

PROVIDING FOOD FOR THE WILD DUCKS

Farmers Can Assist in This Work, by Planting, in Streams, Ponds, Lakes and Swampy Sections. Such Foods as the Wild Ducks Are Fond Of.

By W. L. McATEE.

ANY plants may be successfully used as food for wild ducks in localities where now they are not grown, and this will be a strong inducement for the ducks to congregate in sections where they are unknown at this time.

Frogbit.

Frogbit is an abundant inhabitant of some of the shallow cypress-marshed lakes in Louisiana. It produces



Frogbit.

spherical fruits filled with gelatinous matter in which are a multitude of seeds, eagerly sought by ducks. Nearly 18 per cent of the food of 208 mallards collected in that locality from October to March, inclusive, consisted of these seeds. From 8,000 to 10,000 were found in each of several stomachs and one contained 32,000. Twenty-five stomachs of ringneck ducks collected in December contained 35 per cent of these eagerly sought seeds. Frogbit is extensively used in aquaria and water gardens, and may be obtained from dealers in plants for such purposes. The plants themselves should be set out in water a few inches deep over a mucky bottom or in soft mud near the water's edge. Frogbit has been found in parts of New York, New Jersey and Delaware, but the normal range probably is from North Carolina and Missouri southward.

Eel-Grass.

Few who have written of the habits of sea brant have failed to mention its fondness for eel-grass. The rela-



Eel-Grass.

tion between this species of bird and plant seems to be as close as, if not closer than, that existing between the noted fresh-water pair, the canvas-back duck and wild celery. All normal stomach contents of the common brant thus far examined consisted exclusively of eel-grass.

Eel-grass consists of bunches of long tape-like leaves which rise from a jointed-fibrous root-like creeping stem. The leaves grow in small bundles from the end of the root-stock or its branches, and may reach a length of six feet.

The plant grows only in salt water.

CONDENSATIONS

The coal produced by Pennsylvania last year exceeded by more than 20 per cent the entire output of the United States 15 years before, and was nearly one-fifth of the world's production.

In December, 1913, national savings in Russia amounted only to \$350,000; in December, 1914, however, after the sale of vodka had been stopped, the savings had reached nearly \$15,000,000.

In order to reduce freight charges California wine is to be shipped to New York in a specially designed tank steamer very similar to an oil freighter. The boat will make six trips a year and will transport 4,250,000 gallons in that time.

Patents taken out by women in the United Kingdom during 1914 included inventions connected with dress, 54; nursing and medical, 24; mechanics, 24; household requisites, 20; games, 14; educational, 12; cooking, 9; toilet, 8; motor cars and cycling, 7; babies' requisites, 5; garden, 3; needlework, 2; aeroplane, 1.

In North America it is found from Greenland to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Alaska to southern California. It is common along shores facing the open ocean, but also grows in bays, and even lagoons where the water is far less salt than the sea.

Musk Grass.

The small tubers of musk grass are eaten in large numbers; more than 1,000 were contained in the stomach of one goldeneye and more than 1,500 in that of a pintail duck. However, all parts of musk grasses are eaten. In September, stomachs of ducks found in North Carolina contained 52 per cent of musk grass; October, 90 per cent.

Probably no part of the United States entirely lacks representatives of these grasses. They require lime, however, and hence reach their best development in regions where that mineral is plentiful.

Musk grasses belong to the great group of plants which include forms known as frog spit, green slime and seaweeds. Most of the musk grasses live in fresh water. These plants are translucent and fragile, dull green in color, and are often incrustated with lime. This has given them one of their common names, limeweed. Other names are stonewort, fine moss



Musk Grass.

(Michigan), oyster grass and nigger wool (North Carolina), and skunk grass (Massachusetts). The latter name and the name musk grass, refer to a strong odor given off by a mass of the plants when freshly taken from the water.

Water Elm.

That trees should produce food for wild ducks is at first thought surprising, but many do, as oaks, thorns, hollies, ashes, hackberries and others; none is of more value for this purpose, however, than the water elm.

The range of the water elm extends from the lower Wabash valley in Indiana to the river bottoms of eastern Texas, and from western Tennessee and southeastern North Carolina to Florida. This plant thrives in swamps and on the margins of sluggish streams. The tree seldom exceeds 40 feet in height and 20 inches in diameter and is usually much smaller. The water elm flowers from February to April and the fruit usually ripens and falls in a month or six weeks, but it has been found on the trees as late



Leaves and Fruit of Water Elm.

as August. The fruits, which are very numerous, drop into the water immediately upon ripening.

Watercress.

Knowledge of the importance of watercress as a duck food is derived entirely from breeders of wild ducks.

who almost without exception consider it a valuable plant for a duck farm. Not only is it relished, but it is said to grow so fast in some places that



Watercress.

the ducks cannot eat it out. Watercress occurs practically throughout the entire United States.

Watercress is usually propagated by seed, which may be obtained from most seedsmen. The plant is easily transplanted by cuttings. It grows in springs, brooks, small streams and shallow ponds. Waters in which it is found are usually cool and have some current. It may be sown in similar situations at any time during spring or summer.

Thalia.

The writer's only experience with thalia as a wild-duck food was in Florida. Here a slough filled with a tall growth of these elegant plants was a favorite resort of ducks, especially mallards. The evidence is sufficient to show that thalia has great possibilities as a wild-duck food. The seeds are large and nutritious and are borne



Thalia, a Favorite Duck Food.

in great abundance. The leaf is much like that of canna, and may measure five inches wide and fifteen inches long. The plant is native from Florida to southern Arkansas and Texas and doubtless it will thrive as far north as South Carolina and Missouri.

Old-Time Library.

Just as Arlington was about to carry off the palm for having the oldest library in the state, organized in 1802, along comes Wilmington with the statement that during a recent cleaning of an attic in a law office in that place a book of records was found which showed that the Wilmington social library was organized December 31, 1756, with a constitution, by-laws and a list of subscribers. This book has been presented to the present Wilmington institution, the Pette Memorial library, to be kept as a relic. Some of the entries in the book are very interesting. Israel Lawton was fined 17 cents for dropping tallow on book No. 93, Timothy Castle was fined 6 cents for getting one drop of tallow on book No. 16, Levi Packard was fined \$9 cents for tearing the binding on book No. 106, and several others were fined for turning down leaves and for finger marks. The latest date in the list of revenues is October 4, 1813.

Changing Ideals.

"When I was a boy," said the thoughtful man, "I wanted to be the clown in a circus."

"You have gotten bravely over that."

"Yes, circus clowns are not very liberally compensated. I'd rather be a good moving-picture comedian."

Notwithstanding higher prices, the United Kingdom imported larger quantities of sugar, tea, coffee and cocoa last year than in 1913.

Maintaining the rate of increase shown during the last forty years, Russia's present population at the end of the present century will number 600,000,000.

The opportunities for gaining knowledge in the province of Ontario are great. There are, including kindergarten, institutes and continuation classes, 6,942 public schools—all free.

Sea otter is the most valuable fur at present; Russian sable is next in value, with silver fox nearly approaching it, although when the size of the skins is considered the sable is infinitely greater in value.

The province of Ontario is fortunate in the abundance and variety of its natural resources as well as in its variety of its principal products. Though second in area to Quebec among the provinces of the Dominion, Ontario easily ranks first in agricultural, manufacturing and mining products and second in the lumber industry.

THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

Oct. 11, 1914.

Heavy fighting near Suissons. German attacks in Craonne region repulsed. Allies won in the center. Montenegrins defeated Austrians near Kalenovitch. Russians swept through Bukovina. Austrians rushed help to Przemyśl. French fleet sank two Austrian torpedo boats. German aviators killed three in Paris with bombs. Japanese aviators dropped bombs in Tsingtau. Russian cruiser Pallada torpedoed and sunk in Baltic.

Oct. 12, 1914.

Germans occupied Ghent. Belgian government moved to Havre, France. Battles at Lasigny and Lens. Cavalry fighting near Lille. Russians abandoned siege of Przemysl and retreated from Galicia. Six more bombs dropped on Paris.

Oct. 13, 1914.

Germans moved on Ostend and Bruges. Lille, Hazebrouck and Ypres occupied by Germans. Fierce fighting at Dixmude. General von Kluck trying to turn allies' left wing. Germans made dash for Warsaw. Montenegrins defeated Austrians near Sarajevo. Detachment of Boers under Colonel Maritz rebelled and martial law was proclaimed throughout South Africa. French routed German aviators near Paris.

Oct. 14, 1914.

Belgian army left Ostend and joined allies in the field. Allies recaptured Ypres and French gained near the border. German battalion trapped in canal in Lorraine. Germans occupied Bruges. Germans recaptured Lyck but advance on Warsaw was repulsed by Russians. Russians in Galicia driven back. Serbians beaten back in Bosnia. Cossacks brought down a Zeppelin near Warsaw.

Oct. 15, 1914.

Germans took Ostend and Blankenberghe on the North sea, and Thielt, Daume and Eschen. Allies retook Estaire. French recaptured Altkirch and Muelhausen. German convoy taken by the French. Colonel Brits' force in South Africa captured 80 rebel Boers; General Botha took the field. British cruiser Yarmouth sunk German liner Markomannia.

Oct. 16, 1914.

Germans occupied Zebruggue. First battle of Ypres began. Re-enforced allied north wing swung in on Lille and retook Armentieres. Attempt of Germans to reach Dunkirk checked. Germans at St. Mihiel forced back toward Alsation border. German-Austrian forces assumed the offensive between the Vistula and Galicia. Serbs and Montenegrins defeated Austrians at Glatznitz. British cruiser Hawke sunk by German submarine. British and Japanese warships bombarded Tsingtau fort.

Life of Big Guns.

Guns with a bore of 12 inches or more can only fire 90 full charges. They are then considered to be worn out, and have to be sent to the foundry to have a new core inserted.

The Sign.

"I wonder if the chestnut crop will be good this year?" "You can generally tell that by the fish stories."

Modern Life.

"Formerly a girl took pride in accumulating linen for her chest." "Well!" "Now she collects a lot of graphophone records."—Cincinnati Times Star.

More Laws.

"Why can't I come to see you to-morrow night?" "Don't blame me," said the beautiful girl. "Our cook has the use of the parlor under the new domestic relations law."

On Second Thought.

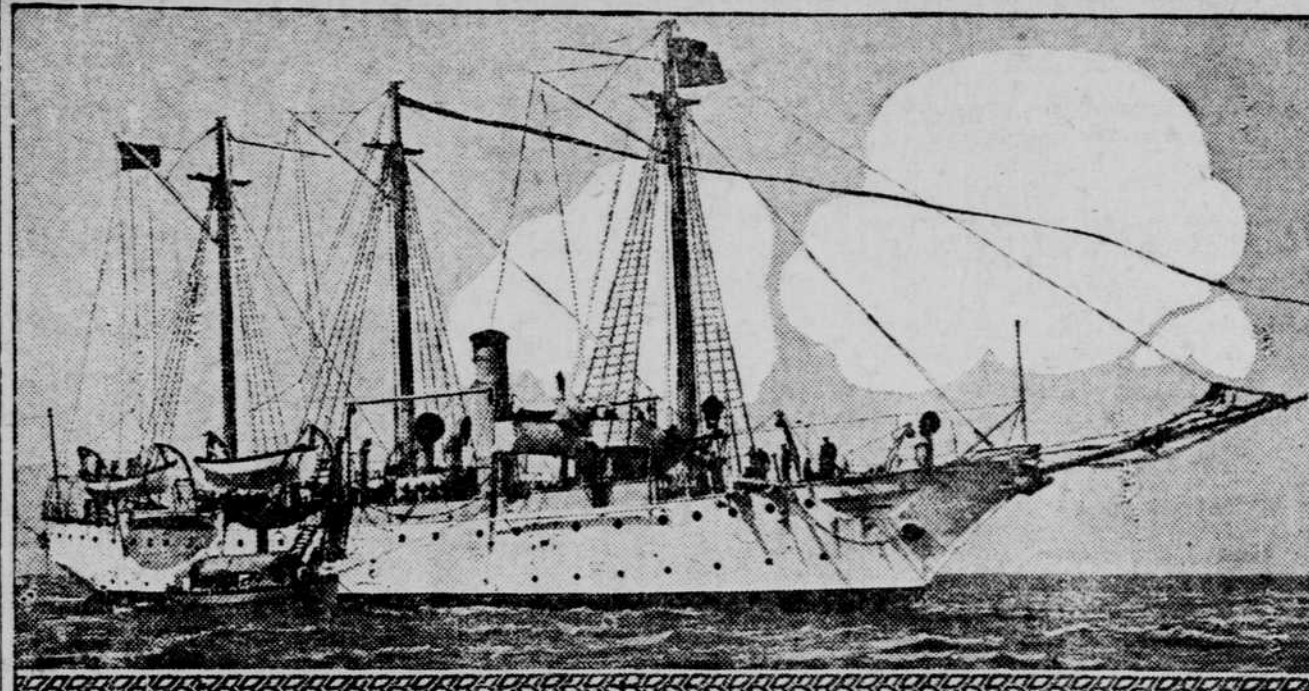
"Those men for whom you failed to get government positions were rather indignant."

"Only for a little while," replied Senator Sorghum. "Since they found how much more they can make in private employment they're honestly grateful."

The Way of It.

"Miss Gladys has a way of getting presents of diamond rings." "I suppose that is because her ways are such engaging ones."

GUNBOAT PRINCETON, SUNK, SAVED AND HOME AGAIN



United States gunboat Princeton photographed as she appeared recently in San Francisco bay flying her home-going pennant. A year ago the Princeton ran on to an uncharted coral reef off Samoa and sank. She was pumped out by her own crew and the hole in her hull patched, and she is home again after an absence of five years.

ITALIAN TROOPS CHARGING IN THE OPEN



Italian troops on reconnaissance duty caught by the camera as they were charging a detachment of the enemy.

COLONEL BULLARD AT BROWNSVILLE



Colonel Bullard, commanding the United States troops at Brownsville, Tex., is here seen (left) in front of his headquarters consulting with Captain Johnson, one of his aids.

ROQUE GONZALES GARZA



Roque Gonzales Garza, at one time president of the convention government of Mexico, is now in Washington as a representative of the Villa-Zapata factions. He says any pacification plan that recognizes Carranza and does not include the Villistas as factors in the situation will mean nothing but anarchy in Mexico.

INHABITED ONLY BY CHILDREN



Both the German and Russian armies have marched through and fought around this village of Rozen. Newspaper correspondents found there only ruins and children when they passed through in the rear of the advancing Germans.

Too Much to Imagine.

One evening Smith jinnayed to the suburbs to call on his friend Jones, and while they were sitting on the veranda enjoying their after-dinner ragweed, large volumes of music broke loose in the adjacent bungalow. "Some music," commented Smith, glancing through the fireflies in the scenery beyond. "Who might the performer be?" "It is my neighbor, Green," answered Jones. "And would you believe that he plays by ear alone?" "I would not," was the prompt rejoinder of Smith. "I can easily imagine that he might make that much noise by using both hands and feet and an ax, but you can't make me believe that he does it by hanging the side of his head on the keys."

Stock Trout Stream With Flies.

The British Salmon and Trout association asks anglers and fishery owners to send to its secretary, Sir Wrench Towse, Fishmongers' hall, London, E. C., details of cases in which the valuable water-bred flies have been increased substantially in number by any special measures, such as the introduction, by the planting of eggs or larvae or the liberation of mature flies on the banks of a river or lake; and the improvement of a stream or lake by the cultivation of special weeds, careful removal of mud and so on.

Parachutes for Airmen.

It has been recommended by the chief signal officer that parachutes designed for use with aeroplanes be purchased for members of the army aviation service. This step was taken following experiments at the San Diego aeronautic station, when a young woman made a successful drop of 1,200 feet from an aeroplane. The parachute is light, compact and so made that it may be folded and strapped to the occupant of a machine in such a way as not to hamper his normal movements.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The gray wolf of Montana is the hardest animal to trap. It is destructive to cattle.

The population of Montana on March 1 was 622,315. Silver Bow was the most populous county with 72,500 people.

Among those who have joined the British army during the present war are 30,000 Durham miners, 20,000 South Wales miners and 15,000 Yorkshire miners.

Constantinople is a city of mosques and minarets. There are about 800 mosques in it, many of them being buildings of the most beautiful and picturesque sort.

Physicians of Crane, Mo., are puzzled by an ailment which strikes W. H. Hilton dumb when he attempts to address persons near him, but permits him to speak plainly when addressing persons at a distance, or when talking to animals.

The man who runs along on an even keel never stage-manages a revolution.