

ON THE PROPAGATION OF THE STRIPED BASS.**By E. R. NORNY.**ODESSA, DEL., *May 9, 1881.*

Prof. SPENCER F. BAIRD:

I have read with great satisfaction a correspondent's account in the New York Herald of the 2d instant in regard to your success in the Albemarle Sound; but I find the propagation of the striped bass or rock is still as much of an enigma as ever. The correspondent says the fishermen think they have discovered the place where they spawn.

Let me here offer a suggestion. Since my last communication to you, I have conversed with a gentleman interested in the striped bass, who informed me that he conversed with a gentleman from Wilmington, Del., who said to him that on one occasion he saw a large female bass cast her spawn on the boulder rocks in the vicinity of Wilmington Creek, Del. This is the location where we supposed those fish spawn from the fact that it is here that the young fry are first numerously seen. The Delaware State side of the stream at this point is full of loose boulder rocks, and the gentleman said the fish seemed to remain and defend her spawn. I have tried to verify the truth of this statement, but have been unable to ascertain the gentleman's name. The only doubt is, the general turbid condition of the waters of the Delaware would make it difficult to see any considerable distance below the surface; but, perhaps, in the dry season of May at low water he may have seen what is here represented, for those large fish venture in very shallow water. If such is the case, then your Albemarle fisherman should look for rocky or bouldery bottom to find the spawning ground of the striped bass.

I have not altered my opinion that the true mode to propagate these fish is to pen up the immature fish and retain them until their maturity, both male and female.

I now have in captivity a sixty-pound female, which I have had so confined for nearly two weeks under very unfavorable circumstances. The pond contains an area of about half an acre, but is shoal, the greater portion not being over one foot deep; but there are several rods square that contain from three to five feet in depth. The misfortune of this pond is that it takes an extra high tide to put water in it, and the fish has only had fresh water in the pond but once since its capture. If providence favors me with a few tides to fill the pond with a fresh supply of water, I have no doubt I shall carry it over the spawning time, which, I think, will be by the 1st of June. The object is not to propagate the fish, but to prove the feasibility of thus keeping them and to determine the time of their maturity. If they can thus be kept, and I have not

the least doubt of it, I could have furnished this season to a pond both male and female fish sufficient, with the same success in hatching as with shad, to have produced 100,000,000 young fish of a species second to no other in our seaboard waters. As it was, all the large fish, after being captured, were turned loose again to propagate in their own natural way.

These fish, in confinement, will require a liberal supply of food. I have placed in the pond a supply of live herring, as I found on cutting one open, weighing about 35 pounds, that its maw contained two large-sized herring, one more than half digested, the other in perfect form.

I hope to have the good fortune to capture this fish on the 1st of June, and find it past maturity, and be able to again return it to the bay.

Yours, &c.,

E. R. NORNY.

A GEORGIA CARP POND.

By ABEL A. WRIGHT.

GRIFFIN, GA., *May 14, 1881.*

Prof. SPENCER F. BAIRD:

ESTEEMED SIR: The sketches of my fish pond failed to reach you, and I am sorry, because I wanted you to see them and tell me how you like my plans, &c. This pond I built before I ever heard of a carp, or saw a drawing as in Hessel's work, the ideas being my own. The carp are genuine beyond a doubt, because there is no earthly chance for any fish to get into the pond, no fish being in the streams it empties into, and nothing but beautiful clear springs feeding it only a few hundred feet off; and there is a large fall, about one-quarter of a mile below, that no fish can get above, the water falling perpendicularly over a shelving rock. I was extremely particular in regard to this matter. If I go to Florida in the fall, I will superintend getting a fine lot of aquatic plants and send them to you at my own expense. The carp feed ravenously on moss that grows in the water; I had boxes of it shipped to me, and I know what I am talking about. I notice one thing, the carp love to spawn among the thick masses of weeping-willow roots that grow out in the water; they have great masses of fine fibrous roots. I have seen hundreds of pounds in the water near the bank where they would spread out in the water for yards around; and another thing, a little black caterpillar about an inch or more long, with yellow spots, comes on the weeping willow and drops into the water. I have seen the large carp lie watching for them, and, when one falls in the water, the carp would take him in out of the wet; and also grasshoppers and earth-worms thrown into them. I buy damaged crackers from Atlanta by the barrel