

THE SPRING OF 1908.

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One of the best means of fixing a date for the "Opening of Spring" is the flowering of trees and shrubs. The arrival of birds and the blooming of the Hepatica and the trailing arbutus are often used for this purpose, but the birds come and go and the depth of snow in the woods has a material effect on the date at which flowers bloom. Trees, however, bloom as soon as there is sufficient heat to cause the buds to open. Mr. W. J. Wilson has recorded the date of the flowering of *Acer dasycarpum* since 1895, and his records show that in only one year—1904—was this at a later date than in 1908. His records are: 1895, April 18th; 1896, April 16th; 1897, April 8th; 1898, April 2nd; 1899, April 20th; 1900, April 15th; 1901, April 15th; 1902, March 27th; 1903, March 31st; 1904, April 24th; 1905, April 12th; 1906, April 15th; 1907, April 22nd; 1908, April 20th.

J. M. M.

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DESTRUCTION OF WOLVES.

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Circular No. 63, issued by the Bureau of the Biological Survey, Washington, D.C., gives the results obtained during 1907, in the way of wolf destruction. The methods of capturing wolves in common use are three: (1) Trapping, (2) use of scents and (3) poisoning. For trapping, the best No. 4 double-spring trap should be used with a heavy stone as a drag. When possible the trap should be placed between two tufts of grass or weeds so that it can be readily approached from one side only. The trap, stone and chain should be buried on a runway. Scent is used to attract wolves to the vicinity of the trap. Fetid bait is made by placing half a pound of raw beef or venison in a wide-mouthed bottle, and letting it stand in a warm place for from two to six weeks. When completely decomposed, add a quart of any animal oil, an ounce of pulverized asafetida and an ounce of Siberian or Tonquin musk. The mixture should be sprinkled over the grass, weeds and ground near the trap, but never on the trap. No poison is so effective as sulphate of strychnine; 4 grains should be placed in a capsule and inserted in a piece of beef suet the size of a walnut.