

feet, and the larger runs 75 by 40 feet. Passage ways giving free access to all compartments should be 4 to 6 feet wide. Each compartment should contain a small house or shelter box, for although the foxes often dig natural dens in the ground, they usually accustom themselves readily to artificial shelters. A common form of these is much like a dog kennel and about the same size. They are ordinarily made 4 or 5 feet square and 2 or 3 feet high, with an entrance about 6 inches square. A small hinged trap-door 8 inches square, giving the keeper access to the inside, may be provided on the back of the house, but this is seldom needed, and its absence removes the temptation to disturb a parent fox at a critical time. Several other forms also are used, especially some contrived with reference to the exclusion of light. These may be made of boxes or barrels to which are attached closed passages about 2 feet long, with a single or a double elbow at the end. (See next page.) These furnish retreats more nearly like a natural fox den than the kennels, but it is doubtful if they are superior. No nesting material is needed inside the boxes, as the old foxes either do without or provide it themselves from refuse in their enclosure.

HABITS AND BREEDING.

Foxes attain maturity at the age of one year and even before. They breed only once a year, and the mating or rutting season includes the months of February and March. The period of gestation is about fifty-one days. Therefore the young are born in April and May. The number