats, one mink and one red fox.

Fancy the amount of pheasants, partridge, quail, woodcock, grouse and rabbits required to feed these vermin. If the enemies of game are as abundant as these figures indicate, it is no wonder that, in spite of careful and intelligent conservation work, small game is becoming constantly more scarce. Every farmer should set a few traps, at least. Protection for his poultry should be incentive enough, and sportsmen everywhere should do what they can to assist the farmers in this work.

[The above figures are mild. We recently

(Continued on page 89.)

The Game Breeder

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THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, INC.
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D. W. HUNTINGTON, President,
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J. C. HUNTINGTON, Secretary.
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If the Congress heeds the requests of the game prohibitionists and passes migratory laws granting the right to game law enthusiasts to make criminal laws which should be made by Congress if they are made at all and granting the prohibition of food in the District of Columbia, which is common in all the capitals of the world, the game law industry, which is absurdly common in the States, will become a regular industry each winter at Washington. The country will acquire an immense lot of new criminal absurdities and the game as food will become scarcer and scarcer. All scientists know why this must be so.

The Congress would do well to enact no food prohibition or restrictive game laws at the present session but to appoint a committee to investigate the subject of game as an abundant food supply. Such a committee should hear the opinions of able naturalists as to the impossibility of increasing the food supply by enacting non-sale laws and the scientific certainty that the food can be made abundant and cheap in all markets provided the new industry be encouraged and not prevented by laws.

We believe if Congress will investigate the subject of game as an abundant food supply the result will be the creation of a National Bureau of Game, somewhat

on the lines of the Bureau of Fisheries, which is a highly creditable bureau.

It will not be necessary to close the Washington market to migratory game and other kinds any more than it is necessary to close the other markets of the world to migratory game and other kinds provided the subject of game as a food supply be handled with ordinary intelligence by legislators.

CONGRESS SHOULD INVESTIGATE.

The Congress can provide a very interesting hearing provided it will order an investigation of the subject of game as a food supply. We can send some farmers to such a hearing who know how to breed and are breeding game abundantly.

We think the committee should visit a number of the food producing plants and take the evidence on the ground. We do not know Mr. Wheeler, but we would like to see him appointed on a committee to take the evidence, and if the committee will visit some of the places we will suggest we will see that Mr. Wheeler eats "a woodcock once more before he dies."

We would like to have Mr. Johnson of Kentucky, serve on the proposed committee to investigate and sample American game before any action is taken prohibiting the sale and eating of this desirable food. We believe if Mr. Johnson will hear the evidence and sample the food he will agree with us that it should be legal to produce this food in safe woods where no birds occur to-day and that the producer should not be prevented from marketing his food under proper regulations. It is a mistake to say that we must continue to arrest the producer and prevent his getting stock birds and eggs until such time as he has made the birds plentiful and cheap. This is not the way to make any food abundant. The producer should be supplied with stock birds and eggs, and The Game Breeder will tell him quickly how he can have a good crop of ruffed grouse in his wood

and a big crop of prairie grouse in his fields. The last named are especially suitable for many parts of Kentucky. The Game Conservation Society will guarantee to restore this grouse to Kentucky and also to Ohio provided Congress will help a little and not hinder this food producing industry. We shall ask to have only two witnesses heard, one from each State, provided Congress will investigate. We would like to have the evidence taken on the ground in both cases but will promise that the witnesses will proceed to Washington if they be invited. They are not common lobbyists such as too often gather vast sums to procure absurd legislation.

The more we read the report of the Committee on the District of Columbia the more we become convinced that it would be advisable for the entire committee to serve as a committee on investigation of game as a quick and abundant food supply. We can have some excellent invitations sent to the committee, provided it will conduct such an investigation. All sides should be heard, especially the farmers and sportsmen other than "game politicians."

RUFFED GROUSE AND GAME ABUNDANCE.

Mr. Graham reported that ruffed grouse were selling for \$7.00 a pair in Washington. We will agree to send these birds in for about \$2.00 per pair provided the United States Government will furnish some stock birds and eggs just as the government furnishes trout and trout eggs to those who will produce fish. A bureau of game easily could produce a lot of quail and ruffed grouse in the District of Columbia and on some experimental farms near Washington and furnish stock birds and eggs to those who would produce the food. How long would it take to make the ruffed grouse very abundant in woods where there are none provided the price \$7.00 per pair be made known? We can furnish the evidence showing how quickly grouse and other foods can be produced provided Congress is willing to hear the evidence.

We would like to have an investigating committee hear the evidence on the ground where wild turkeys and other foods have been made abundant. We believe if a committee will visit some of the producing plants and will sample the abundant food and listen to the evidence of capable scientific men as to how quickly all markets can be filled with game as food the result will be better than turning over the crime-making power of Congress to a committee appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture with permission to make as many criminal regulations as can be imagined by those who have planned thousands of game laws. Such a law will produce a lot of crime. By no possibility can it produce food for the people at moderate prices.

STANDARDIZING BAIT.

The sheriff of York County, Maine, hit upon a happy thought and appears to have posed wisely when he planned to standardize the fisherman's bait in Maine. *The World*, N. Y., says:

Any apprehension that the fishing season in Maine might prove a failure this year because of the war has now been happily dispelled by prompt official action. The Sheriff of York County decrees that an angler may lawfully possess two quarts of whiskey, and with that individual allowance of bait the season ought to be a highly successful one. The official ruling has become public through the testimony at a public trial.

This generous provision for the fisherman evidences praiseworthy zeal on the part of Maine to conserve an important State industry. The Portland Eastern Argus thinks that "some fussy people might object that this is treating the State's Prohibitory Law like a scrap of paper." On the contrary, it is a confirmation of ancient usages which were menaced by modern legislation. It is a concession in a conflict of jurisdiction and as between the old unwritten law and the statutory law. Fishing has immemorial rights which have broadened down from precedent to precedent, and if they run counter to Prohibition acts, why, so much the worse for the latter.

For a Legislature to attempt to proscribe fisherman's bait is ultra vires. The most it can do is to standardize the allowance, and the action taken by the Maine Sheriff to that end shows a wise discretion. Under this tolerant policy the quest of the trout and the salmon in the Maine lakes should flourish and prosper, war or no war.

WELL SAID.

Mr. John C. O'Connor made a sensible suggestion to the committee at the hearing on the bill to make Washington, D. C. "dry" in so far as game is concerned. Mr. O'Connor said:

"Now when the State of New York adopted its constitution it provided that the laws of England, which were extant on the fourth of July, 1776, should be the laws of the State. We start then with the common laws of England, and if we had stopped with it, stuck to the common law of England, there would have been plenty of game to-day. We departed from it, and we have no game." We went in for impossible game laws and lost our game. Scientists know why.

The attempt to make game abundant by licensing trespassers to shoot up the farms and by arresting farmers if they produced any game for food or for profit has not resulted in any game or even in any shooting in many States. Quail and grouse shooting are prohibited for terms of years or forever. Mr. O'Connor does not seem to be aware that in densely populated England 5,000 market gunners shoot migratory fowl on public waters and sell the birds in the markets.

LICENSES AND COMMON SENSE.

We heard not long ago from a western game officer that numerous people in his state, who owned game birds prior to the enactment of a game breeders' law requiring breeders to have a license, had neglected or refused to pay for licenses. It seemed doubtful if it would be popular to endeavor to make them pay for licenses since they owned their birds before the law was enacted. We are told there are quite a number of breeders in New York State who have no licenses. It seems to be unreasonable to charge for permits to produce food just at this time, and Massachusetts seems to have settled the matter properly, making no charge for permits to produce any kind of game food on the farms.

We have always advised people to obey the laws no matter what they are and to seek to have them changed when they appear to be outrageous. The courts

properly uphold the laws even when they appear to be wrong, deciding rightly that the proper remedy is with the legislature which made them, the courts not being empowered to make laws but only to interpret them and to decide matters arising under them.

It is a legal absurdity, as often we have pointed out, for the law to say the people may produce certain kinds of food pheasants and mallards, for example, but not quail and wood-duck. It is well known that the quail and the wood-duck are as good, and many say better, foods than the first-named birds, and since they are nearing extinction the quail and the wood-duck need the breeders' attention more than the pheasants and common ducks do. Common sense is progressing slowly in America, but with the farmer's assistance we believe it will gain ground rapidly next winter in many legislative halls.

GAME AS FOOD.

Game of certain species rapidly is becoming so abundant in America that the supply soon will exceed the demand provided a lot of game be not eaten as food. The breeders should insist upon all of the markets being open to the sale of game. We can see that at the rate game now is being produced that it is highly important to encourage small shooting clubs as well as the big preserve owners to send a lot of the food to market. The sale of game makes it possible for sportsmen of comparatively small means to have excellent shooting during long open seasons. The prohibition of the sale of game as food has a tendency to prevent the production of the food, and the effect soon will be bad on the producers. It is good statesmanship just now to encourage the production of food. The small politician who attempts to hinder the new industry should be highly unpopular.

Muskrat is the favorite meat of the Winnebago Indian during the war. He declares it tastes much like venison and it is healthful food.

(Continued from page 85.)

received a record of several hundred great horned owls being taken near a pheasant rearing field and many of the vermin records we have from our members make the foregoing look small.

The use of traps undoubtedly is advisable, but care should be used not to take the game birds. We had quail for breakfast once because a keeper set his to protect small pheasants on fence posts and by the quail for whistling stands. We once caught a young wild turkey in a trap set for ground vermin. A Vermont reader recently mentioned catching a black duck but this happened to be a good thing, since the bird was not injured. During the coming year the control of vermin and the proper use of traps to protect game will occupy much space in *The Game Breeder*. A number of articles by experts will be written especially for the magazine.

It is now time to send advertisements.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Game Breeder:

Have you Gamble quail or any other quail for sale and your best price to us. I would like two pair any kind of quail, also want a buck deer. N. W.

[This inquiry, like many other similar ones sent to *The Game Breeder*, can only be answered thus: "Write to the advertisers in *The Game Breeder*." The Game Conservation Society experiments with game, promotes shooting clubs and creates customers for its advertisers. It does not in any case compete with them. Neither the Society nor its publication deals in game. Sometimes when a reader wants a special order filled which we know only a few persons can fill we may suggest a number of breeders for the applicant to write to. It evidently would be unfair for us to recommend one advertiser against another, and we have had letters from readers (when we declined to do so) stating that they appreciated our refusal and admired the high standard the magazine had set for itself in all matters. We believe those who advertise are reliable. We quickly take up any complaints, and we will not tolerate any unfair dealing.—EDITOR.]

Editor, *The Game Breeder*:

Replying to your editorial suggestion, I will venture to say that a greater inter-

est might be created among the readers of our magazine by a discussion of all varieties of game birds, both native and foreign, and the ornamental aviary birds as well.

No doubt the great majority of American breeders are directly interested in ring-necked pheasants and mallard ducks, but as the natural tendency of human nature is to seek the rare and unusual, many would take up the more uncommon and expensive varieties, if they understood the opportunities for pleasure and profit.

What are the best methods of preserving as practised in European countries?

What success have our breeders had in domesticating ornamental and game birds?

Are South African antelope bred to any extent?

Is it practicable to breed the lyre bird in captivity?

Is anyone breeding the chacalacca, or Mexican pheasant, found in considerable numbers in Texas?

Are Western quail a success in the East?

Let everyone "do his bit" by a contribution of information.

Yours respectfully,
C. N. McELHANEY.

[We would like articles from any of our members who can answer the questions. Some can be answered by people in the office but not all without investigation and inquiry. Western quail have not been successfully introduced in the Eastern States but some of our members are experimenting and will report.—Editor.]

Easily First.

Teacher was impressing upon the class the importance of accurate observation. To illustrate she said, "Now each of you look around this room and tell me what is the most interesting object to you and why."

Tommy Jones was the first to raise his hand.

"Yes, Thomas, what is the most interesting object you have observed?"

"Your desk, please, Miss."

"Why?"

"Billy Baker put a snake in it."



FENCES FOR GAME PRESERVES

The accompanying photograph shows one of our Non-Climbable "RIOT" fences, erected by us, with our indestructible steel fence post 8 feet high, surrounding the Yale Bowl Field, New Haven, Conn.

This fence held in check 80,000 people who attended the Harvard-Yale Game, November 25th, 1916, and 60,000 people who attended the Princeton-Yale Game, November 13th, 1915.

We have this fence and many other excellent designs. It will be to your advantage to secure our Catalogue, that shows many of the best erected fences in this country; also tells about our posts in detail; how to erect a fence; how to paint the fence wire to keep it from rusting.

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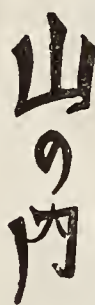
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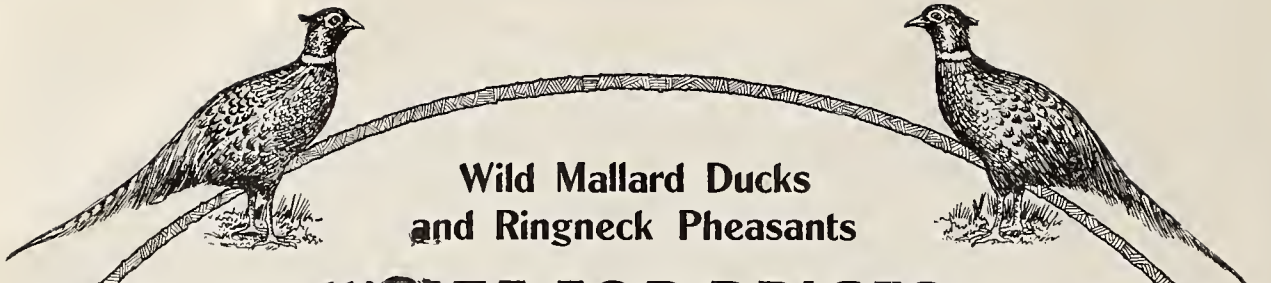
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Member of The American Game Breeders Society

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We will pay 20 cents each for a few copies of our September, 1917, issue. We have requests for this number for people who wish to secure complete files of The Game Breeder; for the Agricultural Department at Washington, which wishes to bind the volumes, and we hope readers who can supply this number will do so. It appears that anyone who has a complete file of The Game Breeder or a set of bound volumes has a valuable lot of books. We often are surprised at the requests for old numbers and for complete sets which we can not fill. Just now we are trying to get a copy for Mr. Clyde Terrell, one of our advertisers.

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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XIII.

JULY, 1918

No. 4

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
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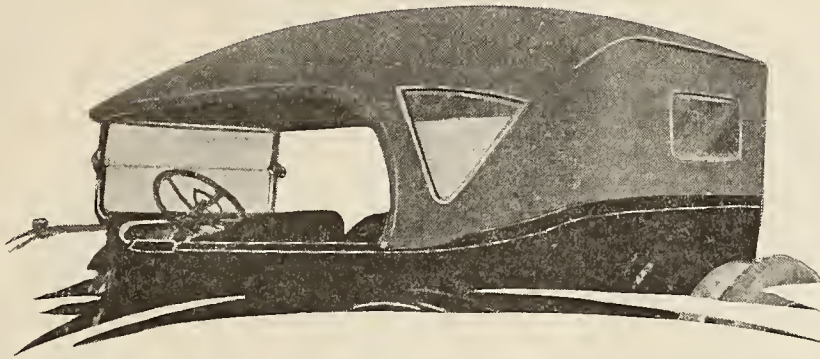
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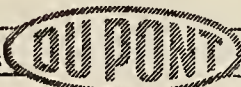
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The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

The Migratory Bird Bill.

The latest reports from Washington indicate that the migratory bird bill passed the House of Representatives after it had been repaired, to put "more teeth in it," and that it had gone to a conference committee of the House and Senate. We are informed that the chances are that the bill with all the vicious "teeth" in it will become a law.

Since an army of game politicians will be created, necessarily selected from those who have escaped the draft, we have no doubt these politicians will be able to hold on to their law after they secure it since they can make glowing reports from time to time about the fines collected from people who may be found to have birds or eggs in their possession or who have ventured to ship or sell birds or eggs which may appear to belong to the migratory species. Since wild game has become very scarce some State wardens, recently, have found it profitable to raid the owners of pheasants and to arrest people who trapped birds for breeding purposes or had eggs in their possession even when taken from irrigated fields and other exposed situations. Under the new law the opportunity for national wardens to arrest game breeders will be even better than they are under many State laws. The opportunities for graft also will be splendid since the wardens practically will be responsible to no one, a large committee being supposed to control them. The committee, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, will make numerous regulations having the effect of criminal laws. These will be

known to very few persons since they will be published in bulletins and changed often.

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Animus of the New Congress.

The new Congress of lawmakers appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture has full power to create new crimes and the new national wardens are given the right to raid any one and search his premises without warrant, excepting only dwelling houses, which for some reason are excepted—a warrant is required to raid the dwelling houses of food producers.

The animus of those appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture under the former unconstitutional bill and who no doubt will hold over and make the new crimes under the new law, is important. One of them recently said to a Congressional committee:

"We could not follow the English principles here without upsetting what most Americans consider a system way ahead of the old continental and European system, where only the rich men have the privilege of shooting. We don't want that system in this country."

When this individual (who evidently is ignorant of the fact that many thousands of poor people in England shoot and trap migratory wild fowl and sell them in the markets as cheap food for the people) was a deputy State Game Warden he openly opposed the passage of the first bill offered in New York permitting the breeding of game for food.

It was not possible to secure a law permitting food production without the danger of a fine or jail sentence until this individual and his associates retired to private life. Later, when it was proposed to permit the breeders in other states to send their food to the New York markets there was more opposition, and now we find the Congress turning over the

crime making power to people of this class. Another member of this committee we understand is opposed to the trapping of stock birds for breeding purposes. Why should A be permitted to kill 20 or 30 birds in a day for sport and B be denied a permit to take 20 or 30 birds for breeding purposes when the result of his activity will be the production of thousands of food birds? In all civilized countries except the United States, the trapping of wild birds for breeding purposes is encouraged and the result is that the game birds always are abundant and cheap in the markets and the poorest classes are permitted to shoot and to trap the wild fowl on all public waters and saltings for the markets.

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Details of the Proposed Law.

Sections one and two of the act provide:

Sec. 1. That unless and except as permitted by regulations made as hereinafter provided, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, attempting to take, capture or kill, possessing, offering for sale, selling, offering to purchase, purchasing, delivering for shipment, shipping, causing to be shipped, delivering for transportation, transporting or causing to be transported by any means whatever, receiving for shipment or transportation, or exporting, at any time or in any manner, any migratory bird included in the terms of the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds, or any part, nest, or egg thereof, is prohibited.

Sec. 2. That, subject to the provisions, and in order to carry out the purposes of the convention, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed, from time to time, to determine when, to what extent, if at all, and by what means, having due regard to the zones of temperature and to the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight of such birds, it is compatible with the terms of the convention to allow the hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, and export of any of said birds, or parts, nests, or eggs thereof, and to adopt suitable regulations permitting and governing the same, in conformity with such determinations, which regulations shall become effective when approved by the President.

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The Restored "Teeth."

When the provision permitting the new force of amateur game policemen to raid the people without warrant was removed from the bill in order to aid its passage, the only original wild lifer not in captivity at once lost interest in the legislation and it seemed likely it would fail since he produced most of the "stuff" or sinews of war needed to carry on an

effective lobby, and in fact was the important figure among the lobbyists, all of whom by the way appear to have been from New York City. The bill having been repaired to suit the chief of the lobby it soon became evident that "full steam ahead" was the order of the day and the smaller lobbyists were delighted as they saw their chief rapidly putting the thing over.

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The War Chest.

Those engaged in the lobby for the legal criminal absurdity had more annual revenues (cash or money in their pants) than is paid for salaries to all of the Governors of the States east of the Mississippi. The last year's revenue of the few New York lobbyists who make an annual business of getting new game laws in all probability was larger than the annual revenues of the Governors of all of the States east and west and possibly of all of the United States Senators for good measure. There can be no doubt that the game law industry is booming. By continuous and active practice these lobbyists learn just how to handle the legislative assemblies and often it is surprising to us to see so large a number of statesmen as there is who refuse to be fooled by the lobby, read the nonsense offered, and vote right. Many, no doubt, are told that it is good politics to run with a lobby which has such vast revenues.

We cannot give all the figures accurately since some of the protective societies do not publish any statements. We have, however, accurate figures showing that the amount collected last year by the chief of the lobby and his smaller imitators is larger than the combined salaries of all of the Governors of the States east of the Mississippi. We can furnish detailed figures up to this amount. This money is gathered for the most part from benevolent old ladies, newly rich magnates and others who seem to be easily plucked. Since one of the lobbyists had \$5,000 of Andrew Carnegie's money in his pants it seemed to us to be in rather bad taste to denounce the benevolent Andrew at the Congressional

hearing for not giving ammunition to his friends when they came to shoot pheasants (?) on his grouse preserve and for not letting them have a single bird to take home to eat because Andrew wanted to make the pheasants (?) so cheap in the markets that it would not be worth while for any one to steal his birds. (See remarks of one of the men who advised the Congress printed on another page.)

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The Toothsome Sections.

SEC. 4. That persons appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act shall, with respect thereto, have the same powers as are conferred by law on marshals with respect to executing the laws of the United States. Any such person shall have authority, *without warrant*, to search any other than a dwelling, and, with warrant, to search any dwelling, if he shall have reason to suspect that there is concealed therein any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg thereof, which has been taken, or is possessed, contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulation made pursuant thereto. The several judges of the courts established under the laws of the United States and United States commissioners may, within their respective jurisdictions, upon proper oath or affirmation showing probable cause, issue warrants in such cases. All such migratory birds, or parts, nests, or eggs thereof, when found shall be seized and held and, upon conviction of the offender, shall be forfeited to the United States and disposed of as directed by the court.

SEC. 5. That any person, association, partnership, or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of said convention or of this Act, or shall violate *or fail to comply with any regulation made pursuant to this Act*, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof *shall be fined* not more than \$500, *or be imprisoned* not more than six months, or both.

Many people throughout the United States now have and own migratory fowl and at proper seasons have the eggs of these birds in possession. If the new army of game policemen raid these people without warrant, as many food producers have been raided in the United States by State wardens, we would advise them not meekly to hand over \$15,000 (the amount taken in one State raid) or any other amount, but to defend their property in the courts. We cannot believe the United States courts will be inclined to send people to jail for having

birds or eggs in their possession provided they procured them before the passage of the act. Any arrests of food producers reported to The Game Breeder will be given full publicity and we shall be glad to take a hand in defending the new criminals just as we have taken a hand in investigating and in some cases defending successfully food producers arrested by State wardens.

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Our Attitude.

We are not opposed to a proper national or State law prohibiting the killing of wild migratory food birds during the nesting season. Such a law easily can be written and placed with other criminal laws in the statute books where those liable to arrest can ascertain what the law says. We are opposed to turning over the crime making power of the United States to a few money-making game law enthusiasts who are permitted to make new crimes often and to publish them in bulletins and who rely upon a special force which will do things which no self-respecting U. S. marshal would ever think of doing. Food producers should be as fairly treated as the rest of the people are. They should not be regulated by a force opposed to their industry.

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A Chance for the States and Territories.

The bill generously provides that nothing in it shall be construed to prevent the several States and Territories from making laws and regulations if they discover anything left undone in the way of preventing "the hunting, taking, capturing, killing, attempting to take, capture or kill, possessing, offering for sale, selling, offering to purchase, purchasing, delivering for shipment, shipping, causing to be shipped, delivering for transportation, transporting or causing to be transported by any means whatever, receiving for shipment," etc., etc., etc., not to tire the reader with the elaborate detailed restrictions. If the States can discover anything to be done after these national restrictions are elaborated into detailed regulations for the bulletins, to

be issued every once in a while when anyone thinks of a new criminal possibility, there may be some reason for keeping up the State departments after the grouse and the quail everywhere have been placed on the song bird list as these birds and the dove and the woodduck have been in many States. Long Island will continue to be a free territory where quail and grouse can be shot, had in possession, transported, taken home to eat, etc., etc., without fear of the police, and we believe it will not be long before some of the quail breeders send food to the markets, atrocious as and criminal as such a performance may seem to the wild lifer and his small train of helpers.

The more we read it the more we regard the migratory bill as a wonderful attempt at statute making, and to think that it was not even written by a lawyer!

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No Appropriation.

As originally written the bill carried an appropriation for \$170,000 to support the force. It was deemed wise, we are told, to ask for the money in some other enactment so as not to attract the attention of the lawmakers to the fact that an ever increasing demand on the treasury was to be made to support the troops who will patrol the country and the game farms seeking criminals who would not be deemed to be criminals in any other country which has sensible laws.

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Placing Quail on Song Bird List a Mistake.

[The following clipping sent by a reader evidently is from an Ohio Newspaper.—Editor]

It looks as though someone has made a mistake in the attempted regulation of gunning.

Reports from every part of Ohio show that the quail, which in many sections was quite numerous, is now almost entirely gone. The fact that these birds were put on the song bird list by laws passed in the last session of the Legislature has worked to a disadvantage and has defeated the very end which the laws sought to attain, according to men who have studied the situation.

During the years past when Ohio had a quail law allowing an open season,

there were sportsmen in almost every county who took it upon themselves to furnish food and gravel, which was scattered for the birds when there was snow and sleet on the ground. The men who looked after the birds that they might go out occasionally during the open season were enemies of the market hunter and trapper, and in hunting they were careful to leave the breeding stock sufficient for the next season.

This is all changed now, it is said. Last year the quail was made a song bird by law. The winter just passed has been the most severe in many years and with weeks of snow and sleet, which prevented the birds from getting food. In many instances an effort was made to save the birds by feeding but it is estimated that fully 75 to 90 per cent of the birds were frozen to death.

Hardly enough quail are now left to give us a breeding stock which has a chance of increasing in numbers. Without the help of the men who in the past were giving the feed and protection which brought many birds through the winter seasons and kept the market hunters and pot-shooters out of the fields, the few birds are in grave danger of disappearing within a very short time.

As a song bird the quail must take care of itself and it is the opinion of game wardens from every district that the birds would have fared better as game birds as they would then have had the help and protection of farmers and sportsmen to insure the conservation.

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The Maine Meeting.

The twenty-second annual meeting of Maine sportsmen was held last week at Mountain View. There was a large attendance and an attractive program. Thursday cards and dancing at the hotel; Friday morning rifle events in the rear of hotel, six matches; afternoon, fly casting match, canoe races; trap shoot at 5 p. m., all in full view from hotel; evening, Billy Hill's exhibition of shooting; business meeting; dancing and cards; Saturday morning, five rifle matches; afternoon, all unfinished events; evening, presentation of prizes, dancing and cards.

BLACK BASS BREEDING.

HON. JOHN W. TITCOMB,

Fish Culturist for New York.

Nearly all species of fishes distributed by the Conservation Commission are susceptible of propagation by artificial methods and can be produced in numbers limited only by the funds available for fish culture operations.

The eggs of both the large mouthed and small mouthed black basses and allied species cannot be artificially manipulated, and for its supplies of such fishes the commission must depend upon the natural reproduction of brood fish held in ponds prepared for the purpose.

The cultivation of these fishes therefore consists in providing ponds which shall give to the maximum number of breeding fish and their young all the essential conditions of a natural environment while at the same time protecting them (so far as possible) from their enemies.

During the early stages of their existence young bass in breeding ponds are exposed to dangers of many kinds, just as they are in the larger waters of their natural habitat.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, various water insects, fish eating birds and mammals, all are destructive to the fry, while the young of the same school prey upon the weaker ones.

The natural spawning period extends over six or eight weeks, and the earlier broods of fry prey upon their younger brethren.

The losses from cannibalism among the little basses are undoubtedly greater in the confines of artificial breeding ponds than among the little basses hatched in larger waters.

The degree of success attained in such work is also governed largely by the state of the weather and other natural conditions beyond the control of the commission.

Located, as they are, along the shoal margins of the ponds the nests receive

the full effect of atmospheric changes. A sudden fall in temperature will often cause the parent fish to desert their nests, and as the eggs and fry are extremely sensitive they are frequently killed or their development injuriously retarded by the cold.

Another unfavorable feature resulting from the location of the nests in shallow water is that it subjects them to the full force of surface drainage and washings, following heavy rains.

Rolly water is extremely injurious to the ova and young of the black bass, and as heavy rains and sudden temperature changes are conditions which must be expected during the season of the year when these fishes spawn, the results of the commission's pond cultural operations are hazardous and uncertain in the extreme.

One year a station may have a good output, and the next year, under apparently similar conditions, very few young fish are produced.

Under most favorable seasonal conditions the commission undertakes to supply to applicants only sufficient young bass for a brood stock, and in a bad season like the one just past, it is impossible to supply even a brood stock to many applicants.

A brood stock means from one to three cans of little bass from three-quarters to two inches in length, the number to a can varying from 250 to 1,000, it being impossible to carry more than one-fourth as many of the three-quarter inch bass as of the two inch fingerlings.

The applicant, who has been accustomed to receive pike, perch or yellow perch in million lots, or some species of trout in lots of several thousands, is naturally disappointed.

The only proper and economic solution of this situation is to afford the basses

proper protection while they are nesting.

It is well known to anglers that the male bass, both large mouth and small mouth, protects the nest while the eggs are incubating and for a short period after the fry have hatched, after which time the young scatter to forage for themselves.

While protecting its nest, the bass resents any intrusion, and will seize almost anything dropped on to the nest. He will take even an unbaited hook being dragged over it.

The capture of these guardians of the eggs and very young fry is easy and requires no skill, but it is a conservative statement to say that for every adult bass removed from the nest there is a corresponding destruction of at least 500 eggs or fry—an amount equal to the average number of little bass supplied by the commission on each application for stocking purposes.

In normal seasons the basses have finished spawning in most New York waters on or about July 1. The last season was so late that the spawning season extended well past the middle of July.

If the nesting bass are protected until July 1 it is believed that, in suitable waters for them, they will be able to maintain themselves by natural reproduction to the limit of the natural food supply.

It must be borne in mind that the basses are naturally warm water fishes—the large mouthed especially so—but that they have been introduced into many cold waters better suited to some species of trout.

In these colder waters the basses cannot be made to yield so large a crop as in the warmer waters. One of several reasons for this is the fact that the colder water produces less food required by this species.



RECOLLECTIONS OF A SPORTSMAN.

By JASPER B. WHITE.

I have always claimed there was a certain congeniality existing among sportsmen that did not otherwise exist among men and, looking back over my nearly half century with rod and gun, I recall many delightful experiences that I feel sure will justify my assertion and if you can find space in your valuable journal, *The Game Breeder*, I will be glad from time to time to send you some of them as they return to my memory.

It was ten years ago in November last on the first day (it being our opening day at Currituck) when at sunrise with my new-made friend, T. J. Morrow, Holyoke, Mass., we stepped into our boat and were off for the duck blinds. The weather was bright and beautiful, a real Indian summer day, but the ducks were abundant and in addition to the beds of wild celery, sago, pond weed and

widgeon grass I had scattered plenty of white corn around the island to hold them where we wanted them. Mr. Morrow (whom after that day I only knew as Tom) was a keen sportsman and delightful companion but he had never visited Currituck before and when I told him to take out a case (500 shells) he laughingly said you mean 50, but he finally agreed to take 100.—I hid 300 more under the oil skins, as he said it was bad luck to take so many shells. Did you ever in the middle of a splendid flight of ducks shoot away your last shell and have to go home? This has happened to me six times during the past season, 1917-1918. I always said after each experience it shall never, never happen again.

About twenty minutes in a motor boat with the decoy boat behind and we were

at Five Islands. The water was covered with ducks and the air filled with them. While I was placing out the decoys Tom fired twenty shots, many of the ducks nearly falling on me. It being the first day they were young and tame, many of them had never heard a shot before.

We often get thrills; at different times in life and from many causes. But for a duck shooter such days as these fill one's cup to overflowing and enable us to drop every care. The day was perfect—the ducks fat and delicious and our bag was ninety-three canvasbacks, redheads and bluebills.

We have shot together here every season since then but one. But I will never forget a stormy morning last December, 1917. We went to a sheltered island for it was quite cold, with a hard northwest wind (our first winter day) and it seemed to me I never saw so many ducks and

geese. We took a case of shells, but alas—on opening them we found they were No. 8 shot instead of 4's as they should have been. We were three miles from home with ducks coming every five minutes.

At noon we had emptied 340 shells when Tom said let's quit, I have all the ducks I want for my own use and some for all my friends at home. This has been a wonderful ten days, Jasper; I have had many a happy day in the blind with you, and we have made some splendid bags during the many years we have shot together, but this tops them all. I will be with you again next Thanksgiving Day. And how very, very much I wish he could, for Tom was the "salt of the earth." My heart is sad now for I shall hunt no more with him unless there is duck shooting in the great beyond. He died ten days after our last hunt.



THE HOUSE RAT.

The Most Destructive Enemy in the World.

By DAVID E. LANTZ,
Assistant Biologist, Bureau of Biological Survey.

A single rat does far less harm in a year than one of the larger mammals, such as a lion, tiger or wolf; but the large mammals of prey are comparatively few in number, while rats are exceedingly abundant. North America or any other continent has probably as many rats as people—possibly two or three times as many. The destruction wrought by this vast horde of rodents is far greater than that wrought by lions, tigers, wolves and all other noxious mammals together.

Injurious insects are enormously destructive to crops. Probably their combined ravages inflict greater economic losses than do those of rats, but no one kind of insect destroys as much. The harm done by any species of insect is usually confined to certain geographic limits, rarely extending over large parts of a continent; that done by the rat ex-

tends over the whole world. Oceans fail to limit its activities.

The rat's destructiveness is not confined to crops and property; it menaces human life as well. This rodent is responsible for more deaths among human beings than all the wars of history. Not all the fatal epidemics of the past were bubonic plague, but enough of them have been so identified to show that almost every century of the Christian era has had at least one great pandemic of this scourge which destroyed millions of the world's population. The great plague of London, which killed more than half the inhabitants that did not flee from the city, was by no means the worst outbreak recorded. The plague called "black death" devastated Europe for fifty years of the fourteenth century, destroying two-thirds to three-fourths of the population of large territories and one-fourth of

all the people, or about 25,000,000 persons. Since 1896 plague has carried away nearly 9,000,000 of the population of India alone. The disease is still entrenched in Asia, Africa, Australia and South America, and cases of it have occurred in Europe and North America.

Through the fleas that infest them, rats are almost wholly responsible for the perpetuation and transmission of bubonic plague, and it has been proved also that rats are active, although not exclusive, agents in spreading pneumonic plague. Only the prompt measures taken by the United States Public Health Service against these animals prevented disastrous epidemics of plague in San Francisco, Seattle and Hawaii in 1909, in Porto Rico in 1912 and in New Orleans in 1914.

The entire role of the rat in transmitting diseases to man is not fully understood. Septic pneumonia and epidemic jaundice in man have been traced to the rodent, and it is known to perpetuate trichinae in the pig. It is suspected of being a carrier of infantile paralysis, and it undoubtedly carries many kinds of infectious germs from its haunts of filth, leaving them upon human food.

The economic loss due to rats is astounding. No extensive or exact statistics on the subject are available,* but surveys of conditions existing in a few of the older cities of the United States show that losses due to rats are almost in exact ratio to the populations. In rural districts the losses are much greater in proportion to inhabitants than in cities. Assuming that there are in the United States only as many rats as people, and that each rat in a year destroys property valued at \$2, the total yearly damage is about \$200,000,000. To this must be added the expense of fighting rats, including the large sums paid for traps and poisons, the keep of dogs and cats, and the labor involved. In addition, the loss of human efficiency due to diseases dis-

seminated by the rat should be considered. It is hardly thinkable that a civilized people should rest supinely under such conditions and let this evil continue, particularly when it is known that numberless human lives are in jeopardy. Think of the waste involved in a loss of \$200,000,000 a year! The constant labor of an army of more than 200,000 men is required to produce the materials eaten and destroyed by rats. If half this loss were represented by grain destroyed, it would take about 5,000,000 acres to produce it.

Man has been fighting the rat for centuries and has made little progress. The rodents are entrenched in fortresses of man's own building. If they are driven out or overcome for a time, others soon swarm from neighboring premises, and the battle has to begin anew. Defeats have been due not so much to lack of proper methods as to neglect of precautions and an absence of concerted action. The work has been made abortive by providing continued subsistence for the rodents and by failing to destroy their intrenchments. When once they are deprived of these advantages and the campaign against them is organized on lines of intelligent co-operation a large measure of success will be achieved.

Civilization and science have by no means spoken their last word about the means of combating this greatest plague of the human race. A building can be made rat-proof; why not a farmstead, a street, a village, a city, or a seaport? If rats cannot be exterminated, they at least can be repressed in this country, and at the same time effective barriers can be erected against the landing of fresh hordes. Up to the present time, however, few efforts have been made to find out the way or even to apply properly the means already at command. It is high time to begin.

[Game keepers are effective in destroying rats on the farms.—Editor.]

*Estimates of annual rat damage in foreign countries made previous to the present war were: United Kingdom, \$73,000,000; France, \$38,500,000; Germany, \$47,640,000; Denmark, \$3,000,000.

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where Kaisers rule and "culture" starts
with "K."

INTELLIGENCE AND PREJUDICE.

By THE EDITOR.

A Southern lady, referring to Mr. Burnham's statement that we don't want the foreign system of game breeding in this country, writes: "About this idiotic prejudice against 'foreigners,' meaning nearly always the British, I hardly know how to express my disgust. You see I hear it day in and day out. I recall one well informed man, or I thought he was so, who was present when I was comparing this government with that of England and averred (and I think it is true) that the last named was more of a democracy than our government, and that the President had more authority by or to the extent of his veto than the English King. The man objecting, when pressed for a reason said that 'the King could cut his head off.' Such ignorance is to be pitied, of course, instead of blamed. And there is in so many respects the same prejudice when every cultured man or woman who has traveled and knows anything about the 'foreign system' knows it is practical. How many methods scoffed at and objected to in the fullness of conceit and ignorance have been eagerly adopted since the war came home to this country? Everyone knows when any one wants a good gamekeeper he looks for a Scotchman or an Englishman. Why? Because they know their business."

In America it is perfectly legal to create a big cattle or sheep ranch or a vast wheat or hay farm and even to drain a large area in order to intensively cultivate it. Such industry if no attention be given to the game necessarily results in the extermination of the game birds. The wild ducks disappear from the drained area, the grouse and the quail cannot exist on vast pastures or grazing lands where their natural covers and foods are extirpated. Big wheat farms where every wild rose and sunflower are

plowed under with the stubble, leaving at certain seasons absolutely no cover or food for game birds, cannot be kept well stocked with grouse or quail by enacting laws prohibiting the shooting of more than six birds in a day and prohibiting the sale and transportation of the food. Even laws prohibiting shooting do not help matters in places where the lands are used in the ways referred to.

The licensing of gunners to shoot up the farms is not a sufficient inducement to cause the ranchers and farmers to leave some cover and food at the sides of the fields or to make the special plantings which are necessary in closely pastured or cultivated regions to make the land habitable for game. The buffalo, the elk and the antelope naturally disappear from cultivated regions. They would not be tolerated when found destroying the crops.

In England there are big places where it is legal to have game as a food crop. There are also small farms which have an abundance of game because it is not criminal to sell the food; and the still poorer classes are permitted to shoot and trap the migratory fowl on all public waters and marshes just as fishermen and oystermen are permitted to take and sell fish and oysters. We would advise Mr. Burnham to read a little book written by Captain Oates, a retired British officer, who decided to live in the country and secured a small farm. He describes how he quickly produced a lot of wild ducks enough for his own and his friends' shooting and he says by marketing some of the ducks shot he about paid his expenses. There is plenty of room in America for retired officers and many others of moderate means to have interesting country homes and in places where such people are not hounded by

game politicians they quickly should provide food as well as sport for themselves and for their friends and many others. Some of the game will go to public waters and improve the shooting where the public should shoot, some will go to market as cheap food for the people. There are thousands of ponds in America where not a single duck nests to-day and where if a duck put in an appearance the whole neighborhood would rise up in arms to kill it. In most places the season when the duck appeared would make little difference since a game custodian having several counties to look after would hardly be expected to interfere. Certain it is that the utilization of many of these desolate ponds would improve the shooting for those who do nothing in the way of producing game.

The larger places in England which have game are not as large as many of the places in America where it is legal to have cattle and sheep, wheat, hay and other crops, and where shooting would be prohibited if any game occurred.

The game politician in America who thinks large forces of game wardens and large funds to keep up the American system are more important than an abundance of game for all of the people may fool some of the people some of the time but to maintain himself it seems necessary to say that it should be a crime to produce food on the farms. Even if the system depreciates farm values and in some cases prevents their sale, even if the tendency is to prevent many people from living in the country and results in putting our best food birds on the song bird list and in putting an end to shooting, our game politician still may be heard to say the system with its revenues must be maintained no matter what be the results. We think the system can be modified to advantage as it has been in Massachusetts and elsewhere. Intelligent sportsmen, farmers and the people who can see no reason why food birds should not be a common food rapidly are beginning to differ with the old-style game politicians and when the issue is presented as it may be before long in some of the states we have a notion the people may decide that

there should be as much freedom in the land of the free as there is in some other democratic countries.

As a vote-getter we would prefer to have the southern lady above quoted on our side to having a half dozen game wardens who may have made a record raiding food producers. We know there is a lot of money invested in the game law business but we have seen more than one election turn out to be a great surprise for the side that had the most "stuff." Quite a decided interest in game farming rapidly has sprung up in the west and the idea that New York should not run the country is not a new one in several outlying districts.

We shall not be surprised if the farmers decide that it should not be a crime to produce food on the farms. There is a small army of women engaged in breeding game and they have many friends who think as they do their activities should not be confined to breeding a few foreign species.

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**Statement of Mr. John B. Burnham,
President American Game Protective Association.**

Mr. Burnham, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I represent the American Game Protective Association, which is a national association.

I want to make the point, which I believe is important, that if you gentlemen report this bill favorably and it passes Congress it will not reduce the food supply of the country one pound. The conditions in this country are such to-day that all the game is killed that the supply will stand. There is practically no section of the United States to-day where there is any surplus. We do not have the old large areas we used to have, where men could go in and kill and ship to market to a large extent without depleting the supply. Every game bird which is shot to-day is used as food. It is not thrown away. The fact of permitting its sale simply permits that bird to be used by some rich man rather than by the man who takes it, or some poor

man. In New York State, where the sale of game is prohibited, the game is used for the food of the person living in that state, or the person that takes the game, or is given to friends. Every game bird that is shot and eaten, of course, releases a certain supply of food, because people can eat only so much meat.

Now in America we have necessarily a different system of game protection than they have in the old countries. I have heard this question of the nonsale of game argued in a great many States in the country, and very frequently it is stated that in Europe game is commonly found in the markets and that it is cheaper there—game birds, for example—than poultry. Now that is a fact, particularly in England, and the reason for that is their system of game protection. It is the rich man's game in England, but in order to prevent poaching on their preserves the game that is shot is almost entirely put on the markets to keep the price of game down, just for that one purpose. If a man goes from this country and shoots on Andrew Carnegie's preserve in Scotland he has to furnish his own ammunition. He can go out there and join the big pheasant shoot, where, for example, a thousand or more pheasants are shot in one of those drives, but he is not privileged to take a single one of those birds away with him when he leaves. He has some of those birds on the table, but the big majority of the birds that are shot in these hunting parties are put on the market, and any man who would vary that principle would be ostracized among that class of rich men who have those shooting preserves, because they have a definite object in doing that, and that object is to keep the price of this game so low in the market that there is no inducement for the poacher to come on their land and kill these birds surreptiously.

In this country, dating back prior to the time of the Revolution, we started on a different system. Our law has been made, of course, considerably since that time by the courts. According to the American law—court made—the game is the property of the State, held in trust

for all the people. That means that each individual has a certain undivided interest in the game of his state. We could not follow the English principle here without upsetting what most Americans consider a system way ahead of the old continental and European system, where only the rich men have the privilege of shooting. We do not want that system in this country. The free shooting which is obtained in the United States has been one of our greatest national safeguards. Our men who are going abroad to-day, take them man for man, know how to shoot better than any European army, and therefore will be more valuable. Kitchener and Pershing have both called for men who can shoot. Our men are familiar with firearms; they are familiar with going out in the open and taking care of themselves, and therefore that class of men, trained under American conditions of free shooting, make much better soldiers than the average European. And, moreover, this practice of free shooting is very valuable to the national health of the country. We do not want to adopt the European preserve system; we do not want to adopt the sale of game which goes with it.

Now, I have had an experience of about twenty-five years in game protection and I have been around in most of the states on these questions, and I feel competent to say that in the whole United States there isn't an organization of sportsmen, there isn't an agricultural organization, that would not be behind this bill of Mr. Graham's. They have realized that from the farmer's standpoint game is valuable, and from the sportsman's standpoint they can not have game along with laws permitting the sale of game. They want the system where the game will be divided up among the largest number of men. Where you have market shooting and the sale of game, a few men spend their time taking this game, and they shoot it off so that there is nothing left—or little left—for the man who only has a day or two occasionally to go out shooting. They want that commercialism stopped, because the time is coming in this country when there

won't be enough to go around. That plan would be all right when there was a large amount of game to shoot, but it won't do to-day.

I want to make another point in closing—and that is in addition to what has already been said—that by stopping the sale of game in the District of Columbia you will stop the killing of game in the surrounding states and preserve that for the ordinary sportsman, the man who has got to get his shooting close at hand or not at all. The rich man can have his preserve or go a long distance away in his private car to some wild section and shoot, but the poor man has got to get his shooting close at hand or not at all. This bill will preserve the shooting for that poor man, for the average citizen, the man who makes a good American.

Under present conditions the District of Columbia is draining the game resources of the States of Maryland and Virginia and a number of other Southern states. I know personally that the representatives of the farmers and game associations of those states are heartily in favor of this bill and I understand that Mr. Graham has testimony from those men. A year ago last winter I was talking with a market shooter in North Carolina, which still permits some market shooting at certain periods, and he told me that he and his brother made an average of \$11 a day during the time wild fowl were permitted to be shot for sale. They were shooting geese. They had a lot of live geese decoys, and he told me they got 50 cents apiece. The price had been raised from 25 cents, and at 50 cents apiece those men were making \$11 a day shooting those geese, which were sent up here to the Washington market. Now, that means less geese for the local men living in North Carolina.

The first state in the Union to pass a nonsale game law was the State of Texas. The southern states have been well to the fore in this matter of looking after their game, preserving it for their own citizens, and if you gentlemen will favorably report this bill and put it through it will do more to protect the game of

the Union than almost any other thing that can be done at the present time for the people that should have it for use.

Mr. Wheeler. Let me ask you this question: What do you consider to be the chief object of these game laws? Are they only for the protection of sportsmen, or what are they for?

Mr. Burnham. I think the chief object is to keep up the supply for shooting.

Mr. Wheeler. For shooting?

Mr. Burnham. Yes; just so the supply will not be destroyed.

Mr. Wheeler. Then it is to secure sport.

Mr. Burnham. To keep breeding stock up; yes.

Mr. Mason. You do not mean entirely for sport, do you? What we call the sportsman doesn't shoot entirely for sport. He doesn't shoot a bird that isn't eatable.

Mr. Burnham. No; it is for sport and food, and the general recreation, and also incidentally it benefits the farmer, because these birds all have some agricultural value.

Mr. Crosser. Of course, if you are looking at it from the standpoint of the agricultural value, you wouldn't be thinking about shooting them at all, would you?

Mr. Burnham. Well, perhaps not. It is utilization to the greatest extent possible.

Mr. Crosser. I am not quarreling with you. I just want to get your viewpoint from a rather fundamental standpoint, whether you had objection to the killing of game, or whether your purpose was to increase the supply of game.

Mr. Burnham. The purpose is to increase the supply of game.

No Grumbling.

It ain't no use to grumble and complain,
It's jest as cheap and easy to rejoice;
When God sorts out the weather and
sends rain,

W'y, rain's my choice.—RILEY.

MORE GAME AND FEWER GAME LAWS.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

A New Foster Mother.

Mr. Bullock, manager of the Scarborough Beach Game Farm, Scarborough, Maine, writes:

This year I am going to cross all my Silky cocks with R. I. Red hens. I did a few last year and they turned out so good that I am going to turn my whole flock of hens into crosses except a few. I have some cross cocks, last year's, for \$1.00 each.

In making this cross I think it is a problem solved for they make wonderful mothers for pheasants, being a little larger than the bantam and, therefore, will take more eggs; also they are not heavy and will not kill the young birds in the nest as the common hen will.

I think the members of our society will find this cross interesting.

In regards to the mallard eggs I think ours is a very good line of birds. I am going to try and hatch somewhere near one thousand and let them go in our large pond after they have gotten old enough to look out for themselves.

Could you tell me of any place in the south where I could make arrangements to buy some trapped mallards? I would like to get about fifty clear wild birds next fall.

You will be interested to know that my black duck have started to lay a little. Yesterday I found two nests, one with ten eggs and one with two, and also noted quite a few places where they had started nests.

Perhaps I can be able to ship you some in about two weeks.

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Why We Have No Quail.

Mr. Bridges, a Maryland wild turkey breeder, writes:

I have no quail for sale at all. The only thing I am raising now is the wild turkey. It seems impossible to get any of the American quail as the law does not seem to allow it.

Good Work.

Rodney E. Marshall, city editor of the Portland Daily Press, Portland, Maine, says:

"For the first time in the history of the city of Portland, Me., countless thousands of wild ducks were driven into Back Bay, an inlet from Portland Harbor and bordering the residential section of the city, by the extreme cold weather. At one time game wardens estimated 50,000 black ducks were to be found on the ice and so acute did their sufferings become for want of food that State Game Warden George Cushman was authorized by the state fish and game department to feed the birds.

Food was distributed as ordered and the birds fought hungrily to pick up the morsels thrown to them by the state officers. R. L. Bullock, manager of the Scarborough, Me., wild game farm, snared hundreds in nets and took them to his farm for breeding purposes."—Remington Live News Notes.

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Eagles Attack Aviator.

Paris, Jan. 5 (by mail).—Captain Mortureux, a pilot in the French aviation service, has just arrived here on furlough from Saloniki, where he was attached to the Army of the Orient, bringing with him two stuffed eagles which he shot down with his machine gun when they attacked him during a flight he made over the Bulgarian lines in Macedonia.

This is the first authentic case on record in the annals of European aviation when a bird has attacked an aeroplane.

The aerial battle between Captain Mortureux and the two giant birds was witnessed by British and French troops in the advanced trenches over which the contest was fought. The bodies of the eagles were later picked up by soldiers. One eagle is a male and the other—the larger one—a female. They measure nearly ten feet from wing tip to wing tip

and stood more than four feet in height.

"I was making a patrol over the Bulgarian lines early one morning when I saw the two eagles," said Captain Mortureux, telling his story. "They flew straight toward me and although my machine was faster than they were they kept hovering near me, since I had to swing back and forth along a certain length of the front.

"One of the birds darted toward me just as I was turning. The roar of the motor and the flashing propeller blades didn't scare him a bit. I was afraid he might get his talons in one of my wings and tear the canvas so I cruised across to a position over our lines.

"The birds followed right after me, so I decided to attack one of them, just to see what he would do. I 'banked' to slow down and waited until the eagles were directly above and in front of me.

"Then I pointed the nose of the machine up and started to climb right toward them at tremendous speed. I pulled the trigger, and the machine gun began to chatter. Twenty-five rounds got both of them. They fell screaming and flapping to earth.

"Later, back in the city, I had a Greek taxidermist mount them. We captured a German aviator down there some time ago who told us that an eagle had raided one of their mess camps one day and carried off a side of beef. The Balkan eagles are very voracious."

Captain Mortureux intends to present one of the eagles to a Paris museum and will keep the other as a trophy.

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Daring Owls.

Editor Game Breeder:

Perhaps you can give us a little information that will keep us out of jail. The cemetery has been infested with owls this winter, and several people passing through the cemetery at night, and in the early morning, have been followed and annoyed by them. Is there any law preventing us from shooting these birds, and if we shoot them can we have them stuffed? A stuffed owl might look good in the office—quite in keeping with the sobriety of the surroundings. Is there

any law to interfere with our decorating the office in this way?

Thanking you in advance for steering us aright in this situation, we are,

Robert L. Mott, Supt.,
Maple Grove Cemetery.

Long Island, N. Y.

[Write to the State Game Department, Albany, N. Y., for information as to when Cemetery Owls are in season.—Editor.]

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One Day Old Wild Ducks.

We heard of several sales last week of one-day-old wild ducks. The prices were forty and fifty cents per duck. Very few ducks were to be had at the lower price and these quickly were sold. We hope purchasers in various parts of the country will report the result of the shipments, stating the distance traveled, the percentage of live arrivals and the percentage raised to maturity.

Some breeders do not seem to desire publicity and the annoyance (which some complain of) following the publication of their names. We will publish initials when requested to do so. It is more interesting to have the full facts: the names and locations of both shipper and purchaser. The Game Conservation Society will publish the facts about the arrival of game and eggs at the Long Island Game Breeders Association and the percentages referred to and it will also give the source of supply in cases where the shippers authorize this. The Society receives no game illegally obtained but where it discovers a rare and unexplored mine of prairie chickens and other grouse and quail, etc., it is evident that the mine might be overworked if every one tried to secure game at the same time.

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Wild Bird Intelligence.

A striking example of wild-bird intelligence has been observed on the Panama Canal in connection with the underwater blasting that is carried on there.

A barge has been especially equipped for drilling blast holes below the water and depositing charges in them. When a blast is ready the craft moves off to a safe distance, and before setting off the dynamite the barge whistle is blown sev-

eral times to warn all vessels in the vicinity.

Instantly numbers of wild birds may be seen coming from all directions, the reason being they have learned that many dead and stunned fish rise to the surface of the water following each explosion. To them this particular whistle is like a dinner gong. More remarkable still, they readily distinguish between this whistle and others. Canal workmen and natives also share in the harvest.

[Game breeders know that hand-reared wild ducks soon learn to come to dinner when a horn is sounded. We made this discovery long ago, when our black ducks came in to feed with some setter puppies which were being taught to respond to a dog whistle. The ducks flew in to feed with the dogs. One of our members always uses a dog whistle to call his ducks from the marsh. At the Clove Valley Club the call is sounded on a military bugle. Many use a tin horn.—Editor.]

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Black Duck—Mallard Hybrids.

Mr. Holmes, whose advertisement appears on another page, is a large breeder of black duck-mallard hybrids. These ducks have long been used for decoys in New England and they lay large numbers of eggs under control.

Mr. Holmes gives his ducks a wide range and they fly from the patches of wild rose and briars where they nest to the feeding ground and return on the wing to their nests. He says he found some of the ducks nesting in briars which seemed almost impenetrable; two ducks hatching a large number of eggs were found sitting side by side.

Although many breeders prefer straight-bred ducks and other game birds we can see no reason why this hybrid should not be extensively used for sport since the birds are reported as strong and fast on the wing as the wildest wild ducks are.

The pheasants used for sport both in England and in America are nearly all hybrids. It is said that it is unusual to see a pure bred ring-necked pheasant or a pure bred dark-necked pheasant in the London markets. Many of the birds shot and sold show a cross between the species named and some incidently have been crossed with Mongolian and even Japanese pheasants.

The breeders of black ducks all report

that fresh-trapped birds do not lay for one or more years and very few breeders can furnish black ducks or eggs suitable for breeding purposes. The demands for sport now are so large that we can see no reason why the strong flying hybrid ducks which are excellent on the table should not be used on many preserves. They surely are far superior to many of the commercial mallards, some of which are not nearly strong enough on the wing to satisfy the demands of sport.

The black duck-mallard hybrid should be a valuable bird for those who wish to have black ducks. By crossing the true wild black duck with the hybrid it seems likely that a duck which for all practical purposes is or appears to be a pure bred black can be produced which will lay eggs abundantly under control just as the mallard and near-mallards do.

In all probability the black duck-mallard hybrid is entirely exempt from game laws. It is not named in any of the statutes which prevent the production, shooting or "having in possession" of certain species. We are quite sure the courts will hold that such a new species produced by industry for food and not mentioned in any statute is not governed by laws protecting certain species enumerated in the statutes. We feel certain we are right in this opinion, and if so the hybrid should be a valuable duck for shooting clubs, game farms and preserves in the states which have not yet repaired their game laws so as to encourage food production.

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To Transplant Reindeer.

Cordova, Alaska, June 22.—Alaska reindeer, which heretofore have roamed only in the tundra country of the Seward Peninsula of Northwestern Alaska, are to be planted in the Copper River valley of Southwestern Alaska, north of Cordova. The reindeer originally were brought from Siberia and transplanted in Northwestern Alaska. The task of transplanting the animals has been undertaken by the Bureau of Native Education. Herders will bring the deer overland this spring from Nome to Cordova, a distance of approximately 900 miles.

Bob Acres.

Two Kentuckians, Lawrence Jones and J. Lyle Bayliss of Lexington, Ky., have bought the island Bob Acres and intend to convert it into a sanctuary for wild fowl. It comprises some 10,000 acres, and its new owners expect to make of it an immense heronry. They have also asked the Louisiana Conservation Commission to set aside Lake Piegneu, which adjoins their property, as a water resort for ducks, which flock there in the winter season.

All bird-lovers will rejoice at this new refuge for water fowl and under the name of Bob Acres the new sanctuary will remain a permanent memorial of one of the best-loved personalities of the American stage.

Bob Acres was named by the actor Joe Jefferson when he purchased the island in Iberia Parish for a winter home. If our memory serves us rightly he and his friend, the late President Cleveland, used to shoot wild ducks there. We believe if they were living they would like to see the place conducted as a shooting and food-producing plant.

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**An Interesting Letter from Alberta,
Canada.**

Editor Game Breeder:

Received the acknowledgment of my letter and also a long letter from Mr. Huntington concerning game conditions in this country.

At present it is not feasible to get permission to export grouse. I hope to get me an enlarged edition of the old market hunters quail net next summer to trap Hungarian partridges with. Think the only time that chickens could be trapped in any number would be in August. Then a man should have a pen with plenty of cover in it to keep them until they are grown.

Will send you three subscriptions scattered round the country I have the most interest in. These men can wield a great deal of influence if they only will. More than that, I have often heard my father say that all quail needed to make them plentiful in southern Ohio was plenty of feed, cover and water. The other two

should know this to be a fact as we hunted together where we had plenty of quail and in most of the state there were none.

I am afraid the sharp-tailed grouse would not be a satisfactory game preserve bird. He doesn't migrate, but he often ranges over a country miles across. We do not need to plant coverts in order to make them plentiful here at present. This is a very rolling prairie country cut up by coulees. The coulees have big thickets of native poplar (quaking asp probably) and white spruce in them. Scattered in patches all over the prairie are small clumps of a small berry bearing bush from twelve to eighteen inches tall. This bush furnishes a berry for winter feed and a fine nesting place for both chicken and ducks. In the small draws we have clumps of native willows, hawthorns, choke cherries and wild roses. While on the tops of the hills and dry hillsides we have another berry bearing bush, which the natives call Bullberry.

Crows and magpies are the real game enemies, especially the former. One of my neighbors said that two years ago the crows broke up about twenty ducks nests on two hundred acres. At present only about one-fifteenth of this land is occupied. It would be impossible for any one individual to make much headway against crows.

My partner proposes that we feed the crows until they come to a place regularly and then give them a bait of grain soaked in cyanide of potash. We would be pleased to get any information you can give us about the control of these two pests without too great an outlay.

A friend of mine in England has been sending me copies of the Field and Game Keeper. They are actually killing down the game birds in England because the birds are too plentiful. England has just the laws you advocate. If a small country like England can do this, what could our own country do, if we could get rid of the doctor and his money? It also seems to me that game farms such as you advocate and the insectivorous birds go hand in hand.

One of the copies of The Game Breeder gives directions for telling the sex of

Hungarian partridges. This article says the method is infallible in the winter time.

Can you tell me if English rabbits and hares have been imported into the United States and if they have how they have done? Can you tell me anything about the two bird books published by the Massachusetts department of agriculture?

As to our ruffed grouse becoming scarce, we have had two bad berry years. In 1916 there were practically no berries, and in 1917 there was not one-tenth of a crop. Then there is a very marked increase in crows and magpies, and these birds breed in the partridge or ruffed grouse cover. Also two bad hatching seasons and two extremely bad winters.

If you can tell me the cause of this peculiarity in human nature, it will not only give me a lot of satisfaction, but it should be worth a lot of money to me, if I can apply it. In this country, with game conditions as they are, bench show setters are in demand; bench show wolfhounds bring up to \$150 as pups; bench show airedales, foxterriers, Irish terriers bring around \$25 each as pups; bulldogs, Bostons and the toys bring from \$25 to \$75 each as pups.

There is no demand for setter or pointer or Chesapeake pups of a first-class working strain. It is very hard to sell them at from \$15 to \$20 each. We can buy extra large registered, trained Russian wolfhounds, guaranteed to be fast and dead game, for \$75 or less each. Best pups of this strain \$25 to \$30. A man will pay \$50 for a bull pup, and hunt chicken without a dog and wade in ice water after his ducks. He will pay \$75 for a sore-eyed poodle and insist that he wants a bird dog but can not afford to pay \$15 for a good pup. I never expect to make any money out of dogs, but the psychology is too deep for me.

F. V.

Alberta, Canada.

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Shades of Izaak Walton.

A man who confined his activities to fishing has been sent up for six months in Syracuse under the new anti-loafing law. Shades of Isaak Walton!—Evening Mail.

Crowd Captures a Deer.

Anderson, Ind., June 1.—A live deer was caught the other day in Hazlewood, a suburb of Anderson. The deer escaped from the Weslow deer farm, west of the city, and had been at large. When seen in Hazlewood it was pursued by a crowd of men and boys until it was run down.

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Country Clubs in Time of War.

In the "Fete de Mai" to be held on Memorial Day at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club there is a suggestion which might well be adopted throughout the United States this year. To many a member of an organization of that kind the thought must have come—why a country club in wartime unless it contributes in some way to the common cause, and how can a country club do that? It may be that by making itself a center for attractive entertainments for war charities the Sleepy Hollow club has removed the doubts referred to and answered the questions of the doubters.

Not many country clubs would be able to command the quantity and the quality of talent gathered together by the Sleepy Hollow club for its Thursday entertainment, but each city has its talented amateurs. Performances given by these would prove a strong attraction, and by following the Sleepy Hollow example other country clubs can become valuable factors in raising money for war charities.

The experiment is well worth trying. Unless they in some way play a part in meeting the national need of wartime there will be no favorable answer to the question—"why the country club?"

[Many of the country clubs which have game will produce thousands of wild food birds. The crops will be harvested by sportsmen rejected for military duty, and since no charge for their labor is made by the harvesters and, in fact, they pay to produce the food, country clubs of this kind are doing a great public service. Under the direction of the Game Conservation Society some of these clubs will contribute a good lot of game to hospitals which entertain soldiers and sailors returning from France.—Editor.]

The Game Breeder

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Telephone, Beekman 3685.

We believe all of the states should permit game breeders to breed all species of game without any charge for a license. This method has been given a fair trial in Massachusetts and has been found to be practical and popular. It is a poor time to discourage the production of highly desirable foods.

It is a very good plan for game breeders who have anything to sell to send their advertisements to the magazine without waiting to be asked to do so. All of our young men are in the service—every one, in fact, the Government would take—and the old folks left to run the society and its publication are entirely too busy creating new shoots and customers for the advertisers and in procuring information and stories interesting to readers, with an occasional look around to see how the game law enthusiasts and sport prohibitionists are getting on, to be able to give much attention to business. So don't wait to be asked to advertise. We can always make room for one more good and reliable game breeder provided the copy is received before the press is running.

We get new subscribers every day but the more the better for all hands. Every new member is a probable purchaser and is likely to get his neighbor into the

game. We expect to send The Game Breeder to twenty or twenty-five thousand new people before the first of the year and if the present percentage of those to whom it is offered and who become regular readers holds good, we should have many thousand more regular readers by the end of the year.

Many of our readers send subscriptions for others. This is a good habit. We also wish those who write to us to send us lists of likely names. We try each month to print enough copies for all newcomers but the last month many could not be supplied with the current number and those who came to the office towards the end of the month were told that all copies were sold. As a food producing industry game breeding is timely and properly thriving. There will be a shooting boom when the cruel war is over.

NOT THE RICH ONLY.

It is not "only the rich," as Mr. Burnham and other game politicians would make it appear, who are producing game abundantly in many of the United States. There are many thousands of game farmers, many of them of small means, including several hundred women. There are thousands of sportsmen who have formed game producing clubs. In some cases the dues are only \$15 per year. It must be evident that the rich easily can have an abundance of game on their farms and country places. It is the poorer classes who can only afford to have game provided they can sell part of their crop to help pay the cost of production. We are very much surprised to find Mr. Burnham attempting to excite prejudice against the game farmers, rich and poor, at this time when food production should be and is popular. His statement to the Congressional committee displays a remarkable lack of knowledge of the subject. Thousands of market gunners (by no means rich) shoot and sell the migratory fowl taken on the public waters in populous England, just as our oystermen take and sell the fish.

Congress should not be stampeded by professional game law lobbyists. It should investigate the subject carefully before making any ill-advised laws preventing the sale of food. We are surprised that there should be any opposition to a game breeding industry which it is admitted will make game very cheap in all of the markets. Mr. Burnham's reason why the game is so cheap in England is amusing.

Mr. Burnham's statement before the Congressional committee is so interesting and amusing that we believe our readers will enjoy reading it in full. It is printed on another page. The idea of sportsmen having to pay for their ammunition when they go to a pheasant (?) drive on Andrew Carnegie's grouse shoot indicates that the place is quite as democratic as such places are in America. We fail to see why Mr. Burnham complains of the hardship, or what bearing his complaint has on the bill under discussion, intended to prevent the sale or "having in possession" of game birds in the District of Columbia.

WHY NOT A BUREAU OF GAME?

The National Fancier and Breeder urges its readers to write to their senators and congressmen urging that the Government establish a rabbit raising bureau. The Game Breeder endorses this idea but suggests that it be enlarged and that the bureau be termed the U. S. Bureau of Game. The pheasants, ducks, wild turkeys and other birds desirable for human food and the elk, deer, antelope and other big game animals owned by breeders are now being produced in large numbers and it would seem that these foods which are inexpensively reared by those who know how are quite as important as the rabbits which no doubt just now occupy an important place on our food map. We hope the National Fancier and Breeder will amend its program and go in for a bureau of game with a big rabbit department. There are no department or government officials apparently in Washington who take any interest in game as food. The little attention given to the subject has been in

the direction of tabulating the thousands of game laws which until recently made food production criminal strange as such crime may appear.

There is an excellent U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Let us by all means have a good U. S. Bureau of Game and in two years at the outside we believe all of the people will have all of the game they can eat at prices surprisingly small. The rabbit breeders and the game breeders should work together and if they can have the encouragement of a bureau of game we are quite sure the results will be fine.

Good statesmanship requires such governmental aid; small politics may keep up an opposition to the industry.

A FEW THINGS.

We want to know a few things.

Provided the migratory bird bill becomes a law can the owners and breeders of migratory wild fowl (or the descendants of fowl which once migrated and would do so again if given the chance) have such birds in possession?

Can they sell and ship such birds?

Can they have the eggs of such birds in possession?

Can they sell and ship eggs?

Can they trap migratory birds for breeding purposes, provided the state officers permit them to do so?

Can they do any of these things if state laws permit the industry referred to?

We doubt if many sportsmen or game breeders, excepting readers of *The Game Breeder*, ever knew or ever will know or understand the terms of the migratory bill. It seems certain that few people will ever know the numerous criminal regulations which are or will be made by those to whom Congress delegates its crime making power, until they happen to get arrested for having food birds in their possession or for some other absurd crime.

We are expecting some shipments of teal and other migratory fowl for breeding purposes. We propose to breed a lot of game and donate it to hospitals which entertain soldiers and sailors com-

ing from abroad. Are we in danger of being arrested for having the stock birds shipped to us by breeders or for having them or the eggs "in possession"?

Many of our members own and breed migratory wild fowl and sell the birds and the eggs. Will they be in danger of being arrested if they sell, ship or have the birds or eggs in possession?

We want information about these matters at once.

Is it imperative that game food should be kept out of the hospitals as a war emergency measure?

Can W. J. Mackensen in Pennsylvania, Mr. Bullock in Maine or Mr. McIlhenny in Louisiana, or can any others of our thousands of members send us stock birds or dead birds for the purposes referred to?

We would like to know at once.

Can any Congressman who voted for the bill answer any or all of these questions and tell food producers how to keep out of jail in war times?

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Game Breeder:

I notice in your last issue in the Survey an item entitled "More Rabbits."

I have a place in New Jersey and am much troubled with depredations in the garden of the ordinary "cotton tail." Can you give me any advice as to proper methods of stopping this damage?

JAMES R. STRONG.

New Jersey.

[A few Beagles and a shotgun will be effective and will produce some food. Rabbits easily are trapped, but before trying this write to the State Game Department, Trenton, and see if you must retain the State animals in your garden.—Editor.]

The Game Conservation Society.

I have been taking The Game Breeder for several months and I like it so well I want the magazine sent to one of my friends. I am enclosing \$1.00 to pay for one year's subscription commencing with the June number.

(Name and address enclosed.)

Kansas. GEO. E. KING.

[We regret that we cannot begin the subscription with the June number. The edition was entirely sold within a few days after

it appeared. We have been obliged to refuse at least twenty-five requests for this number. Your letter like many similar ones is most encouraging and gratifying. The number of people who believe that it should not be criminal just now to produce any species of food on a farm or to have game birds in possession, to transport them and sell them and the eggs, when produced by industry, is increasing. We have a notion the Kansas farmers can select candidates for the legislature who are not opposed to the farmers going into the very profitable game farming industry, now legal in many other states.—Editor.]

Readers who are willing to let us have copies of the June, 1918, number will please send us a postcard to that effect. We will pay 30 cents each for thirty copies of this issue.

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The Marmot Pheasantry.

The Marmot Pheasantry is located thirty-five miles from Portland, Oregon, in the Cascade Mountains near Mt. Hood.

We raise the pure Chinese Ringneck (*Phasianus torquatus*), the pure Mongolian (*Phasianus mongolicus*) and the cross of these two birds. We find that this cross matures far more rapidly than either the Chinese or English, is hardier, larger and more satisfactory as a real game bird in every way. We also raise the Lady Amherst, Reeves, Golden and Silver. Japanese Silkys, Buff Cochin Bantams and New Zealand and Flemish Giant Rabbits. The rabbit end of the business was originally a side issue, but has developed until they take nearly all of one man's time. We also have ponies, pea fowl, doves, etc. Not mentioning dogs of various breeds.

At the present time (June 23d) we have about two thousand birds in the field and two thousand eggs setting.

We use movable coops four feet by eight feet the first three weeks, after which the birds are placed in movable pens sixteen feet by sixteen feet.

The young birds are fed Spratts' Pheasant Feed mixed with hard-boiled egg, chopped lettuce, maggots and chick feed.

We buy smelt by the ton for the maggots and have them frozen in boxes and get them as needed.

For the old birds our pens are eighteen feet by thirty-two feet. We feed them

a mash of Spratts' Pheasant Feed No. 3 mixed with rolled oats in the morning with a little Cardiac added twice a week and dry grain at night. They also get green ground bone and kale (green feed) every other day.

We are particularly careful about in-breeding, as nothing will cut down the size of the birds faster.

We never ship a bird that we wouldn't want in our own breeding pens and consequently have not one dissatisfied customer on our list.

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Mongolian-Ringneck Hybrids.

In our opinion there are no better pheasants for the game preserve than the ringnecked-Mongolian cross. The Mongolian is a big, hardy ringneck and seems to add size and speed to the Chinese ringneck, which it much resembles. We were not aware of the fact stated by the Marmot Pheasantry, Marmot, Oregon, that this cross matures far more rapidly than either the Chinese or the English pheasants do. This is an important fact, since it is highly desirable to begin the shooting the last of September or early October when it is delightful to be out of doors and to have a long open season.

Thirty-three Lynn Bogue Hunt Paintings of Game on New Remington Shotgun Chart for Hunters.

For an example of practical service to shooters, especially in view of the present necessary high cost of ammunition, it would be difficult to find anything more appropriate than the new art hanger devoted to "Recommended Game and Trap Loads" which the Remington Arms Union Metallic Cartridge Company, Inc., has just issued. And yet, while the purpose of this hanger is to help shooters choose shells which will render best service—enabling one properly selected shell to do what two ill chosen ones might fail at—it at the same time has unusual artistic and educational value.

Briefly, the hanger, which is a full color lithograph, 20x26 inches in dimensions, is divided into nine panels, eight of which are devoted to loads for small game and one to trap loads. In each panel except the last, appear full-color reproductions of new natural history paintings by the celebrated naturalist-artist, Lynn Bogue Hunt. Thirty different species of leading American game birds are depicted, and three game animals, and in this



work Hunt has equalled, if not surpassed, his best efforts. These splendid pictures will gladden the heart of every old sportsman, who has a favorite game bird, for every one of them is absolutely true to life; in fact the illustrations provide just as valuable a checklist as does the type matter pertaining to shotgun loads. The characteristic markings of the game are displayed in all cases, making the illustrations especially useful for identification purposes. At the same time, the artistic effect is most pleasing—as of course the American sportsmen have learned to expect from this gifted illustrator, whose natural history studies in color are always true works of art.

Seventy-eight standard loads are given, for guns ranging from 10 to 20 gauge, but of course there are many duplications, inasmuch as there are nine separate tables each devoted to a certain class of shooting. For example, the first takes in jacksnipe, sora and woodcock, while the last is confined entirely to trap loads. There is no attempt, however, to recommend a particular load for any one kind of game in all localities; those given are selected to give best results under general conditions. And considering the very great experience of the Remington U. M. C. people in supplying arms and ammunition for use all over the world, no better guide could be followed by the average hunter. In fact, the more that is done by such large manufacturers to standardize the loads in shotgun shells, the better it will be for the shooters, to say nothing of the dealers.

In past years a tremendous amount of good powder and lead has gone to waste, due to lack of knowledge among shooters of what

(Continued on page 124.)



FENCES FOR GAME PRESERVES

The accompanying photograph shows one of our Non-Climbable "RIOT" fences, erected by us, with our indestructible steel fence post 8 feet high, surrounding the Yale Bowl Field, New Haven, Conn.

This fence held in check 80,000 people who attended the Harvard-Yale Game, November 25th, 1916, and 60,000 people who attended the Princeton-Yale Game, November 13th, 1915.

We have this fence and many other excellent designs. It will be to your advantage to secure our Catalogue, that shows many of the best erected fences in this country; also tells about our posts in detail; how to erect a fence; how to paint the fence wire to keep it from rusting.

Become acquainted with our fence building system. It will save you many dollars and a great deal of worry.

Fences for every purpose, with either straight or non-climbable post, tennis court back stops, etc., erected by our trained men anywhere.

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GRAND ISLAND, ERIE CO., N. Y.

Pheasant and Mallard Eggs for Spring delivery from extra fine, healthy non-related birds.

My birds are raised for my own shooting and are very strong on the wing.

Member of The Game Guild.

Member American Game Breeders Society.

Pheasant Eggs from good strong ringnecks.

\$18.00 per hundred eggs

\$10.00 per fifty eggs

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JOHN MURGATROYD

Taxidermist

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NEW YORK

Finest Work at Reasonable Prices

Call and See for Yourself

FREE FOUNDATION STOCK

furnished to raise Rabbits, Cavies or Pigeons. Send dime for particulars and paper.

Young's Tanning Compound, easily applied to any skin, large can \$1.00, trial can 50c. Tattoo Ear Marker \$1.50. Ear Tags 30c per dozen. Gibson's wonderful Rabbit Book \$1.00. Cavy Book 50c. Squab Culture, a recognized authority on raising pigeons for profit, \$1.00.

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335 South East Avenue, Oak Park, Ill.

The Breeders' and Fanciers' News

SCRANTON, PA.

devoted to the breeding and marketing of ducks geese, turkeys (including the wild varieties), rabbits, cavies, pigeons, etc. Organ of the American Buttercup Club, and Waterfowl Club of America. Interesting and instructive articles by able writers.

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Special Trial Offer in U. S., 8 Months for 25c

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BREEDERS' AND FANCIERS' NEWS
1558 Dickson Ave., Scranton, Pa.

Pheasants, Wild Mallard Ducks & Wild Turkeys FOR SALE

Hatched This Year

Tamarack Farms, Dousman, Waukesha County, Wis.

WILD DUCK FOODS

Wild Celery, Sago Pond Weed, Widgeon Grass, Red-Head Grass, Chara and other foods which attract water fowl. We have the best duck foods which will attract and hold the game and which impart the finest flavor to the flesh. We plan and arrange the plantings suitable to all waters.

GOOD SHOOTING
DURING THE OPEN SEASON

I am prepared to entertain a number of sportsmen who wish to shoot wild geese, Canvasback and other wild ducks and quail, snipe, etc. Only small parties can be properly looked after. Appointments to try the shooting and learn about the wild duck foods are made by correspondence.

J. B. WHITE WATERLILY, CURRITUCK SOUND, NORTH CAROLINA
Member of THE GAME GUILD

RAISE MALLARDS

Eggs for Hatching—Manitoba Stock

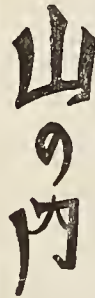
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Strong Flying Birds—Prompt Delivery

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Yama Brook Trout



Scientifically bred by the Darwinian theory for vigor, quick growing to large size and to produce a large number of eggs—absolutely free of disease, frequently thriving where others die.

Information in reference to trout breeding and keeping cheerfully given by our trout culturist.

Scientific examination made of your conditions for keeping trout at moderate charge.

We have on hand for stocking 1,500,000 Yama Trout from fry to 2 lbs. Eggs in season.

YAMA FARMS

Napanoch, Ulster County, N. Y.

WILD TURKEY EGGS

\$15.00 PER DOZEN UNTIL MAY 1st
\$12.00 PER DOZEN AFTER MAY 1st

These eggs are from true Wild Turkeys. Orders filled in the order in which they are received.

MARY C. WILKIE, Beaverdam, Virginia



Wild Mallard Ducks
and Ringneck Pheasants

WRITE FOR PRICES

Scarboro Beach Game Farm

R. E. BULLOCK, Manager

SCARBORO, - MAINE

Member of the Game Guild

We Furnish Eggs in Season

(Continued from page 121.)

is needed in a shotshell load and to the indulgence of manufacturers. Standardization, with reduction of the variety of loads to those of the best balance, will increase to a marked degree the general average of results obtained and conserve ammunition accordingly. In just the same way, by following the recommendations of this chart individual shooters will profit doubly.

The new hanger will be displayed in the stores of all alert dealers in arms and ammunition, of which, by the way, there are over 80,000 in this country. In addition, a few will find their way to the walls of club houses and the homes of individual shooters. That everyone of them will be highly valued and most carefully preserved is a foregone conclusion.

Rats.

Some soldiers home on leave from the front were discussing the different things they had seen while in France, and among them were the number and size of the rats they had been troubled with. Said one: "Talk about rats! Why, I've seen some as big as sucking pigs."

"That's nothing," spoke up another. "One night in my billet I woke up and there was one of them trying my coat on."



PROFITS IN FUR FARMING

Learn about the wonderful Black Fox Industry which has proven so profitable to breeders.

Read the Black Fox Magazine, the only paper of its kind in the world.

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Subscription \$1.50 per year.

THE BLACK FOX MAGAZINE

15 Whitehall Street, New York



WE HAVE For Sale

Silver, Golden, Ring-neck, Lady Amherst, Formosan, White, Mongolian, Reeves,

Swinhoe, Versicolor, Impeyan, Soemmering, Manchurian Eared, Melanotus, Black Throat Golden, Linnated and Prince of Wales Pheasants.

Wild Turkeys, Japanese Silkies, Longtails, Mallard Ducks, S. C. Buff and Blue Orpingtons and R. I. Reds.

Five varieties of Peafowl, Crane, Swan, Fancy Ducks, Doves, Deer, Jack Rabbits.

Send \$1.00 for new Colortype Catalogue. Where purchase amounts to \$10.00, price of catalogue refunded.

CHILES & COMPANY

MT. STERLING

KENTUCKY

Member of The Game Guild

Member of The American Game Breeders Society

RABBITS PAY BIG PROFITS Raise Your Own Meat

and Fur. The Pet Stock Journal, Box G, Lamoni, Iowa, will show you the best methods for pleasure or profit. Send 25c today for 8 months' trial subscription to America's leading rabbit and pet stock publication.

Taking No Chances.

At a domestic economy lesson in Chicago a young matron was asked by the lecturer to state briefly the best way to keep milk from souring.

After some reflection the young woman replied:

"Leave it in the cow."

Not a Full School.

Senator Kern got a letter from an old friend who has a little country place and wanted fish to put in a cute little pond.

"Send me a school of bass," requested the friend.

"I'm not sure about getting you an entire school," Kern wrote back, "but I'll try to send you a few grades."

DOGS

HOUNDS—ALL KINDS, BIG 50 PAGE CATALOGUE 10¢. ROOKWOOD KENNELS, Lexington, Kentucky.

THE BLUE GRASS FARM KENNELS, of Berry, Ky., offer for sale setters and pointers, fox and cat hounds, wolf and deer hounds. Coon and opossum hounds, varmint and rabbit hounds, bear and lion hounds, also Airedale terriers. All dogs shipped on trial, purchaser to judge the quality, satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Sixty page, highly illustrated, instructive and interesting catalogue for ten cents in stamps or coin.

AIREDALE TERRIERS. The genuine one-man dog. Pedigreed, registered pups. Males \$25.00. Females, \$15.00. Guaranteed Satisfactory. L. E. GALLUP, 2209 Ogden, Omaha, Nebraska.

TWO YOUNG LABRADOR RETRIEVERS FOR sale. Dog and Butch. Apply, THOMAS BRIGGS, Arden, New York. 3t

<p>America's Pioneer Dog Medicines</p>	<p>BOOK ON DOG DISEASES And How to Feed</p>
	<p>Mailed free to any address by the Author H. CLAY GLOVER CO., Inc., 118 West 31st Street, New York</p>

FOR SALE—BREEDERS—SOEMMERINGS, Manchurians, Swinhoes, Amhersts, Reeves, Mongolians. E. B. DRAKE, Ingram, Pa.

We cannot simply be destroyers of game for sport only and expect it to survive as a food supply. We have been told that game no longer is needed as food; that we have an abundance of beef, mutton, poultry, etc. This may have been true at one time but how about the present? The distinguished naturalist, Dr. Merriam, who once was the chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, has well said there are vast areas of wild land unsuitable for agriculture which easily might be made to produce a vast amount of game for food.

There are hundreds of women in America who now make a living producing game. They report the industry as interesting and profitable. Some of them may be heard on the stump if the game politician, who seeks to close the markets to their food, wishes to raise an issue. How will the farmers vote? We know how the sportsmen who are worth while stand on the subject.

Breeders' Cards



WILD TURKEYS

Pure Bred Wild Turkeys
Eggs in Season

MARY WILKIE

Beaver Dam, Virginia
Member of the Game Guild



PHEASANTS, PIGEONS AND EGGS.

Pheasants, Amherst, Silver, Golden, Reeves, Mongolian, Swinhoe, Versicolor, Ringnecks, Cochin Bantams, White King Pigeons. Eggs in Season.

BLUE RIBBON POULTRY AND PHEASANT FARM
Davenport Neck, Phone 655, New Rochelle, N. Y.
Member of the Game Guild.



REGISTERED BLACK FOXES, TROUT & HARES.

Rugged pups, bred on highest ranch in America. 1917 Breeding Record. 8 litters from 8 females. Also Mountain Brook Trout. Milch Goats. Belgium and Flemish Hares.

BORESTONE MOUNTAIN FOX RANCH

Onawa - Maine
Member of the Game Guild.

MALLARDS AND BLACK DUCKS.

Guaranteed Pure Bred Wild Ducks. Eggs in season. 15 Mallard eggs, \$4.00, 100 eggs \$25. 15 Black Duck eggs, \$8.00, 100 eggs, \$35.



F. B. DUSETTE,
Bad Axe, Michigan.
Order Breeding Stock now to be grown for next season. There is a limit on Pure Wild stock.
Member of the Game Guild.

Do not write for prices or information. Send check. If birds do not please you return them and your money will be returned at once.



LIVE GAME, ELK, DEER, WILD Turkeys, Quail, Pheasants, Ducks, and all other game. Eggs in season. See space advertisement.

W. J. MACKENSEN, Yardley, Pa.
Member of the Game Guild.

DARK MALLARD
Black Duck, Mallard Hybrids
These ducks are reared on free range especially for shooting and for decoys. They are strong on the wing. Big egg producers under control
Price \$3.50 per pair; \$1.75 each

ALBERT F. HOLMES
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BREEDER OF FANCY PHEASANTS

Eggs in season. Amhersts, Silver, Golden, Versicolor, Mongolian, Reeves, Ringnecks, Manchurian, Elliott, Swinhoe, Impeyan, Melanotus, Soemmering.

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GOLDEN ★ POULTRY FARM
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Member of the Game Guild.



DR. FRANK KENT

Importer Bob White Quail
San Antonio, Texas.

Book your orders now for early Fall and Spring delivery.
Bank references.

Member of the Game Guild.

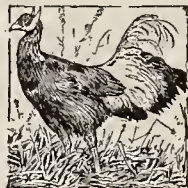


SEA CLIFF PHEASANTRY

We have nearly all of the rare pheasants and cranes, also white, Java and black shouldered Japanese Peafowl. Mandarin ducks. Eggs in Season for sale. Write for prices and particulars.

BALDWIN PALMER

Villa Serena, Sea Cliff, Long Island, N. Y.
Member of the Game Guild. 6t



PHEASANTS ENGLISH, RINGNECKS

Pearl White Guineas and White Cochin Bantams

Baby Pheasants and Eggs in Season

THE HIRSCH POULTRY YARDS
45th Place, Lyons, Illinois



WILD DUCKS

The practical rearing of wild ducks is fully described in the illustrated book, "Our Wild Fowl and Waders," written by the Editor of the Game Breeder. Price \$2.00 post paid.

THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Publishers
150 Nassau St., New York



GAME BIRDS

All American game birds are fully described in the illustrated book, "Our Feathered Game," written by the Editor of the Game Breeder
Price \$2.00

For sale by
THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY
150 Nassau St., New York



WATER FOWL.

I can supply nearly all species of wild water fowl and eggs at attractive prices. Mallards, Pintails, Teal, Canvasbacks, Red Heads, Gadwalls, Widgeons, Spoonbills, Canada Geese, Snow Geese and other wild ducks and geese. Write, stating what you want.



GEORGE J. KLEIN, Naturalist
Ellinwood, Kansas

Mallard-Pintail

GOLDEN, SILVER, AMHERST, REEVES and RINGNECK PHEASANTS.

All pure bred, strong healthy birds. Must be seen to be appreciated. Prices reasonable. Eggs in season.

THOS. F. CHESEBROUGH
Northport, Long Island, N. Y.



PHEASANTS AND PHEASANT EGGS.

We have Ringnecks and ten other species of Pheasants. Eggs in season. One day old pheasant chicks 65 cents each. Flemish Giants and other rabbits.



THE MAPLE GROVE PHEASANTRY AND PET STOCK FARM, 43 Iden Ave., Pelham Manor, N. Y.
Member of the Game Guild.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

THE GAME BREEDER

150 Nassau Street

New York City

FOR SALE

These Pheasants will be in full plumage this fall: 4 pair Silvers, \$30.00; 2 extra hens, \$10.00. 1 pair Swinhoes, \$35.00. 1 pair Mongolian, \$7.00; 3 extra cocks, \$6.00. 10 Ringneck hens, \$30.00; 4 Ringneck cocks, \$5.00. 3 pair Lady Amhersts, \$50.00; 1 extra cock, \$10.00. 1 pair Golden, \$8.00; 3 extra hens, \$15.00. 1 pair Reeves, \$15.00; 2 extra hens, \$20.00. 5 pair Canada geese, 5 years old, \$35.00. 6 pair Redheads, \$50.00; 1 pair Baldpates, \$5.00; 1 pair Pintails, \$3.00. 1 pair wood ducks, \$12.50; 1 pair Mandarin ducks, \$12.50. 1 pair Mexican tree ducks, \$12.50. **M. R. CHEESMAN,** Murray, Utah, R. F. D. No. 3. Box 61.

FOR SALE—PET FEMALE COON, GUARANTEED breeder, three years old. Had five last litter. Stamp for reply. **BEN BOWMAN,** Monroe Ave., Canton, Ohio
1t

RABBIT AND HARE SOCIETY OF CANADA
Breeders should write for constitution and by-laws
JOHN E. PEART, Secretary, Hamilton, Ontario. 12

LIVE GAME

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

FOR SALE — RINGNECK, GOLDEN PHEASANT, and silver. We are going to close out our pheasantry. Prices reasonable. **OCCONEECHEE FARM,** Durham, N. C.

FOR SALE—PHEASANTS, PURE BRED CHINESE
Eggs, \$3.50 per dozen, \$25.00 per hundred. **NINA ALMY,** Middleburgh, N. Y. 1t

PURE BRED WILD WATERFOWL AT FOLLOW-ing prices: Mallards, \$3.75 per pair. Pintails, \$3.25 per pair. Green Wing Teal, \$5.00 per pair. Blue Wing Teal, \$3.75 per pair. Also redheads, Gadwalls, Widgeons, Canvasbacks, Spoonbills, at reasonable prices, for propagating and scientific purposes. **GEORGE J. KLEIN,** Ellinwood, Kansas.

HOYT'S CALIFORNIA PHEASANTRY, PRICE LIST.
FRED D. HOYT, Hayward, California.

GRAY STAR PHEASANTRY

Breeder of all kinds of pheasants. Eggs in season. Pure brand, strong, healthy birds for sale. **GIFFORD GRAY,** 21 Ward St., Orange, N. J.

FOR SALE—Pheasants and eggs. Everything in the pheasant family. Pamphlet with order free. **BUCKWOOD PHEASANTRIES,** Dunfield, Warren Co., New Jersey. (10t)

QUAIL, PARTRIDGES, WILD FOWL, DEER AND other animals. See display advertisement in this issue. **WM. J. MACKENSEN,** Proprietor Pennsylvania Pheasantry and Game Park.

CANADA WILD GEESE AND THEIR GOSLINGS—A limited number for sale now—the surest way to start breeding this species. We are the oldest and largest breeders of Canadas in this country. Black and White Swans, Wild Ducks, etc., for sale. **WHEALTON WATER FOWL FARMS,** Chincoteague Island, Va.

BELGIAN HARES AND FLEMISH GIANTS FOR sale. A1 stock. **C. W. DIXON,** 8612 Morgan Street, Chicago, Ill. 1t

WANTED—WHITE PEAFOWL, EITHER SEX. Pied Peafowl, Soemmerring, Cheer, Hoki and German Peacock Pheasants, Ruffed Grouse, and White Squirrels. Also Swinhoes; state price and number. **R. A. CHILES & CO.,** Mt. Sterling, Ky.

GAME EGGS

FOR SALE—PHEASANT EGGS FROM STRONG Healthy Stock, \$3.00 a Dozen. **LURAY ORCHARD COMPANY,** Luray, Virginia. 2t

FOR SALE—ENGLISH PHEASANT EGGS \$15 PER hundred. **J. CONLON,** East Islip, L. I.

SILVER, GOLDEN, RINGNECK PHEASANTS, Mallards. Prices reasonable. **FRANK MINZEY,** Lake George, New York. 2t

Notice to Purchasers.

Purchasers can rely upon advertisers in The Game Breeder. The Game Conservation Society has a committee known as the Game Guild, which investigates complaints promptly and insists upon fair dealing under a penalty of dismissal from membership and the loss of the right to advertise in the magazine. There are very few complaints in a year, for the most part due to shipments of eggs. These have been uniformly adjusted to the satisfaction of the seller and purchaser. Any member making a complaint should state that in placing his order he mentioned the fact that it was due to an advertisement in The Game Breeder. All members of the Society are urged to buy from those who support the publication by advertising in it.

FOR SALE—ENGLISH RINGNECK PHEASANTS eggs from unrelated stock. Birds kept in their wild state with unlimited range. Cultivated under the most healthful and normal conditions. Also pure wild mallard ducks' eggs from flight birds. **TURTLE LAKE GAME FARM**, Hillman, Michigan. 1t

RINGNECK PHEASANT EGGS—Many for sale by dozen or hundred. Ready now. Guarantee arrive O.K. **MRS. IVER CHRISTENSON**, Jamestown, Box 70 Kansas. 2t

GOLDEN PHEASANTS AND EGGS FOR SALE. Chinese Ringneck pheasant eggs, \$3.50 per dozen. Golden pheasant eggs 50c each. **Mrs. EDGAR TILTON**, Suffern, New York. 4t

GLENWOOD PHEASANTRIES, HADLYME, CONN. Ringneck pheasant eggs for sale. Price \$25.00 per 100. **R. K. McPHAIL**. 4t

FOODS

WILD DUCK FOODS

Wild duck food plants, and seed. Wild Celery, Sagó Pond Weed, Widgeon grass, Red head grass, Chara and other kinds.

There are hundreds of thousands of acres of water marshes where these, the best of duck foods, will grow and hold the game. Write and learn how to do it. **WHITE'S GAME PRESERVE**, Waterlily, N. C. Currituck Sound.

ACORNS

An excellent food for deer, pheasants and wild ducks. I can supply acorns by the bushel or in large lots. Write for prices, including shipping charges. **W. R. McLEAN**, R. F. D., Eagle Springs, North Carolina.

BOOKS

BOOKS—Fox Hunters, Trappers, Fur Traders, Taxidermists, Fishermen, Sportsmen, Campers, Prospectors, Fur Farmers, Ginseng and Golden Seal Growers, etc. By A. R. Harding. Price 60 cents each. **THE GAME BREEDER**, 150 Nassau St., N. Y.

GAMEKEEPERS

WISH CHANGE OF POSITION AS POULTRY man or gamekeeper by married man. No children. Life experience, four years at present position, excellent references. **L. W. WERTHEIM**, Hillsboro, N. C. 1t

GAMEKEEPER—POSITION WANTED. SKILLED gamekeeper with good references desires position. **WM. STRANG**, 2147 Blackrock Ave., Unionport, N. Y.

WANTED—POSITION AS MANAGER ON GAME farm or shooting preserve. Long experience raising game birds. Understand raising and training shooting dogs, and trapping vermin. **A. S. B.**, care of Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.

GAMEKEEPER—SITUATION WANTED

American game breeder with a 15 year experience wishes to raise 5000 ringnecks for a private party or State, and having an incubator and brooder plant. Apply to **THE GAME BREEDER**, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.

HEAD KEEPER SCOTCH, WISHES A POSITION

Small family, four years' good reference from present employer, good reason for leaving. Experienced on pheasants, quail, wild turkey and mallards. Ten years' references in this country. Apply **J. C. E.**, care of The Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York. 6t

WANTED SITUATION—A GAMEKEEPER FAMIL-

iar with pheasant and poultry rearing. I have also had experience in general farming and can plan the planting for game. **BRUCE LANE**, care of Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York. 6t

GAMEKEEPER.—SITUATION WANTED.—I can

furnish good English and American references. Thoroughly understand all the duties of a Gamekeeper; can rear thousands of birds, and train dogs, &c. I understand trapping and the control of vermin, and wish to get a place now so I can prepare it for breeding on a large scale next spring. Address **J. H.**, care of The Game Breeder, 150 Nassau Street, New York.

MISCELLANEOUS

200 PHEASANTS WANTED—WILL TAKE EQUAL number of cocks and hens. Send prices and age of birds. **R. A. MAXWELL**, care of The Game Breeder, 150 Nassau Street, New York.

RINGNECK PHEASANTS, \$5.00 A PAIR. GOLDENS, \$10.00 a pair. Guaranteed strong and in the pink of condition for Spring breeding. Order now as I have a limited supply of birds. **LILLIAN E. GALLUP**, 2209 Ogden, Omaha, Nebraska. 1t

REGISTERED AND PEDIGREED BLACK FOXES RUGGED PUPS BORN IN NATURAL CONDITIONS ON MOUNTAIN RANCH. GUARANTEED TO BREED. EVERY ONE OF OUR EIGHT FEMALES WHELPED THIS SPRING. WRITE FOR RECORDS. BOARSTONE MOUNTAIN FOX RANCH, ONAWA, MAINE.

"THE RANCH BRED FOX," THE BEST BOOK published on Fox farming. Tells all about this wonderful industry. Price 25c, postpaid. **THE BLACK FOX MAGAZINE**, 15 Whitehall St., New York.

Snake With Two Tails.

Rocky Point, Ark., Oct. 6.—While **W. M. Phillips** was showing friends over his crop they discovered a chicken snake. They killed it and found the snake had a tail at each end. The snake, which was about four feet long, had undertaken to swallow a snake of the coach whip variety, which was about five and one-half feet long. It had swallowed its full length of the snake.

Quail, Bobwhites and Other Species

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY QUAIL FROM

Mackensen Game Park

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

Also Pheasant Eggs by the 100 & 1000

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

All Pheasant Eggs Are from My Own Pens

Pheasants

My Pheasant pens hold thousands of Pheasants and I am prepared to furnish these birds in large numbers to State departments, individual breeders and preserves.



Wild Duck

Mallards, Black Duck, Teal, Wood Duck, Pintails and other species can be supplied in large numbers at attractive prices. Also Mandarins and all other water fowl.



Now is the Time to Buy Wild Turkey Eggs

—AND—

Wild Turkeys

I am now the largest breeder and dealer in Wild Turkeys and can supply these birds in good numbers to State Departments and preserve owners.

I carry the largest stock in America of ornamental birds and animals. My ponds now contain nearly 200 best Royal Swans of England. I have fine lot of the beautiful pink FLAMINGOES and the very large European PELICANS. Also STORKS, CRANES, PEAFOWL, fancy GEESE and DUCKS. My pheasant pens contain over a thousand Ringneck and fancy PHEASANTS. All stock is kept under practically natural conditions. I have 60 acres of land entirely devoted to my business. Can also promptly furnish BUFFALOES, DEER, LLAMAS, RABBITS, etc.

Orders booked during summer.

I have for years filled practically all the large State Orders and have better facilities for handling large orders than any other firm.

Write me before buying elsewhere—it will pay you to do so. Your visit solicited.
I am only 60 miles from New York and 30 miles from Philadelphia

WM. J. MACKENSEN

Department V.

YARDLEY, BUCKS COUNTY, PA.

Member of The Game Guild



Take Your Pick

Select your favorite from any of these shells, but before you buy it be sure that it is loaded with a Hercules Smokeless Shotgun Powder, Infallible or "E. C."

It is not difficult to get shells loaded with these powders. Any one of the fourteen standard brands listed at the left is obtainable loaded with

HERCULES Smokeless Shotgun **POWDERS**

INFALLIBLE "E.C."

These powders have many friends among the veterans of the traps and field—men who know the value of powders that are dependable—powders that give high velocity with light recoil, that burn clean and free and give even patterns. They know that Infallible and "E. C." have the uniformity of quality that helps to chalk up a high percentage at the traps and brings them home from a day in the field with light hearts and heavy game-bags.

When you think of the shell you shoot, think of Hercules Smokeless Shotgun Powders.

When you buy shells, look at the end of the box for the names Infallible or "E. C." If you don't see them, ask for them and be sure that you get what you ask for.

HERCULES POWDER CO.

77 W. 11th Street

Wilmington

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US BLACK SHELLS
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WINCHESTER
REPEATER
LEADER

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Single Copies 10c

THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XIII.

AUGUST, 1918

No. 5

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

THE GAME BREEDERS WON!

A Common Sense Victory!

President of U. S. Issues Proclamation for More Game and Game Breeding

Migratory Bill which said YOU MUST NOT! YOU MUST NOT! in tiresome phrases, changed just before it was enacted so as to say YOU MAY! Section 12 at the end of the new Law tells the story:

SECTION 12. NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT THE BREEDING OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS ON FARMS AND PRESERVES AND THE SALE OF BIRDS SO BRED UNDER PROPER REGULATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE FOOD SUPPLY.

Readers of The Game Breeder can point with pride to the above common sense. We asked for this Amendment long ago and were told it could not be inserted. The Bill never could have passed without it in our opinion. "It went through as if greased for the occasion," as soon as Section 12 was added. Hereafter when the Wild Living Game Protection combination wants any restrictive legislation it would be wise to start the bill with a statement that nothing in it shall be construed to prevent food production or field sports in places where these seem desirable. Hundreds of new game laws will be proposed next winter, no doubt. Hundreds of thousands of dollars can be saved if the bills be made to start right as suggested. Often we have pointed out the necessity for keeping the game laws off of the farms. The victory at Washington follows quickly our victory on Long Island, where the quails were saved for sport.—
Editor.

President's Proclamation Will Be Printed in Full in September Issue

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

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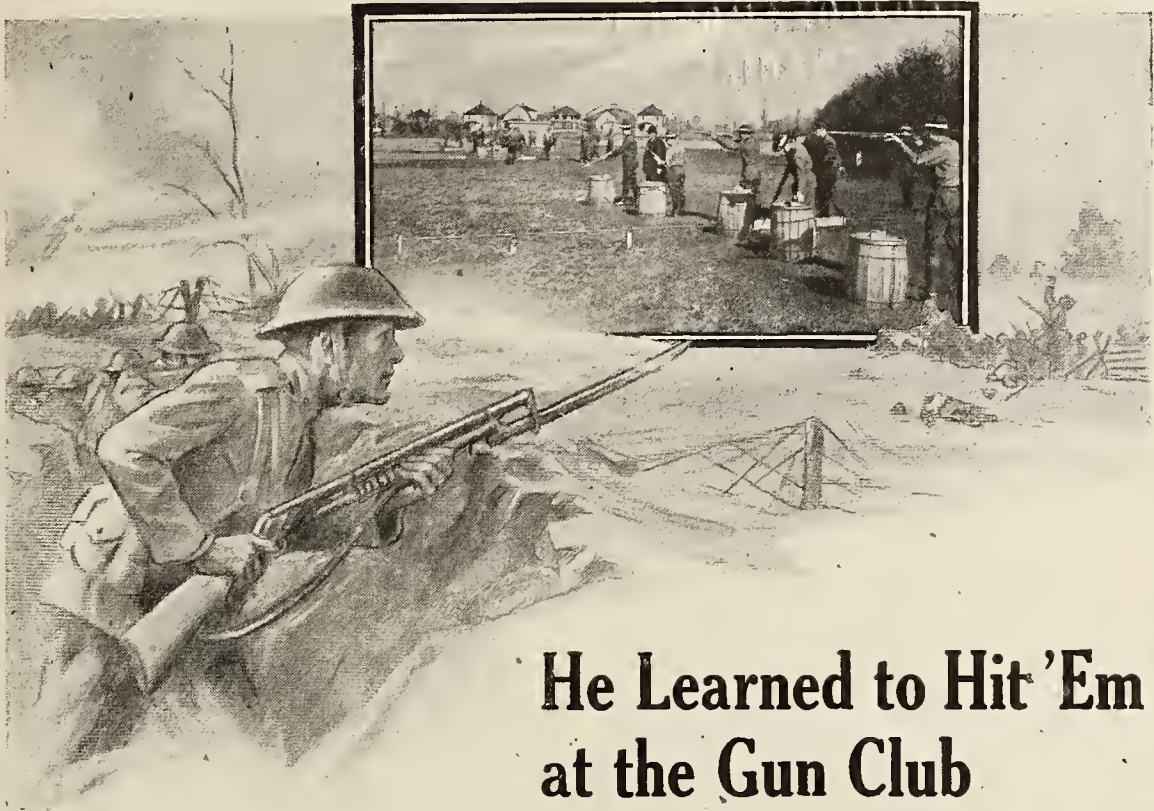
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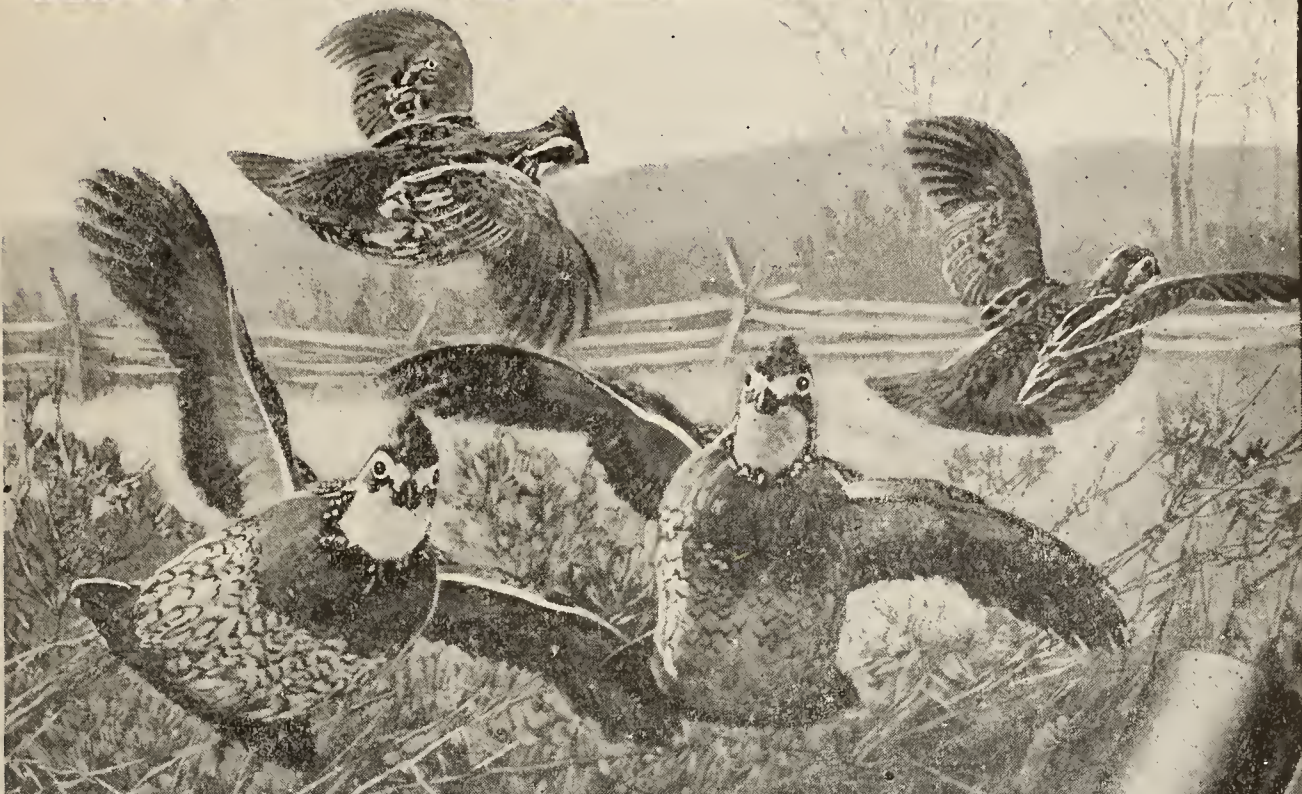
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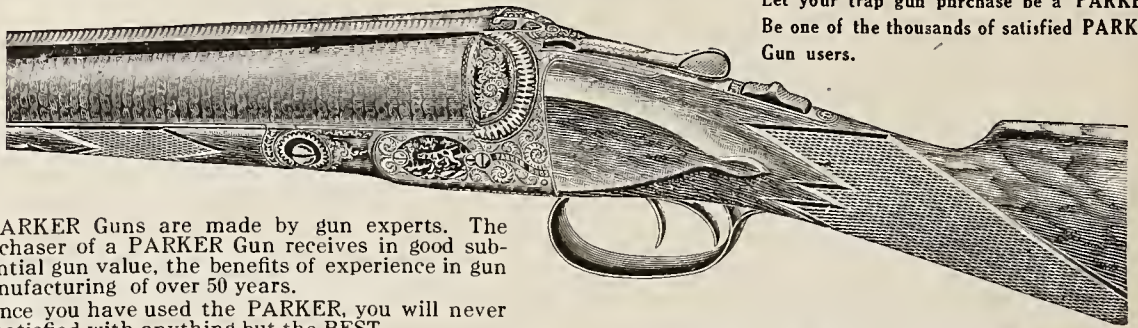
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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

"A Revival of Common Sense."

A recent copy of the Migratory Bird Law contains a new section not in the bill as originally written. This will be quite interesting to game breeders and we are pleased to see that those hostile to their industry have not been permitted to prevent game breeding. Section 12 is quite worth while:

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of migratory game birds on farms and preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulations for the purpose of increasing the food supply."

We are inclined to believe that this additional clause helped the passage of the enactment much. It certainly is quite modern and if the late dean of American sportsmen, Charles Hallock, was alive we should send a telegram of congratulation to him assuring him that his oft quoted statement, "truly we need a revolution of thought and a revival of common sense," had evidently produced results. The old plank, "no sale of game," seems to have been busted and long may it remain so!

We are inclined to believe that readers of The Game Breeder, without going near the lobby, have accomplished something quite worth while.

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An Official Bulletin.

The Conservation Commission of Maryland has issued an interesting bulletin giving the laws and regulations relating to oysters, fish and game.

The last oyster season was "the most unusual in the recollection of the pres-

ent generation. It might be said to have been but half a season, inasmuch as the interruption by the freeze beginning with the 28th of December stopped almost completely for nearly two months all operations."

The advantage to oystermen of having oysters planted on leased ground is set out at length. The fortunate oysterman who had oysters bedded during the past season had the satisfaction of being able to occupy himself profitably with the taking up and marketing these oysters while many of his neighbors were compelled to sit by idly and forego the earnings which the thrifty planter was enjoying.

The Game Breeder long ago referred to the fact that when there were no leased oyster beds and everyone took and sold oysters wherever he could find them, the oyster industry seemed likely to come to an end. The leasing of oyster beds and the planting of oysters by private industry soon resulted in the markets being full of oysters. Maryland should encourage the planting and harvesting of a game crop on private lands. Easily the markets could be kept full of game.

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Written Permission to Shoot.

Section 67 of the Maryland law provides that shooters must procure a license and also the written permission from the property owner or tenant on whose property said persons may be hunting.

Since the Department of Agriculture and various associations concerned about

the saving of the game by new and revised game laws are continually pointing out the fact that quail and other upland game birds are valuable as insect and weed seed destroyers, it would seem likely that more and more farmers in Maryland, as elsewhere, will refuse to permit shooting, and if the shooters continue to shoot up the farms and run away when anyone appears to see if they have the written permission, the next move, no doubt, will be to place the quail and the grouse on the song bird list. The State can prevent this disaster when it encourages some of those who own the shooting lands to produce game for profit and to lease the shooting to sporting syndicates, which should pay the farmers' taxes. This plan has been found to work out far better for all hands than the prohibition of shooting does.

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The Vicious Moiety System.

Section 46 of the Maryland law contains a vicious moiety or grafting clause. Local game wardens may be appointed in any section or county of the State who "shall not receive a salary, but shall receive as their compensation one-half of all fines derived from the prosecution of violators of the game and fish laws arrested by them."

=

Rights of Owners, Children and Tenants.

Section 69 of the Maryland law provides that owners of farm lands, their children or tenants or children of such tenants shall without procuring a license have the right to hunt, pursue and kill game during the open season for the same on the said farm lands of which he or they are the *bona fide* owners, children of such owners or tenants, or children of such tenants.

It would seem that there should be no possible objection to permitting such owners, tenants and children from producing a good lot of game on such lands and no one could be harmed by such industry because the farmers have the right to require shooters to secure written permission to invade the farms, and

they must know that shooting in places where no game breeding is carried on results in a loss of the weed and insect destroyers.

The influence of the farmers is evident in the new statute and we are inclined to think they can have about what they want in Maryland, as elsewhere. When they decide that it should not be criminal to produce desirable foods on the farm, just as it is not criminal to produce oysters in leased beds, we feel sure the legislators will agree with them and that any members of the assembly who do not will quickly return to private life. Game as a farm asset quickly can be made abundant and profitable. Game as a matter of game politics with shooters shooting all they can find and wardens chasing them when they run away, and making numerous arrests for trivial offenses in order to secure half of the fines, will never result in most of the people who are said to own the game having any game to eat.

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Game Ownership.

It is absurd to say that when a man purchases quail in Mexico, pays for their transportation to his farm, applies the needed industry to keep down the vermin and provides food and protection for the birds, that the birds so purchased and the young reared under such conditions belong to the State or to the people in common or to the game politicians. Where game wardens find such game in the possession of the importers and producers and arrest them in order to secure one-half of a fine, they may get away with it in some States, but the times are changing and the arrest and trial of a few food producing farmers will expedite the change much. The Game Breeder is a good place to advertise such performances. No charge is made for a single insertion.

=

Game as Food.

It is highly important to the many thousands of game farmers in America that they should have customers for their game and eggs. The best customers are the shooting clubs and owners of coun-

try places who believe in producing a big lot of game before they shoot it. No one cares to shoot a big lot of game during the season and to let it lie on the ground and rot. Comparatively few can afford to produce a thousand or more birds and give them all away. They hardly can be expected to continue to purchase eggs and stock birds from the game farmers if they know they will be hounded by game wardens in pursuit of half of the fines they may secure because the producers shoot more than three cock birds in a season or some other fool number of birds.

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The Worst Vermin.

A Western farmer, in a State which has a very bad game department, writes that the worst vermin they have to contend with is the game politician. It would seem time for the last named to study a little statesmanship. No statesman would insist that it should be a crime to profitably produce game on a farm. Possibly some politicians may be asked some questions in the agricultural states just before the next election. Any Grange easily can inquire how a candidate stands on this food-producing matter.

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Good Work in New Mexico.

The Hon. Theodore Roualt, Jr., game warden of New Mexico, one of the best State game officers in the country, writes: "During the past spring we have succeeded in distributing quite a number of ringnecked pheasants among the farmers in the different parts of the state, and we believe that we will eventually be able to secure enough pheasants from these small breeders to properly stock the whole State. Our plan has been to supply the birds to the farmers at no expense whatsoever to them, excepting the erection of proper breeding plants, and then they are to sell us the birds at two months old at the prevailing market price. Under this plan we have been successful in inducing quite a number of farmers to take advantage of it and I believe that in this way we will be successful in inducing

them to take up the handling of other kinds of game birds."

New Mexico quickly should become a big game producing State. The prairie grouse and several species of quail are indigenous and fairly abundant in many parts of the State and we have no doubt if some of the big farms and ranches will breed these birds for sale the owners will make a lot of money and perform an excellent public service. The sportsmen who wish to have good bird shooting during long open seasons can perpetuate sports for themselves by forming shooting clubs or syndicates to share the expense of properly looking after the game and they will provide sport for all hands just as the clubs on Long Island, N. Y., do, since much game overflows from club grounds and stocks the surrounding country. It never has been necessary to close quail shooting on Long Island, although it is quite near the big city of New York, which contains one-twentieth of the entire population of the United States.

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Meeting of Game and Fish Commissioners.

The next annual meeting of the International Association of Game and Fish Commissioners will be held in New York City on Thursday and Friday, September 12, and 13, 1918, following the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society, at the same place.

At the last annual meeting held in St. Paul, Minn., in August, 1917, the scope of this association was enlarged to cover all of North America, by changing the name and by-laws of the organization so that the Dominion of Canada and the Canadian Provinces have an equal standing in the association with the United States Government and the States of the Union.

Membership in the association is composed of officials engaged in game and fish conservation work and its meetings and conferences are held annually.

In view of the great importance of conservation work as affecting the food supply, the coming meeting is of special import at this time. Plans are being

made for a very interesting program and the committee on local arrangements, of which John B. Burnham, New York City, is chairman, is arranging for an attractive program of entertainment.

It is expected that the attendance of officials from all parts of the United States and Canada will be much more general than ever before.

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The Food Supply, Section 12.

The migratory bill seemed to be intended to put an end to the production of American wild fowl for food. We have engaged those behind the matter in many legal battles for the right and in every case they stood strong for the wrong—the Lupton bill in New York intended to permit and encourage game breeding was defeated by those who sought to make it criminal to have a migratory bird in possession or to ship or sell the desirable food. The same worthies appeared in opposition to later game breeders' bills and even succeeded in forcing a ridiculous compromise at Albany when permission was secured to produce foreign pheasants and the two wild fowl which least needed the breeders' protection to save them from extermination. Our splendid quail and grouse and other highly desirable wild food birds were eliminated from the proposed "revival of common sense" and it remained criminal, against our protest, to give these birds any practical or profitable help.

Later activities by the chief wild lifer and those who ran in his train were intended to put some of our best wild food birds on the song bird list and resulted in removing all practical and profitable protection from the birds. Those who wished to keep alive in America shooting other than trap shooting viewed with alarm the migratory bill permitting those whose records were against game breeding to make criminal laws on this subject as often as a new idea should occur to them. The game breeders' ideas of law and natural history and, in fact, of common sense, as the dean put it, were so at variance with the ideas of those who, using vast sums of money, were behind the criminal absurdity, that we viewed with alarm the situation

which would have been created by the passage of the bill as it was originally written, and had it not been repaired. The new section 12 providing that "Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent breeding of migratory game birds on farms and preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulation for the purpose of increasing the food supply," was a very happy afterthought which came none too soon and which undoubtedly was brought about by readers of *The Game Breeder*. Early in the game when we asked one of those who engineered the bill to have an amendment similar to section 12 we were informed that such a repair would be impossible. The intimation was that this decision came from headquarters and was final. Congress did well to put a little common sense in the measure at the eleventh hour.

It seems a great pity that the late dean of American sportsmen could not have lived to see the finishing touches put on to the "revival of common sense" which the dean said was highly necessary and important for the perpetuation of field sports. The Congress did it.

BOUNTIES ON COYOTES.

Davenport, Wash., June 15.—J. F. Hill, Deputy Auditor, took in twenty-five coyotes for bounty in one morning, of which number six were live puppies a few days old. Nineteen coyotes were brought in by J. W. Robinson of Edwall, who dug the young from holes in the fields. The county is paying a bounty of \$1.50 each in addition to the State bounty of \$1, and the two fees are resulting in destruction of the pests by farmers and sportsmen.

CAT ON CITY PAY ROLL.

Newton, Mass., June 15.—Tim, authorized municipal cat on the city's pay roll, probably is the only cat in the country with such a distinction. His salary is \$29.20 a year, and no public official ever fulfilled his office duties more efficiently. His title on the books is "official rat and mouse catcher." A special appropriation of 8 cents a day is made for his services.

AN EXPERIMENT WITH GAMBEL'S QUAIL.

By D. W. HUNTINGTON.

An interesting experiment is being made this year at the Long Island Game Breeders' Association farms with Gambel's quail or partridges. We have long believed that attempts to introduce any species in a new region where it never occurred would not succeed when only a few pair of birds were used in the experiment. Darwin says if only a few stalks of wheat be grown in a garden the birds will get all the seed. There will be none for reproduction. We have observed the attempts made by State officers to introduce and liberate pheasants in Kansas and gray partridges in Connecticut and also the similar experiments made in other States which were total or nearly total failures. Although many thousands of dollars were expended in the two States named and thousands of birds were liberated, the results were bad failures. One Connecticut warden who was distributing birds reported that upon looking back, after he had liberated a pair of gray partridges in a field, he saw a hawk take one of them. There were many similar disasters, no doubt, to the new birds in a strange country full of vermin. They came from places where the keepers make the fields safe and they were not prepared to be on the lookout for numerous species of vermin besides the hawks.

Our theory is that good numbers of birds should be liberated on comparatively small areas; that such areas should have an abundance of food and that water should be provided in places without ponds or streams. There should be also an abundance of good cover, many briars at the borders of and in the fields where the foods are planted. Before we have completed the experiments with the Gambel's quail, prairie grouse and other American game birds, we hope to have the fields prepared with numerous suitable briar patches, such as each species prefers and to have the briar patches

connected with briar avenues so the birds can always find safe places when going to feed.

Thus far our experiment with Gambel's quail indicates that they lay more eggs when confined in pens than they lay in a wild State, the eggs, of course, being gathered from the penned birds. A number of birds confined together in one pen did not average as many eggs as were laid by one hen confined with one cock in a similar pen. The last named bird had laid 21 eggs and apparently was not through laying when I saw her a few days ago. Although as many eggs as are usually laid by this quail were left in the nest for several days to see if she would become broody, she kept on laying an egg every day. This pair of birds was selected at random from the lot in the other pen and the birds were mated arbitrarily, of course.

The food given consisted of small grain and seeds and a lot of grass and clover plucked and thrown in the pen daily. Fresh water was always given daily. Since complaints have been made in New Mexico that the Gambel's quail eat the beans we shall plant beans for the birds next year.

Eggs placed under heavy hens were broken to a large extent and the bantams on the place refused to get broody at the right time. Some eggs will be hatched, no doubt, under the hens and we hope to hatch many more in an incubator. Some of the newly hatched birds will be offered to old quail to see if they will adopt them. Both Gambels and the Bob Whites will have families of young presented to them if they will take them and look after them. I have hopes of inducing a cock Bob White to adopt and rear a flock of Gambel's quail in a wild State, and if he does I can see no reason why he should not impart to his brood good sporting manners.

The Gambel's quail is a noted sprinter,

worse than the fastest pheasant before dogs, and on this account the handsome Gambels are not considered nearly so desirable for sport as the Bob Whites are.

Elliot's descriptions of the behavior of this quail is not overdrawn. He says: "From my experience, however, in hunting them, I should say if they had any choice of locality it lay between dense clumps, matted with vines and bristling thorns, into and through which nothing living could penetrate save themselves, or mountainsides that ascend in a direct line and which are covered with jagged stones and slippery boulders, over which the light-footed birds pass without effort, stopping occasionally to look down and jeer at the struggling, panting mortal below who is striving to conquer the ascent, and when the pursuer had arrived at the summit, the quail, it would be discovered, had run to the edge of another canyon, into which they flew at the first appearance of the sportsman, and began the ascent from below on the opposite side, leaving the hunter gazing at them across the great gulf that rolled between. If there is another species of game bird more tantalizing and vexatious in its manners, and more utterly lost to all the finer feelings that should compel it to conform to the recognized rules that govern field sports, I happily do not know of it, and have no wish to meet with it, if existing."

It is quite evident that the Gambel's quail need some training before they will lie well to dogs and if the bob whites can be induced to adopt them and rear the young they may "learn to conform to the recognized rules governing sport."

Of course a surer way of performing this experiment would be to place the Gambel's eggs under bob white hens and let them hatch the eggs and rear the young in protected gardens, made safe and attractive. Unfortunately, however, we had a large number of cock bob whites this year and only one hen. This hen had been mated with a cock last year and we let her have the same mate this season. After filling her nest with eggs the hen suddenly died, but the cock at once took her place on the nest and I saw him

daily, when I visited him, sitting as nicely as the best quail hen ever did. He no doubt will hatch and rear a fine brood.

Next in importance to improving the sporting manners of the Gambels is the question of their settling down and adopting a new home entirely different in its vegetation and appearance from the native habitat of the birds. Since the old birds seem to thrive on the foods provided for them and they no doubt will find many more insects and seeds when liberated than they have in the pens, it would seem that the food question will not stand in the way of introducing and establishing the birds on Long Island, N. Y. The question of the exterminating effect of professional wild lifers was settled, we hope forever, when the notable "hearing" was pulled off before New York's intelligent State official who refused to close Long Island to the quail producers. There are other game enemies, however, which will require attention: The house cat, the fox, the hawks, owls, snakes, skunks and many others are known to occur on the ground used for the experiment, but there are two ways of fencing against these and making the ground safe for the Gambels. The birds, as Dr. Elliot has indicated, know a good briar patch when they see one. Long Island produces a cat briar that in our opinion is as vermin proof as any New Mexico or Arizona jungle. A patch of these briars bordered with blackberry and wild rose should make as safe a retreat as any Gambel's quail would ask for if it could make its cover wants known. Traps and the gun already have accounted for some house cats, skunks, crows and other enemies.

The birds are known to be abundant near water holes and streams and evidently they need water. They also require dusting places which easily are made and grit. If when supplied with an abundance of suitable cover, food, water, grit and dusting places, a good number of Gambel's quail turned down in company do not thrive we shall be inclined to think they are hard to please and that possibly there is something

lacking in soil or climate. As to climate the birds are known to stand any amount of heat provided they can find shade, and they are said to thrive in mountainous regions where the snow lies on the ground. It certainly is interesting work to endeavor to introduce a new species and the work in hand has an additional

interest since it seems necessary to change the sporting demeanor of the quail.

P. S.—I hope readers who are experimenting with the California quail and others in the Eastern States will write their experiences for *The Game Breeder*.

A BEGINNER'S EXPERIENCE.

Z. T. DE KALMAR.

You seem to encourage contributions by small breeders and beginners to such an extent that I feel inclined to send in my mite to the Exchange of *The Game Breeder*.

I had several clutches of mallard and black duck eggs to hatch, three of which appear to be rather characteristic with beginners, and I will therefore give the data in regards to these three hatches.

The first one was a setting of thirteen mallard eggs that were kept three weeks before setting, being transhipped in the meantime three times. The eggs were set under a buff rock hen and hatched out on the twenty-fifth day 13 ducklings out of 13 eggs.

The second clutch was sixteen black duck eggs, received from the West, and set under two hens five days after arrival. This was a very peculiar and signal failure. One of the hens proved to be a cannibal pure and simple, and ate seven of the eight eggs put under her. The other hen broke and spoiled seven others, until I was only able to save one egg, and that one I brought out in the incubator.

The third one was a clutch of 100 mallard eggs of which 96 went into an incubator, four of them having arrived broken. The incubator was an "iron-clad" of medium size, which was started at 101 degrees and which I found very satisfactory under the adverse weather conditions of an unseasonable summer. A fair-sized flat iron pan filled with sand

and water was placed under the eggs, which was refilled every third day. The eggs were turned at the end of 48 hours the first time, after which they were turned twice daily and cooled once, at night. On the fourth day I sprinkled the eggs with tepid water with the help of an atomizer which I found very handy for that purpose. Thereafter the eggs were sprinkled at regular intervals of four days at the night turning, and after the cooling, just before being put back into incubator. The temperature was raised to 102 degrees on the fourteenth day and kept there until the twenty-first day, at the same time increasing the cooling time from 5 to 10 minutes, according to atmospheric conditions, during the first two weeks, to 15 minutes daily during the third week. Entering the last week of incubation the temperature was raised to 103 degrees, cooling time increased gradually to thirty minutes and the eggs sprinkled daily with tepid water. Pipping started at noon of the twenty-sixth day, after a final testing showed a fertility of 67 eggs out of the 96 on the nineteenth day. Out of these 67 fertile eggs I hatched 53 ducklings at the end of the twenty-ninth day. Two of the ducklings were unfit to survive and died shortly after; one a cripple of both legs, the other affected by some sort of epileptic disease that caused it to throw somersaults.

The first feed given was grit (oyster shells) and hardboiled egg at the end of

from 48 to 72 hours after birth, which they at once began to shovel down and they are thriving nicely ever since, the only casualties being four ducklings lost during the cold spell of two weeks ago, when the temperature went down to freezing point on several nights and some of them strayed out from under the cover of the brooder during the night. Oatmeal was added to their fare on the second day, chick grain three days later, duck meal and crissell on the tenth day, and at present, being two weeks old, they are fed well-scalded duck meal and crissell four times per day with plenty

of charcoal and grit, also an occasional feed of lettuce, etc.

I shall not jump to conclusions, but still, I think, that June eggs show a very marked decrease of fertility as against that of the early May eggs, as shown by my 100% hatch mallards, not to mention three other settings that gave me an average of 89.7% ; all May eggs.

For future references I am keeping a complete record of all hatches which, I think, will be of great help next year, when I shall (?) count my ducks by the hundreds.

"Yours for more game."

THE DUCK SICKNESS IN UTAH.

Abstract from a Bulletin of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

Bulletin No. 672, U. S. Department of Agriculture, gives a full account of the disease of wild ducks in Utah since 1910, during which period there were large losses of many species of wild fowl. The writer describes the symptoms, the area where sick birds were found, the species affected, the cause of the sickness, remedial measures and the care of sick birds.

Thousands of wild fowl find suitable breeding grounds in the marshes formed in the deltas of the rivers draining into Great Salt Lake, and the abundant food supply attracts vast hordes of others that pass during their migration in spring and fall. Local interest was greatly aroused and many attempts at investigation were made.

Many thousands of ducks died on both the Jordan and the Webers rivers, while on the great mud flats in the Bear river delta, the mortality is said to have been almost beyond belief. Dead birds rolling in the sun dotted the water on the shallow bays, and long windows of bodies were blown upon the shore lines and against the rushes. The birds died in such great numbers, and the causes of the mortality were so obscure, that a

strong prejudice arose against killing and taking ducks that were apparently healthy. The gun clubs in the Bear river area were not opened that year (1910) and few ducks were killed elsewhere. In 1912 on both the Weber and Bear river marshes conditions were bad and attempts were made to clear the marshes of dead ducks. W. O. Belnap states that about 30,000 were picked up on the Weber river flats, while on Bear river, from records kept by V. F. Davis, it is learned that the bodies of 44,462 wild ducks were gathered and burned between August 22 and September 21.

The symptoms of the duck sickness indicate a paralysis of the nerve centers controlling the muscular system. Birds affected may be able to support themselves in the air for short distances only, or may have the wings entirely helpless. The symptoms are described at length and the bulletin is illustrated with photographs of a sick pintail, cinnamon teal, a mallard, a green-winged teal and a row of experiment pens on Bear river.

It has been established definitely that the duck sickness in Utah is caused by the toxic action of certain soluble salts found in alkali, as that term is used in

the West. By actual experiment it has been found that the duck sickness may be caused by the chlorides of calcium and magnesium. Experiments have indicated that other salts may be incriminated in Utah and elsewhere, but this statement is made with reserve, as it has not yet been definitely established.

The Salt Lake Valley is well cultivated and owes its fertility almost entirely to irrigation. The irrigation has decreased the amount of water supplying the marshes and the resulting slow drainages induces stagnation over large areas. Surface evaporation and capillary attraction rapidly draw the salts held in solution in the mud to the surface and there concentrate them.

Fresh water is the only agency that has been found of value in combatting the duck sickness. Birds slightly affected, and even many entirely helpless, recover in almost all cases when given plenty of moderately fresh water to drink. With an abundance of good water in the marshes sick ducks are infrequent, as when the bays are well filled and well drained many birds that become affected recover in a few days.

For remedial agencies, therefore, measures must be adopted that tend to supply fresh water or to drive ducks out from areas where they are liable to obtain alkalis in harmful quantity. Three methods of treatment that promise success in dealing with the trouble are: (1) Increasing summer water in streams; (2) draining affected areas, and (3) collecting sick birds for treatment.

Since more water is constantly needed for irrigation, the first method is said to be impractical. The drainage of the areas where the birds may become poisoned can be done with little effort and in this way it is said opportunity for infection may be removed. In the marshes controlled by the New State Gun Club this means of meeting the situation is particularly applicable.

Serious objection has been offered to this plan on the ground that it kills off the duck foods in the marsh and that shooting in the fall is poor in consequence.

Birds with the duck sickness recover

in a short time (unless too far gone) when placed on water that is moderately fresh. A large number of ducks were cured by this means at the field laboratory on Bear river, and it has been proved that recovery is permanent. In past years men have been employed to gather and bury the dead birds on the marshes. If they were set to work gathering the sick birds and bringing them in, a large number of ducks could be saved at comparatively small expense.

In the course of the investigation, 1,211 individuals belonging to the seven species of ducks most severely affected were treated in this manner. Of these 284 died and 927 recovered. Among the ducks treated were a large number of very weak birds that were so far along that ordinarily they would have been disregarded. Eliminating these, the ratio of recovery was about 90 per cent of those brought in.

Among mallards and pintails many individuals are killed by lead poison due to eating shot. These have been eliminated from the table showing the number treated and the percentage of each species which recovered.

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Release of Banded Birds.

Aluminum bands were placed on the legs of about 1,000 ducks that were cured and released at the mouth of Bear river. From these banded birds data have been obtained upon the permanency of the cure and the subsequent longevity of individuals that have recovered. The bands used thus are of two types: Each bears a number stamped upon one side; on the reverse, one is marked, "Notify U. S. Dept. Agr., Wash., D. C.;" the other, "Notify Biological Survey, Washington, D. C." These bands are light and in addition are little affected by salt or alkaline waters. Returns have come in at the present time from about 170 of these ducks. Many of these were killed locally, but nearly always under circumstances that indicated that they had fully recovered. Others have come from greater distances. Individual records range west to the Pacific Ocean in California, south to the Mexican border

in New Mexico, east to Joplin, Mo., and north into southern Saskatchewan in Canada. Three birds banded in 1914 were killed by hunters during 1916, and another released at the same time was reported in 1917, so that there can be no doubt that the birds treated recovered fully.

Valuable information has been ob-

tained from reports on these banded ducks as to the lines of flight pursued by waterfowl during their migrations. This is of the greatest importance, and it is desired that sportsmen or others who chance to kill these banded birds send immediately full details to the Biological Survey as to the number of the band, together with date and place of capture.

THE GAME AND THE FARMER.

HENRY M. BRIGHAM.

The Game Breeder is right. Game, excepting only migratory birds, must have a profitable market value if it is ever again to be plentiful. The farmer alone can produce it and by no other argument can he be persuaded. A profitable market only will not suffice, however. His right to the game which he has produced must be protected just as fully as is his right to his chickens, ducks, turkeys and other domestic animals. If grouse, quail and pheasants are to be plentiful, the farmer must provide suitable covers, supply food when needed and keep down the vermin. This involves labor and expense which he will not undertake unless he knows that the birds he has raised are just as much his property as his chickens, ducks and turkeys and that when he has produced them he can sell them in the market at

a profit. There is no thickly populated country in the world where game is plentiful, except where the ownership of the land owner in the game upon his lands is fully recognized and the game has a market value. The existing laws which prohibit poaching on posted land are wholly inadequate to meet the situation. No one should be permitted to shoot the farmer's game without his permission and adequate penalty should be provided which would fully protect him. If such laws were enforced there would be game a plenty for everyone in a few years. The farmer would be benefited and so would the sportsman as shooting rights could be obtained at small cost. Why not go to the root of the matter and pass laws that would stimulate production rather than restrictive laws which discourage it?

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Deer Breeding Booming.

We were desirous of procuring one or two carloads of deer recently and wrote to our advertisers whom we thought could furnish them. Since none could furnish any good number of deer for immediate delivery we extended our inquiry to a large number of deer breed-

ers who are members of the society but who do not advertise, probably because they do not wish to answer a large mail and can sell all their deer without advertising.

One member wrote that he had just sold three or four hundred deer, all that he wished to part with, but that he could

fill the order next year. Others reported good sales but said they could procure the deer later or would have them for sale next year.

The Biological Survey reported that they had not kept up a list of deer breeders and could not suggest any one who could fill our order.

We are glad to know that the deer breeding industry is booming and that the breeders have demands for all the deer they produce. There is much land suitable for deer farming that can be made profitable and we hope the number of deer farms quickly will be increased so that all who want deer for sport or for profit can procure breeding stock. Much venison is now sold in the markets in States which have intelligent game officers and the markets everywhere should be full of this desirable food during long open seasons.

We shall be obliged to all those who have deer if they will send a letter stating how many they have. Our card indexes of big game breeders are not as complete as we wish to have them. Among the thousands of breeders who own game and who read *The Game Breeder* there undoubtedly are some who have deer who are not listed as big game breeders.

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Scarcity of Grasshoppers.

Several game farmers report a scarcity of grasshoppers this season. On places where large numbers of game birds are produced year after year it seems natural that grasshoppers and all insects eaten by game birds should become scarce. It is desirable to rear in new fields the second or third season, where the place is a large one, and a return can be made to the old fields after the insects have increased in numbers.

Those who say shooting should be prohibited for terms of years or for ever because game birds eat insects should visit some of the places where shooting is lively during long open seasons and where the game remains so plentiful that often there are not enough insects to go round.

Why enact laws preventing an industry

which produces the results desired? The game birds are too scarce in places where shooting is prohibited to have any appreciable effect on the insects.

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High Prices.

The high prices for all foods have had a tendency to send up the prices of live game for breeding purposes. Present indications are that live pheasants, wild ducks, quail, grouse and all the other game birds will bring much higher prices this year and, as the breeding season approaches, next year, than ever before. The prices of game in the hotels and restaurants last year were high but what they will be next fall and winter we would hardly like to predict. They surely will be well up.

One reason for the high prices is that many members of the Game Conservation Society have entered the service and will not breed any game for sport this year. Some of the places are kept running in order to provide work for the keepers, some report that they only sell eggs and will not rear any birds until after the war. Many who have been rejected for military duty regard game breeding and the sale of the highly desirable food as a patriotic duty and quite as important as fish breeding and war gardens are at this time.

The Long Island Game Breeding Association and the experiment stations of the Game Conservation Society will produce some game, as much as possible considering the late starts which were made and the difficulty of getting prairie grouse and eggs for two of the places where experimental work is carried on. The scarcity of deer is referred to elsewhere. We found it impossible to get one or two carloads from any of the deer farms.

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After the War.

It is quite evident that when the war is ended game breeding in America will have a boom. In all probability the big game farms which have been started in the Far West will (as one of their owners wrote to *The Game Breeder*) make it no longer necessary to purchase pheas-

ants abroad. Since it seems likely for a few years at least that the foreign countries may not have much game to sell we predict that the American game farms which increase their capacity as some are doing will make a big lot of money. Those who add grouse and quail to their breeding stock will find that these birds are far more profitable than the pheasants and the ducks are.

Although the prices will be so high next fall as to invite breeders to sell their stock down to small numbers left for breeding purposes, we believe those who are wise will first set aside twice as many birds as they ever did before for breeding purposes and to look forward to a small fortune as the sure reward.

Some people seemed to think, a year or two ago, that the game breeding business might be overdone and that prices would fall on this account. We believed that the more people who got into the industry the higher the prices would be for many years to come and our prediction was verified before the war sent the prices soaring.

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An Elaborate Game Bird Catalogue.

Chiles & Company, Mt. Sterling, Ky., have issued an attractive illustrated Mating List and Catalogue. The writer of the catalogue (evidently Mr. Chiles) must have had a modest spell on when he gave his clever little book its title. It is far more than a "Mating and Price List;" in fact it is full of valuable information and hints to game breeders. We feel much like quoting a good part of the book for the information of our readers. This would hardly do since the preparation and printing of the book evidently cost a lot of money and it is sold for \$1.00. We have no doubt all of our readers will be pleased with Mr. Chiles' book.

There are long descriptions of the pheasants, rare and common, with numerous color pictures of the birds. The advice about the Reves pheasant (which the writer says are his favorites among the game birds) is sound and timely. "We especially advise all clubs situated in mountainous sections to use these

birds for breeding purposes instead of ringnecks or Mongolians."

There are notes about how to make nests for wild geese; how to feed and look after the various species of game birds; often the feeding formulas of several breeders in addition to those of the writer are given.

Members of the Game Conservation Society who had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Chiles at our game dinners are aware that he has a keen sense of humor and his book is enlivened with many short passages of a game breeder's philosophy which will entertain the reader. The following is one of a few notes found between the serious matter relating to pheasants and the white pea-fowl: "Remember when you send the butcher ten cents and ask for the largest piece you can get for the money he always sends you the neck or shank; and when you expect to get a good bird for \$1 it is a case, as a rule, of neck or shank." Mr. Chiles prides himself properly on fair dealing, charges good prices for good birds and offers, we believe, to let the purchaser send them back if they are not as represented. He is a member of the Game Guild and approves of its activities in demanding fair dealing between breeders and fair treatment of them by game wardens.

A Mating List and Catalogue, price \$1. Chiles & Co., publishers, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

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Elk on the Hoof.

Early summer quotations on elk on the hoof show \$20 as the high bid for fair to medium. This figure was established at the auction sale of New York City stock in Prospect Park last week. The buyer was a Brooklyn man. Auctioneer Cohen also disposed of the season's crop of goats, at the rate of four goats for \$45, which a facetious man who stood next to the Deputy Park Commissioner said was more than Brooklyn usually paid for goats. There was no sale of turtles or alligators, although the market is said to be high.

[Elk from city parks and Zoos usually do not bring good prices because the animals are in poor condition, often sick or old.—Editor.]

The Market.

Reports indicate that big numbers of eggs of wild ducks and pheasants (hundreds of thousands) were sold during the season by our advertisers. Early in the season the price was \$20 and \$25 per hundred for both kinds of eggs. Some late eggs sold for \$15 per hundred but this was the lowest price quoted to The Game Breeder. Quail eggs were in big demand and those offered sold readily for \$6 per dozen and up. Since the Massachusetts Commission has proved that as many as an hundred quail eggs have been laid by a penned bird and the average number is large it would seem that quail should be more profitable than pheasants and ducks. The penned birds can be liberated in small gardens made safe and attractive after a number of eggs have been gathered and sold and the birds will often nest and rear broods when so liberated. Mexican quail sold for \$20 and even \$30 per dozen and all the birds offered eagerly were purchased. Northern quail brought high prices and there was a demand for many thousands more than could be supplied. Some of the Western breeders who have quail should make a lot of money next season if they will increase the number of their flocks and sell both birds and eggs.

Prairie grouse and ruffed grouse and their eggs remained scarce and hard to procure. There is a splendid opportunity for those who own grouse in the States which permit the breeding of all species of food birds. The grouse can be produced easily and cheaply in protected fields and since they find most of their food they should be far more profitable than pheasants or ducks are. The grouse sell readily for \$5 each and up and the eggs sell for twice as much as pheasant and duck eggs. We hope more game farmers will breed grouse and those who do will make a lot of money since the demand far exceeds the supply and only a few States permit such industry. Some of the States where the grouse have become extinct are the best ones in which to start grouse breeding since the birds are not protected by law. The wild turkeys have been introduced and made

plentiful on some farms in States where the birds are not protected because there were no turkeys to protect. Turkeys sold readily at \$15 to \$25 each. The eggs sold for \$10 and \$15 per dozen.

One day old pheasants and ducks sold for 40 and 50 cents each and since these birds were delivered successfully both by express and by mail we predict that many thousands of baby pheasants and chicks will be sold next season. Since the pheasant is a small eater when compared with barnyard poultry and the wild duck when properly handled will fly out and secure much of its food the industry of producing baby pheasants and ducks undoubtedly will be very profitable. Any one can gather and sell eggs and it is quite easy to hatch the eggs and sell one-day old birds. Somewhat more skill is required to rear the birds but so many have succeeded that it is evident game farming is an industry which any one who owns a farm will find very profitable. The big commercial game farmers who advertise in The Game Breeder are always willing to give advice to purchasers and beginners. Many issue attractive catalogues and booklets of instruction. Many new shooting clubs and individual preserve owners are ready to purchase and the State game departments also buy largely from the advertisers.

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Farm Fish Ponds.

George D. Pratt, the New York Conservation Commissioner, says:

There has been much talk about the value of the farm fish pond, and some effort has been made to induce farmers to build them to supply not only their own domestic needs for fish food, but also to produce food fishes for market. So far, however, very little practical assistance in this direction has been extended. Many states raise forest trees in their nurseries and sell them at cost of production for reforesting private land. In New York State we are now endeavoring to extend this idea, and are in favor of furnishing fish for a brood stock free of charge for farm fish ponds, and of supplying additional fish thereafter at the cost of production. We know that fish ponds of this sort are common in many of the European countries, particularly in Germany and Belgium, and we can certainly take a leaf from the German war book in this connection.

Gen. Trexler's Bison Herd.

Martin S. Garretson, secretary of the American Bison Society, organized for the permanent preservation and increase of the American bison and the protection of North American big game, has called The World's attention to an error in a recently published news dispatch from Allentown, Pa.

The article stated that Gen. Harry C. Trexler's herd of forty-seven bison was believed to be the largest on this continent owned by an individual, rivaling those of the United States and Canadian Governments in the great game preserves of the Rockies. Mr. Garretson names seven private herds in the United States which exceed Gen. Trexler's in size, the largest, numbering 700, on the James Philip estate at Fort Pierre, S. D.

The United States Government, Mr. Garretson says, has six bison herds, most of them stocked by the American Bison Society, the total number of animals being between seven and eight hundred. The largest herd in the world, he says, numbering 2,921, is in Buffalo Park at Wainwright, Province of Alberta, Canada.

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A Telegram.

Editor Game Breeder:

Congratulations on putting a little common sense in the migratory law.

OHIO READER.

[Bless your good heart we had very little to do with it. We never went near the law mill during the entire performance. We suspect some of our readers throughout America like yourself may have exerted a good influence. Very likely a man at South Bend, just over the state line from where you live, may have accomplished more than we did. We can modestly say that some of our remarks may have been suggestive. Like a certain brand of fire water. "That's all."—Editor.]

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Where?

It soon will be time for the "Where-are-the-buffalo" lawyers to gather before legislative committees, and, with signs of great grief expressed in every look and gesture, to ask the all-important question which annually has been put to

awe-stricken county and town legislators for the last half century.

"Where are the buffalo? Gone! Gone! Gone!" Just here we would remark that one of our advertisers now offers bison in car-load lots.

"Hence we insist, gentlemen, that we must have more restrictive laws to save our rabbits and other vanishing wild food propositions for sport. The fine of \$100 for killing a rabbit is far too small; the moiety of \$50 per fur for fur informers should be much increased. Too often, gentlemen, the boy who kills a rabbit escapes a jail sentence with a paltry \$100 fine. More laws! more laws! are needed to save the vanishing wild rabbit, etc., etc."

We have no hope of stopping the performance which annually costs the States hundreds of thousands of dollars. In all probability enough to feed the world with game. In some States we have been told that about one-third of the time of the legislators is devoted to game law changes. All we ask is that when the performance goes on game breeders be exempt, or if this is not possible in one or two States, that the laws be made uniform and applied to poultry as well as to game in those States. If the last named must be protected, "off the face of the earth," to be consistent, States like Virginia should see that the poultry goes with it.

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Sham Partridge Eggs.

An English dealer in pheasant foods under the above heading says: "Many contradictory statements have been made with regard to the utility of sham partridge eggs. Some keepers deny their usefulness altogether, while others claim great things for them if used in certain ways. Without entering into these discussions we venture to state that purchasers of our sham eggs during the past few years have found them very valuable. Many partridges' nests are lost every season through the bird's unwise choice of a site. If artificial nests are made in positions where they will be safe from floods and one or more of the sham eggs are placed therein, partridges will

be induced to adopt them. Here they will lay in safety and hatch off their broods. It is important that sham partridge eggs should be of the right weight, size and color."

One of our California members said in an article on quail breeding that his birds would lay in nests in which he placed a marble. We would think that sham quail eggs or infertile eggs might be better than marbles. It is important to know if quail often will lay to eggs placed to induce them to lay in safe places and we hope some of the quail breeders will make experiments both with marbles and with sham eggs and write the results for *The Game Breeder*. It is such details we are sure that interest our readers most.

A Little Nonsense.

Mr. Burnham volunteered the following nonsense to the members of the committee:

"If a man goes from this country and shoots on Andrew Carnegie's preserve in Scotland he has to furnish his own ammunition. He can go out there and join the big pheasant shoot, where, for example, a thousand or more pheasants are shot in one of those drives, but he is not permitted to take one of those birds away with him when he leaves. The birds shot on these hunting parties are put on the market."

We did not know Andrew was so close. On other English preserves guests take what they want to eat. Game often is given to servants, small farmers, keepers, beaters, etc.

Mr. Burnham further advised the committee that these rich men have a definite objective in sending all their game to market. "And that object is to keep the price of game so low in the market that there is no inducement for the poacher to come on their land and kill these birds surreptitiously."

We would advise Mr. Burnham to tell our poultry breeders to insist that poultry be sold very cheap in order to see that there be no inducement for chicken thieves. We were under the impression that English farmers and owners of

country places desired to get good returns for their crops to help pay the cost of production.

Hatching Pheasant Eggs

NINA ALMY.

The best results are obtained by using hens to hatch the eggs. It is very necessary to keep them well dusted during the period of hatching. Do not use hens with scaly legs. Whenever it is possible set them on the ground, make a small depression in the ground and use sod or cut straw. I have had splendid results by setting a hen on a large piece of sod in a building to hatch the eggs.

Whenever it is possible, place the nest under bushes, brush or other cover where rain will not flood it.

Eggs of the Chinese ringneck variety require twenty-five days to hatch, they may be moistened from time to time just as you would those of a hen. Do not disturb the young chicks for twenty-four hours after they are hatched, and unless the weather is very warm, do not give them any water until they are a week old. The first food for young pheasants may be hard-boiled eggs, and they should not be fed until they are twenty-four hours old. Eggs should be grated through a piece of wire netting, they should be fed four times a day or every four hours, being careful to feed only as much as they will clean up. It must be kept in mind that the pheasant is a light eater and naturally a wild bird, and requires only from one-tenth to one-twentieth part the amount a chicken should be fed on.

Instead of boiled eggs the first food may consist of eggs and potatoes boiled in the same kettle until the potatoes are soft and the yolks of the eggs will crumble. Mash potatoes, using two parts to one of eggs. Use the same food for three days, then add lettuce, onion tops or millet. Keep plenty of green food before them. If it suits your convenience you may scald thick sour milk until the whey and curd separate, then strain and use dry curd, mixed with equal parts of ground hemp and canary seed, about four parts of curd to one of seed with very

little pepper added. When unable to obtain ground seed I have fed the whole seed in the same proportions. This should be staple food until they are six weeks old, then they can be fed the same as hens. They do not care much for oats. Never forget green food in winter, also apples, cabbage and table scraps. Never give pepper, grass or (sorrel) to pheasants, it is unhealthy for them.

The pheasant is naturally very strong in flight. Confining them was first accomplished by covering the pen or yards with wire netting, but the expense of that method was so great that some pheasant raisers have abandoned it and instead of doing that clip one wing of the flight feathers to prevent flying, but some successful raisers of these birds take a sharp shears, prepare a saucer of boracic acid and calomel or even wood ashes and take each chick when between four days and a week old, clip off one wing at the first joint, immediately dipping the raw end of the wing in the powder and turning the bird loose. This is called pinioning. It has no injurious effects on the birds, they recover quickly and it prevents their flying thereafter more than three or four feet in height, and permits them to be confined in an uncovered garden or yard surrounded by poultry netting fence. Birds raised to be liberated for stocking purposes should not be pinioned. Not more than one male should be kept with six hens. Plenty of perches and a house that is open on the south side is all that is necessary for shelter.

Poultry Finance.

(From the Washington Star)

"An egg is mighty valuable these days."

"Of course," assented Farmer Corn-tassel. "An egg will bring almost enough to pay for feeding the hen until she lays the next one."

The pheasant can beat this game when poultry eggs sell for 70 cents, eggs of the common pheasant sell for \$3.50 per dozen, and the pheasant eats much less than a common barnyard hen.—Game Breeder.

BOOK REVIEWS.

INJURIOUS INSECTS AND USEFUL BIRDS.

By F. L. Washburn, Professor of Entomology, University of Minnesota. J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1918. Pp. 1-453. Price, \$1.75.

The readers of *The Game Breeder* are outdoor men and women who are constantly dealing with insect pests, and the greatest living agents in limiting their excessive number—birds. Washburn's book is abundantly illustrated so that it makes an excellent hand-book for the identification of many field, garden and forest insects, household pests, and those which attack domestic animals, including poultry. The book devotes much attention to approved remedies for the control of these abundant animals. This feature of the book is particularly practical as it brings together in small space a great number of practical suggestions.

Most of the book is devoted to insects and their allies. The discussion of birds is from the standpoint of the farmer who should protect birds in order to gain bird protection from insect pests. This chapter is not very satisfactory because it attempts too much in a brief space. In attempting to mention many kinds of birds the continuity of the evidence showing the relation of birds to agriculture is not clearly and forcibly presented. There is a final chapter on quadruped pests of the farm. Here is summarized the injuries and the methods of controlling rabbits, gophers, squirrels and their allies, and a few predacious animals such as the fox, weasel and racoon, which among game are vermin. This part includes the various approved methods of killing by traps and poisons. An unusual feature of the book consists in assembling the treatment of all these pests in one volume, and the author has succeeded in bringing together a large amount of practical experience in convenient form for use.

The author's hope that he has produced a book suitable for agricultural high schools and colleges invites the suggestion that it is too encyclopaedic in form for that purpose, and lacks adequate emphasis and development of the

general principles which should underlie an educational treatment of such a complex subject.

The book gives evidence of careful preparation. An error, however, is noted (p. 411) where Forbes is cited as author of Forbush's "Useful Birds and Their Protection." CHARLES C. ADAMS.

The New York State College of Forestry, at Syracuse, N. Y.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

HE BEGAN AT THE TOP.

Bacon—See you've got a new gardener.

Egbert—Yes, such as he is.

"Where did he learn garden work?"

"He says he began at the top."

"At the top?"

"Yes, he was a waiter in a roof garden.—Yonkers Statesman.

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A \$10,000 COAT.

A curio dealer in Steubenville, Ohio, has a coat covered with 3,800 elk teeth, which he values at \$10,000. The coat was made by an Indian in Manitoba, Canada, and is sinew sewed. It weighs twenty-eight pounds.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

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THE FISHES' FAULT.

As long as fish bite on Sunday people will go after them—The Atchinson Globe.

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AN EXCEPTION.

"Clothes don't make the man."

"Oh, I don't know. Uncle Sam's uniform is making many a man to-day."—From the Detroit Free Press.

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BY WAY OF PROOF.

Why doesn't Gen. von Stein, who says the French Army has been beaten, run down to Paris for the weekend?—From the Charleston News and Courier.

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PROGRESS IN KENTUCKY.

First the individual drinking-cup. Next bone-dry Prohibition and the individual still?—From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

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ANOTHER DRIVE HALTED.

Nothing German has any chance this

year; the wheat raisers have licked the Hessian fly.—From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Farmer and the Skunk.

By HENRY SCAMMAN.

I'm an easy goin' farmer
Very peaceable inclined
But this tarnation game law
Makes me want to speak my mind.

An' by jinks I'm going to do it
Though it's rare that I complain
Don't believe in always kickin'
Cause it does or does not rain.

Now I think it's right protectin'
Moose an' deer and chipimunks
But the law gets too inclusive
When it starts protectin' skunks.

These idees of conservation
On the whole are good I think
But we overdo the business
When we start consarvin' stink.

Skunks is not the kind of critters
That we like to have around
An' I claim it's right to kill 'em
Just as fast as they air found.

For the devils will steal chickens
Perfume up your dog or cat
An' if you ain't on the lookout
You'll get served the same as that.

But the law says skunks is sacred
And perhaps that law is sane
But it strikes me mighty funny
That you can't kill skunks in Maine.

An' I can not help from wishin'
That the men that made this law
May be out some moonlight evenin'
In a March or April thaw.

And as proudly home they saunter
Just before the moon has sunk
They may find each door blockaded
By an ever watchful skunk.
Phillips, March 19, 1917.

Snake Steals Door Knob.

Coleman, Tex., Oct. 27.—A chicken snake took a chance at a door knob which J. W. Tabor, who lives near this town, had placed in his henhouse as a "nest egg." Finding his snakeship writhing in agony Mr. Tabor put him out of his misery with a club.

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D. W. HUNTINGTON, President,
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The bigger the shooting syndicate and the smaller the dues the better. Every one should get into the sport producing and have some fine "sport alluring" on the side.

We are inclined to believe that Section 12 of the new Migratory Bird Law is constitutional. This section reads: "Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of migratory game birds on farms and preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulation for the purpose of increasing the food supply." This repair made to the bill before it was enacted is interesting and timely.

Section 10 of the Migratory Bird Law seems to indicate that the amateur who wrote it might have constructed an unconstitutional measure. It says: "If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this act shall, for any reason, be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof."

Possibly the Supreme Court may hold that Congress has not the power to create a new legislative assembly composed of game law enthusiasts and to authorize such a new law-making body to make

new United States crimes, "while you wait," so to speak. The fact that these new criminal laws must be sent (like laws made in the older Congress) to the President for his approval may make them appear to have the same safeguard that the old style criminal laws relating to murder and moonshine, etc., have. In so far as the veto is concerned, this is true, but how about sending people to jail because they may be found guilty of new crimes which have not been created by the law-makers elected by the people? Some courts regard crime as a serious matter not to be multiplied lightly or without the due consideration of the duly elected law-makers.

If someone happens to kill a mud hen and to eat it at some season he may start something in the courts.

THE HOT BIRD AND THE COLD BOTTLE.

If the Congress is determined to make the country bone-dry there is a certain amount of propriety in the legislation prohibiting any one in the District of Columbia from eating a wild food bird or having it in possession, as the statutes read.

The hot bird and the cold bottle long have been associated in prose as well as in song and poetry, and it seems fitting that the foods which are very cheap in civilized countries should go with the beverages. Those who wish to eat a grouse or a pheasant, a partridge or a wild fowl, can run over to England, France or any other free country after the cruel war is over and there they will find more freedom in the matter of eating than there is in the land of the free. The wines of France also go especially well with any of the best human foods, endorsed by all real naturalists. There was a time to be sure when it was fashionable to imprison and even to execute women because they stole some raiment to clothe starving, naked children. Even at such times women were not arrested, as they have been in America, and fined and jailed for producing food on their lands or for having the stock birds or

eggs in their possession. Possibly the women who vote may not approve of the action of Congress intended to close the markets to food produced by industry. The quail, the grouse and all the other good foods should be sold in Washington.

THE PROGRESS OF WILD LIFING—PROTECTION.

When the Bain Bill, intended to prevent the sale of a rabbit, was pending in New York, we suggested that it would be wise not to introduce a new bill permitting the breeding and sale of game and encouraging field sports on farms where it seemed desirable to encourage these laudable performances. The pending bill had a good place on the calendar and our idea was that it would be easier and quicker to have the bill repaired so that instead of prohibiting the sale of rabbits and other wild foods it would permit and encourage the breeding and sale of deer as well as the other wild foods, including rabbits. We attended the hearing as a spectator and reporter. We said a few words to the committee when asked to do so by the presiding Senator, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, now Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He quickly saw the great economic importance of the change in the bill and soon it was evident that the committee would put an end to the proposed nonsense before it adjourned. The bill prohibiting the sale of a rabbit and other foods was amended so as to permit the sale of deer, pheasants and wild ducks, and the Governor, who had promised to sign it after the needed repairs were made, quickly did so.

Only twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars were blown in, we believe, to save the rabbit. We published the names of the contributors to the wild lifing fund and the amounts contributed by each at the time. Mr. H. C. Frick headed the list with \$1,500.

We predicted that there would be much shouting about the victory for wild life and there was. The name of the bill, at least, was saved! The Bain Bill has passed! The Bain Bill has passed!

A new fund needed to further the wild-lifing! etc., etc.

When it appeared that the quail were thriving on Long Island quite near the great city of New York, and were doing so well that they appeared to prove that shooting can be preserved without too much wildlifing and game protecting, a vast fund was raised to prohibit quail shooting on Long Island. The Game Breeder protested against this nonsense since it would put an end to the quail breeders and probably result in exterminating the quail. We have very little money to spend in protecting field sports and food production from their enemies, but a matter of fifty dollars or so for postage helped some in bringing out the breeders and they quickly ran the wild lifer and his able consulting naturalist, Doctor Weeks, D. S. C., off the island.

The quail have responded nicely to the victory and last week we heard them whistling on all four sides of the house on the game preserve of the Long Island Game Breeders' Association, a new place started since the victory on Long Island.

When the Migratory Bill was pending (long, long ago it was), we suggested to Mr. Burnham that since the bill said you "must not" in such long-winded phrases it would be wise to change it so that in so far as game breeders are concerned, it would say "you may." In other words, we still had the idea that it would be wise to encourage food production and field sports and not to give a new national police force the right to join the more vicious elements of some of the State Departments, who being unable to find much game elsewhere, had formed the habit of raiding game farms (including the owners of a few birds in back yards) and shaking them down for various sums because they did not know about the license to keep birds and for other trivial offenses calculated to hamper the new industry. Mr. Burnham informed us he would inquire if this item of common sense could be inserted in the bill and later we were told it could not be. We are not common lobbyists like the others who collect vast sums for the wild lifing-game-protection enter-

prises, but we decided that a little publicity might hold up the measure for repairs and our readers are aware that we gave a few lines, now and then, to this public service. We gave as much space to the game law as seemed to be fair. Our subscribers who are engaged in game breeding are entitled to find something besides game laws in the magazine. We need some space for pictorial advertisements of the sale of game and other interesting facts and notes about game abundance, the breeders' methods, etc., etc. These should not, of course, be crowded out. It soon seemed likely that the bill which said "you mustn't" could not get through until it was repaired so as to say "you may," just as the bill which prohibited the sale of a rabbit had rough sailing until it was slightly modified so as to permit the sale of a deer, etc. There were long waits. There were many excursions to Washington and much lobbying; all of this could have been avoided had our advice been heeded and had the simple little repair we suggested been inserted long ago. The new Section 12 says: "Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of migratory game birds on farms and preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulation for the purpose of increasing the food supply." This is a simple permissive section, easily understood, and the breeders of migratory birds can safely go right on with their business without any interference. Since the States cannot enact laws, as we understand the proposition, which conflict with the U. S. law, anyone who wishes to do so can get into the food production industry or can have the game birds for sport or for profit without State interference.

We congratulate our readers who took an interest in the matter upon the good outcome of their efforts. There are many thousands of game breeders in America and the number is increasing rapidly. We would advise them in the future when State laws are proposed prohibiting quail shooting or putting the grouse or other wild food birds on the

song bird list, to see that the bills which say you mustn't be repaired before they are enacted so as to read that, nothing in the act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of the food-songsters on the farms and preserves and the sale of the birds so bred for the purpose of increasing the food supply. There are many capable and intelligent State Game officers who do not approve of the New York wild lifer-protectionists rushing into their States and prohibiting field sports for terms of years or forever. It should be an easy matter to run them out. By permitting those who desire to increase the food supply to do so, field sports can be kept open, for all hands, since the game overflowing from the fields of abundance will keep supplying the public lands and waters with game for those who are not producers. The country is so big that there is no danger of there being too many preserves. Since most of the farms are now posted against shooting and the States are enacting laws putting food birds on the song bird list and prohibiting field sports, no harm will result in our calling a halt so that some of the posted farms can be made to yield abundantly and so that upland field sports can be kept alive.

Those who put in all of their time attempting to secure laws preventing the production of desirable foods do not seem to be as well engaged just now as those who are actively engaged in producing tons of food. The idea that in the interest of wild-living it must be a crime to profitably produce food on a farm seems to be vanishing rapidly. North America soon will become the biggest game-producing country in the world.

THE WILD DUCK SICKNESS.

An outline of a recent bulletin on the Duck Sickness in Utah is printed on another page. The bulletin, containing 25 pages, is full of interesting matter not only about the trouble in Utah but also about similar troubles in other regions in California, Oregon, Montana and Kansas where the cause of death was similar to that producing duck sickness

in Utah. It is said that the Kansas ducks may have suffered from some bacterial affection. The bulletin can be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents per copy.

There are many excellent duck clubs which own preserves in the affected areas and since a considerable outlay of money will be needed to provide fresh water in some of the marshes, we believe it would be wise for the clubs to employ gamekeepers and to rear large numbers of ducks. The shooting can be much improved and a sale of a big lot of ducks would no doubt pay the cost of rearing them and supply all or a good part of the funds needed to keep the water fresh and the ducks in good health. The markets of Utah should be kept full of wild ducks and the Eastern markets will eagerly take all the ducks offered.

Many of the Eastern clubs now sell wild ducks to hotels and to the markets and in so doing they become of great economic importance and perform a public service, highly commendable just now when food production is important and necessary. There often is a prejudice against clubs which monopolize good shooting grounds but this rapidly disappears when it becomes known that the clubs are producing more game than they shoot and that much of it is shot outside of the preserves.

This prejudice even made its appearance in the vicinity of one of the clubs organized by members of the Game Conservation Society, although the ducks were produced about an artificial pond. When, however, it became known that over a thousand ducks went out from the place in a season and that many of these, besides a big lot of pheasants and quail, were shot by outsiders, the prejudice quickly disappeared and the club became popular.

WHY NOT BREED QUAIL AND GROUSE?

All naturalists and all sportsmen know that it is a very easy matter to introduce grouse and quail on protected areas and

quickly to make these splendid foods so plentiful that they could be sold in the markets as cheaply as the European grouse and partridges are sold in the foreign markets.

The pheasants easily are reared in big numbers and since the laws were amended a few years ago permitting game breeders to produce pheasants without fear of arrest the pheasants have become so abundant in many places that it will be no longer necessary to send money abroad to purchase pheasants.

Why should American breeders be compelled to send thousands of dollars annually to Mexico for small quail when the larger Northern birds easily could be produced on American farms in sufficient numbers to supply the demands of all those who wish to purchase quail for breeding purposes for sport or for food? It seems nonsensical for the laws to say that money only can be sent to Mexico for quail just as it was sent a few years ago to other foreign countries in payment for pheasants.

Quail shooting has been ended, probably forever, in many States. Some quail survive in parts of these States but they are of no value either for food or for sport and they are not of any appreciable value as insect destroyers since there are not enough of them.

A little spraying of the plants will do more good in a few minutes than the few quail which survive will do in a year. Granting that the quail are beneficial to agriculture, why should not the State permit and encourage the farmers to make and to keep them profitably plentiful? Why encourage the breeding of fish and prevent the production of quail? The answer can be expressed in three words: "Nonsense! Nonsense! Nonsense!"

Why should a State game department or a State legislature persist in being nonsensical?

WHY NOT MORE GAME?



FENCES FOR GAME PRESERVES

The accompanying photograph shows one of our Non-Climbable "RIOT" fences, erected by us, with our indestructible steel fence post 8 feet high, surrounding the Yale Bowl Field, New Haven, Conn.

This fence held in check 80,000 people who attended the Harvard-Yale Game, November 25th, 1916, and 60,000 people who attended the Princeton-Yale Game, November 13th, 1915.

We have this fence and many other excellent designs. It will be to your advantage to secure our Catalogue, that shows many of the best erected fences in this country; also tells about our posts in detail; how to erect a fence; how to paint the fence wire to keep it from rusting.

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\$7.50 per pair; Ringnecks, \$5.00 per pair; Mongolians,
\$6.50 per pair; Lady Amhersts, \$12.50 per pair; Reeves,
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Member of THE GAME GUILD

THE VERMIN QUESTION.

The Biological Survey favors the extermination of wolves because they destroy sheep. It seems perfectly logical to say the breeder of game should control its natural enemies when they are observed to be destroying game birds, a highly desirable food.

Laws protecting certain predatory species, at all times or during certain seasons, should contain, always, exceptions permitting the farmer or sportsman, who is engaged in rearing game, to control these species when they are observed to be destroying birds and eggs.

It is well known in the older countries, where game is an abundant and cheap food supply, that it is impossible to destroy all the vermin which seeks to take the game. A continual war is waged by keepers against vermin. There is a disposition to ascertain what species of vermin preys largely on the game and what species take it only occasionally. Game keepers are aware, however, that some of the species deemed to be more

beneficial than harmful sometimes acquire perverted appetites in the presence of large numbers of young game birds and eggs, and it would seem to be just as proper for the breeder of game to destroy such enemies, as it is for sheep owners to destroy wolves.

As a matter of fact much vermin is driven away by persecution and it is to be hoped it will go to the places owned by naturalists who seem to be over-scientific when they jump at the conclusion that because the stomach of a creature does not show any game, when examined in places where there is no game, that the species is only beneficial, when as a matter of fact the game keeper may say it takes several birds in a day in places where game is reared in abundance.

The fact that certain hawks eat grasshoppers and on this account should be spared does not seem important to a game breeder who produces so many game birds that there is often not enough grasshoppers to go round.

Even if it be true, as it no doubt is,



Wild Mallard Ducks
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THE BLACK FOX MAGAZINE

15 Whitehall Street, New York

that certain hawks take mice, the keeper should not be compelled to preserve the hawks, if his pheasants destroy the mice and if he can control them with terriers sufficiently to grow all the food his game birds require.

When a beneficial hawk is observed to be taking game regularly the owner of the game should certainly decide if he wishes to have that hawk removed.

To argue otherwise seems to us to be sheer nonsense.

Often we have pointed out that the smaller hawks and owls, the bluejays, and some other enemies should not be indiscriminately destroyed. The rule should be to observe what damage is done and to stop even a so-called "beneficial" when he becomes very destructive.

The country is large, the species that prey on game are numerous and tremendously over-abundant in many places when compared with the remnant of game which is left. In some places it is impossible to restore the game because the game enemies are so numerous as to keep nature's balance upset in the wrong



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direction. Until our markets become full of cheap game the activities of the food producers should not be checked by too many restrictive laws, as often we have pointed out. Let us restore the game and make it plentiful and in the meantime let us urge all good keepers to observe what species do the most damage and to only destroy the individual "beneficials" which appear to be doing enough damage to warrant their control on the game farm where game is reared abundantly.

More Game.

People usually get what they go after. We went after "more game" and quickly we secured many tons of game. We have helped to harvest several tons of food in a single season on a place quite near New York.

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It seems to be a little strange for the Protective Society, which claims to favor game, to be actively engaged promoting a bill before a congressional committee intended to prevent the sale of all game in one of the good markets. Washington, why not prevent the sale of oysters and fish?

His Opinion.

Mrs. Yeast—What would you call a man who agrees with everybody?

Mr. Yeast—A fool.

"And suppose it was 'a woman?'"

"It isn't possible that any woman would."—*Yonkers Statesman.*

Cat Has "Whooping Cough."

Fremont, O., Feb. 23.—A. W. Haaser, sanitary policeman, who has been engaged tacking up whooping cough quarantine signs, is authority for the statement that whooping cough is not an affliction confined to the human race. He says that at one place visited where a number of the children were ill he also noticed the pet family cat was "whooping it up."

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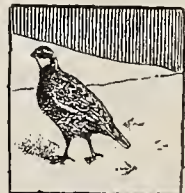


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New York City

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FOR SALE—PET FEMALE COON, GUARANTEED breeder, three years old. Had five last litter. Stamp for reply. **BEN BOWMAN**, Monroe Ave., Canton, Ohio 1t

QUAIL, PARTRIDGES, WILD FOWL, DEER AND other animals. See display advertisement in this issue. **WM. J. MACKENSEN**, Proprietor Pennsylvania Pheasantry and Game Park.

RABBIT AND HARE SOCIETY OF CANADA. Breeder should write for constitution and by-laws. **JOHN E. PEART**, Secretary, Hamilton, Ontario. 12t

CANADA WILD GEESE AND THEIR GOSLINGS.—A limited number for sale now—the surest way to start breeding this species. We are the oldest and largest breeders of Canadas in this country. Black and White Swans, Wild Ducks, etc., for sale. **WHEALTON WATER FOWL FARMS**, Chincoteague Island, Va.

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BELGIAN HARES AND FLEMISH GIANTS FOR sale. All stock. **C. W. DIXON**, 8612 Morgan Street, Chicago, Ill. 1t

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

WANTED—WHITE PEAFOWL, EITHER SEX. Pied Peafowl, Soemmerring, Cheer, Hoki and German Peacock Pheasants, Ruffed Grouse, and White Squirrels. Also Swinhoes; state price and number. **R. A. CHILES & CO.**, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

FOR SALE—RINGNECK, GOLDEN PHEASANT, and silver. We are going to close out our pheasantry. Prices reasonable. **OCCONEECHEE FARM**, Durham, N. C.

FOR SALE—PHEASANTS, PURE BRED CHINESE Eggs, \$3.50 per dozen, \$25.00 per hundred. **NINA ALMY**, Middleburgh, N. Y. 1t

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PURE BRED WILD WATERFOWL AT FOLLOWING prices: Mallards, \$3.75 per pair. Pintails, \$3.25 per pair. Green Wing Teal, \$5.00 per pair. Blue Wing Teal, \$3.75 per pair. Also redheads, Gadwalls, Widgeons, Canvasbacks, Spoonbills, at reasonable prices, for propagating and scientific purposes. **GEORGE J. KLEIN**, Ellinwood, Kansas.

TWO PAIR LARGE WHITE ROYAL SWAN OF England, mature birds, \$150.00 a pair. Also two pair young Swan from same birds, \$100.00 pair. Two pair Black Brandt, rare, very handsome, \$40.00 pair. Two pair whistling Tree Ducks, \$40.00 pair. One pair Crested Turkeys (currasaws), \$75.00 pair. Immediate delivery. Also rare wild Pigeons, Pheasants, foreign birds of song and plumage. **J. L. OAKES**, 44 West Maple Avenue, Denver, Colorado. 1t

HOYT'S CALIFORNIA PHEASANTRY, PRICE LIST. **FRED D. HOYT**, Hayward, California.

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GAMEKEEPER—POSITION WANTED. SKILLED gamekeeper with good references desires position. **WM. STRANG**, 2147 Blackrock Ave., Unionport, N. Y.

WANTED—POSITION AS MANAGER ON GAME farm or shooting preserve. Long experience raising game birds. Understand raising and training shooting dogs, and trapping vermin. **A. S. B.**, care of Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.

GAMEKEEPER—SITUATION WANTED

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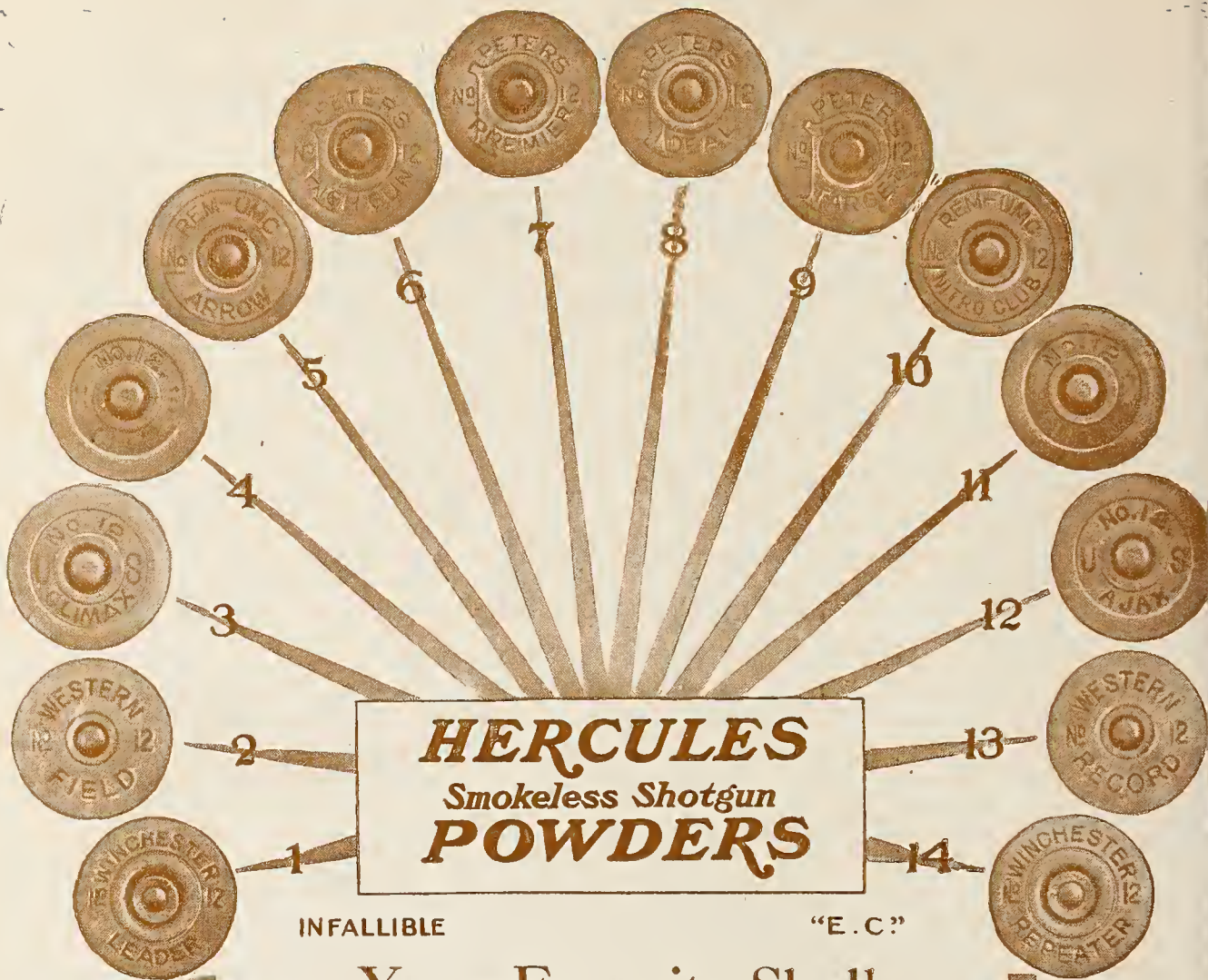
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XIII.

SEPTEMBER, 1918

No. 6

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



CONTRADICTIONARY LAW

MIGRATORY BIRD LAW

Section 12. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of Migratory Game Birds on Farms and Preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulations for the purpose of increasing the food supply.

PRESERVE

The word Preserve is defined as, "A place in which game is protected for the purposes of sport."
Funk and Wagnals Standard Dictionary.

REGULATION OF U. S. BIOLOGICAL SURVEY MADE UNDER THE MIGRATORY BIRD LAW

Regulation 8. Sec. 2. "Migratory waterfowl, except the birds taken under paragraph 1 of this Regulation (the birds trapped for breeding stock), so possessed may be killed by him (the person having a permit) in any manner EXCEPT BY SHOOTING . . . and the birds so killed may be sold and transported."

If it is true that a Preserve is a place where game is properly looked after for purposes of sport, and if it is true that the farmers and sportsmen who conduct such places keep the game in the markets for the people to eat at prices cheaper than poultry, as Mr. Burnham said they do, it would seem that the Survey should not be permitted to make a regulation (having the effect of a criminal law) intended to prevent the breeding, sale and shooting of game.

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

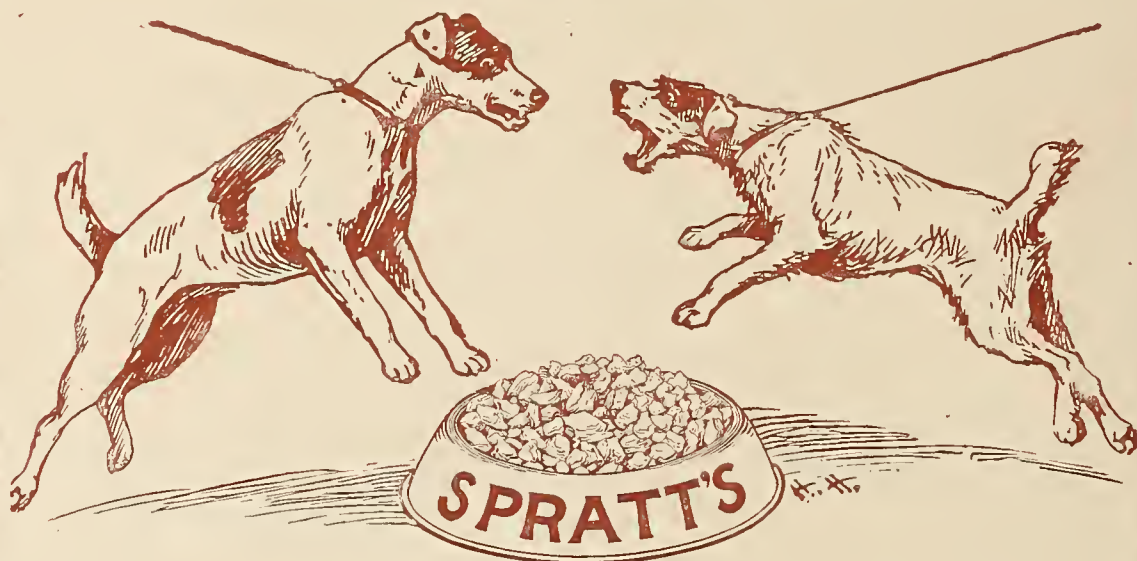


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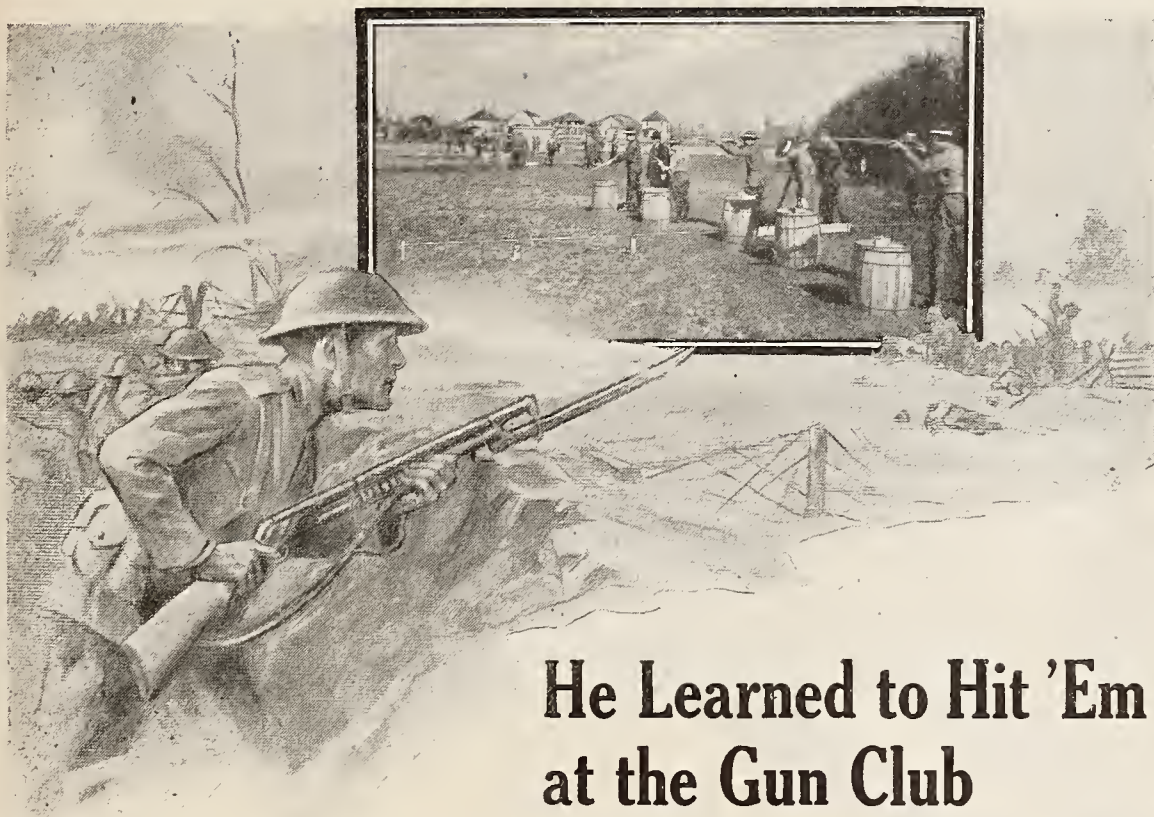
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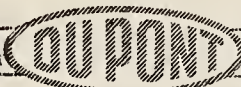
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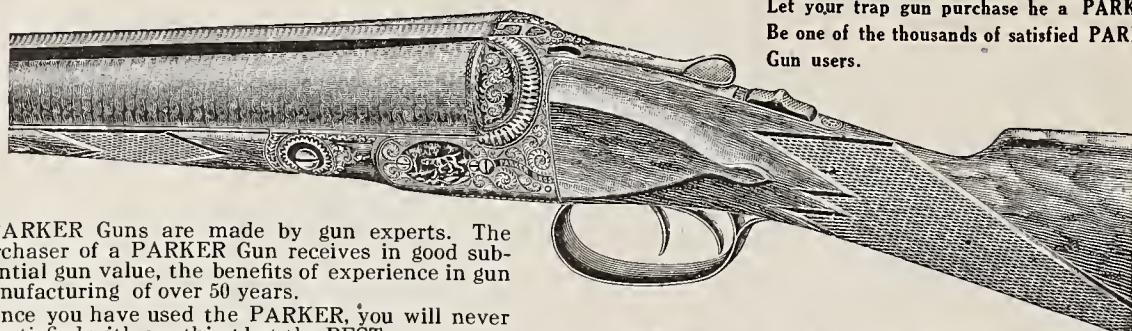
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MARMOT, OREGON

The Game Breeder

VOLUME XIII

SEPTEMBER, 1918

NUMBER 6



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Meeting of State Game Officers.

The State Game Officers will meet in New York this month and it is to be hoped that some patriotic action may be taken looking to an increase in the number of American game birds and animals as a food supply. When the war started wild fowl and upland game birds were cheaper in England than poultry. The delicious teal was quoted in the market reports as low as a shilling and larger ducks, pheasants and other upland game birds were plentiful and absurdly cheap. Every one (including market gunners) is allowed to shoot and sell wild fowl in England.

The owners of large country places, the owners of small farms, the big preserves and the club syndicates which owned or rented shooting places and thousands of market gunners all contributed to make the game cheap and abundant.

Since the entire area of the British Isles is much smaller than some of our states and the ponds and lakes suitable for duck breeding are few in number and area when compared to such places in America, it is quite evident that a very little of our desolate lands and waters, where little or no game occurs, can be made to produce quickly all the game our people can eat.

Many game farmers in England always stand ready to supply the shoots with birds and eggs for breeding and shooting purposes. There now are many game farmers in America who can supply the clubs of sportsmen with birds and eggs. All that is needed is for the sportsmen to get busy under the advice and encouragement of their state officers and to organize game producing clubs,

and it is to be hoped that the state game officers will lend the food producers every encouragement. Trap shooting clubs purchase their targets and own or rent their shooting grounds. No good reason can be assigned why the game shooting clubs should not purchase birds and eggs from the game farmers who advertise in the Game Breeder and get busy producing game on some of the posted farms, with their owners' permission, of course. There is no good reason why they should not produce millions of wild fowl about small ponds where no ducks are seen today, some of which may be drained and lost to sport forever if they be not utilized.

The game protective societies find it easy to procure more game laws. The game producing clubs find it easy to procure "more game."

=

Moving Pictures.

It is reported that George Bates, moving picture maker, will make films illustrating field trial dogs at work on the prairie. People who have seen the thoroughbreds go into action at a field trial know how picturesque and interesting such pictures can be made, and many sportsmen will be delighted to see the setters and the pointers at the movies.

=

Ruffed Grouse in Pennsylvania.

The Field says all but eleven counties in Pennsylvania have asked for the closing of the hunting of ruffed grouse for two years. Nine of the eleven counties have sent word that they will have their papers on file asking for the closing of grouse shooting and the two

counties remaining are Philadelphia and Delaware. The first named has no shooting district and the second has no grouse.

In due time it seems likely all of the counties may become like the last two. It would be a good time to start some grouse clubs, look after the birds and perpetuate field sports, keeping the state open for all hands, just as the Long Island quail clubs keep the quail shooting on the island open for everybody. Who will look after the grouse properly during the closed season? The foxes, hawks, crows, skunks, dogs, cats, and a good number of other "varmints," no doubt, including some illegal shooters, who cannot resist the chance to pot a grouse, will keep busy. There is a better way of preserving field sports and game than by turning it over to its natural enemies for terms of years. Who will purchase guns or ammunition in Pennsylvania? Who will purchase bird dogs during the closed season?

Is it not a bad time just now to put an end to a desirable food supply and to prohibit the production of the food? All clubs and individuals who have plenty of grouse on their places should be excepted when the prohibition laws are enacted.

=

Ohio State Game Officer Resigns.

General John C. Speaks, State Game Warden for Ohio, has resigned and will become a candidate for Congress. General Speaks succeeded in getting pheasant breeding well started in Ohio. There are between five hundred and a thousand breeders, and we believe the State Warden provided eggs and birds for many who under a 50-cent license have the right to breed, shoot and sell pheasants.

Had the quail been included in the 50-cent license, or had the title of the quail been transferred to the farmers, quail shooting would not have been prohibited in Ohio, and we believe the quail could be found in the Ohio markets today. Since the game is in charge of the Board of Agriculture in Ohio it should be an easy matter to turn over these birds to

the farmers and make the birds a farm asset, as they should be, and let the sportsmen form shooting clubs to pay the farmers' taxes for the right to produce and shoot quail on the farms. Plans and specifications furnished free by The Game Breeder with references to farmers in other states who like the sportsmen who deal with them.

=

Getting Ready for More Laws.

Mr. V. C. Buell, field secretary of a Wisconsin Game Protective Association, concludes an appeal for members thus: "Send in your club application at your earliest convenience. Remember, it is numbers that count in legislative matters."

Why go in for more laws when it is evident that they do not produce or even save quail shooting? It would be a good idea to encourage some game production in every county in the state.

Wisconsin can be made a very fine state for prairie grouse shooting, provided the farmers and sportsmen will work together on a few places and will produce the grouse. These are among the easiest and the cheapest birds to produce. All that is necessary is to know how to do it and to be able to keep out of jail for the crime of food production. Wisconsin protective associations may have a fine time next Winter getting a few dozen or a few score more game laws, but in war times at least the sportsmen should not provide for the arrest of food producers. Possibly the Wisconsin farmers will wake up. If they do they will either put all the farm game birds in the song bird list or decide that they may be made a valuable farm asset.

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Important New York Law for Breeders

The following amendment to the New York conservation law is in the right direction:

"The commission may also issue a license revocable at pleasure to any person, permitting such person to take and possess any species of fish, game birds, quadrupeds or aquatic animals, protected by this chapter, for propagation purposes, 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, game birds, quadrupeds or aquatic animals lawfully taken and possessed for propagation, scientific or educational purposes, under such regulations as the commission may prescribe.

"Fish, game birds, quadrupeds or aquatic animals 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.

"Persons receiving a license under this section must report the result of operation thereunder annually to the commission, at the expiration of the license. Such license shall be in force for one year only from the date of issue and shall not be transferable."

Often the Game Breeder has pointed out the absurdity of issuing licenses for \$1 permitting every one to destroy 25 or 50 game birds in a day while people must be arrested and fined \$15,000, or some other sum, if they should happen to take a few game birds alive with the intention of breeding large numbers of them for sale as food.

It is interesting to note that for \$1 (same price as killing license) birds may be taken alive and preserved.

=

More Law for California.

The farmers of Lower California are complaining because the rabbits eat their beans. An open season is desired to remedy the situation.

The Field says:

Early last Fall it was the ducks that were doing untold damage to their rice crop and they asked an open season on them, and now it is the rabbit. All these complaints are referred to the Food Administration as the Fish and Game Commission has no power to act, and by the time any relief is afforded the rabbits will have gotten through with the beans and turned their attention to something else, perhaps the truck gardens. At the next meeting of the state legislature is the time and place for the rice-growers and the bean-growers to make their complaints and get relief—if any relief is really needed. A legislature usually has time to look into such matters thoroughly and determine to what degree the complaints made are justified.

When we learned that farmers in New Mexico complained about the Gambel's

quail eating their beans we decided to plant beans for our Gambel's. With us the quail are worth more than beans. Why should not a landowner decide which crop he wants? We believe with a little good farm management he can have plenty of beans and plenty of quail on the same ground. We shall be prepared (provided the game police don't interfere) to serve beans to any Bostonian who may visit us and broiled quail from the same garden for any Missourian who for educational purposes would like to look in at a dinner with both items on the bill. If we must give up one it will be the beans. We hope if the laws must be so shaped as to require our giving up one of our industries it certainly will be the beans. We can buy beans cheaper than we are buying quail.

=

One More New York Law.

The conservation law recently was amended so as to read as follows:

Wild fowl. Except in counties wholly or partly within the forest preserve or on Long Island, wild fowl may only be taken with the use of a shotgun fired at arm's length.

This act shall take effect immediately.

We presume this does not mean that only pistols shall be used, as a reader suggests. Probably guns held at the shoulder are meant. It would be interesting to know if this law conflicts with the law permitting the taking of birds for propagation purposes. Birds taken with a shotgun fired at arm's length would hardly be useful for food producing purposes.

Something Significant.

It is significant that the pheasants and certain species of wild ducks and deer have responded nicely to breeders' laws permitting their production and sale in the markets and that complaints are common that the birds protected against breeders are found to need closed seasons and must be placed on the song bird list.

THE MIGRATORY BIRD LAW

[Section 12 of this law is the one which will interest the Game Breeders.—Editor.]

[PUBLIC—NO. 186—65TH CONGRESS.]
[S. 1553.]

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

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

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

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

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

*SEC. 5. That any employee of the Department of Agriculture authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce the provisions of this Act shall have power, without warrant, to arrest any person committing a violation of this Act in his presence or view and to take such person immediately for examination or trial before an officer or court of competent jurisdiction; shall have power to execute any warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act; and shall have authority, with a search warrant, to search any place. The several judges of the courts established under the laws of the United States, and United States commissioners may, within their respective jurisdictions, upon proper oath or affirmation showing probable cause, issue warrants in all such cases. All birds, or parts, nests, or eggs thereof, captured, killed, taken, shipped, transported, carried, or possessed contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulations made pursuant thereto shall, when found, be seized by any such employee, or by any marshal or deputy marshal, and, upon conviction of the offender or upon judgment of a court of the United States that the same were captured, killed, taken, shipped, transported, carried, or possessed contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulation made pursuant thereto, shall be forfeited.

to the United States and disposed of as directed by the court having jurisdiction.

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

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

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

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

of migratory game and insectivorous birds, are hereby reappropriated and made available until expended for the expenses of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and regulations made pursuant thereto, including the payment of such rent, and the employment of such persons and means, as the Secretary of Agriculture may deem necessary, in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, co-operation with local authorities in the protection of migratory birds, and necessary investigations connected therewith: *Provided*, That no person who is subject to the draft for service in the Army or Navy shall be exempted or excused from such service by reason of his employment under this Act.

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

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

SEC. 12. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of migratory game birds on farms and preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulation for the purpose of increasing the food supply.

SEC. 13. That this Act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

Approved, July 3, 1918.

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MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT REGULATIONS.

The President's Proclamation.

Whereas, Section three of the Act of Congress approved July third, nineteen hundred and eighteen, entitled "An Act to give effect to the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded at Washington, August sixteenth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, and for other purposes" (Public No. 186—65th Congress), provides as follows:

"That subject to the provisions and in order

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

And, Whereas, The Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to said section and having due regard to the zones of temperature and to the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight of migratory birds included in the terms of the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded August sixteenth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, has determined when, to what extent, and by what means it is compatible with the terms of said convention to allow hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, and export of such birds and parts thereof, and their nests and eggs, and in accordance with such determinations has adopted and submitted to me for approval regulations, which the Secretary of Agriculture has determined to be suitable regulations, permitting and governing hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, and export of said birds and parts thereof and their nests and eggs, which said regulations are as follows:

REGULATIONS, MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT.

REGULATION 1—DEFINITIONS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS.

Migratory birds, included in the terms of the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds, concluded August 16, 1916, are as follows:

1. *Migratory game birds*—

(a) Anatidae, or waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, geese, and swans.

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

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

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

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

2. *Migratory insectivorous birds*—Bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, hummingbirds, kinglets, martins; meadowlarks, nighthawks or bullbats, nuthatches, orioles, robins, shrikes, swallows, swifts, tanagers, titmice, thrushes, vireos, warblers, waxwings, whip-poor-wills, woodpeckers, and wrens, and all other perching birds which feed entirely or chiefly on insects.

3. *Other migratory nongame birds*—Auks, auklets, bitterns, fulmars, gannets, grebes, guillemots, gulls, herons, jaegers, loons, murre, petrels, puffins, shearwaters, and terns.

REGULATION 2—DEFINITIONS OF TERMS.

For the purposes of these regulations the following terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean—

Secretary—The Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

Person—The plural or the singular, as the case demands, including individuals, associations, partnerships, and corporations, unless the context otherwise requires.

Take—The pursuit, hunting, capture, or killing of migratory birds in the manner and by the means specifically permitted.

Open season—The time during which migratory birds may be taken.

Transport—Shipping, transporting, carrying, exporting, receiving or delivering for shipment, transportation, carriage, or export.

REGULATION 3—MEANS BY WHICH MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS MAY BE TAKEN.

The migratory game birds specified in Regulation 4 hereof may be taken during the open season with a gun only, not larger than number ten gauge, fired from the shoulder, except as specifically permitted by Regulations 7, 8, 9 and 10 hereof; they may be taken during the open season from the land and water, from a blind or floating device (other than an airplane, powerboat, sailboat, or any boat under sail), with the aid of a dog, and the use of decoys.

REGULATION 4—OPEN SEASONS ON AND POSSESSION OF CERTAIN MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.

For the purpose of this regulation, each period of time herein prescribed as an open season shall be construed to include the first and last days thereof.

Waterfowl (except wood duck, eider ducks, and swans), rails, coot, gallinules, blackbellied and golden plovers, greater and lesser yellowlegs, woodcock, Wilson snipe or jack-snipe, and mourning and white-winged doves may be taken each day from half an hour before sunrise to sunset during the open seasons prescribed therefor in this regulation, by the means and in the numbers permitted by Regulations 3 and 5 hereof, respectively, and when so taken, each species may be possessed any day during the respective open seasons herein prescribed therefor and for an

additional period of ten days next succeeding said open season.

Waterfowl (except wood duck, eider ducks, and swans), coot, gallinules, and Wilson snipe or jacksnipe—The open seasons for waterfowl (except wood duck, eider ducks, and swans), coot, gallinules, and Wilson snipe or jacksnipe shall be as follows:

In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York (except Long Island), Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, and that portion of Oregon and Washington lying east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains the open season shall be from September 16 to December 31.

In Rhode Island, Connecticut, Utah, and that portion of Oregon and Washington lying west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains the open season shall be from October 1 to January 15.

In that portion of New York known as Long Island, and in New Jersey, Delaware, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California the open season shall be from October 16 to January 31.

In Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana the open season shall be from November 1 to January 31.

In Alaska the open season shall be from September 1 to December 15.

Rails (except coot and gallinules)—The open season for sora and other rails (except coot and gallinules) shall be from September 1 to November 30, except as follows:

In Louisiana the open season shall be from November 1 to January 31.

Black-bellied and golden plovers and greater and lesser yellowlegs—The open seasons for black-bellied and golden plovers and greater and lesser yellowlegs shall be as follows:

In Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia the open season shall be from August 16 to November 30.

In the District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Alaska the open season shall be from September 1 to December 15.

In Vermont, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, and that portion of Oregon and Washington lying east of the summit of the

Cascade Mountains the open season shall be from September 16 to December 31.

In Utah and in that portion of Oregon and Washington lying west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains the open season shall be from October 1 to January 15.

In Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas the open season shall be from November 1 to January 31.

Woodcock—The open seasons for woodcock shall be as follows:

In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas the open season shall be from October 1 to November 30.

In Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma the open season shall be from November 1 to December 31.

Doves—The open seasons for mourning and white-winged doves shall be as follows:

In Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, California, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon the open season shall be from September 1 to December 15.

In North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana the open season shall be from September 16 to December 31.

REGULATION 5—BAG LIMITS ON CERTAIN MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.

A person may take in any one day during the open seasons prescribed therefor in Regulation 4 not to exceed the following numbers of migratory game birds:

Ducks (except wood duck and eider ducks)—Twenty-five in the aggregate of all kinds.

Geese—Eight in the aggregate of all kinds.

Brant—Eight.

Rails, coot, and gallinules—Twenty-five in the aggregate of all kinds.

Black-bellied and golden plovers and greater and lesser yellowlegs—Fifteen in the aggregate of all kinds.

Wilson snipe, or jacksnipe—Twenty-five.

Woodcock—Six.

Doves (mourning and white-winged)—Twenty-five in the aggregate of both kinds.

REGULATION 6—SHIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION OF CERTAIN MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.

Waterfowl (except wood duck, eider ducks, and swans), rails, coot, gallinules, black-bellied and golden plovers, greater and lesser yellowlegs, woodcock, Wilson snipe or jacksnipe, and mourning and white-winged doves and parts thereof legally taken may be trans-

ported in or out of the State where taken during the respective open seasons in that State, and may be imported from Canada during the open seasons in the Province where taken, in any manner, but not more by one person in one calendar week than the number that may be taken under these regulations in two days by one person; any such migratory game birds or parts thereof in transit during the open season may continue in transit such additional time immediately succeeding such open season, not to exceed five days, necessary to deliver the same to their destination; and any package in which migratory game birds or parts thereof are transported shall have the name and address of the shipper and of the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof; but no such birds shall be transported from any State, Territory, or District to or through another State, Territory, or District, or to or through a Province of the Dominion of Canada contrary to the laws of the State, Territory, or District, or Province of the Dominion of Canada in which they were taken or from which they are transported; nor shall any such birds be transported into any State, Territory, or District from another State, Territory, or District, or from any State, Territory, or District into any Province of the Dominion of Canada at a time when such State, Territory, or District, or Province of the Dominion of Canada prohibits the possession or transportation thereof.

REGULATION 7—TAKING OF CERTAIN MIGRATORY NONGAME BIRDS BY ESKIMOS AND INDIANS IN ALASKA.

In Alaska Eskimos and Indians may take for the use of themselves and their immediate families, in any manner and at any time, and possess and transport auks, auklets, guillemots, murre, and puffins and their eggs for food, and their skins for clothing.

REGULATION 8—PERMITS TO PROPAGATE AND SELL MIGRATORY WATERFOWL.

1. A person may take in any manner and at any time migratory waterfowl and their eggs for propagating purposes when authorized by a permit issued by the Secretary. Waterfowl and their eggs so taken may be possessed by the permittee and may be sold and transported by him for propagating purposes to any person holding a permit issued by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.

2. A person authorized by a permit issued by the Secretary may possess, buy, sell, and transport migratory waterfowl and their increase and eggs in any manner and at any time for propagating purposes; and migratory waterfowl, except the birds taken under paragraph 1 of this regulation, so possessed **MAY BE KILLED BY HIM IN ANY MANNER EXCEPT BY SHOOTING**, and the unplucked carcasses and the plucked

carcasses with heads attached thereto of the birds so killed may be sold and transported by him in any manner and at any time to any person for actual consumption, or to the keeper of a hotel, restaurant, or boarding house, retail dealer in meat or game, or a club, for sale or service to their patrons, who may possess such carcasses for actual consumption without a permit.

3. Any package in which such waterfowl or parts thereof or their eggs are transported shall have plainly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof the name and address of the permittee, the number of his permit, the name and address of the consignee, and an accurate statement of the number and kinds of birds or eggs contained therein.

4. Applications for permits must be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and must contain the following information: Name and address of applicant; place where the business is to be carried on; number of acres of land used in the business and whether owned or leased by the applicant; number of each species of waterfowl in possession of applicant; name of species and number of birds or eggs of each species if permission is asked to take waterfowl or their eggs; and the particular locality where it is desired to take such waterfowl or eggs.

5. A person granted a permit under this regulation shall keep books and records which shall correctly set forth the total number of each species of waterfowl and their eggs possessed on the date of application for the permit and on the first day of January next following; also for the calendar year for which permit was issued the total number of each species reared and killed, number of each species and their eggs sold and transported, manner in which such waterfowl and eggs were transported, name and address of each person from or to whom waterfowl and eggs were purchased or sold, together with number and species and whether sold alive or dead; and the date of each transaction. A written report correctly setting forth this information shall be furnished the Secretary during the month of January next following the issuance of the permit.

6. A permittee shall at all reasonable hours allow any authorized employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to enter and inspect the premises where operations are being carried on under this regulation and to inspect the books and records of such permittee relating thereto.

7. Permits issued under this regulation shall be valid only during the calendar year of issue, shall not be transferable, and may be revoked by the Secretary, if the permittee violates any of the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or of the regulations thereunder.

8. A person engaged in the propagation of migratory waterfowl on the date on which

these regulations become effective will be allowed until September 30, 1918, to apply for the permit required by this regulation, but he shall not take any migratory waterfowl without a permit.

REGULATION 9—PERMITS TO COLLECT MIGRATORY BIRDS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

A person may take in any manner and at any time migratory birds and their nests and eggs for scientific purposes when authorized by a permit issued by the Secretary, which permit shall be carried on his person when he is collecting specimens thereunder and shall be exhibited to any person requesting to see the same.

Application for a permit must be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and must contain the following information: Name and address of applicant and name of State, Territory, or District in which specimens are proposed to be taken and the purpose for which they are intended. Each application shall be accompanied by certificates from two well-known ornithologists that the applicant is a fit person to be entrusted with a permit.

The permit will authorize the holder thereof to possess, buy, sell, and transport in any manner and at any time migratory birds, parts thereof, and their nests and eggs for scientific purposes. Public museums, zoological parks and societies, and public scientific and educational institutions may possess, buy, sell, and transport in any manner and at any time migratory birds and parts thereof, and their nests and eggs for scientific purposes without a permit, but no specimens shall be taken without a permit.

Permits shall be valid only during the calendar year of issue, shall not be transferable, and shall be revocable in the discretion of the Secretary. A person holding a permit shall report to the Secretary on or before January 10 following its expiration the number of skins, nests, or eggs of each species collected, bought, sold, or transported.

Every package in which migratory birds or their nests or eggs are transported shall have clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof the name and address of the sender, the number of the permit in every case when a permit is required, the name and address of the consignee, a statement that it contains specimens of birds, their nests, or eggs for scientific purposes, and, whenever such a package is transported or offered for transportation from the Dominion of Canada into the United States or from the United States into the Dominion of Canada, an accurate statement of the contents.

REGULATION 10—PERMITS TO KILL MIGRATORY BIRDS INJURIOUS TO PROPERTY.

When information is furnished the Secretary that any species of migratory bird has become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to agricultural or other interests in any particular community, an investigation will be made to determine the nature and extent of the injury, whether the

birds alleged to be doing the damage should be killed, and, if so, during what times and by what means. Upon his determination an appropriate order will be made.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WOODROW WILSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DO HEREBY APPROVE AND PROCLAIM the foregoing regulations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

(SEAL) DONE in the District of Columbia, this thirty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred and Forty-Third.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President,
FRANK L. POLK,
Acting Secretary of State.

Readers will observe that the "otherwise than by shooting" man got his work in when Paragraph 2 of Section 8 above was written. We keep a cartoon in stock showing a sportsman killing a wild duck with a hatchet. This was effectively used to take the "otherwise than by shooting" nonsense out of state laws. We will spring the picture again if necessary, but the regulations we hope will be amended without further notice. The shooting clubs are the best customers for game farmers and breeders. Shooting also is the main inducement to production. Darwin tells us shooting causes the abundance of game. Why stop it?

[Sample form of application for a permit to trap wild fowl. To obtain this form write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Our advertisers can attend to the trapping and will procure permits and furnish birds, no doubt. If you intend to shoot and sell the game produced mention this fact on the application and refuse the permit unless shooting be permitted.]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO TAKE, POSSESS, BUY, SELL, AND TRANSPORT MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND THEIR EGGS FOR PROPAGATING PURPOSES.

The Secretary of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I,, the undersigned, do hereby make application for a permit to take, possess, buy, sell, and transport migratory waterfowl and their eggs for propagat-

ing purposes in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 8 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Regulations, and, as required by said Regulation, do furnish the following information:

My full name is.....
 My residence and postoffice address is.....

The names of the species and the number of birds and eggs of each I desire to take are as follows:

The particular locality where I desire to take such waterfowl and eggs is as follows:

I agree that if said permit is issued I will comply with all the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Regulations thereunder.

Dated at.....
 this.....day of....., 1918.

.....
 Name of applicant.

STATE OF..... }
 COUNTY OF..... } ss.:
, of..... being
 duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the person mentioned in and who subscribed to the foregoing application; that he has read the same and knows the contents thereof; and that the facts therein stated are true of his own knowledge.

.....
 Name of applicant.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
day of.....1918

.....
 Name of officer.

.....
 Title of officer.

SUGGESTION FOR NOTE IN APPLICATION.

"It is the applicant's intention to shoot the wild fowl produced, and since many will be shot which cannot be eaten on the premises, these will be sold as food. If most of the birds shot must be wasted we would prefer not to have any permit, but to continue, as we now are."

THE GOLDEN PHEASANT.

BY W. SINCLAIR.

[Mr. Sinclair's story about his methods of rearing the Golden Pheasants was written for Thompsons' Natural History of Ireland. We are sure it will interest our readers, many of whom rear golden pheasants for their aviaries and for sale.]

Golden Pheasants are very easily reared in confinement, and are quite as hardy as any of the other pheasants, or as any of our domestic fowls; indeed, I question if any of them are sooner able to provide a subsistence for themselves, or to live independent of the parent bird. In the several years' experience I have had in the rearing of these birds, I have considered them past all danger when they arrived at the age of three or four weeks; in fact, at that age those which I brought up in the garden began to leave the bantam hen which hatched them and take to the gooseberry bushes to perch at night, and very soon after to the apple trees. I always observed that they roosted at the extremity of the branches, where they were quite safe from the attacks of cats or other vermin. This

habit, together with their very early disposition to roost at night, leads me to infer that their introduction into this country as a game bird would not be difficult; and that in our large demesnes, where protected from shooters, they would become very numerous. But I should imagine that they would not answer where the common pheasants were already introduced, as they are shy, timid birds, and would be easily driven off by the other species. The individuals before referred to, which were reared in the garden, consisted of a family of six; they always remained in the garden, where they were regularly fed, except at the commencement of winter, when they ceased roosting in the apple trees, took to a belt of Scotch firs which bounded the garden on one side, and roosted in them all the winter and following spring. I have seen them sitting in the trees when the branches were laden with snow, but they did not seem to suffer in the slightest degree from the severity of winter. About the month of

February they first began to wander from the garden for short distances, and, as the spring advanced, finally disappeared, and I never could hear of their being met with afterwards.

In rearing the young I found that the very best food for them, and of which they were most fond, was the larvae of the bluebottle fly, with a quantity of which I always was prepared prior to the young being hatched. I took care to have a constant supply during the season by hanging a cow's liver over a barrel, in the bottom of which was some bran or sawdust, into which the maggots dropped. A fresh liver was hung up about once a week. In addition to these larvae, the young were supplied with potatoes, alum curd, groats, and Indian corn meal; this last I found they were very fond of, and it seemed to agree with them particularly well. It was mixed into the form of soft dough with a little water, which was all that was required. They were also constantly supplied with green food, such as lettuce, when they were in the aviary. But the best way is to have a coop, railed in front, into which they are put with the hen twenty-four hours after they are hatched. This coop should be placed upon a gravel walk as near to the windows of the house as possible, so that they may always be within observation; a small verdure garden is the best possible locality, as the young have plenty of range, with shelter under the bushes from both sun and rain. In this instance, which I have already alluded to, the hen was allowed to range about six feet from the coop, by means of a small cord attached to a leather strap round one of her legs, and the other end tied to the coop; the young pheasants never wandered far from the hen, and always came into the coop to remain with her at night. In front of each coop a small frame was put down, boxed round on three sides, without a bottom, and railed at top; the open side was put close to the coop, and the young birds could run through the rails of the coop into the enclosed space, and were safe from the night attacks of cats, rats, etc. This frame was always kept before the coops for the first few days after the young were hatched, and until they became ac-

quainted with the call of the hen. When I first began to rear young pheasants I could not at all account for their seemingly foolish manner for the first two or three days after being hatched; they would run gaping about without appearing to notice the hen or her calls to them to come for food. The reason of this I afterwards believed to have been owing to their ignorance of the language of their foster-mother, which it took some time for them to understand; during this process it is necessary to keep them confined within the frame before their coops, as, were they to wander a few yards from the hen, they would not heed her call, and would inevitably perish.

When three or four weeks old, it is necessary, if reared for the aviary, to pinion them, which is done by cutting off rather more than the first joint of the wing, having previously, by means of a needle and thread, inserted close to the small wing-bone, and brought round the large one, just within the skin, taking up the main blood vessels; the piece of the wing is then chopped off on a block. There is no loss of blood, and I never could observe that the birds seemed to suffer in the slightest degree afterwards, although the operation, I dare say, was painful enough. My reason for taking off rather more than the first joint of the wing was because I found that if only the first joint was taken off the birds were always able, when grown up, to get out of the aviary, which was about 12 feet high, and I found it thus requisite to take off so much as to render them incapable of any attempt at flying; but I left enough remaining to enable them to reach their roosting-place at night. I furnished them with a kind of ladder by nailing cross-pieces of wood on a long piece about 3 inches wide, and which they very soon learned to walk up and down with facility. One aviary in which I kept some had a back wall to it covered with old ivy, and they preferred roosting in this; indeed, I always found that, although during a wet day those which were at liberty took shelter under a roof, yet at night they would not do so, but would instead roost in the open air. The females will lay about twenty-five eggs

each in the aviary. I always provided them with baskets to lay in, which they only sometimes made use of; they take twenty-four days to hatch. The young cocks do not attain their full plumage until after the moult of the second summer; they drop their chicken feathers when about three months old; their plumage is then something like the hen's, but sufficiently bright in some parts as easily to distinguish them from the young females. In general there are more cocks than hens.

If the cock birds are placed in a portion of the aviary apart from the hens, any number may be kept together. I have had as many as twelve males in full plumage together, and when during the

summer (and indeed at all times) these beautiful birds were going through the very curious and fanciful attitudes and manoeuvres peculiar to them, it was one of the most brilliant sights to be observed in nature. The flashing of their various golden, crimson, blue, and purple plumes in different lights was absolutely dazzling to the eye, and at these times they contrive to display all the most beautiful parts of their plumage to the utmost advantage; the golden crest is raised, the splendid orange and purple tipped collar is spread out to its full extent, while the scarlet tail coverts are shown in all their beauty. During the whole time the birds are leaping and dancing around each other, and uttering occasionally their peculiar shrill cry.

COURT MADE LAW AND HOW TO TRAP WILD DUCKS.

Some reflections of the editor on this species of law and on game laws and game abundance in general; the foreign freedom in the matter of shooting migratory wild ducks for the markets by gunners by no means rich, and the methods of trapping the birds on public waters which are especially important and timely now that it has just become legal to trap all species of migratory fowl for stocking the game farms and preserves, which the Congress was told that we don't want in America. Fortunately the Congress and the new law-makers or regulation-makers think we do want some game farms and preserves: "and the sale of game as food" which goes with them. Food production just now should be popular.

Mr. Burnham's statement to the United States Congressional committee that the American game law was made by the courts must have seemed amusing and peculiar to the lawmakers who know, of course, that the courts have no authority to make laws and have repeatedly said so.

We quoted in our July issue Mr. Burnham's remarks as officially reported and printed in the record of the hearing. He said:

"Our law has been made, of course, considerably since that time (the time of the American Revolution) by the courts. According to the American law—court made—the game is the property of the state, held in trust for all of the people. . . . We do not want to adopt the European preserve system; we do not want to adopt the sale of game which goes with it."

The courts, as we understand the matter, have no power to make laws. Repeatedly they have said, when called

upon to pass upon laws which seemed to create hardships and wrongs, that they must decide the matters in controversy according to the laws made by the lawmakers. The remedy must be sought by amendments to the laws (which only could be made by the legislature) and not by appeals to the courts to change or amend the laws.

Courts can only interpret; they cannot make or even amend the laws. It is true that the courts have decided that at the common or unwritten law, wild creatures are owned by the people in common because they have no other owner. This idea is of great antiquity and may be found in the old Roman law. Under this ancient law, however, any one who by his industry captured alive or killed a wild animal at once became the owner of it and could do with it as he pleased. Any one who produced one owned it, of

course, because of his industry. He could sell it alive to a zoo if it happened to be a lion or other animal suitable for exhibition. He could sell it for breeding purposes or for food provided the animal be edible.

Game abundance as food has been brought about by an intelligent handling of the subject by legislators in the older countries. It is the law in England today that any one who shoots a wild migratory food bird during a long open season owns the bird after he has shot it, and if he shoots more than he can eat he can sell his game in the markets. If any one traps wild ducks or other migratory fowl he can wring their necks and send the birds to market. The result is the people who are said to own the game have plenty of their property to eat at prices, as Mr. Burnham admitted, cheaper than ordinary poultry. His statement that the shooting in England is only for the rich was entirely erroneous since there are many thousands of people in England, known as wild fowlers (market gunners we call them in the United States), who make a living shooting and trapping migratory wild fowl for the markets.

Captain Aymer Maxwell, an authority on shooting in England, after describing the elaborate traps, or "decoys" as they are called, used for trapping thousands of wild ducks for the markets, says:

"After all the ingenuity that has been expended on the making of duck decoys,* intricate in design, costly to construct and maintain, it is interesting to find that wild duck may be caught by far easier means. Hard by the fine duck decoy at Netherly,

carefully planned with its seven pipes of approved pattern, there stands an unpretentious wire cage, which anyone could knock together in an hour, using no more costly material than a few bits of wood, a strip of wire netting, hammer and nails. One side of this simple pen lifts up and a cylinder of wire netting, open at both ends and wide enough to allow free passage to a duck, lies on the ground, leading from the open side to the center of the pen. For ten days or so the ducks feed gloriously in the open pen working all around and through the cylinder; then the open side is let down, covering all but the opening of this tube. With evening comes the flight of ducks; they have been used to passing through the innocent looking tube of wire netting with impunity, and soon the pen is full. When, however, they wish to depart, to look for an exit in the center of the pen never seems to occur to them, and they wander disconsolately up and down the walls of their prison, until with morning comes Mr. Bell, duck keeper at Netherby and originator of this ingenious device, to count his captives, cut the wings of those who are to be given their lives, and alas! to wring the necks of the rest, whose ignominious end is a prelude to their appearance in the market."

Captain Oates, in an excellent little book on wild ducks, describes another trap for wild ducks which is used in England. This is a very simple wire cage built partly in and partly out of the water; the front is a sliding door. When this is raised tame decoys are fed in the cage, and when these come to be fed the wild ducks follow them into the inclosure. An attendant, in ambush near by, pulls a string, releasing the front of the cage; this falls and all the wild ducks within are caught.

* The duck decoy is described in the book, "Our Wild Fowl and Waders."

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Shipping Eggs.

There have been some complaints about eggs not hatching after they were shipped. This has resulted in some of the dealers deciding not to deal in eggs. Two have informed us they would not ship any more eggs.

One shipment to the Long Island Game Breeders' Association turned out

very badly. Other shipments to the same place turned out very well. We all know that eggs laid on the ground where the birds are to be reared are the most desirable, but many people decide to rear more birds than they can from their own eggs, and they must either purchase eggs or one day old birds. We believe the egg business will increase rapidly in

America and that soon it will be as big a business or bigger than it is in any country in the world. We are inclined to think there will be more pheasants and wild ducks sold in America than are sold in all the Continental European countries in a very few years if the game breeding industry continues to grow as it now is growing.

One Day Old Chicks.

The Game Conservation Society continuing its experiments with one day old wild ducks and pheasants has been very successful in proving that the one day old birds travel nicely both by express and in the mails. We would advise the few dealers who have decided to discontinue the sale of eggs because of numerous complaints to advertise and sell one day old birds. One great difficulty in America is the want of skilled labor, but this will be overcome when more under keepers are employed on places where the head keeper is skillful and takes an interest in showing his helpers how to do things properly. Since millions of one day old poultry chicks are sold and shipped by mail annually in America we believe it will not be long before many rural residents learn how to handle one day old pheasants, wild ducks, quail and other game birds.

Since many thousands of game birds are now produced every season from purchased eggs we feel sure that the failures will not put an end to the sales and shipping of eggs. Soon the places where they can be procured will be so numerous that it will not be necessary to ship eggs long distances.

Hungarian Partridges.

Editor Game Breeder:

May I ask a little information about Hungarian partridges? Are they as easy to raise as ring-necked pheasants? Are they as good a bird for the table as the pheasant?

California.

E. H. MOULTON.

The methods of rearing pheasants and partridges are entirely different in Eng-

land and the countries of Continental Europe where both birds are abundant. Usually the pheasants are hand-reared by methods with which no doubt you are familiar. This often has been compared with poultry rearing. The partridges usually are reared in a wild state on fields made safe and attractive, that is to say, fields where hedges and other suitable covers and some natural foods are planted when the natural growths are not sufficient to make the fields as attractive as they should be. Tens of thousands of partridges are reared on some of the Hungarian farms where corn and wheat or other small grain are planted in alternating strips. The corn makes good cover and shade and the birds find wheat and other small grains in the stubbles after the harvest. The birds are fed some in the winter and beat keepers patrol the fields at all seasons and shoot and trap the vermin. In the absence of natural enemies the birds quickly can be made tremendously abundant on suitable areas. In a story, written by an English Army officer, describing the shooting in Hungary which we published, the writer said the birds came out of the corn in great swarms; their numbers were positively bewildering.

The beat keepers being only required to patrol the fields and shoot and trap vermin and look out for poachers, they are not required to have the skill required of the keepers who hand rear pheasants and they receive, we believe, somewhat lower wages than the more skilled men receive. You will observe that partridges reared in this way (the old birds rearing the young in safe places) should be easier to rear than hand reared pheasants are.

In some places in England and other countries a few partridges are penned and sometimes a few eggs are lifted and hatched under hens, but this is only supplemental to the general wild breeding on the place and it is quite unusual on large places. When partridges are penned for safety the birds as they pair off are permitted to go into smaller pens or cages at the sides of the large enclosure and there hatch their eggs, the

old bird and brood being liberated. This is known as the French system, and we have printed several articles about it.

We regard the partridge as fully as good for the table as the pheasant; if anything somewhat better, and we believe this is the opinion of sportsmen in the older countries.

Our bobwhite quail or partridge we regard as better for sport and fully as good as, if not better than, the foreign birds on the table. The quails can be made to swarm on protected areas which are safe and attractive, provided the beat keepers are diligent and faithful. Their work is much more difficult in America than it is in the older countries because the vermin is more abundant here than there, and as a rule the keepers have no assistance from keepers on adjoining places. We have observed in places where briar patches are abundant at the sides of fields that many birds escape the vermin, but to get the best results several keepers should be on a large place at all times—1,200 to 1,500 acres is allotted to a keeper in the older countries usually. In America a keeper should have charge of a smaller area because the work is more difficult than it is in countries where the neighbors look after the stray cats and the wilder vermin.

There are places in America where thousands of quail are safely shot every season, but some of these places could be made to yield even more abundantly provided more keepers be employed. Of course since no birds can be sold alive or dead and more are shot in some cases than the shooters know what to do with, there is no necessity or desire to go in for bigger results.

The hand rearing of quail, like the hand rearing of partridges, is far more difficult than pheasant rearing is, and since there is an easier and a better way we long have believed that the hand rearing of quail should not be relied on to produce any big results, but that the cheaper and simpler methods should be adopted. Some hand rearing for experimental purposes and to supplement the wild breeding operations is interesting and somewhat helpful in some places,

but an abundance of quail quickly can be produced in a wild state and this we regard as the right method for making and keeping the quail plentiful.

More Pheasants.

The American Field quotes a Niagara County, N. Y., farmer as saying: "I intend to shoot every pheasant I find destroying my crops in the future."

In England, where the small farmers, as well as the big ones, own the game on their places, the damage to crops is easily prevented by the use of scare boys at certain short seasons when damage may occur. It pays, of course, to look after the game. The American farmer hardly can be expected to encourage game to destroy his crops in the hope that later in the season a horde of licensed trespassers will come to his relief and shoot up his place, "killing poultry and wounding horses and cattle in the fields," as we once heard a rural Senator say when describing field sports of today. The wonder is that the game birds have not been made singers on larger areas than they have. Shooting has been prohibited on a much larger area in the United States than the entire area of all of the British Isles, and the idea of stopping field sports will spread quickly in the agricultural states if the farmers' interests be not considered in our future game law making.

Experiment with Prairie Grouse.

G. F. JOHNSON.

I have tried hatching several settings of prairie chicken eggs this summer under bantam hens. The eggs hatch. But the problem is to keep them with the hen. They all died or ran away and got lost. I had one bantam setting on twelve eggs and when they were about ready to hatch I put them under a three-fourths wild turkey hen that had set along a fence on the edge of a wheat field. The turkey hen hatched every egg. About twenty-four hours after they were hatched the hen was getting along fine with them. After that she went out in

the wheat field and I did not see her again until they were about four weeks old. I tried to take a picture of them, but she was too wild and the chickens would not come out of the grain. Now I am unable to get within a quarter of a mile of her before she hides. I am afraid I will not be able to catch them. I was in hopes she would come up near the building after the grain is cut. They are now so large that they can fly two miles and I am afraid to disturb them too much for fear they will get lost.

I now know how to raise prairie chickens. Next year I am going to use turkey hens that I know won't wander off.

I intended to ship you some eggs but could never find a nest that the hen had not started to set on them.

I would like very much to know how I could catch this turkey hen and her brood of prairie chickens. If I don't get them I have at least solved the puzzle "how to raise them."

[Make a good sized turkey trap of fence rails or chicken wire. Have an entrance through a ditch under one side and across this ditch on the inside of the pen place a wide board or two for a bridge. Feed grain to the birds for a day or two, leaving the pen open on one side. Later close the side and place grain in the ditch so the turkey and brood can pass through the ditch under the bridge on the inside. When caught they will march around the sides of the pen and cross the bridge instead of going under it.—EDITOR.]

Game Birds and Poultry Wanted.

Sometimes we receive a request that a reader's wants be made known in a reading notice. We are obliged to stamp such notices as advertising matter when a copy of the magazine is filed at the post office and we of course charge for them. The following request will no doubt procure the pheasants and we have no doubt some of our readers will furnish the Hamburg and White Crested pullets.

I am in the market for:

6 male and 4 female Golden Pheasants
25 Hamburg pullets
25 white crested Polish pullets.

I. TANENBAUM,
170 Broadway, New York

CORRESPONDENCE.

Important.

New York, N. Y., Aug. 24, 1918.

HON. E. W. NELSON,
Chief, Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:—

I have decided not to make any application to the Survey for a permit to possess, buy and sell migratory waterfowl. I notice that your permit contains a clause stating, "I agree that if said permit is issued I will comply with all the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and regulations thereunder." The State laws, under which our Association and many other breeders have large numbers of wild ducks which they have produced by industry for shooting and incidentally to supply the people with wild ducks to eat, permit shooting. I notice that one of your regulations which is in effect a criminal law (although I do not believe the Congress had any intention of making such a crime) provides that wild fowl may be killed in any manner except by shooting. Since the birds we own and the birds owned by many other breeders were produced for shooting, I would like to inquire if it is your intention to arrest people who may continue to shoot their birds provided they let the people have some to eat after supplying their own needs. The inducement to produce cheap game for the people to eat is shooting. Darwin has said as much, and all sportsmen and naturalists are aware that if the main inducement to do anything be removed, there is a great likelihood of the thing never being done.

I am aware that your principal advisor told the Congress that he did not want any preserves or the sale of game which went with them; that he did not want the American people to have the cheap food which the people have in all civilized countries. Having imparted this advice, the Congress enacted Section 12, which I quote for your convenience from the Migratory Law:

Section 12. "Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of migratory game birds on farms and pre-

serves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulation for the purpose of increasing the food supply. You will observe that the Congress mentioned the breeding of game on preserves for the purpose of increasing the food supply. Since it is absolutely certain that not a single bird will be bred on a preserve for the purpose named if you attempt to enforce your regulations requiring that the birds be taken only with the hatchet, I am inclined to think that the courts will hold that your attempt to make a criminal law is at variance with the intentions of the Congress, which I surely believe were intended to let the people produce some cheap food and to encourage such production and not to absolutely prevent it, as your regulation surely will if the people pay any attention to it.

Of course, if you can entice them to accept a permit to take birds and to sign an agreement in the application that they will only kill birds with a hatchet or otherwise than by shooting, the courts will possibly hold that those who sign such agreements have done so for a good consideration and that they must close their preserves or at least stop shooting wild ducks with any view to increasing the food supply.

I am not afraid of what the courts will do to people who refuse to sign permits, and, in fact, I shall welcome your game police at any time they may see fit to attempt to stop the food production in which game breeders are now engaged.

If the courts shall hold that a gentleman who says he does not want any game preserves, the sale of game, or cheap game for the people to eat, has the right to make a criminal law (under which a food producer may be found operating) which will send him to jail if he continues to supply the people with food, I am firmly convinced that the sooner some one serves a term in jail for this food producing crime the better it will be for the country. The fact that this gentleman hurriedly consulted two others before he made this regulation does not impress me with the idea that it is a good crime, legally created, and I certainly believe the courts will

hold, reading the law, that the legislature had no intention of making such a crime or of sending people to jail because they may produce food and sell it to the people. You understand, of course, that the industry I refer to is conducted on private lands owned or rented for the purpose. You must know what the effect of enforcing this new criminal law will be on producers who are now operating and on all persons who may attempt to produce food in the future.

I am sending you a stamped envelope for reply with a special delivery stamp attached, since I consider it of the utmost importance to make known your attitude as chief of a new police department and that you should especially state if such be the case that you will arrest every food producer who is found in the future taking the food he produces in the way he legally can take it under State laws, providing he lets any of the people have some of the food to eat at moderate prices. I know you will appreciate the importance of immediately giving publicity to your intentions and I feel quite sure you will find upon investigation that you have been entangled in a lot of nonsense by some game law enthusiasts who are prejudiced against anybody doing anything except in a way that they may decide to have them do it.

P. S.—Since the game farmers in America (as in the older countries) sell their eggs and birds to shooting syndicates and individuals who own or rent shooting preserves it would seem that you intend to put thousands of game farmers in America out of business. You will agree with me. I am sure, if you destroy the food producing customers for the game farmers the game farmers must go out of business.

I am perfectly sure that you had no intention of strangling a promising industry which has had a rapid and successful growth in America, and I hope your regulations can be amended so that all food producers now operating can apply for permits to take breeding stock and eggs.

Letter from the Biological Survey.

August 27, 1918.

Mr. Dwight W. Huntington,
Game Conservation Society,
150 Nassau Street, New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of August 24 in which you state that you have decided not to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and that you will make no application for a permit to possess, buy and sell migratory water fowl. I regret that you have taken such a decision since I hoped that we might have your cooperation in the sincere effort which this Bureau will make to build up game farming of migratory wild fowl. Of course, it is our duty to enforce the law and the regulations as they now stand. However, I wish to call your attention to the fact that the regulations are subject to change, and where a regulation is shown to be unreasonably burdensome I shall be glad to recommend a change.

So far as concerns the food supply to be derived from birds raised in captivity and shot, I am inclined to think that the number of North American preserves on which wild fowl are grown in sufficient numbers to be shot is comparatively small. I shall, however, be glad to be enlightened on this subject, and would be very glad indeed to have a complete list of such places with the acreage they contain. I may add that matters of this kind are subjects which we desire further to investigate at the earliest possible moment for the purpose of securing information on which any necessary action may be taken.

Yours truly,

E. W. NELSON,
Chief of Bureau.

The Game Breeder's View Point.

New York, N. Y., August 29, 1918.

Hon. E. W. Nelson,
Chief of the Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

My point is not that I do not intend to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but that so long as you refuse to comply with the terms of this act, I must decline to enter into any agreement in writing with you.

I have no objection to complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As a matter of fact, I shall be willing to list all of the ducks we have although they are not migratory and I am sure any court will hold that they are personal property not covered by any law enacted since the title for this food property was acquired. I say I would be willing to list these birds and to keep you well informed about the numbers we rear and the numbers we shoot and sell. The point I wish to make is that we would stop production instantly if you attempted to raid us as food producers have been raided by State officers for trivial offenses, fanciful in the extreme, containing no moral turpitude, and absolutely at variance with the terms of the Migratory Law.

The word preserve has a well defined meaning. If you will turn to the Standard Dictionary published by Funk & Wagnalls you will find "preserve, a place in which game is protected for the purpose of sport."

The Congress when it enacted the Migratory Bird Bill had been fully advised that your chief adviser does not want any preserves or the sale of food which goes with them. The Congressional Record shows that he made this statement to a Committee of the Congress and tried to make it very plain that he might be able to excite some prejudice against food production and the employment of skilled labor, such as gamekeepers, to produce the food. Having heard the argument against food production the Congress added a section to the Migratory Bill which reads, "Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the breeding of migratory game birds on farms and preserves and the sale of birds so bred under proper regulations for the purpose of increasing the food supply." You will observe having heard the statement that we don't want any food production in this country or any preserves or the sale of food from such places, the Congress proceeded to say that nothing in the act shall prevent the sale of food from not only farms but also from preserves. The fact that shooting causes the abundance of the food is well known and it seems to me highly unreasonable for those who were defeated in the Congress to attempt to win out by having you make a regulation which will send food producers to jail provided it be executed, unless the courts decide against your regulation.

I am absolutely sure of my position that when Congress says you shall not interfere with food producers on farms and preserves that you cannot upset the action of the lawmakers by passing a subsequent law which is intended to prevent food producers from producing food on preserves.

It seems that the same persons who were defeated in Congress are behind the regulation which says there shall be no sport and this means no food production on the places named by Congress as places which should not be interfered with on account of their ability to increase the food supply. I notice your request for a complete list of the places where birds are bred for sport and for food. There are a large number of such places in spite of the hostility of some small politicians. You may have read the story of one man being arrested and fined \$15,000 because he trapped a few birds for breeding purposes. Of course, in States where grafters can take in half of the money collected in fines and where they have the opportunity to threaten people with arrest and tell them they will not arrest them if they will pay a good, big sum, there are not so many food producing plants as there would be if they could be freed from what I have long regarded as legal atrocities. The Congress was advised that in England the shooting is only for the rich. I think it likely most of the men in Congress know that this is abso-

lutely untrue; that many thousands of market gunners shoot the migratory fowl and bring them to the markets just as our fishermen bring in the fish. I am sure many people in a country where game can be freely produced, and where it is always a cheap food in the markets, would not tolerate the many thousands of arrests which have been made in America, many of them being made because the party who was arrested was attempting to produce food on land which he owns.

In order to make my position perfectly plain, I wish to say that I am prepared to apply for a permit at any time when I am not obliged to sign away my right to field sports, as your adroit regulations now require me to do. In other words, I regard your regulation (which, it is claimed, is a criminal law) as an attempt to defeat the statute made by Congress and I feel absolutely sure when the question goes to the courts, if you wish it to go there, that quickly they will decide that of the two law-making powers, that of Congress is superior to that of those by whom you are surrounded.

You perhaps will understand now why I have said that I believed it would be wise for the National Congress to create a Bureau of Game somewhat similar to the Bureau of Fisheries. The Bureau of Fisheries does not, when it gives fish to people in order that they may propagate them, insist that they cannot use a hook or a line. If the Bureau should get into any such fanciful frame of mind, I believe I would do a great public service if I should insist that that Bureau be abolished.

I do not altogether like your regulation providing that it is a United States crime in some parts of the country and not in others (the lines running somewhat irregularly, I do not know where) to shoot a dove, which is a very desirable food, as Audubon says, somewhat better than a quail. You may be interested to know that I produced several hundred doves one season by providing an abundance of food for them, and, being a law-abiding citizen, as I am, I did not shoot any of the birds or eat any of the food produced on the place. As a matter of fact, I heard that numerous people had excellent dove shooting, and, of course, enjoyed the food. Under your regulation, when the food leaves my place it can go to another place in the United States where it is not criminal to take it and eat it. I was taught that criminal laws should be uniform in their operation.

I do not approve of your saying to me or to others that we cannot get quail from Mexico now. The Mexican people are willing to sell these food birds for breeding purposes. There is plenty of money among older men who have been rejected for military duty, as I was, who would be willing to perform a patriotic duty and produce some large quantities of food providing they be not interfered with too much by what I am pleased to regard as fool regulations. If anyone can point out why, the weather being suitable, the Mex-

icans being willing to sell, food producers being willing to buy, no one should be permitted to produce any quail or make preparations to do so, I should be glad to have them do so. Our whole game law structure seems to be built on the idea that it is criminal to produce food on the farms and preserves and that such industry must be checkmated. I feel perfectly right in my opinion that numerous arrests of men and women have been made by small people because they wished to break up a food-producing industry which does not happen to meet their views as to what the people may produce on their farms or other lands which they may own. The Agricultural Department does not favor the arrest of farmers because they take other foods in what seems to them the best way to take them. There should be no regulation (even in the absence of the preserve owners' protection in the United States law) preventing people from taking the food in the only way they can be expected to take it. To say that the sportsmen must run about and put salt on the tails of their birds or must catch them otherwise in order to kill them with a hatchet, is to say that there will be no production, and it may seem, to some people, that this is the intention of the regulation, since it is proposed by people who were defeated when they said to the Congress we do not want preserves or gamekeepers, or food production or the sale of game, or anything like that in this country. This in effect is to say that we do not want the freedom which there is in other countries where people can raise any kind of plant or animal on their property and where market gunners can shoot and sell the desirable food to the people as freely as the fishermen sell food to our people. It seems likely that the farmers will take a very decided interest in this throughout the country, and I regret very much to have a bureau of the Agricultural Department hostile to their interests. I could tell you, if I would, of places where many thousands of acres of farm lands are freed from taxes because it is legal for sportsmen to take birds from the farms, and in order to do so they pay the farmers' taxes. I do not think it is desirable for people who are hostile to such industry to know where such places are. I know perfectly well that many people do not desire to have any publicity which may bring down upon them the animosity of people who say we do not want any food production in America, or, as I have sometimes heard them put it: "There is plenty of beef and mutton in America and the people do not need to have other food." The only reason for this that I

(Continued on page 187.)

The Game Breeder

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TO THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

We would urge the Survey to read Section 12 of the new law.

To make a regulation that no birds bred on preserves can be shot in order to increase the food supply is to provide that there shall be no preserves and we believe that the courts will hold that those who breed birds under laws encouraging them to take breeding stock should own the young and supply the people with the food. Had the legislators intended to say birds can only be bred on game farms the section would have omitted the words "game preserves." If it appears to the court that the shooting causes the abundance of the cheap food, we do not believe the court will say that a gentleman who doesn't want any preserves or the sale of game which goes with them has the right, sitting as an independent law maker, to make a criminal statute (for such will be the regulation) providing that a preserve owner shall be arrested provided he shoots his ducks and sells the food to the people at prices cheaper than poultry. The laws says preserves. Who ever heard of a game preserve without shooting?

Our readers will remember that we feared what would happen provided the Congress delegated its crime making power to a few game laws enthusiasts,

some of whom admit that they have been making a living procuring game laws and protecting game for many years.

Having fully explained to the Congress that we don't want any preserves or the sale of game or any cheap food in America, the Congress decided to mention preserves in the law and to indicate that food production should be encouraged and not prevented by the preserve methods.

It seems incredible when reading the statute to think that the courts will hold that the Congress intended to abolish all the club shoots and preserves which have been supplying food to the markets. The regulation (or criminal law), made by the fellow who doesn't want food production, may cause the courts to decide that United States crimes should not be made by one man even if he gets two other private citizens to approve of his conduct and puts the thing through in the shape of a regulation. Are the people to be arrested for crimes so made?

No Game Farming, No Breeding, No Game Keepers, No Food Wanted!

The country places, shooting clubs, syndicates and preserves are the best customers of the game farmers and game breeders, big and small. They purchase eggs in the spring and birds in the summer, fall and winter.

To say that we don't want any game preserves in this country or the sale of game that goes with them, as Mr. Burnham, the president of the Game Protective Association, recently said to a congressional committee, is in effect to say we don't want any customers for game farmers or game breeders and we don't want any game keepers employed in America.

To say that we don't want any sales of food just now, knowing that such sales surely will result in a great abundance of food, and stating that such has been the result in countries which have game laws founded on common sense, is a peculiar form of patriotism. It looks more to us like small politics.

The farmers in America may be counted on to back up the intelligent game farmers and sportsmen who believe that land owners should have the right to produce profitably any species of plant or animal on the farms which they own. It is a very poor time to insist that it must be criminal to produce food on the farms. The danger is not that there will be too many game farms and preserves but that there will not be enough until the farmers know what they can do and how to do it. The State Game Departments have a rare opportunity to disseminate the information and to assist those who would produce in every way. The destroyers will be surprised to find how good the shooting will become for all hands when America becomes the biggest game producing country in the world. Even the market gunners are permitted to shoot all the game they can in the older countries. They do not shoot the farmers' chickens or his game any more than gunners in America shoot on the farms without permission.

FINISHING TOUCHES.

To complete the "More Game and Fewer Game Laws" program now on the way to a rapid finish, unless we are much mistaken in the outlook, it is quite necessary to amend the laws slightly in some of the States.

(1) They should be made to conform to the U. S. law permitting the taking and sale of migratory birds and eggs for breeding purposes and for food, omitting the "otherwise than by shooting" nonsense. The law says game farmers and preserves, and of course shooting is intended.

(2) They should be amended so as to permit the taking of grouse, quail and other birds and their eggs for breeding purposes under liberal regulations, the charge being no greater than the license charge to destroy a similar number of birds—\$1 or \$2 to destroy, same charge to trap and preserve would be about right.

(3) In States where the laws only encourage the production of foreign species of game and of a few American

game birds, which least need the breeders' attention because of their abundance, the laws should be amended so as to permit the breeding of all American birds and game animals and their regular sale when so produced by industry.

(4) Game should be produced and sold on posted farms. As Professor Bailey of the N. Y. Agricultural College well said at the outset of the "more game and fewer game laws" movement, in a letter to the editor, "the farmer's interests should be distinctly consulted" in the making of game laws.

The title to game on farms should be in the farmers. Since they own a good part of the land where game can be produced abundantly it is quite absurd to hold out the inducement to them that if they will produce the targets the State will license an army of destroyers to shoot up the farms. To advise the farmers that the birds are valuable to agriculture is to advise them, under present conditions and laws, that they should seek amendments prohibiting the killing of the valuable birds at all seasons. It would be far better for all hands to provide that they can keep the birds profitably plentiful and can profit by the abundance either by a sale of game alive or dead, or by arrangements with the shooters to pay something for the right to produce and shoot game.

(5) The laws should recognize two kinds of game—(1) game on public lands and waters; (2) game on private farms which for the most part have been closed to sport.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

Miss Huggins—My brother Jack has been made bosun in the navy. What are you doing for your country?

Miss Peachblow—Oh, I'm going to be the bosun's mate.

More "Stuff."

Several of the people who appeared before the Congressional Committee in an effort to make the District of Columbia a food prohibition area take in more money every season than the combined salaries of the Governors of five or ten States.



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I am prepared to entertain a number of sportsmen who wish to shoot wild geese, Canvasback and other wild ducks and quail, snipe, etc. Only small parties can be properly looked after. Appointments to try the shooting and learn about the wild duck foods are made by correspondence.

J. B. WHITE WATERLILY, CURRITUCK SOUND, NORTH CAROLINA

Member of THE GAME GUILD

(Continued from page 183.)

can find is that "we say so"; the "we" being a few people who collect vast sums of money to save the game.

I shall be very glad to work with the Survey, as I have with many intelligent people, provided the work laid out seems intended to encourage the production of game as a food supply, which of course incidentally means the preservation of field sports in America. You can readily see that, as a sportsman, it would be very unwise for me to make an application under your regulation since you require me to enter into an agreement with you in writing that I will give up field sports. This is the effect of the regulation. I am surely right in my idea that a preserve is a place where game is properly looked after "for the purpose of sport." I do not care to shoot 25 ducks in a day provided the ducks cannot be used as food. I cannot afford to produce a lot of ducks or quail or other species of food provided I cannot sell some of them in order to pay, at least, a part of the cost of production. As a matter of fact, I do not believe it will be interesting or profitable for me to attempt the breeding of any species of game unless part of the cost be charged to sport, as it is in every civilized country.

I can hardly believe that you do not understand the subject. It has been well said that

the way to bring about the repeal of a law is to see that it is executed. The same is true of regulations. Many good results have been brought about by test cases in the courts. I wish to know if you propose to enforce the regulation which says I cannot shoot and sell a bird which I own. Your answer to this seems to be: "It is our duty to enforce the law and regulations as they now stand." I wish to call your attention to the fact that the regulations were made almost in the twinkling of an eye. It is perfectly plain, therefore, that if they are wrong they can be unmade as speedily as they were made. I believe there will be a hearty response from sportsmen of my acquaintance who will ask for permits, provided they will not be required to agree that they will abandon field sports; and since the statute was enacted to increase food production it seems to me that you should be willing to abandon your regulation, which seems to discourage food production, and to see that you act in harmony with the statute and not in violation of it.

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A Warning.

Preserve owners applying to the Secretary of Agriculture for permits to trap wild ducks should read and strike out the section which says: "I agree that if said permit is issued I will comply with all the provisions of the Migratory Treaty Act, and regulations thereunder."

One of the regulations is intended to put an end to shooting. Under the pretense of giving the preserve owners the right to take ducks for breeding purposes they are asked to sign away their right to shoot and, of course, having agreed not to shoot any more, the courts may hold that a good and valid agreement has been made to stop producing food, since no preserve owner will continue to produce after he has agreed not to shoot. The Biological Survey has adopted a sure way of stopping food production in the future and possibly the owners of ducks who sign the agreement may be required to discharge their game keepers and put the stock they now own under the hatchet.



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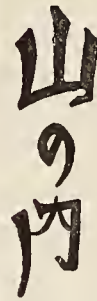
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C. W. SIEGLER, Bangor, Wisconsin. 2t

CHINESE, RINGNECK AND MONGOLIAN CROSS,
Cocks \$2.00, hens \$4.00. Golden and Silver, young cocks
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Wild geese and ducks. CLASSIC LAKE WILD FOWL
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THE BLACK SIBERIAN HARE IS OF ENORMOUS
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Ringneck pheasant eggs for sale. Price \$25.00 per 100.
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Wild duck food plants, and seed. Wild Celery, Sage
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There are hundreds of thousands of acres of water
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WHITE'S GAME PRESERVE, Waterlily, N. C.
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An excellent food for deer, pheasants and wild ducks.
I can supply acorns by the bushel or in large lots.
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American game breeder with a 15 year experience wishes
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I carry the largest stock in America of live game birds, ornamental birds and quadrupeds.



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Mallards, Black Duck, Teal, Wood-Duck, Pintails and other species can be supplied in large numbers at attractive prices. Also Mandarins and all other water fowl.



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I carry the largest stock in America of ornamental birds and animals. My ponds now contain nearly 200 best Royal Swans of England. I have one lot of the beautiful pink FLAMINGOES and the very large European PELICANS. Also STORKS, CRANES, PEAFOWL, fancy GEESE and DUCKS. My pheasant pens contain over a thousand Ringneck and fancy PHEASANTS. All stock is kept under practically natural conditions. I have 60 acres of land entirely devoted to my business. Can also promptly furnish BUFFALOES, DEER, LLAMAS, RABBITS, etc.

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Write me before buying elsewhere—it will pay you to do so. Your visit solicited.
I am only 60 miles from New York and 30 miles from Philadelphia.

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Department V.

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