

Bird banding in the United States dates from the time of Audubon, who about 1803 marked a brood of phœbes with silver wire and was rewarded the following season when two of the banded birds returned to nest in the same vicinity. Since then more than 400,000 birds have been banded in the United States and Canada by co-operators of the Biological Survey. Under the migratory bird treaty act, anyone who bands birds must have a Federal permit.

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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Section.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

**Adaptability of bent grass for Texas conditions.**—Do you think Seaside creeping bent or any other of the bent grasses would be suitable for putting greens under our conditions? (Texas)

**ANSWER.**—There is a common opinion that Seaside creeping bent, some of which is sold under the name Cocos bent, is extremely drought-resistant and suitable throughout the South. Observations we have made to date would indicate that this grass is no more suitable for extreme southern conditions and no more drought-resistant than colonial bent, of which German mixed bent mostly consists, or some other strains of creeping bent, such as the Washington and Metropolitan strains. Seaside creeping bent seed is produced commercially in the Coos Bay region of Oregon, and has been extensively planted on California golf courses. The admirable results obtained there have led to the widespread opinion that it is more suitable than other bents for southern conditions. The other bents, however, grow equally as well in California as Seaside creeping bent; and although parts of California may be of a more southern latitude than the chief bent districts of the East, it is well known that other crops also can be grown in California which are not adapted to similar latitudes in the East. In Texas bent grass would, of course, have to be grown where water is available. Under your conditions it might be well to try out bent grass on lawns, tees, or parts of

fairways where irrigation by hose is possible, before trying it on putting greens. German mixed bent seed is probably the most economical bent seed to buy for your purpose and is as likely as any of the bents to stand southern conditions. Plantings should be made in early September. Bent grass usually ceases to grow in the winter and goes slightly off color, but will respond promptly with any warm spell. It should not winterkill in Texas.

**Turf for tennis courts.**—The turf for tennis courts commonly in use here seems to consist mostly of creeping bent and red fescue with some Kentucky bluegrass, colonial bent, and redtop. This is not entirely satisfactory in that it presents a patchy appearance and not the most desirable playing surface. Is there a more sturdy grass available for the purpose? Is any special treatment necessary in maintaining tennis court turf? (Connecticut)

**ANSWER.**—Very little research work has been done on turf for tennis courts, but some conclusions may be drawn from experience in connection with golf course putting greens. Experience seems to indicate that the best turf for tennis courts consists of colonial bent and red fescue, either the New Zealand or the European red fescue. The addition of some Kentucky bluegrass seems desirable from time to time on account of its more upright and stubby growth. It is true that this mixture is apt to present a patchy appearance. A turf of more uniform appearance may be produced by planting creeping bent by the stolon method, as is often done on putting greens. The Washington or Metropolitan strains of creeping bent are the best for the purpose. Creeping bent, however, does not seem to stand the wear to which tennis courts are subjected as well as a turf of mixed grasses does. Where creeping bent courts have only light play or where the players are willing to show some consideration with regard to worn spots, particularly along service lines, either the Washington or the Metropolitan strain is entirely practical. The fundamentals of growing closely clipped turf are practically the same on tennis courts as on golf courses. An important difference, however, is that on tennis courts it is desirable to keep the turf a little drier than on putting greens, so the grass will be less succulent and tougher. From a playing standpoint also a drier surface is to be preferred so that it will produce a better bounce to the ball than is desirable on a putting green, where one of the important things is to have the ground soft enough to hold a ball which is pitched to the green. The methods of top-dressing and fertilizing are practically the same for tennis courts as for putting greens.

**Efficiency of arsenate of lead in the control of weeds.**—What results may be expected from the use of arsenate of lead in the control of weeds on putting greens, particularly in the control of crab grass? (Ohio)

**ANSWER.**—Arsenate of lead has proved satisfactory in the control of certain weeds such as chickweed and others of that thickly matted type. In a few cases it has been effective in reducing crab grass but in most cases it has been ineffective against this weed. Since the weeds which it controls can usually be very easily checked by cheaper chemicals the use of arsenate of lead is not recommended simply for the control of weeds.



Courtesy of National Association of Audubon Societies

### **A Club Member of Distinction**

Pheasants are quick to avail themselves of protection. Thus on shooting days they often parade up and down the greens on golf courses where bird sanctuaries are maintained, to the distraction of passing gunners. The brilliant plumage of the male and his distinguished bearing are an attraction on any course.



Those who love Nature can never be dull. They may have other temptations; but at least they will run no risk of being beguiled, by ennui, idleness, or want of occupation, "to buy the merry madness of an hour with the long penitence of after-time." The love of Nature, again, helps us greatly to keep ourselves free from those mean and petty cares which interfere so much with calm and peace of mind. It turns "every ordinary walk into a morning or evening sacrifice," and brightens life until it becomes almost like a fairy tale.

John Lubbock

