



## FOSTERING MICE

Fostering secures the rearing of all mice born in a particular litter, thus obviating the possibility of discarding what might eventually turn out to be the best of the litter. Secondly, by the process of fostering, one's best mice are employed to the best advantage in the breeding pen.

The first point to consider is the selection of the most suitable does for use as foster-mothers. Actually, some consider them to be of almost as great importance as the selection of the best breeding does. Certainly it is no use rearing the whole of a litter unless the foster portion is to be brought up to the best advantage.

Before selecting the foster does, many have found it best to allow the prospective fosters to have one litter prior to their use as foster mothers. There are two good reasons for this. First you are able to prove which are good mothers, and secondly you find that usually does are at their best with their second litters.

Now with regard to the method. Some put the mouse which is to produce the wanted young in the breeding box with the buck. Three or four days later, put the fosters into the same box. As a rule, the fosters will then litter at a time sufficiently long

after the birth of the first litter. Naturally the fosters' youngsters will be smaller than those of the first litter.

Take away all the babies produced by the foster mothers. Use two foster mothers for each breeding doe, which means that with an average litter, all may be kept. By this method all the original litter is left undisturbed, and this some consider a distinct advantage. If the original doe is wanted for further breeding, she should be given one week's rest before re-mating.

During the first two weeks any weakly mice may be removed, and, likewise, any bucks that may not be required.

By the way, many fanciers always reduce litters, leaving only one buck remaining in the litter. This is a bad plan, for bucks are at least of just as great importance as good does. It is a good idea at times to breed for bucks, that is, save only the bucks from certain matings. In a litter the best looking buck does not always turn out to be the best adult buck, so it's as well to be prepared. As a rule, save more bucks than needed.

### Falconry

In olden days falconry was the sport of kings, and the bird most often used in "hawking" was the Peregrine Falcon. The American representative is the Duck Hawk, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, quite as noble a bird as its European cousin. In ancient days the Falcon was chosen for use in the chase because of its courage, skill and speed, together with its intelligence which permitted successful training for the pursuit and killing of birds and mammals much larger than itself. In these qualities there is nothing lacking in our own Hawk.

The name Duck Hawk is a misnomer, for the bird is a true falcon,

a member of the family Falconidae, while hawks, eagles and kites belong to the family Accipitriidae. The falcons are medium small in size with long, strong, pointed wings and powerful feet and talons. So swift of wing is the Duck Hawk that it is capable of overtaking in a straight-away race the fastest flying ducks, and on these it preys to a large extent, hence its common name.

While the Duck Hawk is destructive to other birds, it never has been in sufficient numbers to warrant the warfare against it which has been waged by hunters and farmers. It has gradually become more and more scarce until at last the need for its protection has been recognized. Its favorite retreats are cliffs or crags overlooking some broad river-valley. Its favorite nesting site is some inaccessible ledge, high up on a mountain-side. Seldom can it be reached save by the use of ropes from above.

### Tight Squeeze

Did you ever hear about the chap who built a boat in his cellar and made it so big that he couldn't get it out when it was finished? Well, the Philadelphia, Pa., Zoo had a problem almost as bad, but at least it knew in advance what was going to happen.

It all came about because Goliath has a new home. Now, Goliath is the Zoo's big Galapagos Tortoise, a sturdy fellow who tips the scales at something just under 200 pounds. For years he has been living in a dark corner of the reptile house, but recently he was moved to a brand-new parking place, complete with wading pool and a spot where he can lie over a radiator and soak up the heat. He comes from the tropics, you know. To make his new quarters, Zoo employees remodeled a large enclosure in the center of the building and the entrance to it is only 21 inches wide. Goliath's shell is 24 inches wide! So the poor fellow couldn't walk into the place and, instead he had to be ignominiously turned on his side and lifted in by keepers. If he keeps on growing, a derrick will be needed to hoist him in and out when it comes time to take his summer vacation in the outdoor yard. Even when he is on his side there is only three inches of clearance now, and these reptiles grow much bigger—up to 500 pounds.

Sharing the cage with Goliath is a much smaller Burmese Tortoise.

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