

Tallyho! After The Fox We Go! Redwings And Grackles Help Prove It's Spring

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors Writer

Oscar Wilde, or some English writer, once described fox hunting as "the unspeakable in pursuit of the unspeakable."

Wilde, however, was referring to the English aristocracy, who thought nothing of tearing down a poor man's fences or trampling the produce in his fields in its endeavor to capture wild prey.

In addition, the British gentry made mockery of fox hunting as a sport by pursuing the little animal on horseback behind 30 or 40 dogs.

Fox hunting in Michigan is done much differently, and it

is embraced by many Oberverland residents.

AS FOR those who would like to try the sport for the first time, they won't have far to go. The Dept. of Natural Resources reports the fox hunting is good in Oakland and Macomb Counties. Best results are enjoyed by those using dogs.

In Michigan, the fox is treated as a predatory animal, and there is open season on him. There is a bounty on him, but the most the hunter can realize commercially is about \$5 for a good pelt.

Nonetheless, fox hunting can provide the sportsman

good exercise and plenty of excitement.

You'll need at least one good dog. Most fox men prefer a redbone, blue tick or black and tan. And the best time of the year to hunt fox is right now. The season usually begins with the first snow fall of any size in January and runs to March.

You can set out after the fox by yourself or with a friend or two, but the trend is for a group of people, up to 15-20 persons, to join in a hunt.

If you prefer to go it alone, or take no more than a friend or two, then somebody lift your party had better be

wise in the ways of the fox.

Chased, the fox runs in circles, and it takes a real pro to know where to wait for the fox to pass.

HUNTING fox in a large group is much different. In this situation, one man, called the driver, sets his dogs on the spoor of the fox while the others in the party (called setters) wait for the fox at points of an imaginary circle.

The amount of ground covered, with the driver starting at one end and the setters waiting at the other, is about a section, or 640 acres.

To make your kill, use No. 2 shot.

Two or three years ago, a

good fox pelt would bring up to \$15, but demands for their skins has dwindled.

The reason he's not protected by state game laws is because he sometimes preys on such coveted animals as rabbits, partridge and pheasant. Usually, though, he feeds on field mice and meat he can scavenge from the highway that has been killed or wounded by cars.

As for the amount of foxes in the state, have no worry about that. The supply, in some areas, is often greater than the demand, and some hunters wind up the year with a take of more than 100 pelts.

Tally ho!

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When 40 to 60 redwinged blackbirds show up for breakfast, can spring be far behind?

Herman Gaab of 35871 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, says these harbingers of spring arrived three or four days early this year.

Other early birds are 15 to 20 pairs of bronze grackles and nine mourning doves. Gaab observed them over the past weekend when they came to partake of the 24 quarts of bird feed he distributes every day — a 12-quart

apail each morning and evening.

Seventeen varieties of birds have been regulars at his feeding stations during the winter months. He watches them through optic binoculars which bring them as close as three feet. One of his favorites is the starling, which he says is beautiful in its winter coat.

Wild birds have found a haven inside his house as well as out. A five-year-old black grackle (he'll be five in June) has a rather extensive vocabulary, for a grackle.

He says, "Hello, baby," and "Kiss me, baby," and a few unprintable words.

The grackle and a sparrow sit on Gaab's fingers and eat meat, potatoes, crackers and macaroni. Both were brought into the house as injured nestlings.

Herman Gaab spends about \$600 a year on food for his feathered friends. The joy in his return when announcing the voice of the redwinged blackbirds, the grackles and the doves shows it is all worthwhile.

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Got a problem? Need a speaker for your club?
Congressmen, legislators and county commissioners read their mail pretty carefully and listen to the voters' problems.
Clip and save this directory of addresses and phone numbers marking the person who serves your area.

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Hon. Philip Hart, D-Mich.
Washington: Senate Office Building, 202-225-4822.
Detroit office: 848 Federal Building, 226-3184 or 226-3188.
Hon. Robert Griffin, R-Mich.
Washington: Senate Office Building, 202-225-6221.
Detroit office: 1039 Federal Building, 226-6020.

CONGRESS

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Washington office: 412 Cannon Building, 202-225-4401.
District office: 200 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, 665-0818.
15th District -- Hon. William D. Ford, D-Taylor. Includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township.
Washington office: 125 Cannon Building, 202-225-6261.
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19th District -- Hon. Jack McDonald, R-Farmington. Includes Redford Township, Livonia, Farmington.
Washington office: 1204 Longworth Building, 202-225-2101.
District office: 23622 Farmington Road, Farmington, 476-6220.

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Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-2790.
Residence: 5670 Pardee, Apt. 8, Dearborn Heights, 278-7136.
13th District -- William Faust, D-Westland. Includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township.
Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-2790.
Business office: 722-6894.
Residence: 32615 Cady Street, Westland, 722-8833.
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Residence: 670 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, 455-0648.
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Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-0990.
Residence: 13150 Dartmouth, Oak Park, 547-6528.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

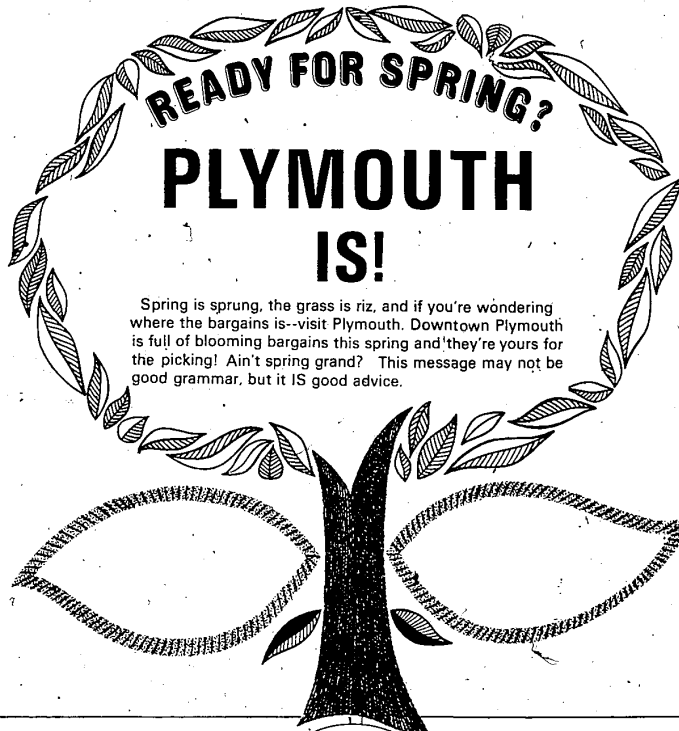
33rd District -- Richard Young, D-Dearborn Heights. Includes northeastern Westland and southern Livonia.
Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-0857.
Business: 24100 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights, 274-2040.
Residence: 27275 W. Canfield, Dearborn Heights.
34th District -- John Bennett, D-Redford Township.
Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-1773.
Residence: 10052 Mercedes, Detroit 48239, 397-1098.
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Business office: 31707 Plymouth Road, Livonia, 422-6074.
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36th District -- James Tierney, D-Garden City. Includes northwest part of Westland, Plymouth City and Township and Canton Township.
Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-0849.
Residence: 5633 Arcola, Garden City, 421-5168.
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Lansing office: State Capitol, 517-373-1708.
Residence: 1917 Eagle, Westland, 721-1125.
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Office: City-County Building, 224-5025.
Residence: 5883 N. Harvey, Westland, 721-1652.
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Residence: 31542 Grove Drive, Livonia, 425-7367.



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These are the days that make women want to flip their wigs. They must decide on the midi lengths, put meat on the table on a too-low household budget, and find out whether they are a candidate for the Women's Liberation Front. Midis, meat and male equality aside, if something should make you flip your wig, the place to run for help is MR. RAY'S WIG & BEAUTE SALON. They can calm you down and at the same time offer you a staggering, stunning selection of wigs and wiglets that will turn any male head. Or if you secretly feel that you really are a possible Women's Libber and want to wear your own locks, they'll be given tender loving care.

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