

# Anti-Steel-Trap League News

Official Journal of THE ANTI-STEEL-TRAP LEAGUE, Incorporated

Washington, D. C.

Founded by EDWARD BRECK, M.A., Ph.D.

---

*A National League formed to Outlaw the Steel-Trap, which does not kill at once, but causes Prolonged Suffering*

---

NO PAID OFFICERS

---

President

MRS. EDWARD BRECK

Editor

Secretary-Treasurer

GEN. DAVID L. BRAINARD, U.S.A., RTD.

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

MRS. E. S. HUNTINGTON

VICE PRESIDENTS

Miss Lucy Furman

F. F. Van de Water

Mrs. Margaret Deland

Walter A. Dyer

George Arliss

Miss Katherine Mayo

Miss Ida Tarbell

Mrs. D. U. Fletcher

Miss E. Mabel Clark

Mrs. W. L. B. Hill

Dallas Lore Sharp\*

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

Honorable Percival P. Baxter, Countess of Warwick

---

VOL. 4

DECEMBER, 1934

Issued Periodically  
5 Cents

No. 1

---

MR. BUCKSHAW



*Pets are Often Caught*



## Challenge to Humanity

A BLOW TO HUMANE TRAPPING is the heading of an editorial in the New York Herald-Tribune, Nov. 11th, '34. "On election day of 1930 Massachusetts acquired merit with all friends of animals by passing at the polls her advanced humane trapping act—by the largest referendum majority in her history. She thus became one of the three states to possess such a sportsmanlike and decent law, South Carolina and Georgia also having one, but not, it is embarrassing to confess, New York. Humanitarians and conservationists the country over, who had been working for similar legislation in every state, but had found the steel-trap a tough opponent, took heart from Massachusetts.

Inevitably, as soon as game wardens began to enforce the law in earnest, protests arose from influential quarters. The Massachusetts Humane Trapping Council, like all who fight the steel trap, came into conflict with strong human motives; custom (for trappers are used to the barbarous old trap and so it seems less trouble), parsimony (a modern trap costs something), and pleasure (hunters fear that fur-bearers may get some of the game they prefer to destroy themselves). Thus the sportsmen's opposition to the humane trapping act was the most virulent! More discouraging loomed public indifference to cruel methods. After all, steel traps caught few pets. For four winters inspired murmurs grew louder, and last spring the Massachusetts Legislature passed an amendment making the enforcement of the act a matter of local option, and this invalidating amendment itself came up on November 6.

So voters were asked whether the law requiring for the taking of fur-bearing animals "the use of traps that kill at once or take such animals alive unharmed" should be kept. If the amendment were defeated at the polls, then the humane trapping act would again be in force throughout the state. Their answer was a matter of keen anxiety to those who had not under-estimated the power of the loudly vocal opposition, for the passage

of the amendment would mean another setback for a cause more plucky than mighty, while its defeat would be a triumph for tortureless trapping.

To the regret of those who had been heartened in their work for animals by her stand, Massachusetts voted in favor of local option, but there is reason to believe that the foes of humane trapping were only more active, not more numerous, than its friends.

THE FAILURE OF MASSACHUSETTS to retain the law which meant sanctuary for her pitifully harassed fur-bearers, must inevitably bring to mind the memory of the courageous man who first evoked the pity and the compassion of the people of the Commonwealth for their furry friends. Commander Breck urged the anti-steel-trap law upon the Legislature for two successive years, (1928-9), without success. He was not discouraged when he failed. He believed that the people of Massachusetts were not being fairly represented and that a referendum would prove it. Practically alone and unaided he set about organizing and planning for the referendum of 1930 but he died without knowing how splendidly his belief in his fellow-men had been vindicated. The Anti-Steel-Trap League carried the fight into Massachusetts by forming a State Division of the League there in 1929 and obtaining a manager for the campaign. After a successful issue at the polls the Division continued in force for a year and gave way to a newly formed State organization called the Humane Trapping Council only after that time. The Humane Trapping Council has for its object the protection of the anti-steel-trap law. Now for the moment the great ethical question placed before the voters in 1930 has been repudiated—but we do not believe it need be lost. The humanity of Massachusetts is just as great today as it was in 1930. This is no time to be discouraged—for "THERE IS TOMORROW." What will the humane organizations in Massachusetts do tomorrow?

THE FUR CODE HEARING held in Washington December, 1933, was attended by the President of the League. As a representative of thousands of humanitarians and conservationists Mrs. Breck presented a brief in behalf of the forgotten animals so directly concerned in the proceedings.

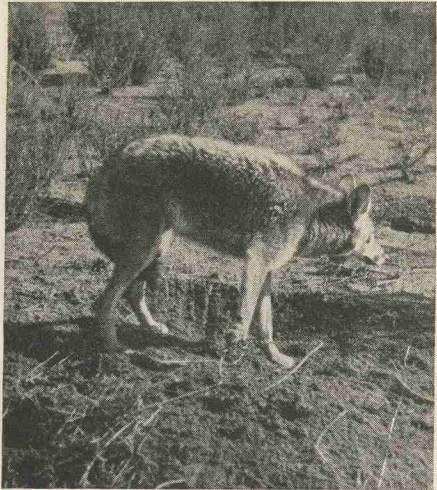
Declaring that the proposed Code then before the Deputy Commissioner of the National Recovery Administration presented the benefits to be derived by trappers, lessees and lessors of land, and by employers and employees only, and failed to give protection in any manner whatsoever to the sentient creatures exploited by these agencies, Mrs. Breck went on record as opposed to it or to any other Code to be presented for acceptance by the President, which did not contain a clause providing for the use of at least 50 per cent of live traps and a limit of 50 traps to each trapper. In justification of this proposal, Mrs. Breck cited the reports of the U. S. Biological Survey and the Senate Committee on Wild Life Resources which each year for a decade past have consistently warned of the rapid depletion of wild life *due to waste and over-trapping*.

Unfortunately the Anti-Steel-Trap League was alone in its endeavor to read into the Code a modicum of consideration for the welfare of our fur-bearers while commercial interests were represented with strength and determination. The result was a total disregard of the points asked for by the League. Instead of fifty traps to each trapper *two hundred and fifty* were allowed by the accepted Code, and no mention was made of any ban on cruel or wasteful traps. In those states where the twenty-four hour tending law appears on the statutes it will be manifestly impossible for a man to examine his traps every day.

This legalized ill-treatment for one hundred million innocent animals which sentences them to suffer and die wretchedly might have been mitigated had sufficient humane representation been made at the hearing.

INVENTIONS FOR HUMANE TRAPPING have been put on the market ever since the Anti-Steel-Trap League inaugurated the first prize contests for substitutes of the steel-trap. Those of Dr. Vernon Bailey have been mentioned many times by us. Dr. Bailey has addressed the American Society of Mammalogists showing his inventions and explaining their usefulness as non-

#### VERNON BAILEY'S HUMANE FOOHOLD TRAP



"When released the coyote ran without a limp or any sign of injury."—Vernon Bailey.

injuring devices. For several years past Dr. Bailey has discussed traps already on the market for taking fur-bearers of the smaller species, painlessly. He now offers the Foothold Painless Trap for all larger animals, thus removing the last feeble excuse for the use of torturing types. The photograph reproduced above shows a coyote in the Foothold Trap with flexible chain around ankle held by wide spring to prevent injury.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS FIND LITTLE CHANGE in mankind since the earliest times, except, it is said, in the matter of cruelty. If the race has improved in this respect, it is not because cruelties have fallen away, effortlessly, like dead limbs from live trees. Cruelties have always been nurtured by ethical laggards and legislated away because an energetic few rose up and denounced them. With all the unnecessary cruelty of the steel-trap proven beyond any doubt and the evident necessity for legislation, before its use shall be abandoned, we hear the frequent cry "we have too many laws now—why enact another?" Why, indeed? No law enacted to prohibit cruelty becomes onerous except to him who needs it, and the success of its enforcement lies with every conscientious citizen as well as those persons appointed by law to enforce it.



IN MAY, 1934, the Anti-Steel-Trap League completed its ninth year of active work. The continued interest of loyal members and old friends, together with the added zest of new ones, have given us every opportunity to remain active through depressed years. We wish to take this opportunity to thank all who have stimulated and supported this work and to say that without their participation it would have been impossible to gain the prestige which is ours today.

During the first struggling days of the League's existence, before the world had been aroused to the horror of the steel-trap, Commander Breck appealed to writers, poets, teachers, press and church to help him. The appeal has been answered again and again. The most representative newspapers in the country have raised their powerful voices against the use of the steel-trap; educators have joined the crusade; librarians keep our pamphlets on file; poets have effectively appealed to our hearts and the vast power of the radio has carried our message to a listening world. Our ideals have been translated into practical results which prove the value of our methods. These methods have caused us to remain the leading force in this field of work.

THE NEW DEAL is bringing help in answer to the S. O. S. of wildfowl. The new Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, himself an ardent conservationist of many years' standing, has had placed at his disposal by the Government a large sum of money to be spent in the purchase and rental of lands as refuges for migratory birds and other wild life. Most of the publicity given to the plans of the Survey deal with waterfowl. It is regrettable that the usual phraseology puts the mammals in the class of "also-rans" and, like them, the "other forms" remain almost forgotten. The Survey continues to carry on its poisoning of predators and while giving assurance to the trappers that "poison operations have been greatly reduced" Chief Darling says, "our efforts have been concentrated on the use of traps for taking predators." Happily Mr. Darling says that he is of the opinion the work of capturing predators "should be concentrated in taking marauding predators rather than attacking the masses." Heretofore poisoning has taken place on so great a scale, and has been so indiscriminately used over large areas that many valu-

able fur-bearers and innocent birds have met the fate of a few undesirable individuals. The Survey disseminates trapping information through trapping magazines. "Brief Hints for Trappers," by W. E. Crouch, U. S. Biological Survey, published in *Fur-Fish-Game*, September, 1934, contains this statement: "The steel-trap has proven its effectiveness through many decades of trapping far and wide, and in spite of the objection occasionally made to its use, a device that is more practical has not thus far been put on the market." In this manner the Federal Bureau under which our fur-bearers have so greatly diminished and of whose methods Chief Darling says, "The present system of fur animal conservation and protection has not proved effective,"\* supports the use by trappers of an instrument wholly indiscriminating, wasteful and vicious.

THE WARMTH OF CAMEL'S HAIR has its secret in insulation. Sylvan I. Stroock, manufacturer of camel's hair fabrics, is the authority for the following: "In every hair there is what is known as a medullary ray. This ray is enclosed by a double walled sheath, just as the inner container of a thermos bottle is surrounded by an air space. In addition to this air space the hair of the camel contains capsules of oxygen which produce its insulating quality. Further, it is known that in any fiber the greater insulating properties the more static electricity is it capable of generating. The handling of a pure camel's hair fabric shows that it seems to be alive with static. This static may be regarded as a new or revived life, making it active and adaptable to all forms of varying atmospheric conditions. The camel in traversing the mountain peaks and plains of Mongolia is subject to very sudden changes in temperature. The variance of 60 or 70 degrees is often encountered within the span of an hour or so. Naturally it would be very hard to withstand these changes unless the animal was provided with a covering that would permit this. These remarkable insulating qualities are found in no other fabrics, except perhaps the llama, which is the camel's South American cousin."

THEY DO IT BETTER IN SOUTH CAROLINA. On January 12, 1934, the anti-steel-trap law was again saved from its enemies in this southern State. Assemblyman Connor, of Orangeburg, and Assemblyman S. O. Eaddy, of Florence, spoke for it on humane grounds saving it in the House by a vote of 25 to 19.

\**Fur-Fish-Game*, June, 1934.

## Audubon Association Affairs

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION TRAPPING. At the annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon Societies on October 30, 1934, a resolution was offered by Miss Lucy Furman, Vice-President of the Anti-Steel-Trap League, to discontinue trapping by the Association on the Rainey Wild Life Sanctuary in Louisiana for a period of three years for the purpose of observation. This refuge is owned and operated by the N. A. A. S.

The resolution was seconded by Dr. Willard Van Name, American Museum of Natural History, and upheld by a group of conservationists including members of the Audubon Association, the Emergency Conservation Committee, the Anti-Steel-Trap League and others who are utterly opposed to trapping on a Sanctuary, in the first place; to trapping with the steel-trap, in the second, and to the continuance of such a practice by the A. A. without its having sufficiently established the fact that trapping of any sort is necessary. This resolution was voted down. The resignation of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, for more than twenty years President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, was hailed as a triumph by Mrs. Charles Noel Edge, Chairman of the Emergency Conservation Committee. The opposition of the E. C. C., which has always held Dr. Pearson and his policies inimical to the purposes for which the A. A. was formed, has been a potent factor in the discontent within the Association, resulting, it is believed, in the resignation of Dr. Pearson.

With the election of Kermit Roosevelt to the Presidency, a new era, fraught with the possibility of a return to sounder policies and the former prestige of the organization, has opened for the N. A. A. S.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUDUBON SOCIETY responsible for unfavorable repercussion. When the Conservation Commissioner of Massachusetts opened the State Forests to trapping with the steel-trap the N. A. A. S. was cited as having, "Turned down . . . a resolution which would forbid the use of traps in the Rainey Wild Life Sanctuary for Birds and Animals . . . the experts take the same position that Commissioner York does . . . that until some better trap is devised, the steel-trap is the only dependable weapon for use for protection of the more valuable

forms of wild life." (*Holyoke Telegram*, Nov. 1, '34). Thus does the National Association of Audubon Societies constitute itself an example of cruel trapping to be emulated by politicians sympathetic to commercial interests.

NATIONAL FUR WEEK, usually held in November, is to the fur trade what Mother's Day is to the florist. A commercial enterprise for profit. A concerted scheme of advertising is carried out from coast to coast to make the world more "fur-conscious." The past year has been somewhat improved for the fur trade and has caused the furrier to be more cheerful but, according to *Time*, November 13th, 1933, "at least 84 individuals, 70 corporations and five labor organizations connected with the \$100,000,000 of the U. S. fur business had no reason whatever to feel cheerful. They were indicted by the Federal Government in a sweeping drive to stamp out racketeering in the fur trade."

MISS EDITH PATCH, PH.D., Entomologist of the University of Maine, is co-author with Harrison E. Howe, of the "Nature and Science Readers," Macmillan, which have now reached their fifth issue. Number Five devotes a chapter to "FUR and WOOL" in which the manner of taking fur, its necessity for warmth and its demand by fashion have been sympathetically treated. This League and its effort to abolish the steel-trap, in order to make fur an ethically legitimate article of commerce, are mentioned, and a delightful account is given of "Grey Owl," the Canadian Indian who gave up trapping because of its cruelty and became a conservationist in the employ of the Canadian Government. Education of the very young child, when begun by such understanding information as is to be found in the Nature and Science Readers of Miss Patch and Mr. Howe, must inevitably lead to a balanced development of heart and head.

BEQUESTS TO THE LEAGUE by two of our interested members have been of the greatest benefit in carrying on through this depressed financial state. Sympathetic with the aims of the League, these members not only gave strength to our purpose during their lives but have caused their work to live after them.



## A CORRESPONDENCE

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 16th, 1934.

Capt. C. W. Hume,  
University of London, Animal Welfare  
Society,  
68 Torrington Square,  
London, W.C.I.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of February 28 is received.

The Biological Survey considers a campaign such as those that have generally been conducted by anti-steel-trap advocates as likely to be more harmful than beneficial, owing to the obvious lack of information as to the facts by those conducting the campaigns.

It is our understanding that in those States where anti-steel-trap laws have been in force for some time they have been repealed because they proved impracticable.

We suggest that you correspond with Mr. David C. Mills, Retail Furriers Guild, Box 482, Darien, Connecticut, regarding further information on this subject.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Frank G. Ashbrook,  
In Charge, Division of Fur  
Resources.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Care The University of London Union  
68 TORRINGTON SQUARE  
LONDON, W.C.I.

5th April, 1934.

Frank G. Ashbrook, Esq.,  
Division of Fur Resources,  
Bureau of Biological Survey,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your letter of March 16th and note your statement that "in those States where anti-steel-trap laws have been in force for some time they have been repealed." Would you be so very kind as to tell me which States these are and on what dates the repeals took place?

I am obliged to you for referring me to the Retail Furriers' Guild, but at the same time a little puzzled. In this Society we make a point of relying on no information which is not authentic in the scientific sense and it is a little surprising, therefore, to find

a scientific Government Department which has recourse to a trade organization with the strongest possible motives for biased opinions.

With repeated thanks, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) C. W. Hume.

THE ANTI-STEEL-TRAP LEAGUE  
THE DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 8th, 1934

Mr. Jay N. Darling,  
Chief, Biological Survey,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Darling:

May I bring to your attention the enclosed correspondence between Captain C. W. Hume, M. C., B. Sc., of London, and Mr. Ashbrook, of the Biological Survey. The misinformation sent out by the Survey clearly indicates the sort of thing which has tended to bring the Survey into disrepute in the United States and will, if allowed to continue, hold it up to ridicule in other countries.

I have no doubt of your stand in regard to steel-traps, detested of all conservationists and forbidden in the National Parks by resolution of Parks' officers and superintendents. You will, I am sure, wish to avoid in the future the unfavorable repercussion that is inevitable and must be borne by the Chief of the Survey from such misguided letters as the enclosed.

A recent telephone call to my office from the Biological Survey inquiring which states have passed anti-steel-trap laws shows an ignorance concerning present trapping legislation on the part of the Survey which precludes the reliability of any information it may disseminate on repeal of such laws. It is significant that this knowledge was not in the hands of Mr. Ashbrook when he wrote to Captain Hume.

With confidence in your co-operation, I am,

Sincerely,

(Signed)

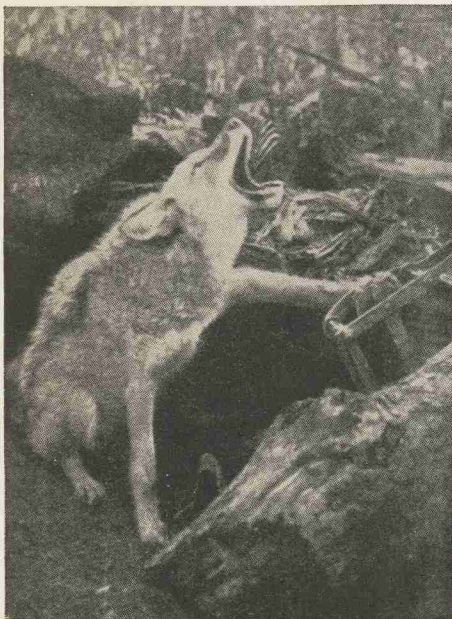
M. S. BRECK.

RECOMMENDS LIVE TRAPS. As early as Nov., 1929, *Fur-Fish-Game* said, editorially, of live traps: "So far, catch alive and uninjured traps have been put on the market from numerous sections . . . all of which seem to be quite successful. Traps of this character will find an enlarged market at least until the wild supply (of fur) is practically eliminated."

### FORM OF BEQUEST\*

I do hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Anti-Steel-Trap League, Inc., under the laws of the District of Columbia, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.  
(If property describe it fully.)

\*No Estate Tax is levied on legacies or bequests to the Anti-Steel-Trap League, Inc.



Both Feet Caught

THINGS FOR THOUGHT are to be found in the utterances of trappers themselves. The President of the American Trappers Association says, *Pelt*, Sept., '34, "The flesh bait may be cut from beef, venison, woodchuck, porcupine, horse, skunk, etc., or an entire small bird . . . may be used."

IN 1930 NEW YORK STATE OUTLAWED ALL TOOTHED TRAPS and those with a spread of more than six inches. An illuminating comment by H. G. Wilson, Director of the 2nd District, American Trappers Association, is made in the July, 1930, issue of *Fur-Fish-Game*. Who should know better than this representative of his Association the law-abiding propensity of his fellow-trappers?

"Governor Roosevelt, when signing the bill in New York State, said it gave him great pleasure to legislate these traps out of existence. Traps with teeth are very

necessary for catching otter and beaver and due to the fact that wilderness trappers that catch these two animals will persist in using this type of trap, the new law notwithstanding, it is another case of making outlaws out of otherwise honest men. While it may be possible that traps with six inch spread will take everything that is to be trapped in the State the fact remains that N. Y. trappers have quite an investment in traps which have a slightly larger jaw spread than six inches."

*Honesty has its limits, it seems!*

*Massachusetts Trappers Lawless* says *Fur-Fish-Game*, Sept., 1933. "We do not know of anyone using box traps to take animals for their pelts and they never will be regardless of laws that may or may not be enacted. Take Massachusetts, for instance, where the anti-steel-trap law was recently nullified. \* \* \* Trappers did not use box traps there during the period when steel-traps were illegal; the trapping in that Commonwealth was done by outlaw trappers who used regular steel-traps."

THE ALASKA SEAL IS THE SEAL OF OUR APPROVAL is the caption of an advertisement of Macy's in New York. "We have compared notes with the seal who is one of the warmest characters on record and, using his pelt as a standard, have tested, via our thermal transmission machine, great flocks of winter merchandise. . ." The result of this test proved that a child's play suit on sale by the Macy store was found to be 79.6% as warm as Alaska seal; a reversible wool-lined suede jacket for men, worn with leather out, was 92.8% as warm; silk and angora pull-over shirts for men 59.4% as warm; all wool reversible blanket, 93.7% as warm; silk and wool shirts for infants, 70.8% as warm.

We have been honored by the addition of Miss Ida Tarbell to our list of Vice-Presidents and of Mrs. E. S. Huntington as Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the League.



## Other Countries

**ENGLAND FOLLOWS SUIT.** The University of London Animal Welfare Society of which Captain C. W. Hume, M. C., B. Sc. is Honorable Secretary, is offering an anti-steel-trap bill to Parliament. Under date of February 28, '34, Captain Hume writes: "This Society is promoting a bill, a copy of which will shortly be sent you, for abolishing the steel-trap in Britain. We are in for a very arduous fight, but mean to win. Needless to say, we should hardly have got that far but for the inspiration of Commander Breck and the A. S. T. L."

The bill is drawn for the purpose of "Prohibiting and penalizing the manufacture, purchase, sale, possession, or custody of the common steel trap, or any other mechanical device calculated to catch rabbits or other animals or birds in such a manner as to inflict pain by gripping a limb or limbs."

The Society and Captain Hume have the heartiest congratulations and good wishes of this League.

Volume 2 of the Annual Year Book published by the University of London Animal Welfare Society devotes Chapter 3 to "Traffic in Trapped Fur." The A. S. T. L. is widely quoted and its photos of trapped animals shown. Every humane organization would be the richer for owning the volume. It is filled with valuable references and may be had for 5 shillings.

**THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS** in England continues its fine work against blood sports and the brutal practices of traditional sport. I. Steuart, Esq., writes in "Cruel Sports," "To render hunting illegal while permitting ignorant people to kill the animal in any cruel way they choose is obviously unsatisfactory. All anti-hunting propaganda should, therefore, be carried on in closest conjunction with anti-steel-trap propaganda. One without the other is useless."

**GERMANY UNDER HITLER** forbids unnecessary torture or the cruel maltreatment of an animal under penalty of a two-year jail sentence.

**CHINA READS A. S. T. L. LEAFLETS.** At the request of Dr. A. S. Millard, representing the University of London Animal Welfare Society, the League has sent leaflets for distribution by Dr. Millard in China.

**THE FALLACY THAT NATURE IS CRUEL** and that the steel-trap is less cruel than the death meted out to each other by wild animals is almost constantly on the tongues of those who defend the steel-trap. Says the Year Book, Vol. 2, The University of London Animal Welfare Society:

"... in the great majority of cases violent death is rapid and probably painless, and the accusation of cruelty is irrelevant anthropomorphism."—Sir J. A. Thomson, discussing cruelty of Nature in *The System of Animate Nature*.

"The popular idea of the struggle for existence entailing misery and pain on the animal world is the reverse of the truth."

—Alfred Russell Wallace, *World of Life*, who wrote simultaneously with Darwin of natural selection.

"When we reflect on the struggle (for existence) we may console ourselves with the full belief that the war of nature is not incessant, that no fear is felt, that death is generally prompt, and the vigorous, the healthy, and the happy survive and multiply."—Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species*.

**THE AMERICAN TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION** has met the advance of the campaign against cruel trapping in Canada with vituperation. The Vancouver branch of the Canadian S. P. C. A. has made Miss C. Van Steenwyk, long a member of the A. S. T. League, Chairman of the Committee on Humane Trapping, a new committee which has for its objects, first, to promote the sale of humanely trapped fur; second, to explore the possibility of finding a substitute for the steel-trap; third, to promote co-operation between the S. P. C. A. and naturalist and conservation societies in order to bring about legislation to stop the slaughter of Canadian fur-bearers. The press is largely favorable and women's organizations are getting into line as they have done in England, Scotland, Ireland and the United States.

**THE PUBLICATION** of "Blood Money for the Audubon Association" by this League, dealing with steel-trapping done by that Association on its wild life Sanctuary in Louisiana, brought us more than 75 new members and more than \$250.00. This article was reprinted in leaflet form by the Emergency Conservation Committee, N. Y.



## Among the States

SENATOR DRYDEN KUSER re-introduced the anti-steel-trap bill in N. J., in January, 1934. The year before it met with opposition but at least received a fair number of votes in the Senate. This year the bill came before an unsympathetic Chairman of Committee and was never reported out of Committee. Nevertheless Senator Kuser is not daunted. He stands ready to offer the same measure again when the time is propitious. It is only fair to him that this League should bring greater support than ever to his efforts and this can be done best by forming a Committee or Division of the League in New Jersey. Although we sent out letters to all members of the League in the State, and others, to the number of nearly a thousand and have every reason to believe that most of those interested acceded to our request to make their desires known to their legislators in Trenton, yet the bill failed. No such scattering support is formidable. We must have united effort. The voters of New Jersey can bring this about by forming a strong organization in the State.

TO HELP IN NEW JERSEY, Our League sent 300 post cards, 386 letters to Audubon Society members, 35 letters to the press and 300 letters to women's clubs. Letters were also sent to all Legislators, the N. J. Vivisection Investigation League and the Hawk and Owl Society. Forty-five humane societies were asked to help the Anti-Steel-Trap bill introduced by Senator Kuser.

NORTH CAROLINA is restoring her furbearers by *prohibiting the use of the steel-trap*. Hundreds of sportsmen, says the Winston-Salem *Journal*, Aug. 3, 1934, and persons interested in the restoration of wildlife from a score of counties signed petitions asking that steel-traps be prohibited. An exception is made in the case of protecting crops by allowing traps to be set in water and along streams in cultivated areas.

Public hearings on the petitions to outlaw the steel-trap were called by Mr. F. Piercy Carter, attorney of Asheville and member of the Board of Conservation and Development, in compliance with the public laws. Because of the cruelty and costly indiscrimination of catching game animals in traps, there is much interest in the movement to pass laws outlawing their use, it was pointed out.

IN WISCONSIN there is to be no legal trapping in the National Forests. The Federal Forest Service does not control the fish or game in the National Forests and it was the Wisconsin Conservation Commission which issued the order closing the National Forests to trappers this year. These areas were opened to trapping of beavers last year with much dissatisfaction to summer residents, resort owners, farmers and sportsmen. The beaver is considered in Wisconsin to be an attraction to the State, and a help to trout fishing by damming streams which would otherwise become dry in the summer. The pools created by beaver dams are, it is pointed out by E. W. Tinker, regional forester, often the only source of water for fire fighting.

MISS LUCY FURMAN, distinguished author, social worker and vice-president of the League, sponsored a humane trapping bill in the Kentucky Legislature during the past session. Fine support was given it by the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, the Lexington *Herald* and other papers. Fox hunter's organizations and clubs of various kinds joined us in the fight. But opposition was strong in quarters where hostility is always in evidence and the bill was lost by 8 votes. Nothing spells failure to this cause. We shall offer the bill again two years from now when the Legislature sits again, and, with the added strength we have gained through this campaign, we shall look for a complete triumph.

THE KENTUCKY STATE D. A. R. passed a resolution at its Spring meeting, May, 1934, demanding that the steel-trap be outlawed in Kentucky. The action came too late to be recorded in the campaign of 1934 but will be of benefit to the cause at the next sitting of the Legislature when the bill is again presented.

PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST OPEN SEASON for trapping beaver brought disastrous results. From twenty pairs brought into the State in 1913 the animals had multiplied to approximately 15,000 in 1934. An open season from March 1 to April 10, 1934, saw about one-third of the population slaughtered. Trapping was restricted to six animals and ten traps to each trapper. Traps having a spread of more than six inches or furnished with teeth were forbidden. The Bailey Live

Animal Trap was recommended by the Conservation Department. A repetition of so great a kill will put the beaver back in the category of the State's extinct mammals, such as the bison, moose, wolf, wolverine, lynx and pine marten.

GENERAL TRAPPING OF BEAVER for a period of fifteen days took place in New York State in 1934. Six beavers and ten traps were the limits set. The New York press reported that discussion was rife as to the law requiring the use of traps without teeth. The fact that the beaver is heavy and strong "makes it necessary," says the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, "to use a proper trap or lose the fur and permanently injure old 'trowel tail.'" The proper trap is, of course, the Bailey Live Trap. Until a humane trap is employed we can not claim the minimum of reproach in reducing our wild-life to transitory garments which have seldom the excuse of necessity.

AN ERRONEOUS STATEMENT has been made from the platform in California to the club women that 70% of fur now comes from fur farms. While there are no available statistics to prove what percentage goes into the fur market from fur farms, either in State or Federal reports, it is a well known fact that the production of wild fur far surpasses that which is farmed. In any case, the fur coming from farms is sold into the common maw of trapped fur and becomes inextricably a part of trapped fur. Except when a neckpiece is bought and made up to order, there is no safety for women who shun the use of trapped fur, in buying from the retail stores.

FIRST DISTRICT FEDERATED CLUBS OF INDIANA passed a resolution against the use of the steel-trap at their meeting in Evansville during April, 1934.

IS THE STEEL-TRAP NECESSARY to protect ground nesting birds by the effective destruction of foxes, raccoons, skunks, etc., even if it were true that these animals eat birds' eggs and kill the young to an unwarranted extent? A summary of the conditions in South Carolina where an anti-steel-trap law has been in effect since 1927 is to be found in *Fur-Fish-Game*, June, 1933. "This section of the country," says the writer, "has game such as foxes, deer, coons, opossums, rabbits, squirrels, doves,

quails and a few ducks, but we have no trapping although we have plenty of animals to trap. This state has a law which forbids setting steel-traps unless they are set within 100 yards of dwelling houses to catch animals that are molesting property. . . . Quail are on the increase. Some of the counties in the State have some of the best quail shooting one could desire."

LIGHT IN DARK PLACES. The Committee on Bird Protection of the American Ornithological Union recommends, says the *N. Y. Times*, April 8th, '34, that natural control be allowed to take place in our National Parks—that the law of tooth and talon be given free sway among wildlife.

"Every species," it is urged, "should be left to carry on the struggle for existence unaided as being to the greatest ultimate good, unless there is real cause to believe it will perish if unassisted. The rare predators should be considered special charges of the national parks in proportion as they are persecuted everywhere else. No native predator shall be destroyed on account of its normal attacks on any other park animal, excepting if that animal is in immediate danger of extinction, and then only if the predator itself is not a vanishing form."

LETTER OF E. J. DAILEY, President, American Trappers' Association, in *Pelt*, Sept., '34, says, "I wish to draw your attention to a movement . . . by rich fox and 'coon hunters' organizations that would prohibit trapping of these animals . . . The wildlife of the Nation or State belongs to all the people and should not be given, by legislation, to the privileged few and it is up to you as a citizen, an individual and a trapper to see that such inimical laws are kept from our status. . . . And you should keep an eye on the Anti-Steel-Trap League, an organization that would deprive you of the only practical instrument for harvesting the fur crop. These people make efforts in certain States to abolish all practical traps and you must protest any measure they sponsor, regardless how harmless it may seem at first glance. . . ."

HUMANE WEEK gave Miss Lucy Furman an opportunity to speak over the radio from Louisville where she was given the courtesy of making her address from the station of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*.



## The Trap Line

"I belong to the Brotherhood of Toe Pinchers and can truthfully say that I am not in the game merely for the dollars and cents. When it is all summed up I derive many a pleasant hour along with excellent health and a powerful big appetite."

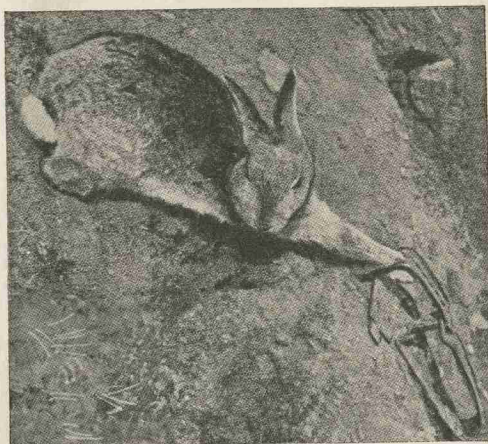
"During the winter session of the Legislature of New Jersey, 1933-34, a bill was passed that allows only water trapping of animals, excepting when the No. 1 trap is used and enclosed within a tunnel not more than six inches in diameter, or traps of any size may be used on meadows inhabited by muskrats. . . . There was even a more drastic bill up for action and sponsored by the Anti-Steel-Trap League that would prohibit the sale or use of any steel trap within the State. . . . Surely such laws as this ought to serve as a warning in other States. . . ."

"At a ledge a couple of good old faithful Victors were doing duty . . . one of them held a large raccoon growling and full of fight. A 25 caliber automatic . . . put him to sleep quick. . . ." "As I came up to the next set I saw trap, drag and all gone and a few feet away . . . I located a large striped skunk busily digging and circling around as far as the trap chain would allow him to go. A 25 steel packet slug . . . soon put him out of commission. . . ." "This set held a struggling black (musk) rat. . . ." "I pulled the mink out . . . where I could get a good crack at him. A sharp crack on its nose stunned him and with my boot I held him under water until it drowned. . . ." "Many a sly old red fox had its toes pinched by my 'toe pinchers' during the winter months. . . ."

*Fur-Fish-Game, August, '34.*

December 1st, the opening day of the 'rat season, and what a shame to catch unprime and undersized muskrats. But "hold on!" There does a whole army of "rat terriers" heading for that creek across the meadow and it looks as though, if I wanted my share of the 'rats, I would have to "step on the gas,"—so to speak. Donning my boots and gathering up my light artillery I joined the "army." The next morning brought me two muskrats and two feet.

I did not go back to the sets for two nights, (!) then one evening I . . . paddled



down to my traps. The first half dozen of them failed to produce anything but a couple of muskrat toes and a set of whiskers. . . . Encouraged . . . I decided to visit my traps every morning. . . . Instead of a muskrat there was a big black mink incarcerated. He had practically masticated everything he could get his teeth on, and it was a wonder he didn't pull free. . . ."—*Fur-Fish-Game*, June, '33.

"Yes, the State of N. Y. says, 'Kill all the fox that you can,' the State says that the fox is to blame for the downfall of the partridge." BUNK! I have been places where fox were plentiful, and partridges were also plentiful; that is at different times. What causes this increase and decrease? The fox? No, a hundred times, NO. Nothing but twelve, sixteen and twenty gauges and too long open seasons, as a rule. There are too many hunters and game hogs for the supply of game. . . . I have been in a few sections where there were but very few fox. Was game plentiful there? No. Just like the fox, they have been trapped and killed off. Too many hunters are hard on the supply of game. . . . I wish to remind the old readers of *Fur-Fish-Game* of an article on the fox by E. J. Dailey (President American Trappers Association), August, 1927, issue, which says: 'Very few men know the habits of the fox in the wild. We have numerous hunters and trappers who know how to kill them, or capture them; but during the long

summer when the fox is supposed to commit the terrible depredations commonly mentioned by fake-naturalists and other uninformed persons, I think I am safe in stating that not ten persons in America really know the inside life of a fox in the wild."

*Fur-Fish-Game*, Dec., '29.

*Trapping Tricks.* As I said I was beginning to lose faith in this particular set . . . and I was going to pull up my trap . . . when on nearing the set I was attracted by a lot of scratching and the rattle of the trap and chain. I figured to myself that I have "Old Reynard" on this trip at last. Getting closer to a trap I saw that instead of a fox I had a big coon, and the way he made his hair stand up made me think he was as big as a cow. Bracing his hind feet against the ground he would pull with all his might until I thought his front foot, which was in the trap, would come off. All the while he was growling like it was nobody's business, but when he saw me the capers he cut up before were mild to what he did now, so I quickly ended his anger with a pill from the .22 I carry along on the trap line.—*Fur-Fish-Game*, Dec., '29.

PETS AND BIRDS are a sad toll of traps. A large police dog who appeared to be afraid of people evaded capture for two days. Brought finally to the hospital a large steel trap about a foot long was removed from the dog's paw after it had dug deeply into the flesh. *Springfield Union*, Oct. 17, '34.

"He didn't mean to hurt me. He was hurt himself and didn't know," said a small boy of his pet dog who, in a frenzy of pain

injured his young master. The dog was found by the boy in a steel-trap. *Rochester Times-Union*, Nov. 28, '33.

A pet cat was mangled so badly in a steel-trap in the rear of its owner's home that it had to be shot. *Gardner, Mass., News*, Oct. 15, '34.

Cries of a police puppy caught in a steel-trap . . . rent the air last night. By the aid of a flashlight the puppy was found lying on the ground exhausted after struggling hours to free itself. *Utica Observer Dispatch*, Oct. 17, '34.

More than a dozen traps and snares for pheasants were discovered by police in Buffalo. It was estimated that more than 50 game birds had been caught in this manner by poachers. A small dog led to the discovery of the traps. His owners found him yelping and crying having been caught in one of the traps himself. *Buffalo News*, Nov. 27, '33.

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE, Animal Welfare Department, has offered us a book of sample fur fabrics. This may be seen at the office of the League in Washington. Mr. Robert Logan, Head Brother of the Order, Eddington, Penna., has made an effort to keep a supply of fabric large enough to fill orders at little more than the wholesale price. This is not a business of the Order but a kindness to those who find it difficult to buy fur fabric by the yard. Garments of the material which are to be found in shops are usually trimmed with fur and are, therefore, not acceptable to those who abstain from wearing trapped furs.

## League Publications

Which will be sent free as long as the supply lasts, except for postage, include the following:

ANTI-STEEL-TRAP LEAGUE NEWS, February, '31 to December, '32.

THE STEEL-TRAP, A MANUAL OF INFORMATION.

THE STEEL-TRAP, MODERN INSTRUMENT OF TORTURE, Radio Address.

THE STEEL-TRAP, MENACE TO CONSERVATION.

HUMANE TRAPS.

HUMANE FURS.

VERMIN CONTROL.

BLOOD MONEY FOR THE AUDUBON ASSOCIATION.

VIOLATED SANCTUARY, Answer to Audubon Association's Investigator.

SHALL THE STEEL-TRAP BE OUTLAWED, by Henry Carey, late Vice-President A-S-T League.

THE PRICE OF FURS, A PLEA FOR HUMANE TRAPPING, Lucy Furman, Vice-President, A-S-T League.

OUR DISAPPEARING FUR BEARERS, Edward A. Preble, U. S. Biological Survey.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE OF ANTI-STEEL-TRAP LAWS.

WHY THE LEAGUE, one-page leaflet, with photographs.