

and stump is a perfect cover. This is well, for in addition to man he has natural foes which know not mercy. Chief among these are the lynx, fox, wolf, fisher, marten, the great horned and the snowy owls, and other rapacious birds. Other creatures, too, prey upon him more or less at their murderous wills, for if once cornered, he offers no defence whatever.

Most of the hares which not seldom glut our winter markets are victims of the snare. A few are trapped in other ways, while others are shot, but their numbers are insignificant in comparison to those which die by the craftily placed wire. To snare a hare is, of course, an unpardonable thing from a sportsman's point of view. The habits of the animal render it such an easy victim that only a thoughtless boy, or an out-and-out poacher, would bother himself over its capture. Like the Virginia deer, the hare has regular runways along which it travels through its favorite swamp or other cover. All the poacher has to do is to locate these runways by the tracks, set a few snares, and wait for the unfortunate hares to do the rest. The snares are fastened to "twitch-ups"—springy poles, sufficiently long and strong to lift a hare a few feet off the ground. The wretched victim sooner or later comes hopping along the runway, his head enters the noose, and in an instant he is jerked off his feet, then hanged by the neck until he is dead. The object of the spring-pole is twofold—first, to strangle the victim, and second, to lift the body beyond the reach of any prowling creature which might fancy cold hare. The whole business requires about as much