

### A Week for Wildlife

**E**VEN the urgent needs of a nation at war must not be permitted to cause a letdown in efforts to conserve and restore America's resources in wildlife, in timber, in the basic wealths of uneroded soil and unpolluted water. These are too much needed, both for the immediate support of our fighters and productive population, and for their ultimate contribution to the tremendous postwar task of national and world reconstruction.

Realization of this lends new emphasis to the observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week, held this year April 12 to 18, under the auspices of the National Wildlife Federation. Throughout the land, in newspapers and over the radio, in schools, churches, clubs, scouting and other outdoor groups, the story of this nation's multiform campaign to keep all we can of the great continental heritage we received from the founders of America will be told, and new plans will be laid to restore so far as possible that which has been lost through over-optimistic exploitation in the past.

Signs of encouragement are to be found in recent official reports. There are now 178 refuges for migratory waterfowl and 25 refuges for upland birds and game. The duck and goose population as of January, 1941, was estimated at 70 million, an increase of five million over the preceding year, despite a considerable take by hunters during open seasons. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that the present commercial catch of 4.5 million pounds of fish can be stepped up to 6.2 millions to meet the war emergency, without seriously

impairing future supplies. So the picture is not as dark as it once was, though there is still great room for improvement.

A special feature of the week will be the launching of the annual sale of wildlife stamps by the National Wildlife Federation. The colored pictures of birds and mammals, fish and reptiles, trees and flowers offered this year are unusually well conceived and strikingly executed. Orders and inquiries should be sent, as in former years, to the Federation's office in Washington, D. C., in case they cannot be readily obtained locally.

*Science News Letter, April 4, 1942*



## SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

Sponsored by Science Service

### NEWS OF CLUBS

**SYRACUSE, N. Y.**—The Third Annual Science Congress for the Syracuse Science Center will be held on Saturday, April 25, at Syracuse University. Everyone is invited to participate in this Science Congress whether or not the individual belongs to an organized science club, just as long as some faculty member is willing to act as a sponsor. In both Junior and Senior Divisions, (the former taking in all ages up to fifteen years and the latter from fifteen to eighteen years) five Defense Bond or Stamp awards will be presented. The first award in each division is a \$25.00 Defense Bond; the second is \$8.00 in Defense Stamps; the sixth, seventh and eighth awards in each division are Honorable Mention ribbons. The event will feature lectures, demonstrations and exhibits. So whether you are an exhibitor or not, if you are in the vicinity of Syracuse be sure to attend this Science Congress. If you want further information or an entry blank, write to Dr. Richard R. Armacost, Director of Syracuse Science Center, Syracuse University, N. Y.

**LOS ANGELES, Calif.**—While up to the present America has not felt the pinch of a wartime economy it inevitably must come to pass. It is for this reason that a study of food requirements in war time and the presentation of special demonstrations of restricted diets and war economy in foods is being undertaken by the Bio Club of Chapman College. When other things besides sugar and rubber are rationed, members of this college group will be well prepared to furnish worthwhile suggestions. Members of the club also are working on present-day defense subjects and are typing blood of all students. At assembly and other programs the scientific hobbies of various members are exhibited. In many other ways the club shows a tendency to anticipate the needs of this country in the months or years to come. Dr. Florence Peebles, head of the Biology Department, is the sponsor.

**LONGVIEW, Texas** — What vocation should the student follow? That is a project being undertaken by members of the Lithium Chapter of the Texas Junior Academy at Longview Senior High School. But this club does not limit its activities to vocational guidance. A thorough study of the natural resources of the state is being made; a varied individualized experimental program is carried on; and an Open House exhibit is presented each spring. The club is sponsored by Adda Reid Templeton, chemistry and physics teacher.

**MITCHELL, S. D.**—The Science Club of the Senior High School has quite a problem on hand. It is not because of a lack of ideas but rather because there are too many problems which members would like to try to solve. One of the projects decided upon (and a very fine one indeed), is landscaping the high school campus. This is a long-range program of which the

members will be justly proud. Helen Field Watson, biology instructor, is the sponsor.

**BRONX, N. Y.**—How can we go about conserving rubber, paper, oil, sugar, etc.? What chemical or other substitutes can be found or developed for those articles now on the priorities list? What can be done by the citizen or school student during an air raid? How should First Aid be given in event of injury caused by bombs or explosives? And how can the morale of the school and home be kept on a high plane even in event of disaster? Those are only a few of the questions which members of the Science in Defense Club at Walton Junior High School, hope to be able to answer. It is obvious that the activity of this club is keyed to America's war effort. Katherine M. Byrnes, science teacher, is the sponsor.

*Clubs are invited to become affiliated with SCA for a nominal \$2 for 20 members or less. You can become an associate of SCA for 25 cents. Address: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.*

## WHAT IS MATHEMATICS?

*An elementary approach to ideas and methods by*  
**RICHARD COURANT**  
*and*  
**HERBERT ROBBINS**

"... a brief and lucid representation of the fundamental concepts and methods of the whole field of mathematics, avoiding subtleties dispensable in a first approach. It is an easily understandable introduction for the layman and helps to give the mathematical student a general view of the basic principles and methods."

—**ALBERT EINSTEIN**  
*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*

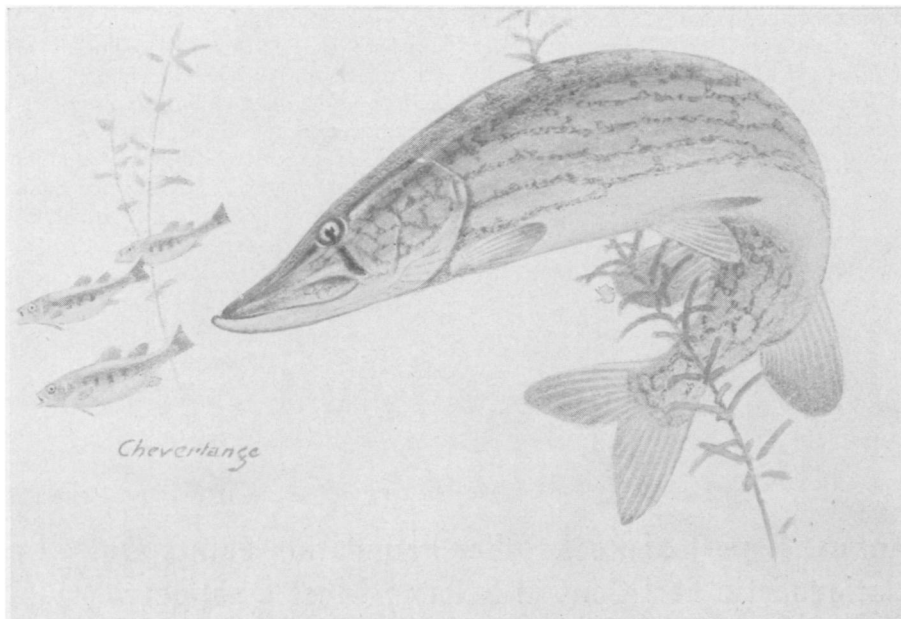
"It is hardly necessary to explain . . . how extremely gratifying the appearance of this book must be to all of us who have the future of mathematics at heart. This is a very different thing from the usual attempt at 'popularizing' a subject . . . a genuine kind of 'orientation,' in the best sense of the term, which treats domains that hitherto have been closed to all but advanced specialists."

—**WILLIAM BETZ**  
*Board of Education  
Rochester, N. Y.*

"This book is a work of art . . . a godsend for those of us who want our sons and students to know 'What is Mathematics.'"

—**MARSTON MORSE**  
*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*

**300 text figures . \$5.00**  
**OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, N. Y.**



#### FISH FOR FUN AND FOOD

*The eastern pickerel, one of the several fish pictured in the new series of wildlife stamps, needs no introduction to fishermen. There's plenty of fun in fighting him to the catch, plenty of good eating in him after he's landed. (See page 221.)*

CHEMISTRY—BOTANY

## Baby Gives His Pants For Country's War Effort

**They Are Being Wrapped Around the Army's Telephone Lines; 100,000 Miles of the New Wire Already Ordered**

**S**O YOU'D give your shirt to help the U. S. A. to win the war? Of course you would.

Well, Baby's beaten you to it. He's already given his pants. They're wrapped around the Army's telephone lines.

How rubber latex that used to be used in making necessary articles of infants' wear now goes into insulation for light-weight communication lines was related before the Eighth Annual Chemurgic Conference in Chicago by Dr. M. C. Teague, research chemist of the United States Rubber Company. Dr. Teague told his audience of the scientific juggling which he and his colleagues have been carrying on since the emergency began, to make the country's limited supply of rubber stretch farther.

The latex-insulated telephone wire, samples of which he showed, is produced

by a multiple dip process using a special latex compound. It weighs only 30 pounds per mile, as compared with 168 pounds per mile of the older-type wire. The government has already ordered more than 100,000 miles of the new wire, enough to go four times around the earth.

The list of latex articles used in war is a long one. It includes bullet-proof fuel tanks for airplanes, life rafts, pilot balloons, gas masks, aviators' helmets, blackout paint, sponge cushioning for use in tanks, submarines, gunsight eye-pieces, and a thousand other things.

All of this has meant, of course, that civilians have had to get along without some of the things that have meant much to the amenities of modern life, especially the two-way-stretch fabrics that have come to be standard parts of bathing-suits, foundation garments, shoe

tops, suspenders, and "elastic" generally.

Again the rubber industry has come to the rescue. Dr. Teague told about a new "synthetic" latex made from reclaimed rubber, and exhibited samples of articles made therefrom. Of particular interest, to both military men and civilians, were elastic straps for gas masks, in which neither latex nor raw rubber had any part.

*Science News Letter, April 4, 1942*

## Milkweed for Kapok

**K**APOK, tropical floss used in life-preservers, pillows and heat-insulating coverings, can have its war losses at least partly made good by the substitution of milkweed down, Dr. Boris Berkman of Chicago told the conference.

Kapok and milkweed floss are very closely similar, despite their diversity of origin, the speaker declared. Kapok is borne in seedpods of tropical trees, milkweed in similar pods on tall temperate-zone herbs. But to the naked eye, and even under the microscope, they are astonishingly alike. The fibers of each are of approximately the same size, and both are hollow, with great flotation power provided by the inner air space.

*Science News Letter, April 4, 1942*

## Arsenals of Democracy

**F**OUR million-dollar laboratories of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, originally planned as means for increasing the peace-time prosperity of American farmers and industrial users of farm products, have under the stress of war become four great arsenals of democracy, Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, declared.

When the first of the four laboratories of Peoria was being dedicated only two years ago, Vice President Henry A. Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture, remarked, "It is a comforting thought to know that this great research laboratory, and the other three that are under construction, could be turned into research institutions for national defense should the occasion demand."

No one who heard that prophecy wanted it to be fulfilled, but, said Dr. Knight, "We didn't get our wish . . . Instead of being on a peaceful footing we are now fighting for what may be our very existence . . . I'm glad to be able to say to you on this occasion that these laboratories are living up to Vice