

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



Frank B. Auld, West Covehead, received a nice surprise in the other day, being a check of \$114, proceeds of the sale of a silver fox pup...

Care should be taken when moving pups to the shed at four and five weeks of age that it is properly equipped with shutters to break the direct draft and a box is provided for each shed compartment...

George A. Callbeck's article on farming conditions in Europe which appeared in this column in the issue of May 9th has been very timely and very interesting...

I have frequently been asked for advice as to the proper strength capsule to give a fox when it is about six months old, or during the months of August and September...

These boxes are made with drop sides at each end which makes it easy to move pill boxes to the empty box. The wire top simplifies powdering...

The Hillard Silver Fox Farm, of which Mr. Smith is manager, is probably the most successful in Ontario, and an opinion from that source is well worth considering...

Our method for administering capsules to young pups is as follows: place the pup on its back on your lap, then with a gloved on the left hand open its mouth...

The importance of a pure source for water and milk supply is often not realized. Too many wells on farms are situated in ground where there is a seepage of water...

Pups should be moved to the shed when four or five weeks old, especially late litters, and when their mothers are moved in with them they become accustomed to their new surroundings in a short time...

Magasin General du Francois silver fox auction house of 27 Rue Groulx, Paris, have changed the dates of their sales as follows: May 29th and 30th instead of 13th and 14th...

RED MEATS 1/3 by weight SOAK THE CEREAL IN WHOLE MILK, and 1 EGG per 4 PUPS should be fed daily in addition to above...

H. F. Moran of Barrie, Ontario, writes a highly interesting article on mink in the May Canadian Silver Fox and Fur, and ends up with this paragraph: "Cull relentlessly and sell only such animals as you would be glad to keep as breeders for yourself..."

SOPEX BEAUTIFIES THE Pelt READILY TO EAR MITES AND PARASITES Used and recommended by fur breeders throughout the world...

The Fur Trade Weekly of New York states: "A shipment of full silver fox skins reported to be of the finest quality, has arrived in New York from Canada. We are advised that the skins were consigned to a New York firm from the Prince Edward Island Silver Fox Pelt, Ltd. It would be interesting to follow the marketing of these skins in New York. They will have to compete with American skins and carry a heavy ad valorem duty..."

NEWSY NOTES BY AGNECOLA

SOME BIRD NOTES The owl at Souris was an object lesson in vermin destroying. The long-continued cold weather northward of the prairie regions is holding up the migration of the wild geese West of Winnipeg...

AND SOME FROM THE GARDEN The Spring Pageant is on in the garden. The Tulips, Narcissus, Cowslips, Primroses, Muscari and Fritillaries, make a delightful scene...

Here are a few ornithological happenings culled from the "Nature Evercircularer" and deserving of publicity. Mr. Ludlow Jenkins of Marshfield, reports seeing a Song Sparrow, on Dec. 16, 1935, also a Northern Shrike not long ago...

A note from Souris says: "A Saw-whet Owl was observed here, perched in a spruce hedge, on Feb. 6th, 1936. He remained one week, and spent all day in the hedge, enjoying the sun (if any.) Small birds as House Sparrows, Starlings, and Chickadees paid no attention to him..."

"Small birds (except Starlings and Chickadees) scarce this winter. A Nuthatch observed Jan. 21st.—J. Frank Sterns."

"From Cross Roads: 'Flocks of Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, and Pine Siskins have been observed in this vicinity almost daily during this winter. A large flock of Northern Red-leg Black Ducks wintered in Pullerton's Marsh. Wild Geese reported seen in Alexandria Bay, March 10th. First Robin observed March 11th.—W. E. MacCallum."

"Observed Tree Swallow, May 1st, 1936; the earliest date I know of.—L. Jenkins."

"I also observed the first Tree Swallow of the year on May 1st; they have in previous years returned about May 4th.—Agricola."

There has been in Ontario, "an outbreak of field vermin that is without precedent in the past quarter century." Fruit trees, shrubs, ornamentals and even maples in the bush, were badly injured or chewed so much that it is impossible for them to recover...

Here is the 22nd of May and the thermometer at nightfall is registering 38 deg. F. The wet period has been succeeded by a cold period. We are definitely on the way to sunspot year—1938—and according to the seers who have the experience of the past to guide them we shall have other abnormalities of weather as we go along.

added that you had used fish two or three times a week with good results. Perhaps that statement is not just as you had it but only as I recall, reading it over hastily. I would like to call your attention to the fact that several ranchers grew excellent pups last season, feeding as follows:—1 part by weight of commercial cereal, 1 part fish, and 1 part meat made up of beef, hearts, liver or tripe. I will not mention any names, but will say that excellent show pups in some cases were produced, and exceptionally large pups grown on this mixture. Some milk was added to the mixture in some cases, and others used water. Our own experiment last season showed if milk is used, you simply have to feed less of the other ingredients, over where water is added.

The point I want to bring out is that the average rancher is not feeding fish regularly, or in nearly as large quantities as he can to his advantage. The above ranchers ground the whole fish in with the meats and cereal, using heads, entrails, etc. These were used every day to the proportion mentioned above, and not intermittently. Most ranchers have been feeding fish on the Island. This method is much to be recommended over the usual procedure of giving straight feeds of fish two or three times a week. Straight fish feeding sometimes upsets a growing pup, and often causes scouring. Again fish spoil easily, and any pieces of fish uneaten lay about the pen or is buried and if eaten later usually cause serious troubles. By grinding the fish daily as a regular part of the diet, you find they give much better satisfaction.

An attempt was made to get a shipment of whale meat from Newfoundland to be used as a food for the fox pups, but the difficulties in regard to cold storage interfered and no whale meat will arrive here until September. As stated in last week's notes, the Norwegians have sent a ship over to take back 1000 tons for use there this summer. The Norwegians believe that whale meat assists in growing larger foxes and this is probably due to the glands of the whale, which secrete substances that make for growth.

The following letter from Mr. Lowell Hancock speaks for itself: PARSBORO, N.S., May 28, 1935. Col. D. A. McKinnon, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Dear Sir,—I was interested in your notes of last week, on fish feeding for foxes. I have been recommending during our series of meetings over the country, the use of more fish for the growing pups, and our thoughts are in line with the remarks you published. However, as I recall I believe you

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SUNGLO

VIXEN AND PUPPY STARTER should be fed to Vixens after pups are 10 days old and until weaned. Increase red meals after weaning date is 1 week past due use: SUNGLO VIXEN AND PUPPY STARTER— 1/3 by weight RED MEATS 1/3 by weight SOAK THE CEREAL IN WHOLE MILK, and 1 EGG per 4 PUPS should be fed daily in addition to above, breaking them over the pans of feed.

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GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

One night recently I had a "trout" on the radio; instead of the usual wase musical piece such as claims to all and sundry that The world is gonna-be-nine. To me, it was a half past nine.

I had the privilege of listening in to the Light Opera "Pinafore" as presented by the students at Mount Allison University. It is some years since I witnessed this, the second of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, at "Chateau" in Charlottetown.

As it happened, I had just read the book on "Gilbert and Sullivan" in the Public Library. The author, I imagine, must live South of the line, since he has the usual stab at "Punch," the English humorous paper, and at the Briton, too. Punch is not a "frothy" paper, but it is quite capable of hitting back with a cool and devastating hit; and I think the Briton will not be any less undisturbed. Apart from this blemish the book is most entertaining, and brings out the history of the two collaborators in a psycho-analytic style. Gilbert, the writer of comedy, appears to have been a disagreeable, quarrelsome fellow; while Sullivan, whose music seems to intimate a light and care-free spirit, was the victim, all his days, of an agonizing internal distress. The text is liberally bespattered with anecdotes of Gilbert, who, like Burns, had many "risque" sayings attributed to him—perhaps not all untrue. The clash of temperaments at length broke up the partnership, and "never either found another" who could so well collaborate in striking the public taste. There must be still some musicians in the City who helped, in the old days, to produce the Gilbert and Sullivan operas there, and for these the volume will possess peculiar interest.

SOME INSECTS OF P. E. ISLAND

The remaining members of the Hymenoptera, known to occur on the Island are: (C) The Ichneumon Flier which parasitizes other insects. Agrotis rufus, Provancher. The fly frequents the blossoms of yellow weed, and parasitizes the big Cecropia Moth caterpillars and those of the "tent caterpillar." Scarcely any of the Ichneumon flies have popular names. Exochium morio, fabricius. This fly attacks the larvae of certain Datana moths. Amblyteles flaviventris, Cresson, and A. creperus Cresson, are parasites of the Army Worm. Xylonomus signapiterus, Say. This was determined at the Royal Museum, but little or nothing is known of its life-history.

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Sire, The Great Axworthy 3371, Dam, Grace Forbes 4295. Leaves home Tuesday, June 2nd to Alex MacDonnell's, Glen William at noon, thence to Albert Johnston, Murray River, overnight, Wednesday, June 3rd, to High Bank at Dan MacPherson's, thence to Flat River at John R. Ross' over night; Thursday, June 4th, through Umette to Harrington's, Eldon Corner at noon, thence to Alex McLeod's, Valleyfield, thence home. This route will continue fortnightly, health and weather permitting. Mares at owner's risk. HARVEY ROSS, Owner in charge. L-5110-5-30-11 Lower Montague

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