

# Animals Feign Death.

## Even Elephant "Plays Possum" Sometimes—Creatures, Seemingly Lifeless, Make Their Escape When the Hunter Turns His Back.

"The most perfect simulation of death," remarked a well known naturalist the other day, "is that of the opossum, whence originated the phrase 'playing possum.' Only the closest examination can determine that life still is present—in the pulsation of the heart and in the almost suppressed respiration. In this condition, either the animal has lost the sensation of pain or else it possesses most wonderful powers of endurance, for it permits itself to be used most roughly without showing the least sign of consciousness. If, however, attention is withdrawn, the sly rascal opens his eyes, glances around, and, if the coast is clear, gently departs.

"The striped squirrel, when caught alive, will often lie limp and apparently lifeless till its captor, thrown off his guard, makes the opportunity for its escape possible, when the little animal will scamper off with a sharp chitter of delight.

"That such a huge beast as the elephant should practice so remarkable a ruse seems incredible, but Tennent, in his 'Natural History of Ceylon,' records such an observation. After a number of wild elephants had been captured one particularly fine specimen was led out between two tame ones, as is the usual method, and started toward its future home, some miles away. When night fell and torches were lighted to show the way, the elephant refused to go on, and finally sank to the ground, apparently lifeless. The fastenings were taken off its legs and when all attempts to raise it had failed, the keeper, convinced that it was dead, ordered the ropes to be taken off and the carcass abandoned. While this was being done he and a friend who accompanied him leaned against the body to rest. They had scarcely taken their departure, and proceeded a few yards, when to their astonishment the elephant rose with the utmost alacrity and fled toward the jungle, screaming at the top of its voice, its cries being audible long after it had disappeared in the shades of the forest.

"W. H. Hudson, the well known naturalist, describes the death-feigning habit of a small South American fox, common on the pampas. When caught in a trap or overtaken it collapses as if dead, and to all appearances is dead. The deception is so well carried out that dogs are constantly taken in by it. When one withdraws a little way from a feigning fox, and watches him very attentively, a slight opening of the eye may be detected. Finally, when left to himself, he does not recover and start up like an animal that has been stunned, but slowly and cautiously raises his head first and gets up only when his foes are at a distance. I was once riding with a gaucho when we saw on the open level ground in front of us a fox not yet fully grown, standing still and watching our approach. All at once it dropped, and when we came up to the spot it was lying stretched out, with its eyes closed and apparently dead. Before passing on my companion, who said it was not the first time that he had seen such a thing, lashed it vigorously with his whip for some moments without producing the slightest effect.

### The Turkey Buzzard's Trick.

"The turkey buzzard is one of the few birds who feign death to escape their enemies. Once a friend shot a specimen through the wing. He found it standing under a laurel bush, looking brightly about, one wing hanging. As he approached its head began to droop to one side and by the time he reached it the buzzard lay upon its side, apparently lifeless. Believing that it was really dead, my friend with difficulty forced it into his game bag and proceeded home, a distance of two miles. The bird was then taken from the game bag and thrown down in the yard, limp and seemingly lifeless. My friend's surprise may be imagined when, calling out to the family to come and view the captive a moment later, the bird was found running around the yard as lively as ever. On the family's approach, however, the same motions were enacted as when it was first captured, and again it lay upon its side, apparently dead. This routine followed each approach until after a while it became accustomed to the presence of persons.

"The wild goose, when wounded, will occasionally adopt this ruse. As soon as it finds escape impossible it will stretch out its neck and remain stiff and immovable, so that it may be handled in this condition, the muscles remaining rigid as in catalepsy. If, however, it is not disturbed it will soon begin to peep around and gradually attempt to get away.

"The Spotted Tinamou (*Nothura maculosa*), of the pampas of South America, is especially addicted to practicing this trick. When captured, after making a few violent efforts to escape, it drops its head, gasps two or three times, and to all appearances dies. But if the hold is released the eyes are opened, and with startling suddenness the bird flies rapidly away.

"The common English sparrow has been observed on several occasions to adopt this ruse to escape.

"Tennent reports the case of a ten-foot Ceylon crocodile which feigned death on being surrounded while asleep and its retreat cut off. When discovered the animal was under some bushes several hundred yards from the water. The terror of the creature was extreme when it discovered that it was completely surrounded, and it started up and turned around in a circle, hissing and snapping its bony jaws. On being struck with a stick it lay perfectly quiet and apparently dead. Presently it looked cunningly about and made a rush toward the water, but on a second blow it lay again motionless and feigning death. Its captors tried to rouse it, but without effect, pulled its tail, slapped its back, struck its hard scales, and teased it in every way, but all in vain; nothing would induce it

to move till accidentally a boy of twelve tickled it gently under the foreleg, and in an instant it drew the limb close to its side and turned to avoid a repetition of the experiment. Again it was tickled under the other foreleg, and the same emotion was exhibited, the monster twisting about like an infant to avoid being tickled.

"It is very unusual for snakes to feign death, but one such incident has come to my notice. An amateur naturalist was collecting in the neighborhood of Matawan, N. J., when he apparently cut off the retreat of a copperhead snake. When the naturalist got close to the reptile appeared to be dead. Desiring to make sure of this the naturalist circled the snake, and was rewarded by discovering an unmistakable light issuing from the reptile's eyes. The appearance of the entire body was that of complete relaxation. Thinking to capture it, dead or alive, the naturalist looked around for a stick or stone, but could see none nearer than forty or fifty feet distant. He cut a stick from an aspen sapling, leaving it notched at the end. The spot where he left the reptile, apparently as motionless as ever, was marked by a lot of cut horse-mint, and when he returned the snake had given him the slip, and without any doubt resumed its interrupted journey toward the near-by swamp.

### Lizards Adept Deceivers.

"Lizards are especially addicted to this habit. *Phrynosoma Douglasii*, known as the 'horned or California toad,' is widespread over the entire Western plains, where it very closely imitates the color of the soil on which it lives. They are most bashful animals, when they think they are being observed, as well as when roughly treated, depressing their bodies, and, with closed eyes, feigning death to perfection. A little tickling along the side will bring them to life, however, and please them hugely, they expressing their fondness for the operation by inflating themselves until nearly spherical.

"*Leviaenus Darwinii*, which Darwin found in Northern Patagonia, he says, 'lives on the bare sand near the sea coast, and from its mottled color, the brownish scales being speckled with white, yellowish red and dirty blue, can hardly be distinguished from the surrounding surface. When frightened it attempts to avoid discovery by feigning death, with outstretched legs, depressed body and closed eyes; if further molested, it buries itself with great quickness in the loose sand. This lizard, because of its flattened body and short legs, cannot run quickly.

"The gray or sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) attains a length of from eight to ten inches, and is common in Southern Europe. Its movements are as rapid as a bird's. When an attempt is made to seize a lizard on the ground, it lets itself fall to the ground, and remains there a moment immovable before attempting to run, evidently simulating death.

"One species of mollusk is known to have this habit. The pneumodermoidae have a spindle shaped body and two extensible arms bearing suckers, much like those of the octopus. They swim strongly, but when touched by a foreign object roll themselves up like an armadillo, and, feigning death, sink until out of reach of apparent danger.

"Lobsters less than a year old occasionally exhibit the death feigning habit, but, strange to relate, the adults do not practice it. When stroked lightly with the finger the young lobster will immediately stiffen, and lie stretched out at the bottom of the dish, on its side or back, as if paralyzed. It will remain in this position for fifteen or more minutes, when it will slowly turn over and begin to move about. While lying at the bottom in this state, a convulsive movement of the swimmerets and a twitching of various muscles over the body can be detected by close observation. The claws and legs remain perfectly rigid, however.

### Sea Dwellers Have the Habit.

"In China is found a peculiar little crab about the size of a large pea. It has received the common name of 'pill making crab,' from its habit of taking up mouthfuls of sand, extracting the food particles and then ejecting the sand in the form of little pellets or pills. Owing to its great activity it is a difficult object to capture. Should one be so unfortunate as to be captured it will immediately curl up and feign death. Should the crab be put back on the beach in this condition it will remain motionless for a short time, when by a twisting and wriggling movement it rapidly sinks into the sand and disappears.

"On the dry part of the beach

## HOW SHE IDENTIFIED HERSELF

### The Blase Banker Did Not Even Smile at the Truth

"I'm very sorry to trouble you, madam," said the bank teller, "but you'll have to be identified. He pushed the check across the slab toward her as he spoke.

"Identified?" repeated the lady. "what does that mean? Isn't my check good?"

The bank man did not smile, for this was the thirty-seventh lady who had asked this question that day.

"I have no doubt it is," he said, "but I don't know you."

"Why, I'm Mrs. Weatherly!" exclaimed the lady. "Didn't you see my name on the check? See—here it is." The teller shook his head wearily.

"You must be identified," he insisted; "you must bring somebody who knows you." The lady drew herself up.

"That check," she said with dig-

along the Indian Ocean are to be found the homes of many little hermit crabs. When alarmed they slip hurriedly into their shells and drop motionless as if dead, so that the noise of their fall makes a continuous tinkle as one walks the beach.

"Starfishes are often found stranded upon our beaches, and in many instances these curious creatures appear dead when really they are alive. When really dead a starfish hangs loose and limp, but, however dead it may look, if on touching it there are manifest a firmness and consistency in its substance, one may feel reasonably sure that it is playing the 'possum,' and will revive when placed in the water. Quite as certain a mode of ascertaining whether your starry friend is living or dead is to lay it upon its back, when, if alive, a number of semi-transparent globular objects, the animal's locomotory organs, will be seen to move, reaching this way and that, as though feeling for something to lay hold of where-with to restore it to its normal position.

"Some kinds of beetles, many of the woolly-woolly caterpillars which have poisonous hairs on their backs, and numerous spiders adopt similar tactics. Even the wood louse has the same trick and rolls itself into a ball. One small spider which makes its home in a corner of the immense web of a very large spider has a curious way of feigning death when disturbed. Uniting four legs in front and four behind, the insect presents with the body a uniform curve, and the spider might in this condition be readily mistaken for a little bit of curved twig or bark."



Boys' hair grows at half the rate of that of girls.

In the Russian secret service there are 600 women.

There are 250,000 words in the English language.

The making of chinaware is the oldest of all industries.

Large elephants weigh six tons; large whales 150 tons.

Transvaal gold averages half an ounce to the ton of quartz.

According to Dr. J. E. Squire, the ideal meal consists of bread, butter and cheese.

More than one-fourth of the world's coal production comes from the United Kingdom.

The Danube River was frozen over so that an army crossed it on the ice in the year 462.

New York City has more automobiles run at the public expense than any other two cities in the world.

In New York's Bronx Zoological Park there are nearly twice the number of animals that there are in the London Zoological Garden.

The longest telegraph line in the world above ground and without a break has been completed in Australia. Its total length is something over 6000 miles.

The mill occupying the most northern location in America is a flour mill at Vermillion, 700 miles north of the United States boundary, and within 400 miles of the Arctic circle.

In Germany, if a doctor is wanted suddenly in the night, one goes to the nearest emergency station and fetches one of the several doctors who are always doing their turn of night duty.

There is a telephone line over the Alps, but the record elevation in this respect belongs to the United States, there being a line at Camp Bird, Col., which is 12,000 feet above the sea level.

The current year-book of the Carnegie Institution shows that during the last year \$636,300 was distributed among nearly 500 persons engaged in conducting scientific research.

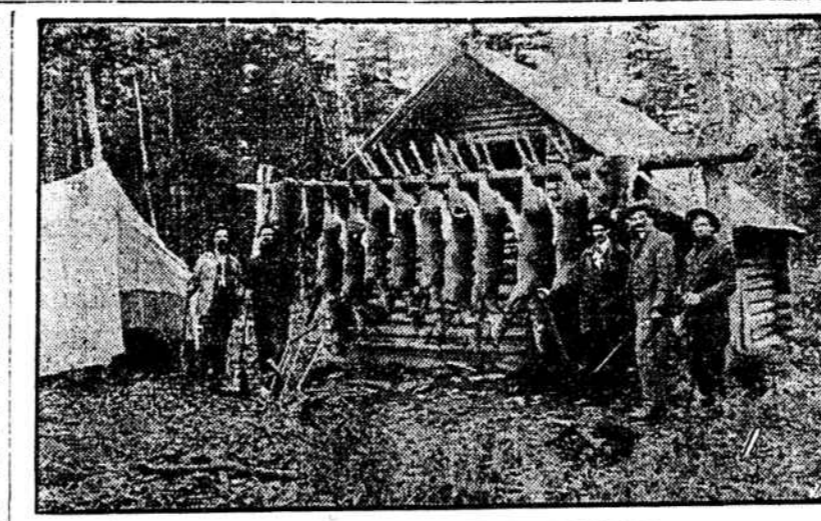
New York City has more than doubled its consumption of distilled spirits during the last ten years, and added 773,000,000 gallons to its consumption of fermented liquors during that time.

If you walk up Broadway for twenty blocks, according to the tradition, you walk just one mile, but as a matter of practice if you walk during the busy hours of the day you will have gone three-sixteenths more than a mile on account of the zigzag course you must take in dodging persons and avoiding vehicles.

It is so easy, indeed, and yet so "real," that it has become the accepted custom for the sportsman to take along the feminine members of his family, after the unselfish fashion of the true American. Hundreds of women go into the Maine woods nowadays, for big game hunting as well as for fishing, and some of the finest prizes fall to their aim. Nothing will so quickly and effectually eliminate a bad case of "nerves," in man or woman, as a few weeks in the woods, especially under the bracing climate.

Those who have been brought up in the woods claim to possess the gift of prophecy as to the character of the coming hunting season. Last year was one of the best on record, and the 1909 season gives every promise of being even better. One reason for this belief is found in the fact that this year has brought an unusually large crop of beechnuts.

Guides and vacation season trappers who have recently come in to Kineo, Rangeley and other centres, report having seen large numbers of deer and lots of moose during these trips.



"GOOD HUNTING" IN THE MAINE WOODS.

## THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS EVERY YEAR MANIFESTING A KEENER INTEREST IN THE QUEST OF BIG GAME

### To Gratify This Longing Railroads Are Now Run Through the Very Heart of the Moose and Deer Country, Dropping the City Sportsman at Stations That Are But Vestibules to the Happy Hunting Grounds

### CAMPS SO COMFORTABLE THAT WOMEN MAY HUNT BIG GAME IN MAINE WOODS

The number of Americans who are fired with the ambition to kill something big that moves around on four legs is phenomenal. The hunting instinct, brought down the long centuries from primal man, survives throughout all the advancements of civilization. It crops out in bankers, merchants, journalists, capitalists, bookkeepers and even Presidents.

Indeed, it is not too much to assume that the present hunting trip of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in Africa has had the direct result of inducing many of his contemporaries here who would not otherwise have thought of it, to plan for an outing in that great preserve of American "big game," the Maine woods, this fall.

Great is the force of example, especially when it is set by some national figure; and there is no question whatever that Mr. Roosevelt's expedition



BACK IN COMFORTABLE CAMP AFTER DAY'S SPORT.

tion into the wilds of the Dark Continent will have a far-reaching effect upon the pastime of hunting in all civilized countries.

Those who live in large cities—the last place on earth that one would naturally associate with anything pertaining to the wilderness—are nowadays among the very first to be reminded of the approach of the hunting season, for about this time of year the sporting goods establishments, so numerous in all large centres, begin to make their attractive window displays of firearms, camping outfits and hunting and tramping paraphernalia, not forgetting the guide books and outdoor works of fiction; for there is a literature of hunting to-day, as of all things else.

In fact, the comforts of life in the woods in these days form one of the chief reasons for the wonderful popularity of those exciting and healthful hunting trips that we soon will be reading about in every metropolitan and local paper. There are a few of us who really take delight in "roughing it," but for every one of these modern Davy Crocketts, there are a thousand who prefer the downy couch in the snug camp after the hard day's quest of moose or deer.



A CITY SPORTSMAN'S FIRST MOOSE.

Even the children can be taken along, if they are not of too tender an age, and the experience is one that will be of inestimable value.

In the matter of selecting a likely place for good moose or deer hunting, there is almost as wide a range as if one wanted to go in quest of elephants or lions in Africa. A very large part of the State of Maine, with its 3,000,000 acres of forest land and its 2500 lakes and streams, afford "good hunting" of every kind to be found in this corner of America.

Not only has modern life in the woods reached the acme of comfort, with oftentimes a little bit of genuine luxury thrown in, but the wilderness itself has been made accessible to a degree that would have seemed improbable 30 or 40 years ago. Railroads are now run through the very heart of the moose and deer country, dropping the city sportsman at stations that are but the vestibules of the happy hunting grounds. New tote-roads and trails radiate everywhere, the water highways swarm with canoes, comfortable camps are found on nearly every shore.

One would realize this latter fact very forcibly could he go behind the scenes in the advertising department of one of the great American railroads serving the Maine and Canadian hunting region and see the vast quantities of booklets and other printed matter pertaining to "this noble branch of sport that are sent to every quarter of the Republic, at the request of interested parties.

Perhaps it is the feeling that some day in the not far distant future, there will be no more moose and deer to be hunted in Maine or elsewhere on this continent; but certain it is that the American public is every year manifesting a keener interest in the quest of big game, and is willing to invest generously of its time and money in order to gratify its desire for a set of antlers, or even a set of "snap shots" of antlered game.

Even a peaceful expedition like that of Dr. Cook to the North Pole has an unconscious effect upon the mind of the born hunter. He yearns to emulate the intrepid discoverer in bagging musk-oxen and polar bears, but realizing that these are as far beyond his reach as the Pole itself, he does the next best thing and goes after moose and black bears in Maine or New Brunswick. And in his way, he has just as much fun as Dr. Cook or Commander Peary—and far more comfort.

With the multiplicity of the camps has come a marked increase in the number of professional guides, all of them duly registered, according to law, and in no hunting region in the world can there be found a finer or more reliable set of woodsmen than these.

With these intelligent guides to smooth away the rough places, per-



A HUNTER'S LODGE IN THE SNOWY WILDERNESS.

form most of the necessary manual labor, pilot the hunter to the most promising places for a telling shot, and, in short, to take upon their shoulders the bulk of the work and responsibility, hunting "down East" is a good deal of a "cinch" in these days.



### Cleaning Porcelain.

With a cloth dipped in kerosene oil the effect is wonderful. You may then rub with a dry cloth. The articles cleaned will be as bright as new. The same method may be used in cleaning furniture. Even paint may be cleaned with a little oil on the cloth and soapuds as well.—Alms-lee's.

### Gardening.

One of the most successful of the amateur women gardeners, whose old-fashioned garden is a wonderful tangle of bloom and perfume throughout the season, says that her success is due to bringing the clay soil to terms. When having a bed made she has it first filled in with a three-inch layer of sand, then with an equally thick layer of sawdust, and last with a generous amount of fertilizer. The second year the same rule is followed, at which time she has planted whatever hardy plants she wishes to stay there, the first year's planting being merely for a temporary bloom. The sawdust rots and enriches the ground and is almost as beneficial as wood ashes.—New York Tribune.

### Kitchen Supplies.

Keep roasted coffee in tin or glass and tightly covered. When exposed to the air or kept too long it loses both aroma and strength. For these reasons it should be bought in limited quantities. On the other hand, green coffee improves with age.

Store salt in a stone jar in a dry place. When desirable to keep butter for any length of time wrap each roll in clean muslin, then pack in brine that will float an egg and weight down with a heavy plate.

Cover the top of the jar closely. Lard should be kept in bright tin pails or cans. Soda and baking powder should be left in the original packages and kept in a cool, dry place.

Soap should be purchased in quantities, unwrapped and stacked on a shelf to harden. When well dried out its lusting qualities are about double.—New York Tribune.

### The Home Laundress.

To Polish Linen—To give a fine polish to linen use lukewarm water instead of cold to break down the starch. When it has been reduced to the required consistency by boiling water add a pinch of fine salt and stir several times with a wax candle. This will make the iron run smoothly and give a polish to the linen that nothing else can impart.

### Getting Up Collars and Cuffs.

After washing the articles perfectly clean leave them in cold water till the next day. Make cold starch in the usual way and wring the articles through it twice. Then dissolve two teaspoons of borax in hot water, let it cool, and wring the collars and cuffs through that twice. Wrap them in a clean towel and mangle. Wait for a little time before ironing. Iron on the wrong side first, and then on the right, pressing very evenly so as to produce a good gloss. A polishing iron is best for this.—Boston Herald.

### To Wash White Lace.

First, the soiled laces should be carefully removed from the garment and folded a number of times, keeping the edges evenly together, then basted with a coarse thread without a knot in the end. Now put them in a basin of lukewarm suds. After soaking a half hour, rub them carefully between the hands, renewing the suds several times; then, after soaping them well, place them in cold water and let them come to a scald. Take them from this and rinse them thoroughly in lukewarm water blue a little; then dip them into a very thin, clear starch, allowing a teaspoonful of starch to a pint of water. Now roll them in a clean towel without taking out the basting; let them lie for an hour or more, iron over several thicknesses of flannel, taking out the basting of one lace at a time and ironing on the wrong side with a moderately hot iron; the lace should be nearly dry and the edges pulled gently with the fingers in shape before ironing.—Boston Post.

### Parliamentary Pretensions.

Parliamentary repartee, as illustrated by recent anecdotes in the Office Window, was ably upheld by Lord Brougham, especially during the great reform debates of the last century. On one occasion, when anti-reformers were trying to howl him down by imitating the sounds made by various animals, among which the braying of the ass was most recurrent, he waited for a pause, and then remarked imperturbably that by a wonderful disposition of nature every animal had its peculiar mode of expressing itself, and he was too much of a philosopher to quarrel with any of those modes. This was no less severe than the famous libel on the Earl of Limerick, calling him "a thing with human pretensions," which appeared in the Times in 1831, and for which the printer was fined £100 and confined for an indefinite period in Newgate.—London Chronicle.

### Basket Willows.

A bulletin of the American Forestry Association says: "A truly important industry in this country is the growing of basket willow. This is one kind of tree which can be easily grown in time to meet the demand. Osiers for making baskets have all been imported heretofore from Europe, but experiments by the forest service show that they can be grown successfully in this country as a farm crop. The manufacture of baskets is by no means so large as it might be, and the increasing scarcity of wood for boxes may cause a greater demand hereafter for baskets."

### Vegetable Soup.

Cut five potatoes into small pieces, one carrot, a small tomato, one-half onion, small piece of cauliflower, one piece of celery and some parsley, then add a pint of milk and one of water and boil until vegetables are soft, and season with a little sugar, salt and pepper.

### Meat Souffle.

One cupful of cold meat chopped fine, one cupful of sweet milk, one large tablespoonful of flour, one small tablespoonful of butter, two eggs, seasoning to taste. Scald the milk, thickened with the flour and butter; stir in the beaten yolks, pour this while hot over the meat, stirring; set aside to cool. Then stir in lightly the beaten whites and bake in a quick oven fifteen minutes. Serve hot.

# Household Matters

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### Macedoine Salad.

Mixed vegetables, well cooked, either canned or fresh, are called macedoine. If canned drain, wash and arrange them neatly on crisp lettuce leaves. Pour over French dressing and serve.

### Raspberry Trifle.

Beat one-half pint of heavy cream until it begins to thicken, add the stiffly beaten white of one egg. Beat until stiff, fold in one-half cup of crushed raspberries and sweeten to taste with powdered sugar. Line sherbet cup with thin slices of cream.

### Shrimp Delight.

Melt a piece of butter the size of a walnut in a saucepan, add one-half pint of cream. When heated through add one cup boiled rice, one can of shrimp chopped fine, and last of all one-half bottle of tomato catsup. Serve on toasted bread or soda crackers.

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