



PERCH PROVE DEADLY IN BLUEGILL POND

A fish culturist's life is filled with surprises and A. T. Stewart, in charge of the state fish hatchery at Drayton Plains, has survived the shock of finding a comparatively few perch dominating a "pearling" pond he had expected was filled with bluegills.

Draining the pond recently as a preliminary to planting of bluegills in nearby lakes, Stewart found the estimated two million bluegills shrunk to a mere 450,000 which had survived the forays of 750 voracious perch of last spring's hatch that averaged seven inches in length.

Water for Drayton Plains rearing ponds is supplied from the Clinton river in which perch spawn normally. Ordinarily the river water is not let into the ponds when perch fry are present but seepage from this pond last spring made such a step necessary.

That the predatory perch had made the most of their opportunity is proved by their amazing growth rate. Scales examined at the institute for fisheries research in Ann Arbor, maintained by the conservation department, established their age.

Next season, perch fry will be kept out of the ponds by fine mesh copper screens.

EFFORTS MADE TO CONSERVE STOCK OF SMELT

Closing of Cold creek to smelt dipping, at least for two or three years, is recommended by the conservation department's institute for fisheries research, on completion of a fisheries survey of Crystal lake. It is from Cold creek that dip netters take the spawning smelt by the thousands every spring.

For additional protection to the spawning smelt, the institute further recommends that Crystal lake be transferred to the pike lake classification, not because it is a good pike lake but because it is thought desirable to close the lake to fishing March 1 instead of March 31 as at present.

Crystal lake is famous for getting the state's first successful planting of smelt in 1912, and its shanty ice-fishing has become a sizable tourist industry. Last season, for the first time, a decrease in smelt abundance was noted, and the survey was undertaken to find ways of conserving the stock.

Comparative worth to the locality of steady winter trade and of greater crowds for a brief time for the spring smelt dipping jamborees has been much debated locally. Conservation commission action, after local hearings, would be needed to put institute recommendations into effect.

Next to smelt, perch are now Crystal lake's most important fish, and the institute suggests stocking also large lake trout and large rainbows. Brush shelters scattered in shoal areas where the water is six to 25 feet deep would give valuable protection to young game fish and forage fish, the institute report declares.

Center of State Near South Manitow Island

Geographic center of Michigan is a point in Lake Michigan between 28 and 29 miles west of the southernmost point of South Manitow Island, lying west of Leland in Leelanau county. Geographic center of the northern peninsula is a point in Lake Superior approximately 18 miles north of Laughing Fish Point, a few miles east of Marquette; and of the southern peninsula, a point in Isabella county about eight miles north and east of Mt. Pleasant. Port Huron is the farthest east city, Ironwood the farthest west, and South Camden the farthest south among Michigan cities. Copper Harbor on the Keweenaw peninsula is farthest north on the Michigan mainland and Tobin's Harbor on Isle Royale is the northernmost settlement in Michigan.

Elk Suffer Heavily During Deer Season

Michigan's elk herd, scattered through several counties near the tip of the lower peninsula, has apparently suffered more heavily during the present deer season than in previous years.

Number of the animals shot illegally by hunters this season, or reach 10. Three illegal kills were reported during the 1939 deer season.

Stiff penalties for killing elk—\$100 to \$500 fines and jail sentences of from 90 days to one year—may be imposed upon conviction.

An estimated 300 to 400 elk in Cheboygan, Oshtemo, Presque Isle and Montmorency counties are the offspring of a herd of 30 animals released in the Pigeon River area in 1918. The original herd was made up of animals secured at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and from various parks and zoos. Native Michigan elk apparently disappeared about 60 years ago.

Lazy Coon Depends on Traps For Food Supply

"Lazy as such a pet coon" is one wild coon which grew altogether too fond of traps used in raccoon management study by Frederick W. Stuever of the conservation department's game division at Swan Creek wildlife experiment station. The lazy coon, one of a litter of three tagged in the den, grew thin when it apparently came to depend upon the ear corn bait in the live traps as its sole source of food. It was found in the traps 15 times in 25 days.

Some of its fellow raccoons also made a practice of eating the trap bait and then curling up to enoize until the attendant came round to let them out. Ear corn set in traps to divert them from the trap bait did not work with this coon.

Repeated visits to the traps yielded considerable information on the growth of young coons, and points to the possibility of limited artificial feeding, Stuever said.

The tongue of the just is as choice silver; the heart of the wicked is little worth.—Proverbs 10:20.

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed by this newspaper.

FRUIT NEEDED IN DIET TO COMBAT ACIDS

There's magic in orange juice, which tastes sour and yet has an alkaline reaction in digestion.

Reasons why are explained by the research staff in home economics at Michigan State College. Oranges and other fruits and vegetables contain salts of alkaline metals which neutralize the acid products from the digestion of proteins and thus have an alkaline effect in the body.

Foods rich in proteins exert an acid effect when they are burned or oxidized in the body. These acid end-products such as uric, sulfuric and phosphoric acids are rendered harmless when balanced with the alkaline metal salts from the fruits and vegetables.

Tissues and blood in the body

the home economics workers point out, normally have a faintly alkaline reaction which must be protected. The body thus needs a safe minimum of two fruits or vegetables a day.

Food tastes do not indicate ultimate effect in the body. Proof of this is found in such foods as cranberries, plums and prunes which contain certain organic acids like citric and quinic. These do not oxidize in the usual manner.

Oxalic acid is poorly oxidized in the body. This affects the use of such foods as rhubarb, chard, spinach, beet leaves, cocoa and tea. With these foods the staff recommends liberal supplies of calcium obtained from other sources such as milk, eggs and beans.

Normally healthy persons are equipped to utilize efficiently the food eaten whether it is acid or alkaline, the research workers conclude, but the body must be provided with sufficient quantities of each type of food.

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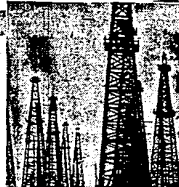
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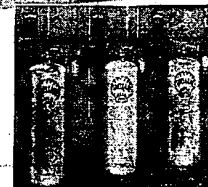
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