

GROWTH, SPAWNING, EDIBLE QUALITIES AND MANNER OF COOKING GERMAN CARP RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION IN 1880.

By W. VAN ANTWERP.

[From letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

To-day I can go to my ponds and catch carp of 7 pounds weight, which were planted two years ago the 19th of this coming December. Several ponds have young fry in them to the amount of many hundred thousand each. I went personally and put them into shallow water lying fair to the sun, with brush, stumps, and old roots to make places for spawning. I have sown rice and transplanted water lilies, &c., to make shade and concealment for them. We have caught quite a number to test their edible qualities which all pronounce not excelled by any of our indigenous fishes.

I always instruct the cook to clean them nicely; then wrap the fish in a linen towel, have a large kettle of water boiling, coil the fish neatly in the kettle and boil fifteen minutes, then turn off the water, remove to a baking pan without marring and put in the oven, bake and then baste with butter gravy. A nice dressing could occupy the interior of the fish and the space around the sides. If properly done it makes a dish fit for a king, or a hungry fisherman.

MOUNT STERLING, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KENTUCKY,
October 31, 1882.

GROWTH AND FOOD OF CARP.

By SAMUEL GILLESPIE.

[From letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

My fish surpass all expectations in growth. They are estimated by the most competent judges to weigh 4 pounds. When I received them from you, November 7, 1881, they were about 2 inches long. After putting them in the pond I never saw anything of them until the 15th of June. I then commenced feeding them twice a day on bread and potatoes. I continued this until the middle of July; then I commenced on sweet corn cut from the cob. They are very fond of this, and come as readily for it as my pigs. I still fed the scraps from the table, too, but corn is their favorite. On the 16th day of November they bade me adieu until next summer. They have caused quite an excitement, and people come miles to see them.

MILLVILLE, BUTLER Co., OHIO,
December 14, 1882.