

# Fin, Fur and Feather

By William J. Robbins Jr.



Wildlife experts know that the greatest enemies of wild ducks are the egg-eaters. In Pennsylvania the principal offenders in this category are crows, raccoons, skunks, and opossums. Additional losses are suffered when great horned owls and minks make severe inroads on both old and young ducks.

Where ducks are numerous the snapping turtle, too, should be considered a real factor in the loss of ducklings, even full-grown waterfowl. As in the case of the furtive, night-operating fox, the seldom noticed, armored predator exists in greater numbers than most folks know. He lies camouflaged and still, alongside a stump or in mud with which his shell blends. When prey comes within range of the turtle's strike his head darts out fast as a rattler's and his powerful jaws snap shut on unwary birds, frogs or fish.

In an unusual predator campaign, game protectors are taking many snapping turtles from dams, ponds and marshes where young ducks are being released to grow to maturity under the Game Commission's duck program.

With the permission of the Fish Commission, game protectors are using turtle traps, in which many of the amphibious reptiles are being caught. The snappers taken have ranged in weight from 5 to 35 pounds. Started only last year, the turtle effort has to this time been largely experimental and on a small scale. The water predator program is considered beneficial not only to wild waterfowl but to fishlike and other aquatic creatures also.

**Farmer Saves Ringnecks**  
Says Game Protector Glenn A. Kitchen, formerly of Harveys Lake now of Weatherly, "Each year, many game bird nests are destroyed needlessly by forest fires and accidentally by farm machinery.

"Several weeks ago, when I was in Susquehanna County, a farmer who was plowing noticed a hen pheasant take flight near the wheel of his tractor. He stopped immediately and located a nest containing 17 unbroken pheasant eggs. He turned the eggs over to a deputy game protector. The deputy found a hantam hen in 'hatchy mood' and placed the eggs under her. Later, eight

of the eggs hatched. Mrs. Bantam is doing a fine job with her strange family. Just another example of good sportsmanship by a conservation-minded farmer."

**Bruin Puts on Free Show**  
Game Protector George B. Smith, Lewistown, says: "From all indications we are having a migration of bear into Mifflin County.

"During the past month I investigated 5 complaints of bear damage to bee hives and corn cribs. On May 31, about 11 p.m., Deputy Keister, R. D. I, Lewistown, phoned that a bear was in a large tree about 30 feet from the front porch of his home.

"On arrival there I found a large crowd of people using lights and flash cameras to photograph a fair-size bear in a pine tree. After the crowd was moved back and lights were put out Mr. Bruin finally came down to the ground. He paused, looked the crowd over, then loped away into the woods."

**Woodchuck Bests Fox in Fight**  
Game Protector John M. Haverstick, whose headquarters are at Lancaster County Sportsmen's Association perched in a tree watching a fox den. A woodchuck came to the entrance and finally lay down there. Soon an adult gray fox appeared and attempted to enter the den. A terrific, half-minute fight ensued, with the chuk standing his ground. As the fox retreated, detouring the battleground to enter an unguarded hole, the hunter fired accurately and saved it further strife in this world.

**Deer Die-Off in Winter**  
The number of deer deaths from malnutrition in Pennsylvania last winter was undesirable though not exceptional, viewed alongside the record of other states having comparable herds and conditions. The following is reprinted from a June release by the Michigan Department of Conservation:

"An estimated 10,000 deer starved in Michigan last winter and spring, a final conservation department survey reveals. The total was about one-fourth that of 1951, when about 40,000 deer starved in the state. I. H. Bartlett, department deer specialist says: 'Between 2,000 and 3,000 of the 1952 losses were upper peninsula deer. Bulk of the deaths was in the northern lower peninsula.'

"There was less lower peninsula starvation because of a heavy acorn

## Y-Campers Visit City Industries

Children Delighted With Story Hour

The Back Mountain YMCA Da-Camp which started its second week on Monday of this week is meeting with ever increasing popularity. Ralph Rozelle and Jacqueline Mulcey, instructors, have invited Back Mountain Pastors to lead devotional periods on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Friday being hike day. This week, Rev. Robert Yost, pastor, Shavertown Methodist Church, led devotions in the form of a Bible story.

Last Friday the youngsters toured industries in Wilkes-Barre. The first stop was at Luzerne County Prison. The youngsters enjoyed a picnic lunch on the River Common, then proceeded to the Anthracite Institute and the Coca Cola Bottling Works.

Miss Johanna Smith, of Dallas, has been a regular inspiration at the Da-Camp sessions since they started this summer. She is present on each occasion to tell the children an interesting story during the Story Hour periods.

Final period starts on August 5 and runs to August 15. Boys and girls can register at any time. The ages are 8-14 years, the group meets each Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Constable Louis Banta Furnishes \$500 Bail

Constable Louis Banta, 102 Mt. Greenwood Road, Trucksville, has furnished bail of \$500 for appearance at court hearing. Alderman S. Miles Barber held the preliminary hearing on alleged assault and battery.

V. A. Shindel, 17 Main Street, Dallas, stock broker with offices in the Brooks Building, states that he passed a truck accident on the Dallas highway, early in the morning on June 29, and was on his way to summon the police when stopped by Constable Banta for alleged speeding.

crop last fall starting the herd into the winter in excellent physical condition, relatively light snowfall, and because of heavy 1951 starvation cutting the population, leaving fewer animals to eat existent food supplies during 1952."

(Cont'd on Galley Paper 17)...

## THE DALLAS POST

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## ONLY YESTERDAY

From The Post of ten and twenty years ago this week.

From The Issue Of July 24, 1942

A nurse who was on Bataan to the last can shed no light upon the present whereabouts of Cease Wilson.

Bodies of two Miners Mills youths, drowned on Sunday in Harveys Lake, have been recovered.

Arnold Swan, Idetown, has had his faith in soldiers shaken, since one of the boys in OD gypped him out of \$10 on a fake bicycle deal.

Lehigh Valley tracks will be raised to give access across New Highway to Mill street.

WPA project on Church street is holding its own, in no worse condition than when it was started. Suggestions have been made that the shade trees be cut down and lawns sowed to Canadian thistle, to speed up the work.

Major Norman Smith is in England, training Commandos.

Mrs. Libbie Ide passed away a few days after celebrating her seventy-eighth birthday.

Fred Swanson had \$40 lifted from his pants, while minus his uniform in the course of rescue operations for the two drowned boys on Sunday.

Gasoline restrictions have cut down highway traffic.

Mrs. Eulalia Cox was married in the Little Church Around the Corner, to W. F. Newberry, Stone Acres.

Mrs. Marilla Hoover died at her home on Norton Avenue, aged 81.

Peppers, large and green, 4 for 10 cents; new cabbage, 3 cents per lb; frying chickens, 33 cents per lb; chuck roast, 27 cents; onions, 3 lbs for 13 cents; evaporated milk, 10 tall cans, 77 cents.

From The Issue Of July 22, 1932

Rotary Club has voted on promoting for the coming year: consolidation of Kingston Township, Dallas Township, and Dallas Borough schools; more adequate water supply; extension of pave from Trucksville to Dallas, with rerouting of highway to bypass Main Street; and reduction of taxes.

New short route to Williamsport through Red Rock and Benton is making progress.

The sheriff is collecting taxes in the Borough.

Now you can buy it sliced, for 5 cents per loaf; apple sauce, 3 cans 25 cents; fig bars, 2 lbs. 15 cents; milk, tall cans, 19 cents; coffee 19 cents per lb.

A police dog running amok on Machell Avenue bit Roberta Van Campen severely.

## Safety Valve

IT'S HOT IN HONSHU

Dear Dallas Post:

I like that picture you put in the Dallas Post of me. I don't remember seeing it any place before.

You said, how are things in Honshu? Lots of rain and pretty hot. It's a nice place to be, much better than Korea. Only I'd like it much better if I were at home. But there isn't a thing I can do about it. I'll be seeing the States some time the last part of January, 1953.

I have been overseas one year now, and have five months more to stay here. I was in Korea six months and in Japan six.

Thanks for remembering my birthday. Hope to spend my Twenty-fourth in Lehman.

As ever,  
Opl. William M. Simms.

Bill, we had that picture on hand for ages, ever since your mother sent it to us, but somehow it kept getting sidetracked.....Editor.

## COLLEGE ACQUIRES OLD HOME

Editor The Post:

A gracious old building long associated with the names of some of the most distinguished families in the early history of Wyoming Valley has passed into the possession of Wilkes College.

It is the Sturdevant house on South Franklin street. In announcing its purchase by the college, Dr. Eugene S. Farley, Wilkes president, disclosed its rooms would probably be converted into offices.

The lot on which the structure stands was originally part of a larger tract granted by an 1805 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania patent to Lord Butler. The house, believed to have been erected in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, was purchased in 1841 by Rev. John Dorrance, grand-uncle of Miss Frances Dorrance, president of Back Mountain Memorial Library Association. Rev. Dr. Dorrance was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre, from 1833 to 1860.

Upon Dr. Dorrance's death, the house was acquired by Dr. Jesse Thomas, who had married Ellen Miner, daughter of Charles Miner, Wyoming Valley historian. Miss Jessie T. Sturdevant, daughter of one of Mrs. Thomas' heirs, and her companion, Miss Hazel Smith of Trucksville, occupied the north half of the house, the part the college has acquired, until the former's death last year.

Wilkes College

## FARM TOPICS

**Note Oak Wilt**—During July and August and on into September is the time when you can best recognize oak wilt. When frost hits in early fall and leaves turn in color, it is more difficult to identify the disease. The outbreak of anthracnose this year is confusing, says Edwin Honey, Penn State extension plant pathologist.

**Check on Heifers**—It is poor management to turn the dairy heifers out on summer pasture and then forget about them. These heifers will be the future milking herd. They should have enough feed and care to keep them in thrifty condition.

**Cull out Roosters**—When the breeding season is over, cull the roosters out of the flock. Roosters are valuable only for producing fertile eggs for hatching; thereafter they are worthless and eat feed which should be used by the rest of the flock.

**Water Rose Bed**—The rose bed should be given a thorough soaking once every week or 10 days, but don't wet the foliage. Watering in this manner will provide the moisture needed by the roses.

**Buy Ram Now**—Do not wait until breeding time to get the ram for the sheep flock. Breeders of good purebred stud rams usually have their best rams sold early in the season.

**Clean Grain Bins**—Protection against grain insects should start with cleaning old grain out of the bins and spraying with an insecticide, says John Pepper, Penn State extension entomologist.

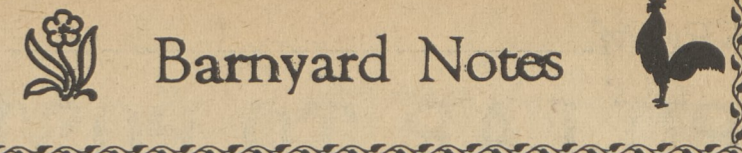
**Mulch Saves Moisture**—Mulches on the flower garden conserve moisture and also save work. If deep enough the mulch will prevent weed growth. Mulch shrubbery borders and newly planted foundation plantings.

**Saved Stored Grain**—Make farm grain storages clean, insect-free, birdproof, rodentproof, and weather-proof, urges John Pepper, extension entomologist of the Pennsylvania State College. Steel bins are especially easy to keep clean and insect-proof.

## Norton Ave. Lot Sold

Robert Hughes of Kline Auto Parts has purchased the 100-foot lot on Norton Avenue located between the Henry Peterson and Clarence LaBar properties from Henry Krabill, James Bessecker, real estate, handled the transaction.

## Barnyard Notes



"Confidentially, brother, I'm glad this Auction is over for another year" some one whispered to me out of the shadows as I went down to close the chicken coop Saturday night.

Looking back over my shoulder I saw the speaker. It was the Barn. Settling back on his haunches he was shivering as though a chill were running up and down his frame. "I've got a splitting headache," he confided and I'm as gaunt as though I'd been on a bender for a month. My sides ache. My timbers are sore. I'm jittery and wobbly."

"I'm all bound around with bunting and pennants and my mouth tastes as though Napoleon's army had marched through. Where have I been? Was I celebrating New Year's Eve?"

I straightened him out on that. "No," says I, "You've just gone through the Sixth Library Auction." Then he began to regain his equilibrium.

"So it wasn't Napoleon's Army after all. It was that guy Berti and Floyd Harris. I remember."

I suggested a bag of lime or a sack of cement might settle his stomach and he seemed pleased with my solicitude. "And the Dodge and the Plymouth he added, 'I think I could handle them.'" "But," he protested, "Lord deliver me I couldn't digest another chair or marble top table for a year. Shiver my shingles if I know whether I can ever take another Library Auction."

Just then Rogue barked from his pen by the chicken coop. A rabbit leapt across Myra's young pansy plants and a skunk waddled sedately out through the orchard. The Barn

shut up and I went about my business closing the chicken coop for the night.

The two golden kittens delivered at our back door just before the Auction have been named Sugar and Spice.

The best fed robins and cat birds Back of the Mountain are currently making our garden their headquarters. They have stripped seven cherry trees and are now helping us harvest red raspberries and blackberries. And not one case of colic reported yet.

So far as I can calculate, the cherries were divided about as follows: four quarts picked by Myra were given to the Plant and Produce stand at the Library Auction; the two quarts I picked went into two cherry pies; thirteen quarts, picked a few at a time, went into kid's stomachs.

31½ quarts were picked and consumed by all the robins north of Luzerne and south of Noxen; 22 quarts were consumed by two pairs of cat birds whose nests are in the lilac bush and in the choke cherry tree back of the chicken coop.



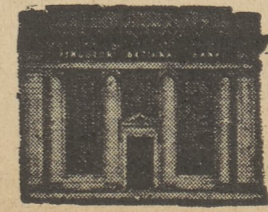
**CALIFORNIANS JOIN HANDS**  
DESPITE HASSLES in the ranks of California delegates, everything is peaceful with this group of top Golden State political figures as they join in a friendly handclasp at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. Pictured (l. to r.) are: State Sen. George Miller, James Roosevelt and Anson Ford. The California squabble began when "rebels" raided a meeting of "regulars" supporting Sen. Estes Kefauver. (International)

## NO FISH STORY



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