Proper Handling of No Trump Bid

By R. F. FOSTER.

FEW beginners seem to understand the proper course to pursue when their partner's original no trump bid has been overcalled by the opponents with a suit. There are three correct bids in this position:

1. With two stoppers in the declared suit double.

2. With two stoppers and four outside tricks bid two no trumps if it is the rubber game. Otherwise double.

3. Failing two stoppers bid any suit worth showing. Otherwise pass.

To bid two no trumps unless you have a no trumper yourself is to presume. In these days of light no trumpers no one but the bidder himself knows what possibilities there are in his hand.

Stoppers must be considered with regard to the position of the lead. Four to the ace ten is equal to two stoppers if the bid is on the right, even if that player holds king queen jack. Three to the ace jack may be considered as two stoppers if the bid is on the right. Neither of these is safe if the bid is on the left, and the suit will be led through. It may come off occasionally, just like counting on four to the ten to stop a suit, but it is a gamble.

Here is a hand that went the rounds at the Knickerbocker last winter which has some interesting points in connection with bidding up a partner's original no trumper. It was played at three different declarations:

♡K 7 4 3
♢7 6 5
♢J 8 4
♠A J 5

♡A 9 6
♢A Q 10
♢K Q 10 5
♠Q 6 2

Y A B Z

♡8 5
♢J 8 5 2
♢9 6 3
♠K 10 8 7

♡Q J 10 2
♢K 9 4
♢A 7 2
♠9 4 3

Z dealt and bid no trump at several tables, although his hand is only just average, from an ace to a nine. A doubled, Y passed and B bid two spades. When Z and A passed, at one table Y went two no trumps, which A again doubled, and set for 200.

This loss is due to Y's error in increasing his partner's no trumper, instead of playing to save the game. He has no bid under any of the three classifications given.

A led the spade queen, which dummy won, leading a small heart. A led another spade, which B won with the ten. Relying on A for all the suits but hearts, as A doubled, B led the club jack, which held, and followed with another, A making queen and ace. Another spade allowed B to make his long club and two more spades.

At one table Y left the two spade bid alone, and B failed to make the three odd, which is easily in the cards. This is how he missed the "essential trick" alluded to by our English correspondents as so important:

Z led a heart, and A won, leading the spade queen. Y put the ace right on and led another heart. B trumped the third round. Now, instead of leading the jack of clubs and clearing up that suit he led a small club, returning a trump, when the finesse of the club ten held. Again he failed to clear the clubs before leading out his last trump, so that Y made the jack of diamonds at the end.

A peculiar bid at one table was B's three clubs after Y had gone to two no trumps over B's spade bid. The position of the original no trump bid and Y's showing two supposed stoppers in spades enabled B to make his contract.

Z led the heart, which A won. A small spade allowed B to finesse the ten. Now the jack and another club exhausts the trumps. Y won the next spade lead with the ace and B had to use his last trump on the hearts.

A small diamond was passed up by Z, who hoped B would credit him with ace jack and finesse the ten; but dummy put on the queen, and led the queen of spades, which he overtook with the king and made his contract with the eight. If Z had played the ace of diamonds he would have made it easier for B.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

J. C. says: Playing among strangers at a summer hotel A does not like the men he is placed between. Is there any rule under which he can demand a change? B says not, as he would be taking some other player's favorite seat.

The laws allow any player to demand that the cards be thrown round for positions at the table at the end of every or any hour's play. The lowest card has the choice of seats and the next lowest sits on his immediate left; the next lowest to his left again and so on. This rule is borrowed from the older one of throwing a card between each pair of players at the table to determine where a newcomer shall sit.

J. B. H. says: A, on the dealer's left, says he will open, and puts in his chips, but immediately discovers that he has six cards and so announces. B bets the pot is opened to all players except A, whose hand is foul. A bets the pot is not opened, but that A has the right to draw five cards.

There are two distinct questions at issue here. In the first place, if A announced that his hand was foul and his opening therefore illegal the pot is not opened unless B had come in or some other player beyond him if B had passed. The law says a pot shall be played for, even if illegally opened, "provided any one has come in against the false openers." If no one has come in it is not opened. In the second question, A has no right to draw any cards or take any further part in that deal. His hand is foul, because he lifted and looked at six cards or some part of them.

Euchre. Mrs. L. says: Playing partners, Z deals, A passes and Y assists. B says that this means the dealer must play alone, as assists are not allowed.

This rule applies to large charity games only. In the regular game any assist prevents a lone hand, as the dealer cannot play alone even if she wants to after having been assisted by her partner.

Five hundred. E. J. E. says: Clubs are trumps. A has the joker and two small ones. After playing the two small clubs to the bidder's leads, she declines to play the joker on the third lead, on the ground that it is a suit by itself and can be played at any time.

That is true only in a no trumper. When there is a trump suit the joker is part of that suit and must be played under the same rules that the king or queen would be played.

PROBLEMS FOR SUN READERS.

THE solution of bridge problem No. 499 depended on developing a tenace position in the trump suit and then forcing discards. Here is the distribution:

♡A 5 4
♣K 5
♢5
♠-----

♡J
♣8
♢J 10 7
♠9

Y A B Z

♡8 6
♣6 4
♢3
♠A

♡10
♣10 7
♢Q 8
♠Q

Clubs are trumps. Z is in the lead. Y and Z want all six tricks.

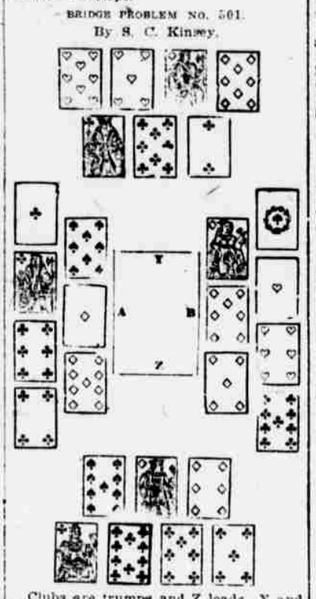
Z leads the queen of diamonds and follows with the eight. Y trumps with the king. The best defensive discard for B seems to be the trump.

Y leads the five of trumps, and Z leads another round. This forces B to unguard the heart suit or give up the ace of spades.

The Honor List.

Beginning with problem No. 501, the honor list will be resumed, and the usual prizes will be given for the greatest number of points made by solvers. Last year's winner, "Aitch Dee," selected two volumes of "Berghoit on Bridge," presented by the E. P. Dutton Company. This winter there will be two prizes; the second being for the runner up. Three points will be given for complete solutions; one being deducted for any important variation missed, or failure to discover duals. All correspondence relating to the contest should be accompanied by self addressed envelope.

BRIDGE PROBLEM No. 501.
By S. C. Kinsey.



Clubs are trumps and Z leads. Y and Z to win four tricks.

Checker Endings.

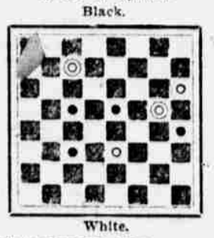
The position shown in Problem No. 499 was a particularly instructive end game. The distribution is: Black men on 15 and 19, king on 31. White man on 28, king on 7. Black to play and win. Here are the moves that solve:

Black.	White.	Black.	White.
15—18	7—11	27—31	22—17
18—22	11—15	23—18	24—19
19—23	15—18	31—26	17—13
23—27	18—25	18—14	19—15
31—26	28—24	26—23	
26—23	25—22		

The Honor List.

Beginning with Problem No. 501 the honor list will be resumed with the usual prize—any checker book now on the market—for the greatest number of points gained. For complete solutions, three points, deducting one for any important variation missed or failure to discover dual or unsound position. All corespondence with regard to this competition should be acompanied by self-addressed envelope.

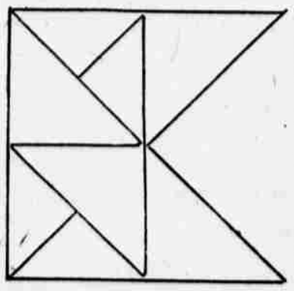
PROBLEM No. 501. CHECKERS.
By H. D. Lyman.
Black.



White.
Black to play and draw.

The Divided Mitre.

This puzzle was to divide a square, from which one-quarter had been removed, inside the dotted lines, into four pieces of the same size and shape. Here is the solution.



This requires that the corners should hang on by the smallest possible piece.

The following letters are cut into the stone upon an altar in Wales, under the ten commandments.

P R S V R Y P R F T C M N
V R K P T H S P R C P T S T N

What is the key that will enable one to read the sentence?

Up-State Season for Deer, Rabbit, Squirrel, Grouse and Woodcock Opens on Tuesday

ADIRONDACK DEER OPENING TUESDAY

Special Season for Land Owners in Columbia, Dutchess and Rensselaer Counties.

BEST HOURS TO HUNT

By BIG TRACK.

Next Tuesday is the opening day of the buck deer season in the following Adirondack counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren and Washington. The bag limit is two.

In the counties of Columbia, Dutchess and Rensselaer one buck deer may be taken by the owner or lessee of the land or by the immediate family of such owner or lessee.

If you only hunt a mile in two or three hours you are hunting fast enough. If it is a beech nut year hunt the beech ridges. If there are no beech nuts hunt the low ground where last green feed is to be found.

I have been on feeding ground so early in the morning that I would have to sit on a log and wait until it got light enough to see and shoot.

Hunt into the wind, go ever so slowly and look everywhere. Take one or a few steps, stop, look and listen, stand five, ten or even fifteen minutes in one place.

Eventually you'll see a slow (?), dark movement, your heart will beat a little faster and harder. There is your deer. And you have the satisfaction of outwitting him; you saw him first. Now use some of that patience.

Watch and wait until you get a good open shot. Take your time now, he does not know you are here. See there, now he has turned broadside. Take good aim right back of the shoulder—pull!

Value of Hunting Alone.

It is all over but the shouting if your aim was good. Now remember that though you shot him right through the heart he may run a hundred yards before he drops, therefore always track and follow every deer you shoot at for at least 200 yards and make sure if he is hit or not.

Hunting into the wind, of course, on a dark, damp, misty day, you may smell a deer. I have. You may smell that heavy odor similar yet different from that of a hot sweaty horse, or perhaps you have smelled cattle that have been out in the rain. Deer have a similar yet different odor, which in time you will learn and may detect.

I have been brought to a stop and to the realization that deer were just ahead in this manner. But don't expect to learn it all in one year or in ten. Go out alone, make your mistakes, smile and smile and try again.

Have patience. Don't stop at a hotel if you can help it. Hire a camp or take a tent, but take my tip, a good camp is cheapest and best and can be had for from $8 to $10 a week, with room enough for from three to six people. Get out early, get back to camp by 10 A. M. and rest until 3 P. M., then try 'em again until dark.

You see most sports stop at a hotel, sleep late, eat a late breakfast and go out after 'em when the deer are lying down, just watching and listening for them, and believe me, they are hard to approach at this time.

You must hunt them when they are also moving about, feeding, &c. If they are lying still and watching remember those eyes for detecting motion, and you have got to move to get to them, and the chances are about ten to one that they also hear you moving. So you see the necessity of making them do part of the moving.

"Still Hunter" Profitable Book.

Even though you have hunted for several years two weeks or more each season if you haven't read "The Still Hunter," by Van Dyke, you most certainly can profit by doing so. 'Tis my candid opinion that a man who has read and reread "The Still Hunter" and studied it thoroughly is better prepared for the fall hunt, though it be his first, than the average sport who has "just went" for, two weeks a year for the last five years.

If the still hunter student is in every other way equal to the before mentioned sport as regards eyes, ears, shooting, &c., my money on the student to beat the experienced (?) sport.

In conclusion I might say a word about guns: They are all good. Any gun with equal or more power than the old 38-40 is good enough. Be sure it is sighted properly, and it's a good investment to burn up a few dollars worth of shells in practice to get used to your arm.

There is mighty good deer hunting in the Adirondacks for a good still hunter, and still hunting is the greatest of sport.

Fishing Club's Fine Example.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 28.—It may interest other fishing clubs to know that the South California Rod and Reel Club awards in addition to its other prizes for big tuna, swordfish, yellowtail, white sea bass and albicore a War Savings Stamp.

Maine's Deer Outlook Promising.

BANGOR, Me., Sept. 28.—The deer season opens on Tuesday throughout Maine, with the exception of the following counties: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo and York. The outlook is promising.

Woodcock Opening October 1.

Next Tuesday is the opening day for woodcock in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York, with the exception of Long Island, under both the Federal regulations and the State laws.

Wild Turkey Hunting in Penna.

Pennsylvania is the nearest State where there is wild turkey hunting. The season begins November 15.

Maine's Upland Opening Oct. 1.

PORTLAND, Me., Sept. 28.—Tuesday is the opening day of the season for rabbit, squirrel and ruffed grouse.

New Hampshire Upland Season.

CONCORD, N. H., Sept. 28.—The season for rabbit, quail and ruffed grouse opens in New Hampshire on Tuesday.

Pennsylvania's Upland Season.

The squirrel, quail and introduced pheasant season opens October 20 in Pennsylvania.

Upland Time in Two States.

In Massachusetts and Rhode Island the upland game season begins on November 1.

Jersey Opening November 10.

The open season for upland game in New Jersey begins November 10.

Oct. 8 Connecticut Open Time.

The Connecticut hunting season begins October 8.

Al Jolson's Catch of Tahoe Trout.

THE COMEDIAN FOUND THESE TROUT WORTH A TRIP TO LAKE TAHOE, CAL.

WISCONSIN GUNNERS FAVOR ONE BUCK LAW

Hearings in 29 Counties to Obtain Sportsmen's Views.

MADISON, Wis., Sept. 28.—The one buck law is expected to go into effect in Wisconsin this season. Hearings are now going on in twenty-nine counties asking that does and fawns be protected.

"We had from forty to sixty sportsmen at every hearing," said W. E. Barber, chairman of the commission, "and with the exception of Eau Claire county, where one man voted against the one buck law, and Marinette county, where ten opposed it, the vote was unanimous for the protection of the doe and fawn.

"From the best information that could be gathered, we estimate that at least 180,000 deer were killed in the Wisconsin woods last winter and the sportsmen agree that fully 75 per cent. of them were does and fawns. Old hunters declare that after two years of the one buck law they never saw so many deer as last winter, but at the rate the does and fawn were killed last year the deer would soon be exterminated. It is true that under the buck law some does are killed, but only a small percentage, as the rapid increase in the two years proved."

Under the fish and game laws the Conservation Commission has the power to extend protection to wild life, but cannot remove the protection without legislative authority.

HATCHERY FOR GLACIER PARK

Part of Plan to Improve Angling in Playgrounds.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 28.—Under a cooperative arrangement the national park service of the Department of the Interior has provided funds for a hatchery in Glacier National Park and the bureau of fisheries has detailed Frank E. Hare, fish culturist at large, to superintend construction, which is well under way.

The hatchery is intended primarily to keep the waters of this park stocked with suitable fish and will be operated by the bureau as a part of the comprehensive plan for maintaining and improving the fish supply in the national parks.

FLORIDA ALLIGATOR.

Editor Has Fears It Will Become Extinct.

PUNTA GORDA, Fla., Sept. 28.—Some one killed an alligator recently and placed it on exhibition on the corner of Marian avenue and Taylor street.

"We think it is time," says the *Herald*, "to begin conserving instead of killing our alligators, for in years gone by they were a great attraction to tourists visiting the State, and there were thousands of them. Now 'gators are seldom seen and we fear they will soon become extinct."

Tagged Sockeyes Retaken.

SOOKE, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Sept. 28.—Hugh O'Malley, field assistant United States Bureau of Fisheries, recently conducted operations tagging sockeye salmon on Puget Sound and contiguous waters. About 4,400 fish were taken in traps, tagged and liberated, and already 600 of these fish have been recaptured, furnishing definite knowledge of the sockeye's migrations.

Upland Season Opens Tuesday.

Up-State the season opens Tuesday for rabbit, squirrel, ruffed grouse and woodcock. On Long Island the season begins for rabbit.

Mastery Among Wild Animals.

Wild animals recognize mastery among themselves. A hyena will not disturb a feeding leopard and the jackal waits on the hyena.

Two Tourneys for Newark Club.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club will hold a casting tournament on election day and another on October 12.

Hyena Child Killer.

Hyenas kill more people in Africa than do lions, principally children, however, for hyenas seldom attack adults.

Rabbit Time in Pennsylvania.

The rabbit season opens in Pennsylvania on November 1.

CAL. BIGHORN SHEEP HOLDING THEIR OWN

Found in Mountains Not Far From Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 28.—That mountain or bighorn sheep still exist in small bands in various parts of the California mountains is a fact well known.

It, however, comes as a welcome surprise, according to Leon L. Gardner of College, to find them living, breeding and at least holding their own in numbers at least holding their own in numbers, in the mountains not further than thirty miles from Los Angeles.

Vague reports from old hunters that in certain parts of the ranges near Mount San Antonio, commonly known as "Old Baldy," there were "wild goats and sheep," and that they were "mighty hard to get near to," furnished the incentive for investigations which have demonstrated that one species of bighorn sheep occurs in the ranges north of Claremont, Los Angeles county.

"Whether or not this is the Nelson bighorn (*Ovis nelsoni*) is an open question," says Mr. Gardner, "which can be decided only by the collection and study of specimens."

CHANNEL BASS A-PLENTY.

Great Fall Run Is On in Full Swing at New Inlet.

The great fall run of channel bass is on in full force at New Inlet. W. A. Leavitt, Jr., president of the Asbury Park Fishing Club; Arthur Pryor, Jr., William Richmond and Van Campen Heilner, cruising in the latter's yacht Nepenthe, reported the fishing unusually good. Four "channels" were taken at the inlet in the last few days. Mr. Pryor and Mr. Heilner each took a bass, using squid for bait, Mr. Pryor's fish being the largest, a thirty-five pounder.

The party reported the small fish unusually plentiful, big tide running weakfish being present in large schools.

Parties camping on the dunes were Mr. Wheeden of Abercrombie & Fitch, Mr. Snow, Nelson Schoen, Judge Taylor and Otto Rhome of the Asbury Park Fishing Club. A well about three feet deep was dug by the campers and the water found to be cool and sweet.

Birds' Independence Day.

July 3 will hereafter be known as birds' independence day to commemorate the date President Wilson signed the Canadian migratory bird treaty enabling act.

Who's Who in Casting
Ernest E. Spencer
Sketch No. 31

By JAMES ROBERT O'NEIL.

Ernest E. Spencer. Called Ernie Spencer. Fresh water fisherman. All around caster. Can cast a fly out of sight. Can also hurl the lead far out to sea. The first man to practise dry fly casting in America. Can hit a half dollar with a small fly at fifty paces. Has a collection of moth eaten, modern and real flies.

Member of the Anglers Club of New York. Delegate to the Association of Surf Angling Clubs. Also a big fly in the Association of Scientific Anglers. Member of Asbury Park Fishing Club. In the summer fishes fresh water streams. In the spring goes to Top Sail Inlet occasionally for channel bass.

Is natty in appearance. Brunette. Close cropped black mustache. Very good looking. Five feet 7½ inches. Thirty-eight years to look back upon. Weighs 141 pounds. Very quiet and genial. Never misses an Anglers Club dinner at the Navarre.

Starts with a flourish and ends with the bacon. Loves red neckties. Also "horses' necks." Will never again carry a six foot casting tip in the subway. Not when the fans are running.

Has written half a dozen books upon angling and when to wet the fly. Says a female fly is a better fish killer than a male fly. No apologies to Louis Rhead are necessary.

Put the lock in the gate at Central Park casting platform. Is very careful with whom he drinks. Loves his food very salty. Has a fishing bag that is a work of art. Given to him by an old friend. Ernie is a great ragtime musician. Hates a "lyria." Never blows his own horn.

HIGH WATER FOR LOCAL ANGLERS FROM SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 6.

Date.	Sandy Hook (The Horseshoe) A.M.	Sandy Hook (The Horseshoe) P.M.	Princess Bay A.M.	Princess Bay P.M.	Jamaica Bay (Canarsie) A.M.	Jamaica Bay (Canarsie) P.M.	Governors Island A.M.	Governors Island P.M.	Willets Point A.M.	Willets Point P.M.	New London A.M.	New London P.M.
September 29	4:02	4:27	4:07	4:32	4:47	5:12	4:46	5:08	8:11	8:39	5:55	6:16
September 30	5:01	5:22	5:06	5:27	5:46	6:07	5:43	6:01	9:10	9:32	6:52	7:10
October 1	5:52	6:10	5:57	6:15	6:37	6:55	6:32	6:49	9:58	10:20	7:38	7:57
October 2	6:37	6:55	6:42	7:00	7:22	7:40	7:15	7:32	10:40	11:01	8:18	8:37
October 3	7:16	7:35	7:21	7:40	8:01	8:20	7:53	8:10	11:16	11:38	8:55	9:15
October 4	7:55	8:18	8:00	8:23	8:40	9:03	8:28	8:45	11:47	12:09	9:30	9:52
October 5	8:31	8:49	8:36	8:54	9:26	9:34	9:01	9:18	12:10	12:33	10:05	10:28
October 6	9:06	9:27	9:11	9:32	9:51	10:12	9:31	9:49	12:34	12:59	10:40	11:05

WOODCOCK SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 1

Numbers Have Steadily Decreased; Fate Lies With American Sportsmen.

VIEWS OF E. W. NELSON

Under the new Federal regulation woodcock shooting this season is permitted in twenty-three States beginning October 1 and closing November 30 and in fourteen States and the District of Columbia beginning November 1 and closing December 31. The daily bag limit is six.

States that give additional protection may shorten the season accordingly, also the time for taking the birds and the bag limit.

In the New England and Middle States, for instance, the Federal regulations give the gunner the opportunity to hunt from October 1 to November 30. Only the following States' laws coincide with these dates: Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, Massachusetts Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania shorten the season.

New York up State cuts half a month from the end of the season and on Long Island half a month from the beginning of the season, thus making the open time under Federal regulations and State laws, up State, October 1 to November 15, and on Long Island, October 15 to November 30.

The Federal regulations permit hunting from half an hour before sunrise to sunset. New York, for instance, restricts gunning to after sunrise to before sunset, thus cutting off one-half hour. New York also cuts the bag limit to four in one day and twenty a season.

That the fate of this beautiful bird lies largely with American sportsmen is the view of E. W. Nelson, chief of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey. Dr. Nelson says of the woodcock:

"For some years its numbers have steadily decreased, and many sportsmen and others have had misgivings as to its future. This bird has a wide breeding range covering much of the eastern United States and eastern Canada.

"Formerly this species was abundant throughout this range, and in many districts it was killed in great numbers, both by sportsmen and market hunters. It is now so reduced in numbers that a large proportion of sportsmen favor a closed season to permit recovery.

Causes Leading to Decrease.

"We shall cease to wonder at this decrease when we consider the causes which have brought it about. At as late a date as 1903, five States, Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, afforded woodcock no protection and the open season throughout the entire range extended from June 15 of one year to April 15 of the year following. The length of the seasons varied from one month and eleven days in Michigan to seven months and ten days in Kentucky.

In 1908 the seasons remained the same except that Louisiana that year closed the season for two years, being the first State to offer protection by a closed season for a term of years. In 1910 Louisiana fixed an open season from November 15 to February 1, and this, with seasons in other States remaining practically the same as in former years, continued until the advent of the Federal migratory bird law in 1913.

"In the regulations under the Federal law the open seasons are from October 1 to November 30 for the Northern States, and from November 1 to December 31 for the Southern States, except that closed seasons for terms of years have been established in Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee and Wisconsin by State law.

"Spring and summer shooting, long open seasons and persistent hunting were the primary causes of the present scarcity of woodcock. The killing of young woodcock in the spring in the South and in the North in summer when only one-half or two-thirds grown, and lacking sufficient strength to protect themselves by flight, was no doubt one of the important factors in this rapid decrease.

"During the spring and summer it formerly was customary for market gunners to beat the bushes for these birds, which fell an easy prey. In the South at certain seasons it was the practice among negroes to hunt the woodcock at night with the aid of a torch or headlight. When blinded or bewildered by bright light the birds were easily killed with a stick. In this manner frequently dozens of birds were taken by one person in a single night."

Havoc by Market Gunners.

Recent confessions of market gunners and others graphically describe the former persecution of the woodcock. A resident of Louisiana writes:

"About twenty years ago they (woodcock) were very plentiful, so much so that I killed them by the dozen and shipped them to New Orleans, but they were in such abundance at that time that they barely paid the express charges. I remember once shooting one on the ground and after I had shot it I picked up four others that I could not see when I took aim at the one."

Another old time woodcock hunter says:

"Twenty years ago I have been on hunts where as many as a hundred of these birds were killed in one night by torchlights, but some ten years ago they seemed almost to disappear from this section."

The woodcock winters in the Gulf States and as far north as it can find unfrozen ground; hence a large percentage of the birds remain each winter in a zone of hazard where at any time they are likely to be caught by an unusually severe freeze and brought to the verge of starvation.

One report states:

"A cold wave accompanied by a gale struck the coast of South Carolina on the morning of December 27, 1892. . . . and thousands of woodcock were shot in the village of Mount Pleasant. They were everywhere—in the yards, stables, streets, and even piazzas. Every one was out after the birds and every one had a bag full to overflowing. On that day alone fully 2,000 were killed. On December 28 they were so abundant that every clump of bushes contained ten or fifteen birds. One man killed fifty-eight without moving from his stand except to pick up the birds he killed. The flight lasted six days."

Still worse calamity overtook the woodcock on the coast of South Carolina in 1899, when on February 14 the temperature dropped to 26 degrees F.

Cats Wholesale Destroyers.

The woodcock has also suffered greatly from the ravages of domestic cats. Many correspondents of the Biological Survey having intimate knowledge of this fact have written concerning this destruction. This is one of the many reasons why continued pressure should be exerted to bring cats under control.

"Efforts to secure such legislation have so far failed, but this should not deter sportsmen and others interested in the preservation of the woodcock and other valuable game and non-game birds from future efforts to protect them from this well known menace.

"One of the most destructive agencies is the net work of telephone and telegraph wires that cover the country. Woodcock are largely nocturnal in their habits and commonly fly at about the height of these wires. Birds striking them are either killed or crippled so that few recover.

"In some sections in the country numbers of woodcock killed or disabled in this manner have been picked up during migration periods. Considering the frequency with which woodcock killed in this manner are found, and knowing the enormous number of wires strung over the range of these birds, it is evident the mortality from this cause must be very great.

"A few sections remain where woodcock still are reported to be plentiful during the fall flight, but these are the exception rather than the rule. Pennsylvania seems to remain a favorite hunting ground for woodcock, but in many places where formerly it was found in large numbers reports state that not a single visit of this bird has been noted in years.

"Weather conditions, of course, would explain the absence of the woodcock during some seasons, but its continued absence for a number of years irrespective of these is a certain indication that the bird has practically disappeared from that part of its range.

"This condition has been caused mainly through neglect to give the bird adequate protection. Uniform short open seasons under federal regulations may be sufficient to insure a survival of the woodcock and the perpetuation of the species, but most sportsmen concede the necessity of absolute protection for a term of years. From all the evidence adduced the biological survey is inclined to agree with this point of view."

NEW GOOSE FOUND IN CALIFORNIA

Relative of White Fronted Species, but Larger Bird.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Sept. 28.—A new goose has been discovered in California. According to a paper written by H. S. Swarth and Harold C. Bryant of the University of California, two well defined sub-species of the white fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), called by the hunters speckled bellied goose, occur in California during the winter months, where but a single race has been heretofore recognized.

The new "tule goose," or "timber goose," is distinguished from its relative, the common white fronted goose, by its greater size, its call notes, its browner tints, its yellow eye ring and the possession of a greater number of tail feathers. To any one handling the birds in the flesh the difference between the two are obvious beyond dispute.

Uncle Sam's Aim to Aid Housewife

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 28.—The United States Bureau of Fisheries has been conducting experiments to determine the best methods of preparing fishery foods for the table, particularly the new, the little used and the neglected products of the fisheries. The results of the experiments are most encouraging.

Removing Porpoises' Oily Taste.

GALVESTON, Tex., Sept. 28.—One of the Bureau of Fisheries agents advises that the oily taste of the porpoise, which may be more or less objectionable to some, can be avoided by removing the connective tissue which lies between the blubber and the meat.

Robin's Nest Mid Shot and Shell.

In No Man's Land in France a soldier found a robin's nest in an empty shell case.

Rhino Feared by African Natives.

The rhinoceros is most feared by African natives.

QUAIL OPEN TIME BEGINS NEXT MONTH

Seasons for New England and Middle States; No Hunting Permitted Up State.

BIRDS' CHARACTERISTICS

By FIELD HUNTER.

The quail season opens next month in New Hampshire, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The New Hampshire opening day is October 1; Connecticut, October 8, and Pennsylvania, October 20. There is no open season this year in Maine or in up-State New York counties. The Vermont season is already open.

November 1 is the opening day for quail in Massachusetts (three counties excepted), Rhode Island, Long Island and in New Jersey November 10.

The bob white quail gives good shooting under many conditions, some of them so easy that many sportsmen consider this bird the least difficult of all game birds to bag, while others are difficult enough to call forth the best skill of the expert shot. The beginner can kill some quail and the veteran shot will find that he cannot secure all birds shot at.

The marked characteristics of quail are that the birds lie best to the dog and rise nearer to the gun than other birds of the uplands. Quail are found in both the open and in heavy cover.

In an open, level ragweed field, where the weeds are knee high, quail sail away on an even keel, as straight as an arrow, and the average shot can often get in a good right and left barrel. When flushed in heavy cover the flight of the quail is beyond the foresight of the shooter, and he will swerve so quickly as to escape the charge of shot sent directly at him.

One of the difficulties of quail shooting lies in the very fact that he rises near the gun. If a bird rises within ten feet of the gun and continues sailing around the shooter's head at a mile a minute clip the chances are that he could not be killed in ten shots because the bird and the gun change angles with lightninglike rapidity, which is beyond the ability of the most expert and quickest shot to calculate.

Gunner Must Act Quickly.

The nature of the quail's flight often makes a long swing unavoidable. Perhaps the bird may rise to the north, pass to the west and be killed in the south.

If it had been possible to foresee that the bird would swing about to the south before being killed the gun might have been pointed there, but in the meantime the quail would probably have gone in some other direction.

Shooting quail calls for care and skill in cover shooting, and the only safe rule is to point your gun as near the bird as you can when he breaks and shoot as quickly as you can get on.

The chief thing that should be remembered is that any bird flying away from the gun, beneath the line of aim, demands high holding whether or not the mark is rising.

If the target is above the level of the eye lower holding may be sometimes necessary even when the bird is gradually rising.

If a bird rises near the gun and the aim is taken direct the muzzle is pointed toward the ground. Now the bird may fly away nearly along the ground as pigeons often do, and yet the line of aim must rise steadily until the gun is nearly in a horizontal position.

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