

Mr. Bailey discusses very fully the measures to be used in protecting stock against the wolves. The first of these mentioned is a modification of the coyote proof fence which Prof. D. E. Lantz some years ago showed to be useful in keeping coyotes in or out. Mr. Bailey believes that a five-foot fence would keep wolves out, but in regions where the snow falls heavily, the fence must of course stand actually five feet above the surface of the snow.

Bounties against noxious animals have been shown by Dr. T. S. Palmer and others to be useless, and are not recommended. Where bounties are paid, however, Mr. Bailey suggests a method of marking skins, so as not to destroy their value, and as a wolf skin is at present worth \$4 to \$6, it is certainly worth while so to mark them that they will not lose their market value.

In considering the destruction of wolves it is very justly pointed out that hunting with dogs is useless and impracticable from the economic standpoint. It is very good fun, but costs too much in time and money to be employed by the stockman. The best way of all to rid a country of wolves is to find their dens in early spring and to destroy the pups. Puppies are born commonly in March and April and for some weeks after birth do not venture from their homes.

Poisoning is the familiar method of getting rid of wolves, but of late years it has been thought that they were becoming so highly educated that they would not touch poison. This reputation has no doubt come in part from the careless or ignorant use of poison, and it is altogether probable that when proper precautions are employed it may still be a most effective means of getting rid of the animals.

Trapping is still practicable with young wolves, but old ones are too cautious to venture within a trap. Under this head Mr. Bailey gives directions for setting traps, the use of scents and bait, incidentally some notes on the preservation of wolf skins. He also adds some notes on trapping and poisoning coyotes and on the locating of coyote dens.

The present paper is one of great value, not alone to stockmen, but also to people generally who reside in the western country. It is illustrated with a map showing location of wolves in the United States and location of twenty breeding dens in western Wyoming, and by a number of photographs and cuts bearing on the trapping of wolves.

Deafness in Wild Animals.

Persons who spend much of their time in the wilds, and who have been much brought in contact with wild animals, knew very well that these animals are subject to diseases and accidents of many sorts. In old times it was not very unusual to find dead the apparently uninjured young of deer, antelope and mountain sheep. Animals that have lost a limb are sometimes seen and others with deformed horns.

Attention is called to the subject by a letter in a recent number of Science from the pen of Loye Holmes Miller, of the State Normal School of California, which deals with a case of deafness in a coyote.

"In the great semi-arid regions of the west, the struggle for existence is so strenuous that the special senses are very highly perfected. Especially is this true of the sense of hearing as evidenced by the enlarged external ear in many forms. The coyote (*Canis ochropus*) is especially marked with this enlarged concha and undoubtedly has, under normal conditions, a very keen sense of hearing. Popular report endows him also with almost supernatural sense of smell. The individual of the species must then labor under a decided handicap if the hearing be destroyed or the sense of smell even slightly impaired. The instance which I cite suggests that such may be often the case.

"In cleaning a pair of skulls of this species, which I obtained in August last, I found in the case of the male that both ears were crowded full of the bearded seeds of the common fox-tail grass (*Hordeum murinum*) which is such a pestiferous weed in the southwest. The seeds

were packed closely into the tympanic chamber and the beards were very much darkened by having remained in the ear some time subjected to the exudations from the inflamed surfaces. In the same individual a fully bearded seed was found in the left nostril worked well up among the folds of the turbinated bone.

"The second specimen, a female, taken at the same time, had the grass in both ears, but none in the nostrils.

"The ear bones showed no signs of necrosis, though the seeds were in direct contact with them. Hearing was undoubtedly destroyed, and in case of the male, the sense of smell must have been impaired.

"The animals were taken by strychnine poison with a bait of watermelon, a crop the coyote injures extensively in the sparsely settled regions. The specimens came to my hands in the meat; they were in good flesh and pelage. There was no possibility of the seeds having gotten into the ears and nose after death."

The case mentioned is very remarkable, nor do we understand how the ears of the coyote should have become packed full of grass seed. On the other hand we recall a case many years ago when a dog, hunting at great speed over a snipe marsh, ran a stout weed stalk up one of his nostrils and dragged with him for a little distance the remainder of the weed. After the weed had been removed the nostril bled a little, but the animal seemed to suffer no great inconvenience from the injury.

In certain parts of the west in summer the ears of domestic cattle are covered with wood-ticks, and often these get deep down into the ear. In the case of mountain goats we have seen the ear packed full of ticks down almost or quite to the drum, and it has seemed quite impossible that animals so afflicted should be able to hear. This, however, is merely a temporary condition lasting for a month or two, when presumably the ears would clear themselves. The subject is an interesting one and we should be glad to hear from any correspondent who may have anything to contribute on it.

Mockingbird in Lockport.

LOCKPORT, N. Y., Jan. 21.—*Editor Forest and Stream:* A month ago I met a lady living on Gooding street, this city, who said there was a strange bird about her house, and she would like to have me come and see it. She said it was gray with a whitish breast, and about the size of a robin. I suggested that it might be a shrike, but she replied that she knew a shrike and this was not one. Although they had seen it nearly every day since, I had not been able to find it in about a dozen visits to the locality. Jan. 16, the lady's husband came to tell me they had the bird in a cage, and wanted me to see it.

I showed him my collection of between three and four hundred mounted birds, but he saw nothing like the bird captured. When I called his attention to the brown thrasher, he said it was that shape, but not that color. I then told him that I thought they must have an escaped mockingbird, and an hour later I saw that it was this species, but of a different color from any mockingbird that I had ever seen. The color was a sooty black. I have seen only caged birds of this species, which, I presume, are male birds, as they were singers, and the captured bird is perhaps a female, which may account for the dark color. From the appearance of the claws, this bird has never been in a cage. The members of the household had been feeding apples to this bird for a month or more, and they noticed that it was getting so tame that they could get within five or six feet of it. Wednesday morning was somewhat colder than it had been for some days, and when the bird came about the kitchen door, the lady left the door open, and the bird came in and flew up on a wire running across the room, where it soon put its head under its wing and remained there an hour. As the door had been left open, the bird went out.

In the afternoon it returned to the wire. In the meantime a cage had been procured and the sleeping bird was caught and put in it.

The bird is in fine condition, and but for its tameness, I could not believe it had ever been in a cage.
J. L. DAVIDSON.

The Baby Rhinoceros.

ABOUT a month ago the New York Zoological Park received a baby rhinoceros, purchased for it by Mr. R. Tjader at Mombasa, East Africa, and brought to this country by Mr. Lang, who was Mr. Tjader's companion in Africa. A few days ago Mr. W. T. Hornaday, the director of the society's park, gave an Evening Post reporter an account of the little beast's capture:

"Both of the young rhinoceroses now in the Park," said Mr. Hornaday, "were captured in about the same locality in German East Africa, near Lake Victoria Nyanza and the border of British East Africa. Our new baby was the prize of an Austrian named Fleischer, who was hunting southeast of the lake about the middle of last July, having only a small party of natives and being rather poorly equipped. He caught sight of a female rhinoceros with a young calf by her side, and he wanted the calf, which he knew would be worth good money if he could get it to the coast.

"Now, the African natives are very much afraid of the rhinoceros. As soon, therefore, as Fleischer began to stalk the female, his followers fled, leaving him all alone. He succeeded in shooting her, and as she fell he dropped his gun, rushed forward and seized the baby rhinoceros. Although only a few weeks old, it was then large enough and strong enough to make it well-nigh impossible to hold it. He grasped the calf round the neck, however, and held on while it dragged him over the rough ground and through thorny bushes for nearly half an hour. His clothes were torn to shreds, and he was cut and scratched by the 'wait-a-bit' thorns, familiar to African explorers.

"Despite all this, Fleischer held on until the calf became so exhausted that he could control it. Finally, his native followers came back to his assistance, and the prisoner was then securely tied. It was found, however, that the creature was so obstinate and combative that the captors could neither lead nor drive it. As it absolutely refused to go on the hoof, they tied its legs together, thrust a long pole between them, and, with the animal swinging under the pole, back downward, carried it on a six days' journey, covering ninety miles.

"In the early part of this journey, the head of the calf was left hanging, and this caused the animal to struggle continuously, so that there was danger of its killing itself through exhaustion. To remedy this, a large piece of coarse cloth was slung under the pole like a hammock, and, being supported by this means, the infant rhinoceros ceased to struggle. During all this period it was fed on unsweetened condensed milk, and very soon afterward it began to eat grass. A mother rhinoceros gives but a small quantity of milk, and the young begins to graze when only a few weeks old.

"The captive, which is a male, was taken to Gkoma, a military station in British East Africa, where he was kept for a month and a half. At this station a pool was made for him, in which he disported every day, and plastered himself all over with mud. Having been bought as a speculation, he was taken by caravan to Sharati, and then to Uganda, whence he was conveyed on the Uganda Railway to Mombasa, on the coast."

On Jan. 1 the baby rhinoceros weighed 235 pounds, and his height at the shoulder was 26 3/4 inches. He was very docile and affectionate with Mr. Lang, but in the Park he at first refused to let himself be fed and otherwise cared for by a strange keeper. Now, however, he is good and quiet. He consumes eleven cans of unsweetened condensed milk daily, and all the boiled rice and clover hay that he can get.

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