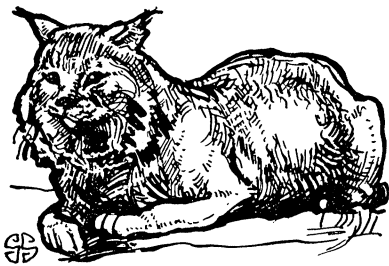


NATURE RAMBLINGS

By Frank Thone

*The Lynx*

Of all the members of the cat family in America, the lynx is about the wickedest. Though nowhere near the size of a mountain lion or puma he is far more formidable, for the larger beast is a sneak and a coward and flees from any trace of man. The lynx, however, is as truculent as a leopard, and a great deal more likely to go out hunting for trouble. Compactly built, with a strong neck and blocky shoulders, he is a formidable fighter even when pitted against a pack of dogs or a man with a long knife or heavy club, and he sometimes mauls his hunters if he is brought to bay or steps into a trap.

The gleaming yellow eyes of the lynx, shining balefully out of his den, have given the big cat a reputation for seeing better than he does. Many people believe that in addition to seeing in the dark—which of course no cat or any other animal can do—the lynx can see straight through wood, metal or any other substance! A penetrating glance indeed.

The common wild cats of the East are all members of the lynx family, but the true lynx of the northern woods is the Canada lynx, the "loup cervier" of the French-Canuck habitant, about which all sorts of superstitious legends have been woven. It seems to be practically identical with the European lynx, with no more difference than one would expect from changes due to separation in time and geography.

Science News-Letter, February 22, 1930

Knotted cords were used for keeping government records in ancient China as well as in prehistoric Peru.

Whooping cranes are almost extinct; so there was excitement when an ornithologist saw two recently in the Louisiana marshes.

Regeneration of Earthworms—*Continued*

observed, the head appears first, and then the tail, according to the law which nature was found to adhere to.

The difficulty, therefore, with regard to the intermediate parts, lies in the reproduction of the head; and although this often fails, the tail will still begin to be regenerated; but this dies sooner or later, together with the middle part.

But how comes it to pass, when equal portions are cut off from the two extremities, viz. the head and tail, of an earth-worm, that, although both extremities perish, yet if they are kept in a proper situation, the point of the tail survives that of the head?

These reproductions take place in the earth-worm, when it is cut across with a pair of scissors; but what happens, 1. If instead of being cut, the insect be torn asunder; 2. or if fire be applied to the divided part?

Hitherto the animal is supposed to have been cut in three parts, viz. the head, the tail, and the middle piece.

I was then induced to enquire

what happened to the earth-worm, when cut in four, five, six, or more parts, which I ascertained by a great variety of experiments.

I should not have done justice to the system of animal reproductions, had I omitted to consider three different states in the earth-worm; one preceding the section; another attending the operation; and a third which succeeds it.

As to the first, we know that an earth-worm being placed upon loose and moist ground, hides itself by boring it with its head. It avoids every obstacle in its way; it generally advances forwards, or with its head foremost; it glides without any difficulty along the sides of vases, etc.

Now do the same phenomena appear in a head just deprived of its tail? in the intermediate part? or in the tail alone?

Science News-Letter, February 22, 1930

In the city of Cologne, Germany, pedestrians who violate traffic regulations get tickets and fines, just as offending motorists do.

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