

An expanded bibliography of trout references, especially as they relate to Long Island, New York

Prepared by Dr. Richard A. Thomas.; 6 July 2011

Niles' Weekly Register, edited by Hezekiah Niles, Vol. 20, 1821, p. 304

Niles' Weekly Register containing Political, Historical, Geographical, Scientifical, Statistical, Economical, and Biographical Documents, Essays, and Facts; Together with Notices of the Arts and Manufactures, and a Record of the Events of the Times, H. Niles, Editor. The Past — The Present — For the Future. From March to September, 1821, Vol. XX, or Vol. VIII—New Series, Baltimore: Printed for the editor by William Ogden Niles, at the Franklin Press, Water-Street, east of South-Street.

p. 304

Mammoth trout. At “Fireplace,” Long Island, about 70 miles from New-York, Mr. Samuel Carman, jun. on the 25th ult. caught at the “tail of his saw mill” a trout three feet in length and 17 inches round the girth, and weighing 13 lbs. 8 oz. It was kept alive in a pen several days for the gratification of the curious, the largest trout ever caught before, in the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants, never having exceeded 5 lbs. in weight—seldom being more than 2½ lbs.

American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine, Vol. II, No. 7, March 1831.

“Deer Hunting and Trout Fishing on Long Island,” pp. 342-344.

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DEER HUNTING AND TROUT FISHING ON LONG ISLAND.

MR. EDITOR:

New York, Jan. 30, 1831

...

As to trout fishing, in the year 1812, on the 11th of March, Alderman B. and myself, killed in Carman’s pond, at the Fire place, 68 miles from New York, 46 trout in two hours, which weighted rising 70 lbs.; the largest 3 lbs., and one has since been taken in the mill tail, at the same place, which weighted 14½ lbs.

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...

Yours, &c. X.

Boston Journal of Natural History. Vol. IV. No. 2. September, 1842, p. 255.

ART. XXII. —ENUMERATION OF THE FISHES OF BROOKHAVEN, LONG ISLAND, WITH REMARKS UPON THE SPECIES OBSERVED. BY WILLIAM O. AYRES, of East Hartford, Connecticut (Communicated January 12th, 1842.)

During a residence of three years on Long Island, I have endeavored to improve the opportunities occurring to me of observing our fishes, and of ascertaining their habits; some of the results of these observations, I now take the liberty of presenting. My location has been at Miller's Place, a village in the township of Brookhaven, sixty-two miles from New York. About a mile west of the village, a sheet of

water enters from the Sound, called Old Man's Harbor. This harbor and the parts of the Sound adjacent, have afforded most of the marine species recorded. The fresh water species have been derived from different places which will be found noted in connection with the fishes. Enjoying the advantage of gathering specimens in waters in the neighborhood of those whose Ichthyology was illustrated by Dr. Mitchill, I believe that I have been able to identify many of his species, including one or two in which, it appears to me, an error has been committed, in the Report upon the Fishes of Massachusetts. Such an error, from the looseness and inaccuracy of many of Dr. Mitchill's descriptions, is very natural, and in certain cases unavoidable.

...

Boston Journal of Natural History. Vol. IV. No. 3. April, 1843, p. 265.

ART. XXIII. —ENUMERATION OF THE FISHES OF BROOKHAVEN, LONG ISLAND, WITH REMARKS UPON THE SPECIES OBSERVED.

BY WILLIAM O. AYRES, of East Hartford, Connecticut.

(Continued from page 264.)

p. 272-273

SALMO FONTINALIS. Mitch.

The *trout*, for which the streams and ponds of Long Island are famous, are often taken of very considerable size; those of three or four pounds are not uncommon; and eight or ten years since a *trout* was caught at Fireplace, which weighed fifteen pounds. It must, I suppose, have been this species. It was called by many who saw it a *salmon trout*, on account of its great size or perhaps some peculiarity in the coloring, but the most experienced fisherman who was engaged in taking it (it was caught with a seine) considered it only a very large individual of the common *brook trout*. I may here remark, that on that stream, and possibly in other parts of the island, the name *salmon trout* is often applied to any specimen very strongly tinged with red on the abdomen, and it may have been so in this instance.

The Complete Angler; or, the Contemplative Man's Recreation By Isaac Walton. And Instructions How to Angle for a Trout or Grayling in a Clear Stream, By Charles Cotton. With Copious Notes, for the Most Part Original, a Bibliographical Preface, Giving an Account of Fishing and Fishing-Books, From the Earliest Antiquity to the Time of Walton, and a Notice of Cotton and His Writings, By the American Editor, To Which Is Added an Appendix, Including Illustrative Ballads, Music, Papers on American Fishing, and the Most Complete Catalogue of Books on Angling, Etc., Ever Printed. Also, a General Index to the Whole Work.

Part I.

New York and London: Wiley & Putnam, 161 Broadway. 1847.

Part I ends on p. 249.

The Complete Angler or the Contemplative Man's Recreation. Part II.

Appendix.

p. 139.

“Trout-Fishing on Long Island (Kindly Furnished for This Edition of Walton's Angler.)”

...

p. 142.

“Another fish or two of the like dimensions have been taken in Liff. Snedecor's and in Carman's streams; and it is on record, that at Fireplace, many years since, a trout was taken of eleven pounds. A rough drawing of this fish is still to be seen on the wall of the tavern bar-room, but it has every appearance of being the sketch of a salmon; and I am informed by a thorough sportsman, who remembers the time and the occurrence, although he did not see the fish, that no doubt was entertained by experienced anglers who did see it, of its being in truth a Salmon.”

Frank Forester's Fish and Fishing in the United States and British Provinces of North America. by Henry William Herbert, Author of “*The Field Sports of the United States and British North America*” “*Frank Forester and his Friends,*” Etc. London: Richard Bentley, Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty, 1849.

SALMONIDÆ.

THE BROOK TROUT. THE COMMON TROUT.—THE TROUTLET.
(Section begins on p. 105.)

Weight of Trout, p. 117.

“There is, I am aware, a tale that many years since a Trout of eleven pounds was taken at Fireplace; and a rough sketch of the fish is still to be seen on the wall of the tavern bar-room. I know, however, that this fish was considered at the time, by all the true sportsmen who saw it, to be a Salmon, and the sketch is said to bear out that opinion, though I do not myself understand how a mere outline, not filled up, can convey any very distinct idea of the species intended.”

“Trout Fishing” (Chapter begins on p. 332.)

In progress of this subject, I take the liberty of quoting, from Dr. Bethune's very beautiful edition of Walton's Angler, the following paper, which was drawn up and contributed to that work by myself, on the Trout-fishing of Long Island, at the request of the accomplished author. It contains everything that I know or could collect at that time on this branch of the subject; and as I rest well assured that my borrowing it will in nowise injure or interfere with that beautiful and admirable work, while I feel that it would be useless and absurd to re-word the same ideas and opinions, and so render it pseudo-original, I do not hesitate to extract it entire:—

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“Another fish or two of the like dimensions have been taken in Liff. Snedecor's and in Carman's streams; and it is on record, that at Fireplace, many years since, a Trout was taken of eleven pounds. A rough drawing of this fish is still to be seen on the wall of the tavern bar-room, but it has every appearance of being the sketch of a Salmon; and I am informed by a thorough sportsman, who remembers the time and the occurrence, although he did not see the fish, that no doubt was entertained by experienced anglers who did see it, of its being in truth a Salmon.”

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“It may be worth while here to mention, for the benefit of strangers, that the houses kept by Snedecor and Carman are by no means country taverns, at which nothing can be obtained, as is often the case in the interior, but hard salt ham and tough hens just slaughtered. Being frequented by gentlemen entirely, they are admirable hotels in every respect.”

Frank Forester's Fish and Fishing in the United States and British Provinces of North America. Illustrated from Nature by the Author. by Henry William Herbert, *Author of "Field Sports," "Warwick Woodlands," Etc. Third Edition, Revised and Corrected, with an Ample Supplement by the Author.* New York: Stringer & Townsend, 222 Broadway, 1855.

“American Fishes,” SALMONIDÆ. p. 94.

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Frank Forester's Fish and Fishing of the United States and British Provinces of North America. Illustrated from Nature by Henry William Herbert, Author of Frank Forester's "Horse and Horsemanship," "Field Sports," "The Complete Manual for Young Sportsmen," Etc. New Edition, Revised and Corrected, with an Ample Supplement by the Author, Together with A Treatise on Fly-Fishing, by "Dinks." New York: Excelsior Publishing House, 29 and 31 Beekman Street. 1859.

“American Fishes,” SALMONIDÆ. p. 94.

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“Trout Fishing.” (Chapter begins on p. 253.)

p. 258.

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The Market Assistant, Containing a Brief Description of Every Article of Human Food Sold in the Public Markets of the Cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Brooklyn; Including the Various Domestic and Wild Animals, Poultry, Game, Fish, Vegetables, Fruits, &c., &c., with Many Curious Incidents and Anecdotes by Thomas Farrington DeVoe, author of “The Market-Book,” Etc., “What we eat,” New York: Published by Hurd and Houghton, 1867, p. 252.

. . . The *Gazette* of the 29th of June, 1821, says : “A very large salmon-trout, weighing thirteen pounds eight ounces, and three feet in length, and seventeen inches round, was caught by Mr. Samuel Carman, Jr., in his pond at Fire-Place, Long Island, on the 24th inst. The *Evening Post* confirms the above “by three of our most respectable citizens.”

New York Evening Post. November 16, 1801—.

Frequency: 6/week.

Bobst has: 1801 - June, 1939, filed as *New York Evening Post*.

Also: available for 1821 in [Early American Newspapers](#), microfilm. (1 reel)

Also: in [Early American Newspapers](#), microprint. (2 boxes)

Index: 1869-1923, in microfilm, filed as *New York Evening Post: General News Index*.

Note: Called *Evening Post*, 1832-1920.

Microfilm from: New York Public Library. (419 reels)

Brook Trout Fishing, An Account of a Trip of the Oquossoc Angling Association to Northern Maine, In June, 1869. By R. G. Allerton. New York: Printed by Perris & Browne, 164 Fulton Street, 1869.

pp. 27-28.

TROUT PACKING.

A great many trout are packed in birch bark, ice and saw-dust, and taken away to families and friends. Many boxes have been brought to New York this season, the fish arriving in excellent condition. One lot caught by the writer, including four trout, weighing 23 pounds—one of them an eight pounder—after arriving in New York, were re-packed and sent to Dutchess County, N. Y., where there are but few people, even of the oldest inhabitants, who had ever seen a brook trout weighing over three pounds.

Three boxes of trout, caught by the writer also, were sent to New York to his brother, Mr. Geo. M. Allerton, who took great pleasure in distributing them among friends, all of whom testify that the fish were most delicious and had a remarkably fresh flavor, an exceedingly rare quality in brook trout as usually served in New York City, and a proof that Maine Guides know how to pack trout in such a manner that they will be choice eating even after several days of transportation.

The three boxes contained about 100 trout, weighing in the aggregate 150 pounds, varying from half a pound to eight pounds each. Their exhibition produced great astonishment, as many who witnessed the sight had never been accustomed to see brook trout weighing over two or three pounds. Nearly all readily admitted that these specimens went ahead of any thing they had even heard of before, as to size and beauty; but one or two made a show of doubting that they were the real brook trout, calling them salmon, salmon trout, lake trout, &c, or anything but brook trout, so reluctant were they to admit fairly, that their great 3 or 4 pound trout, caught some forty or fifty years ago, should at last be thrown so completely in the shade; but it was of no use, "seeing was believing," and the situation had to be accepted.

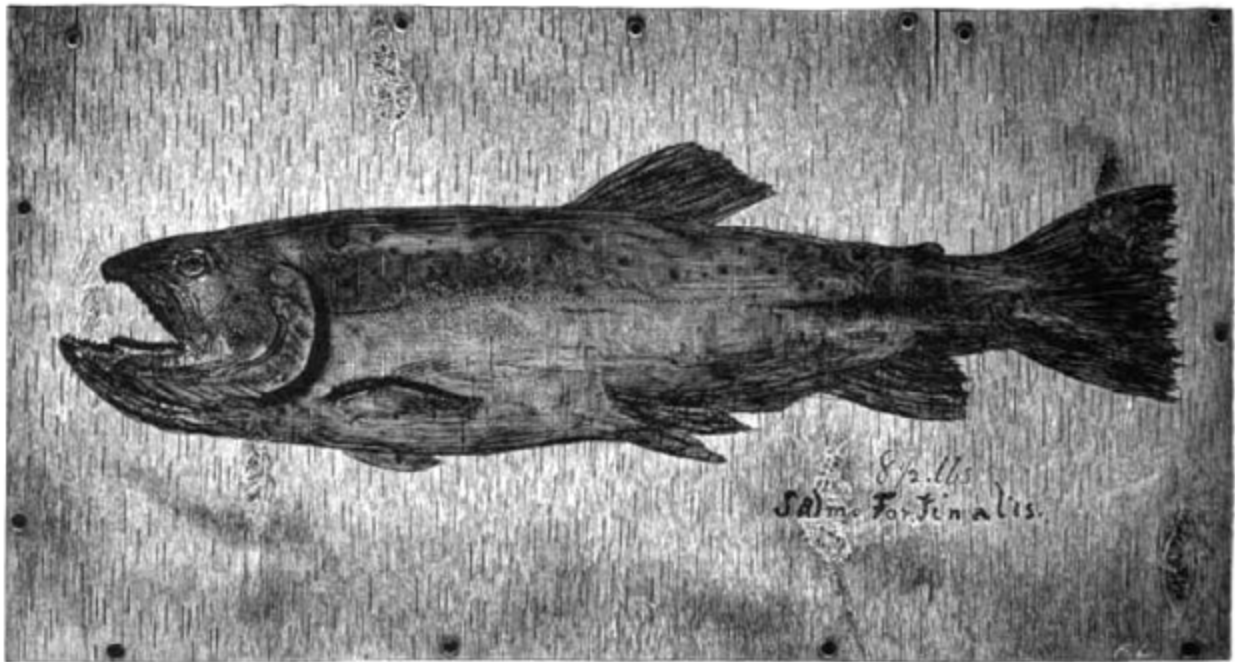
The writer presented an **8 pounder** to Dr. Alex. B. Mott, who was not a little surprised at the size of the gift. The Doctor afterwards told how he had him served up for supper, warmed up for breakfast, hashed up for dinner, and bade him farewell only at the fourth meal.

Scribner's Monthly. Vol. XIII. No. 4. February, 1877. The issue and the article begin on p. 433.

"Trout-Fishing in the Rangeley Lakes." Pages 433-451.

There can be no better text for a paper upon the big trout of the Rangeley Lakes than the representation of one drawn upon birch bark, an accurate engraving of which is given on the next page. The fish here reproduced, be it understood, is a genuine specimen of the speckled brook trout, or, to put it scientifically, of the *Salmo fontinalis*, and weighed *eight and a half pounds* when taken from the water by its captor, R. G. Allerton, of New York City. It had all the recognized peculiarities of brook trout,—the square tail, small head, mouth black inside (instead of white, as is the case with lake trout), and finally the bright vermilion spots which distinguish brook trout from all other species. This particular fish was captured June 5, 1869, in Lake Mooselucmaguntic. It was taken on a trolling line after a contest lasting forty-nine minutes. When landed it was entirely uninjured, and several days after when killed it was laid upon a piece of birch bark, and its outline traced, and then filled in by an amateur artist. The engraving has been made from this original drawing, which is reduced nearly five-sixths,—or, in other words, the figure here given is a little over one-sixth life size. In length this trout measured 25 inches, and at the thickest part its girth was 17 inches. There is nothing like accuracy in a "fish story," and as this trout is by no means the largest which has been captured in the Rangeley Lakes, and is one of thousands of this species ranging

from half a pound to ten pounds which have been taken in these waters, it only remains to add that the legend this drawing bears—*hic jacet*—refers entirely to the fish whose obituary is here written, and not at all to the statements about his fellow-denizens of the Rangeley Lakes, some information about which it is the purpose of this paper to present.



HIC JACET.

Mooselucmaguntic, Molechunkemunk, Welokenebacook, Cupsuptuc, and Rangeley, are the names carried by the individual members of a group of lakes which are yet destined to be as familiar in the literature of the American sportsman as the salmon rivers of Canada or the trout streams of the Adirondacks. These lakes lie in the western part of Maine, near the New Hampshire boundary line. The White Mountains are some thirty miles distant, a little to the west of south, and Moosehead Lake is about sixty or seventy miles to the north-east. It may be absolute incredulity as to the fish stories which are told of these lakes,—it is hard for one who has not seen a speckled trout weighing ten, eight, or even six pounds, to have faith in the existence of a fish of this size and species,—or it may be despair of defining his destination when the sportsman reads the unpronounceable names which these lakes bear; but whatever the cause, the number of visitors to this region has thus far been comparatively small.

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In comparison with the unpronounceable Indian names which the contiguous lakes bear, that of Rangeley appears singularly commonplace and civilized, but formerly it was quite as well off as its neighbors. Originally it was known as Oquossoc Lake, but about fifty years ago a wealthy English squire, Rangeley by name, having wearied of the civilized tameness of his Virginia estate, decided to settle in this northern wilderness. He cleared a broad tract at the outlet of Rangeley Lake, built a dam across the stream, erected extensive saw and grist mills, and expended large sums of money in other improvements. . . .

p. 438.

The Richardson Lakes— Welokenebacook and Molechunkemunk, with Umbagog, forming the lower lakes in the great chain whence the Androscoggin River derives its mighty power—have for the last thirty or forty years been frequented by a score or more of Boston and New York gentlemen. These sportsmen

were invariably found at “Rich’s,” “Middle Dam,” Mosquito Brook, or the “Upper Dam.” Hundreds of spotted beauties, weighing from two to eight pounds, were captured by these anglers year after year, but they wisely kept their own counsel, and if an item occasionally found its way into the New York or Boston papers chronicling the arrival of a six or eight pound speckled trout, those who claimed to be best informed dismissed the paragraph with a sneer at the ignorance of editors who did not know the difference between brook trout and “lakers.” . . .

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. . . One of its members, Mr. George Shepard Page, of New York City, was so delighted with his experience upon this trip that in 1863 he made a second journey by the same route. He returned from this trip, bringing with him eight brook trout weighing respectively $8\frac{3}{8}$, $8\frac{1}{4}$, $7\frac{1}{4}$, $6\frac{1}{2}$, 6, $5\frac{1}{2}$, 5—total $51\frac{7}{8}$ lbs., or an average of nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. each. William Cullen Bryant, Henry J. Raymond and George Wilkes were presented with the three largest, and made acknowledgments duly in the “Evening Post,” the “New York Times,” and the “Spirit of the Times.” Then there broke out an excitement among anglers altogether without precedent. Scores of letters were sent to the papers which had presumed to call these brook trout,—some of them interrogative, others denunciatory, others theoretical, and others flatly contradictory. The Adirondacks had never yielded a brook trout which weighed more than 5 lbs., and that, therefore, must be the standard of brook trout the world over. But Mr. Page had foreseen the violent scepticism which was sure to manifest itself, and had sent a seven-pounder to Professor Agassiz, who speedily replied that these monster trout were genuine specimens of the speckled or brook trout family, and that they were only found in large numbers in the lakes and streams at the head waters of the Androscoggin River, in North-western Maine. In 1864, several New York gentlemen visited Rangeley, among the number Messrs. Lewis B. Reed, R. G. Allerton, and L. T. Lazell. Upon their return, they fully corroborated the report made by Mr. Page the year previous, and brought back with them several trout which weighed from three to eight pounds. In 1867, Mr. Page again visited Rangeley in company with Mr. Stanley, and ten days’ fishing by these two gentlemen and Mr. Fields, of Gorham, N. H., showed these extraordinary results:

[A list of 59 trout, totaling 293 lbs. in weight, including the following five:

$8\frac{1}{4}$, $8\frac{1}{2}$, $8\frac{3}{4}$, $9\frac{1}{2}$, and 10 lbs.]

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As the sun was sinking behind the hills, close under which we were fishing, it threw their long shadows far out on the lake, while the waters on the eastern shore were still bright with the golden light of the gentle June evening. In the distance; — we descried three specks upon the water, which gradually grew in size as they steadily approached us, until we made out three batteaux laden with the “river-drivers,” who were returning from their perilous and tedious journey down the Androscoggin with the great log-rafts, —the results of the previous winter’s lumbering. The first sound which disturbed the Sabbath-like stillness of the lake, as the batteaux came nearer, was the steady thump, thump, thump of the sweeps in the rowlocks. Then we heard the sound of voices, but at first too indistinctly to determine whether it was the echo of boisterous talk, or some river-driver’s song, with which the oarsmen were keeping time. But soon the sounds, as they became linked together, grew into that grand old tune “Coronation,” and the words:

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name!”

came to us over the peaceful waters, sung with all the strength, steadiness, and fervor which might be expected in a congregation of religious worshipers. Nothing could have been in more perfect harmony with the scene, and yet nothing could have been a greater surprise than to hear this tune, and the words with which it is so inseparably connected coming with such zest from the throats of men who have gained an undeserved reputation for roughness, not to say profanity, of speech.

. . . In October, 1867, Mr. Page transported two live trout—one a male weighing ten pounds, the other a female weighing eight and a half—from Rangeley to his home in Stanley, N. J., a distance of nearly five hundred miles. An oblong box of forty gallons' capacity, lined with sponge which was covered with muslin, and having an air pump attached so as to make constant renewal of the air easy, had been carefully prepared. This box was carried from the head of Rangeley on a spring wagon to Farmington, a distance of thirty-five miles, and thence by railroad to its destination in New Jersey. Three days were occupied in the journey, but by unremitting care night and day the magnificent fish, both alive, were deposited in the pond at Stanley. Unfortunately, the weather was unusually warm for the season of the year. The temperature of the pond could not be reduced below 65°, and the larger of the two trout lived only eight hours. The female survived six days longer. Thus the attempt to propagate Rangeley trout in New Jersey by natural means failed. The larger of these trout was unfortunately not weighed when first captured, but when dead balanced the steelyards at precisely ten pounds. It is a well-known fact that all fish lose in weight after capture, and Professor Spencer F. Baird and Professor Agassiz both gave it as their opinion that when taken this trout weighed at least **eleven and a half pounds**. He measured **30 inches in length and 18 inches in circumference**. His tail spread 8 inches and his jaws 6½ inches. He was mounted by one of the most skillful taxidermists in the country, Mr. Dickinson, of Chatham, N. J., and has since occupied a prominent place in the private office of Mr. Page at 10 Warren street, New York. This is admitted to be the largest authenticated brook trout on record since the time of Izaak Walton, and as such it well deserved the place of honor which was assigned it in the department of Fish and Fisheries in the Centennial Exhibition.

The Sportsman's Gazeteer and General Guide, by Charles Hallock. 1877.

Game Fish of North America.

Northern Inland Fishes.

THE SALMONIDÆ.

COMMON SPECKLED TROUT, OR BROOK TROUT.—*Salmo fontinalis*.—Mitch.

Symmetrical oblong body; back broad, with dark markings on horn-colored ground, with metallic bluish and greenish reflections in fresh specimens; sides lighter, merging into white on abdomen which shows reddish in spawning season. Upper part of head dark greenish brown, with somewhat obscure mottlings; red vermilion dots and large yellow spots in vicinity of lateral line. The pectoral or breast fins have the first ray yellow or the second black, the rest orange. The caudal or tail fin is slightly forked in the adult, more so in the young, is reddish with parallel dark bands.

The range of this well known and much valued fish, is strictly between the parallels of latitude 50° north and 36° south, though it has been taken in abundance in Labrador, in latitude 54°, and in the Appalachian mountain ranges as far south as the northern border of Georgia and South Carolina. Its northwestern limit is northern Minnesota, and it is not caught west of the Mississippi River except in a few of its Minnesota tributaries. Specimens have been taken that weighed **seventeen pounds**. The largest are found in Maine and in the **Nepigon River**, on the north shore of Lake Superior, where the specimen referred to was caught. It inhabits large lakes and the smallest ponds, the tiniest brooks and the largest rivers. [*Vide* Nepigon, which has a length of forty-five miles and a depth, in places, of one hundred and fifty feet or more.] Although a bold biter, it is a wary fish, and often requires much skill to capture it. It can be caught with artificial or natural flies, minnows, crickets, grasshoppers, grubs, the spawn of other fishes, or even the eyes or cut pieces of other trout.

Forest and Stream & Rod and Gun, The American Sportsman's Journal, A Journal of Field and Aquatic Sports, Angling, Shooting, the Kennel, Practical Natural History, Fish Culture, Portection of Game, and the Inculcation in Men and Women of a Healthy Interest in Outdoor Recreation and Study.
Vol. XV. October 28, 1880. "Sea and River Fishing." Page 247.

AN ELEVEN-POUND TROUT—*Bethel, Maine, Oct. 1.*—The close season for trout is now upon us, and hundreds of sportsmen are now returning to their homes from the Oxford County lakes. The catch of large brook trout has been very fair, and in most cases satisfactory; although some parties have been disappointed, yet others have carried home many beautiful specimens of the largest *Salmo fontinalis* in the world. The largest specimen known to be caught and weighed was carried home by a Mr. Marble, of Boston; weight, eleven pounds. Many more of the weight of ten, nine, eight and less pounds were taken at upper dam, foot of Mooslamaguntic. Trout of the largest size could, and can now, be seen readily by any one on and near their spawning grounds, but they charily rise to a fly. The most of those taken are baited with spawn, although many parties will not deviate from the more sportsman-like way of fly, hook and delicate rigging. Game of larger and smaller kinds abound in these regions, and the mountains are gorgeous in fall foliage, forming a fitting tableau to the closing up of the enjoyments of a successful season. J. G. RICH.

Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission. Vol. II, for 1882. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1883.

p. 9.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS OF HERR VOIV BEHR, CONCERNING
SALVELINUS FOMINALIS AND SALMO IRIDEA.

By LIVINGSTON STONE.

I.—BROOK TROUT (*Salvelinus fontinalis*).

II.—CALIFORNIA TROUT (*Salmo iridea*).

1. —We always hear now that *Salmo fontinalis* is rather a *Salvelinus* (and there is no doubt about it), but don't you have our *Trutta fario*? You use the words *Salmo fontinalis* and brook trout as synonymous, while formerly we thought brook trout to be our *Trutta fario*!

A. It is true that the New England brook trout, sometimes called the American brook trout and commonly known by the name of *Salmo fontinalis*, is properly a *Salvelinus* (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), but the *Trutta fario* of Great Britain and the continent of Europe does not exist and has never existed in America. The common brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) of New England and other States of the Atlantic slope is not the common brook trout of Europe (*Trutta fario*).

My following questions are meant about *Salmo fontinalis* (*Salvelinus*):

2. —How heavy do they get?

A.—The *Salvelinus fontinalis* or common brook trout of the Atlantic slope varies very much in size and weight. Those found in high altitudes in the very small and usually cold rivulets that form the headwaters of the streams are the smallest, and often are of such diminutive size that they will not average over two or three ounces each. The larger and somewhat warmer brooks lower down, that are formed by the confluence of these little rivulets, furnish the next larger size of *fontinalis*, and so on till we come to the streams emptying into the ocean or the Great Lakes, where we find the largest of the species.

Brook trout were thought to attain the weight of 9 or 10 pounds until the famous 10-pound trout caught by Mr. George Sheppard Page in the Rangely Lakes was declared to be *Salmo oquassa*, since which time the reputed maximum weight of *fontinalis* has had to fall a little, though I still think it possible for

fontinalis to attain a weight, under the most favorable circumstances, of 7 or 8 pounds; but Atlantic brook trout of 3 or 4 pounds are now getting extremely rare even in tidal streams, and in the brooks farther in the interior a pound or three-quarters of a pound is considered a good weight for *fontinalis*.

3. —Are they living in the same water with *Trutta fario* or *Salmo iridea*?

A.—*Salvelinus fontinalis* has never been found naturally living together with *Trutta fario* or *Salmo iridea*. But since the introduction by human agency of *fontinalis* in Great Britain, *fontinalis* has occupied the same waters with *Trutta fario*, and since the California brook trout have been brought to the Atlantic slope and Atlantic brook trout have been carried to the Pacific slope these two latter varieties (*Salvelinus fontinalis et Salmo iridea*) have lived together in the same waters.

4. —What time are *Salmo fontinalis* caught by angling?

A.—*Salvelinus fontinalis* can be caught by angling in the latitude of New York City from about the 1st of April to about the 1st of October, though I believe the close season begins somewhat before October 1. Before about the 1st of April the water is usually so cold that the trout do not feel much like biting, and after the 1st of October the spawning season is so near that they do not care then much about bait or any food. As one goes farther north the season for angling begins later and ends earlier. Trout are not found much south of the latitude of New York City, except at high levels.

5. —With what fly or bait?

A.—Trout fishing in this country is done mostly with artificial flies. The different varieties of flies used are innumerable. Those which are considered the most effective, taking the season through, are perhaps the “Professor,” “Montreal,” “Jenny Lind,” “Coachman,” “Black Gnat,” and “Cowdung.” When bait is used the common angle worm is the favorite lure for trout, but grasshoppers, various flies and insects, and particularly the grub worm, are used at different seasons and in various localities with good results. Salmon spawn also makes a good bait when it can be procured.

6. —Do they spawn also in lakes like other *Salvelinus*, or only in rivulets like *Trutta fario*? What months?

A.—Atlantic coast trout, like *Trutta fario*, spawn almost exclusively in brooks and rivulets, and manifest a strong impulse to ascend the streams to a considerable distance. When, however, they cannot do better, they will, like other charrs, spawn on the shores of lakes, always seeking either a springy spot or a clean gravelly one, or both. Their spawning months vary very much, probably according to the temperature of the water. At the Cold Spring trout ponds, at Charlestown, N. H., the trout almost invariably begin to spawn the second week in October, and end before Christmas. Farther north in ordinary brooks they spawn earlier. Farther south they spawn somewhat later, and in ponds or streams which are fed by springs large enough to keep the water of very even temperature through the cold months, the trout spawn from the 1st of November till some time in April.

7. —Are they thought good for pond culture?

A.—In America, *Salvelinus fontinalis* takes the first rank as a fish to be cultivated in ponds, provided the ponds are fed by springs or cold running water. Ponds not possessing these qualities are unsuitable for brook trout.

8. —There seem to be different kinds of *Salmo fontinalis* in United States, for when some time ago I received a box of eggs, which were first cabled as *lake trout*, but afterwards declared by you to be *brook trout* (*Salmo fontinalis*), you especially remarked that these *Salmo fontinalis* eggs were of a special excellent variety, and my German breeders observe that these eggs are so very large that they indeed had believed them to be lake-trout eggs.

A.—There is, properly speaking, but one kind of *Salvelinus fontinalis*, but they vary very much in quality. For example, the small fish of the small, high rivulets, though very sweet and delicious when

cooked, are not nearly as handsome and plump and tempting in looks as the trout lower down, say in the Cape Cod and Long Island streams. Neither do they ever grow as large, neither are their eggs as large. As to the eggs, I think I may venture the assertion that the size of the eggs of the largest breed of brook trout are fully twice as large as those of the fish of mountain rivulets.

9. —Of what State and lake were these? So I dare say you have different kinds of *Salmo fontinalis*. Is this the case? I bought, for some years, eggs of Mr. Annin and of the Charlestown Cold Spring trout ponds. Were these probably of the same kind as those you presented to me a short time ago?

A.—The eggs sent to Germany, and first by mistake called lake trout, were true "*fontinalis*." They were from Mr. Clarke's ponds in Michigan. They were eggs of the same variety of fish (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) as those received from Mr. Annin and from the Cold Spring trout ponds at Charlestown, N. H.; but Mr. Clarke's eggs were from exceptionally fine fish.

10. —You observed that you had a *Salmo iridea* hatching-house in one of your Eastern States. Do the *Salmo iridea* spawn there at the same time as in California—in the spring? Which months are the spawning time in California (McCloud River), and which in the Eastern States hatching-house?

A.—In the McCloud River they spawn from about the middle of January to the middle of May; but so varied in elevation, latitude, and temperature is the State of California that *iridea*, I have been informed, is spawning somewhere in the State every month in the year.

It is unquestionably true that the spawning season of *Salmo iridea* depends on the climate, that expression being understood to include all climatic influences of every kind.

Salmo iridea spawns in the McCloud River, as has been mentioned, from the middle of January to the middle of May. In the eastern hatching-houses the same fish spawns in March, April, and May.

11. —Does this *Salmo iridea* keep, in ponds, its stronger appetite and greater vitality they speak so much of in California!

I read in the small book "Fish Hatching, Fish Catching," that they are more vigorous in every way than the Eastern trout, but are not as handsome, have no carmine specks, but will live well in captivity and grow rapidly.

A.—*Salmo iridea* retains its capacity for eating voraciously when confined in ponds, and when confined seems to keep up its well-deserved reputation for having a hardy and vigorous organization, though I should hardly want to admit that *iridea* possesses any greater vitality than *fontinalis*. I agree entirely with your quotation from "Fish Hatching and Fish Catching," that they are more vigorous in every way than the eastern trout, but are not as handsome, have no carmine specks, but will live well in captivity and grow rapidly, except that I should want to substitute the word "hardy" for "vigorous." It does not seem to me that the California brook trout are more vigorous than the Atlantic brook trout, but they are undoubtedly more hardy.

Mr. von dem Borne desires me to ask the following question:

12. —What kind of places do those four above-mentioned fishes select for spawning; running or still water, on plants, on stones, or gravelly or sandy or muddy bottom; in deep or shallow water?

A.—In reply to Herr Borne's inquiry, allow me to say that *Salvelinus fontinalis* and *Salmo iridea* always seek clear, running water and a gravelly bed where they may deposit their eggs.

13. —Is there only but one California trout, or is the trout of McCloud River the true rainbow trout, and has California another mountain trout?

A.—There is but one California trout which has been introduced into the Atlantic States, and, indeed, but one that has been much cultivated. This is *Salmo iridea*, or the "rainbow trout," or the "California mountain trout," or "McCloud River trout," these four names last given being synonymous. Whenever

any one hears anything about *Salmo iridea*, or “rainbow trout,” or “California mountain trout,” or “McCloud River trout,” he may know that the same fish is always meant under all these different names. California has several other mountain trout, but they are not yet generally known or much cultivated.

14. —Which one do you intend to send us?

A.—Consequently the California trout which Professor Baird intends to send to Germany is the fish (*Salmo iridea*) just mentioned.

15. —What month does it spawn? Californian *Salmo quinnat* spawns at home much earlier than our *Salmo salar*, but I might suppose that this entirely depends on the climate, because the California salmon which our Mr. Schuester raised in his tanks up to spawning time did not spawn in the California time, but in our *Salmo salar* time (November), or very near so.

A.—This question has already been answered under 10, which see.

Sport with Gun and Rod in American Woods and Waters, edited by Alfred M. Mayer, Professor in the Stevens Institute of Technology. New York. The Century Co. 1883.

p. 605.

RELATION BETWEEN THE WEIGHT AND LENGTH OF BROOK-TROUT.

By W. Hodgson Ellis.

Two summers ago I formed one of a little party of anglers who spent the first three weeks of July and the first week of August on the north shore of Lake Superior. While there we made a number of careful observations of the weight and length of the trout we caught. The result of these observations I have collected in a table, showing the average weight corresponding to each inch in length from thirteen to twenty-three inches, the number of observations from which each average was determined, and also the corresponding weights calculated on the assumption that the weight varies as the cube of the length.

Two conclusions may be drawn from these observations: First, that under similar conditions all trout have the same shape. Secondly, that they grow symmetrically; that is, a five pounder is the same shape as a pounder. It is unnecessary to add that these conclusions can only be true under similar conditions. We cannot compare well-fed trout with half-starved ones, nor trout full of spawn with those not in that condition. Nor have we any right to suppose that figures deduced from observation on Lake Superior trout will apply to those caught elsewhere.

The growth of a trout takes place in three dimensions—length, breadth, and thickness; and if the growth is symmetrical, each of these dimensions will increase in the same proportion. Thus, if one fish is twice as long as another, he will also be twice as thick and twice as deep. He will, therefore, be eight times as heavy. In other words, the weight varies as the cube of the length.

If, then, we divide the cube of the length of a trout by the cube of the length of a pound trout, we shall, if the trout grows symmetrically, obtain the weight of that trout in pounds.

We see by the table that the length of a pound trout is thirteen inches, but as this number is only founded on one observation, it will not do to base our calculations upon it.

We can, however, from the length of a four-pound, three-and-a half-pound, three-pound, and two-and-a-half pound trout, calculate what the length of a pound trout ought to be. We find that the numbers obtained from all these four starting points agree exactly; and hence we obtain the number 13.17 inches as the length of a pound trout. The cube of 13.17 is 2286; and hence, if w =the weight in pounds, and l —the length in inches, of any trout:

$$w = l^3 / 2286$$

The correspondence between the numbers calculated by this method and those found by observation is rendered still more striking, if we express them graphically, by representing the length on a horizontal scale, and drawing at each inch a perpendicular proportion to the weight. * * *

The result will be a regular curve, almost coincident with that obtained from the formula given above.

Our trout were almost all caught in the lake, off rocky points, and at the mouths of small streams. They were in excellent condition. The average weight of our whole catch was two and a half pounds.

[graph]

Curve showing the relation between the length and weight of brook-trout. The continuous heavy line represents the results of observation. The dotted line shows where the theoretical curve differs from that obtained by observation.

The foregoing article by Mr. W. Hodgson Ellis, of the School of Practical Science, Toronto, Canada, is here reprinted by permission of the author and the editor of "The American Angler," in which journal it was first published.

...

It appears that the Lake Superior trout are stouter than those of the Maine waters above named, for I have found from many measures that a Maine brook-trout of one pound weight measures exactly fourteen inches from tip of nose to middle of end of caudle fin. Mr. Ellis gives 13.17 inches for the length of a pound trout. In applying his formula to the trout of Maine, it should read:

$$w = l^3 / 2744. *$$

...

* This law will not hold good for Maine trout over five or six pounds in weight, for after they have reached that weight they do not grow symmetrically, but become obese. In a letter from Mr. Ellis, referring to the trout whose weight and length are given in the above table, he says: "Our trout were beautiful, symmetrical fellows, and in capital condition."

A BIG SALMON TROUT.

From the Montreal (Canada) Witness, June 26.

Lately Capt. W. H. McLeod, who is running one of the fishing boats belonging to Mr. D. McLeod, an extensive fish-dealer in Southampton, caught an immense salmon trout weighing 80 pounds, measuring from the point of its nose to the end of its tail 5 feet 2 inches, and around the thickest part of its body 84 inches. The head was 10 inches in length, and the width of the tail, from point to point, was 12 inches. This is the largest fish of that species ever caught in that section. The monster was packed in ice and consigned to Mr. Furey, of Woodstock, where it is now held for exhibition.

The New York Times

Published: June 28, 1884

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The American Angler — A Weekly Journal of Angling . . ., edited by William Charles Harris, Vol. XV, 1889, p. 257.

A LONG ISLAND TROUT—THIRTEEN POUNDS EIGHT OUNCES.

While going through *Nile's Weekly Register* some time since I found in Vol. 20, p. 304, under date of July 7, 1821, an account of the capturing of a trout on Long Island of such mammoth size that it deserves a place well up toward the head of the list of big fish of its kind. The account is as follows:

“Mammoth Trout.—At Fireplace, Long Island, about seventy miles from New York, Mr. Samuel Carman, Jr., on the 25th ult., caught at the tail of his saw mill a trout three feet in length and seventeen inches round the girth, and weighing thirteen pounds eight ounces. It was kept alive in a pen several days for the gratification of the curious, the largest trout ever caught before in the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants never having exceeded five pounds in weight—seldom being more than two and a half pounds.”

D. D. Banta.

Franklin, Ind., April 12.

Pen and Sunlight Sketches of Scenery Reached by The Grand Trunk Railway and Connections Including Niagara Falls, Thousand Islands, Rapids of the Saint Lawrence, Montreal, Quebec, and the Mountains of New England. Compliments Passenger Department, The Grand Trunk Railway Company. 1890.

“The Rangeley Lakes, The Fishing and Hunting Resort of the American Continent.” Pages 83-91.

p. 85.

. . . While it is not to be expected that all who cast a fly in these delightful waters are sure to land a ten-pound brook trout, the following extracts from authenticated records of brook trout killed by rod and line in these waters are quoted:—

At Upper Dam, Messrs. N. Frank Marble and Frank Fallon, of Boston, on the 29th of September, 1880, killed with rod and line, a spotted brook trout that weighed exactly **eleven pounds**. This fish was **twenty-seven and one-quarter inches in length**, depth eight inches, width three inches. It was sent on the same day to Bradford & Anthony, of Boston, for exhibition, was afterwards purchased and presented to Prof. Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., and there cast in plaster. This particular trout was seen some ten days before he was captured, and his mate, a female, was taken about a week before him, weighing eight and one-half pounds. A life-like oil painting of this fish, the property of Captain Chas. A. J. Farrar, was on exhibition last season at the Chicago City Office of the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway, 103 South Clark Street, and was seen and admired by many.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Sunday, December 15, 1895, p. 8.

DANIEL WEBSTER'S BIG TROUT,

It Weighed Fourteen Pounds and Was
Caught on Long Island.

HIS TRIPS TO CARMAN'S RIVER

Autograph Letters of the Great Jurist
Produced in a Law Suit at Riverhead,
Showing That He Did What He Could
for His Old Friend, Samuel Carman, in
a Dispute With the Long Island Rail-
road.

. . . .
Fire Place, to which Webster refers in his letter, is now known as South Haven and sometimes by the old name of Carman's river. It lies on the west side of the river, about two miles from its mouth, and has now, as it had in 1845, an inviting, quiet, homelike air about it. It was at a spot near there that the Suffolk club built its handsome club house, after having secured the privilege of fishing in the stream from Uncle Sam Carman as he was familiarly known. It was a celebrated fishing spot and lovers of the sport from all parts of the country came there to fish. His guests included the fine men of the country in those days. Uncle Sam is described as a most sociable Boniface, and he was Uncle Sam to everybody. His wife as a jolly woman, too, and any visitor was made to feel right at home at the Carman homestead.

Uncle Sam and Webster were great friends, and Webster came there to fish for twenty years or more. The company always had plenty of brandy, and, together with lots of tobacco, the evenings were spent around the old fashioned fireplace of Uncle Sam's house in a jolly, sociable manner. The old Carman homestead still stands in a well preserved condition. It is occupied by Henry W. Carman, Sam's son, and Nathaniel Miller's wife of Brookhaven is a daughter of Uncle Sam Carman. Uncle Sam was a miller, which, in those days; made him very popular, for people came to his mill from miles around. It was a grist mill and he did a thriving business. His sons now run the mill, which has been in operation for more than 120 years.

. . . .
The largest trout ever caught on Long Island was caught in Carman's river. It weighed fourteen

pounds, and when the news of the wonderful catch reached Daniel Webster he went down with a party of friends and paid \$100 for the trout, which was served at a big dinner given to Webster's friends in New York city. Some of those who accompanied Webster on this fishing trip to Uncle Sam Carman's were Attorney General Hoffman, Philo T. Ruggles, the celebrated lawyer; Chief Justice Thomas J. Oakley, Judge William S. Rockwell, George P. Barker, David Graham, Henry A. Cram, James A. Gerard and John J. Crittenden, senator from Kentucky.

Before Mr. Carman parted with the big trout a facsimile of it was sawed out of an inch board, and this Mr. Carman had rigged up as a weather vane for his barn, and it is still doing duty to show the way the wind blows at the Carman homestead.

. . . .

Reminiscences of New York by an Octogenarian (1816 to 1860) by Charles Haynes Haswell, published 1896, p. 124.

1821

June 24 there was caught at the tail of the dam at Fire Place, L. I. (Carman's), by Mr. Samuel Carman, a trout or a salmon—it was never decided which it was—that measured three feet in length, seventeen inches around, and weighed thirteen pounds eight ounces.

Second Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries, Game, and Forest of the State of New York, Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co. Printers. New York and Albany. 1897.

“Concerning Brook Trout And Conditions Favorable to their Propagation.” (Chapter begins on p. 192.)
p. 193

To show what may be done in the way of stocking a pond intelligently with trout fry, an illustration of five trout accompanies this article. Mr. W. C. Witherbee, of Port Henry, obtained 5,000 brook trout fry from the State and planted them in a small pond in Essex County. The pond had once contained trout, but was so thoroughly fished out that no one thought of fishing it at the time. It contained an abundance of fish food, with a fine inlet stream, spring fed, and an ample supply of water. In fact, all the conditions were favorable, as the result shows. The fry were planted and allowed to grow for several years and the pond was not fished for there was no boat on it, and it was not generally known that it was restocked. Mr. and Mrs. Witherbee, concluding that the pond had had time to recuperate, went there for a day's fishing and caught the five trout reproduced from a photograph in the illustration, the weights being four and one-half, four, four, four, and three and three-quarters pounds respectively, or a total for the five trout of twenty and one-quarter pounds. The pond was, of course, public water, and at once it was fished without ceasing. **One trout of over eleven pounds was taken from it, taken, too, without regard to the ethics of fair angling; and it is more than suspected that even a larger trout was taken from the inlet stream at the spawning season, a trout of thirteen pounds and three ounces.** Here are other conditions to be considered. After a pond is stocked with fish, and well stocked, water, food and temperature, all being suitable, what rules can be enforced to insure that the pond will be fished with moderation in season and not at all out of season? But that is a matter for the law makers, game protectors and the consciences of the anglers, rather than for the fish breeder; therefore, let us consider a little further the question of temperature of water suitable for trout. Waters that already contain trout that do well in them can be planted, as the fact that trout thrive in them is prima facie evidence that the waters are suitable for the fish. In extending the range of trout, or in planting streams that have been fished out, and in which the conditions may have changed, it is safe to plant in waters that never exceed a summer

temperature of seventy degrees Fahrenheit. Rainbow and brown trout will thrive in waters of higher temperature than are suitable for brook trout, and brook trout will live in well aerated water above seventy degrees; at the same time water of seventy and five-tenths degrees has killed both brook and brown trout, probably because it lacked vigor, which comes from force and aeration. Trout grow little, if any, when in water below forty degrees, and to be at their best they must have, during a portion of the year, water that ranges from sixty-two degrees to seventy degrees, as this temperature hatches the insect life, which constitutes a large part of the food of trout. While food is all important, trout must have room, also, in which to grow. It is self evident that if trout are planted in numbers to exhaust the food supply, they will not thrive; but aside from that trout must have space to be at their best, for it has been demonstrated that a given number of trout in a certain number of cubic feet of water will do better than the same number of trout in half the quantity of water, both lots of trout being fed the same amount of food.

Field and Stream, Eighth Year, No. 9, January 1904.

p. 744.

SOME BIG FISHES

...

A trout weighing eight and one-half pounds was caught on a trolling line in one of the ponds of the North Woods Club in the Adirondacks, and shown to the late Commissioner A. N. Cheney, who pronounced it the heaviest ever taken in New York. Of course there could have been no error in his identification of it as a true type of the *Salmo fontinalis*. But since then Mr. E. W. Townsend, of New York City, captured a trout at Mill Creek, L. I., which weighed nine and three-quarter pounds,—that, however, might have been a tame trout. I cap the climax of brook trout weights with the surprising report from Mr. A. B. F. Kinney, of Worcester, Mass., who writes that there is on exhibition in that city a wild, unfed trout which **weighed fifteen and one-quarter pounds** when taken from a Maine pond. He clinches the account by saying that the fish was as perfect in form and color as any small **brook trout** he ever saw.

Mr. Walter Langley, of Ashcroft, B. C., claims credit for a rainbow trout thirty-seven and one-half inches in length, twenty inches in girth and weighing twenty-two and one-quarter pounds. Mr. George W. Hall landed near Eagle Island, Lake Winnepisiogee, a land-locked salmon weighing eighteen pounds. A salmon of thirty-four and one-half pounds' weight, three and one-half feet long, eleven inches deep and six inches thick was taken from his weirs between Verona and Buckport, Me., by Richard A. Whitmore. A Cape salmon five feet and one inch in length and weighing sixty-five pounds, caught in Algoa Bay, by Dr. Bateman, was placed on exhibition at the British Sea Anglers' Society. The rapid growth of the salmon family during their stay in the sea is in some instances very remarkable. A specimen of three pounds' weight marked and released July 8, 1901, was retaken a year later and weighed six pounds. A thirteen-pound salmon marked in January, 1901, weighed when recaptured in July, 1902, twenty-one pounds. A more extraordinary addition to weight distinguished a male salmon of nineteen pounds, marked February 24, and found to weigh thirty-three pounds on March 26 following—a gain of fourteen pounds in one month and two days. A naval certificate attests this seemingly incredible growth.

Forest and Stream, A Journal of Outdoor Life, Travel, Nature Study, Shooting, Fishing, Yachting, Vol. LXVI, No. 25, Saturday, June 23, 1906.

“Sea and River Fishing.” (Section begins on p. 997.)

p. 999.

The Webster Trout.

The thriving little city of Patchogue out on Long Island is the center of a trout district that before the day of private preserves could not be beaten either for big fish or ease in getting at them. Even now sport can be had there if one knows where to go. Almost every male in the town is a trout fisherman, but the chief by common consent is Judge A. H. Carman, president of the Carman River Fishing Club. The Judge can tell a good story well, as witness the following:

“This region was the favorite fishing ground of Daniel Webster. He would begin at the bay and fish our streams back to their source in the middle of the island, ten or twelve miles. Henry Clay sometimes fished with him. There was a big trout in Carman's River they could never get to take the hook; neither could any one else, though scores had seen him. and according to the stories told he was as big as a small whale.

“One hot June day, when all the townspeople were at church and the minister had just got to his sixthly, Carman'a little nigger boy rushed in, mouth open, eyes bulging, one hand holding up his baggy trousers, and yelling, 'The big trout is in the hole! The big trout is in the hole!' All knew what hole was meant. It was a spring under a big willow tree, where Carman's dairy house had once stood, and sent a little brook into the river. So every man and boy in the house was on his feet in an instant.

“Hold on, brethren,' shouted the parson, who was a fisherman himself, 'let's all have a fair start.' Then they made a rush across the fields for the old spring hole, the women and girls tagging after. Arrived there, their first thought was to stop up the entrance, then they got out Carman's old menhaden seine that hadn't seen the water in ten years and was full of holes, and wrapped it round and round the sides and bottom of the hole, while the big trout made the water boil as an accompaniment.

“At last, having him hard and fast, they went back and completed their devotions. Next day some one sent a telegram to Webster, and he sent back a check of ten dollars for the trout, and ordered him held alive until he arrived. He came as soon as the stage coach could bring him, and in his presence the trout was taken out, laid on a broad oak plank and his outline carefully drawn with chalk. From this a weather vane was cut out and swung on Sam Carman's mill for years, or until a West India cyclone came up the coast and split it so it fell. It is still in existence, however, and you will find it in the shop of Nathaniel Miller, one of our oldest residents.

“Webster took the trout to New York, invited in all his friends and made a grand banquet of it in the Astor House, where he always stopped when in the city. The feast was held in the northeast room, second floor, the Vesey street and Broadway corner.

“There is a boy at Artist Lake, where I some times go fishing for black bass,” continued the Judge, “who will be a millionaire if he lives. It is a pretty little sheet of water several miles cast of Ronkonkoma, and I usually have better luck there than at the larger and better known lake. One day when I was going up I wrote to this boy in advance and told him to have all the small frogs he could get at the lake on a certain day. He demanded two cents apiece, which I agreed to pay. Well, we got there, and there was my boy with a dry-goods box full of frogs, and a cheese cloth over them to keep them from hopping out. He had enlisted all the small boys and scoured the country for miles around. It cost me five dollars to settle the bill.” C. B. T.

The American Angler, Vol. III, No. 12, April 1919.

p. 664.

HISTORIC LONG ISLAND BROOK TROUT

By Virginius

LONG ISLAND has been, and to a somewhat lesser degree is today, the “happy hunting ground” for sportsmen of New York and other nearby cities. Anglers of the old school, who are fortunate enough to belong to one of the many fishing clubs on the Island, count the day as lost when the first Saturday in April is not spent whipping the Long Island trout pond of their selection.

In the palmy days of “Frank Forester” there were a number of very well-known fishing stations on the Island, notably. Stump Pond, near Smithtown; Lif Snedecer's at Islip, and Sam Carman's at Fireplace. Sportsmen from all parts of the country visited these famous places to enjoy the superlative sport afforded by what I still consider the finest brook trout in the world. These fish were sufficiently numerous to assure one of a fine day's angling, but not so plentiful as to make one's pastime tedious. You know there are places today where brook trout are so thick that it is tiresome to catch them.

The size of the old Long Island trout left nothing to be desired. Frank Forester says of Carman's River: “In this stream two pounds is a very common size; perhaps fish are as frequently taken of this weight as under it, and upwards to four pounds.” The dozen brook trout which I took last summer on Long Island averaged one and a half pounds, so even today these fish are splendid.

Long Island's largest brook trout—I almost said the world's largest—was caught at Carman's in 1827. In Carman's Pond an enormous trout lived and had its being. Unnumbered efforts had been made to capture this fish—sportsmen coming from far and near to make the attempt. All attempts to take this fish—which was known to the sporting world as “The Big Trout”—were fruitless. Finally Carman decided to trap it in the flume below the dam. The fish was driven into the flume, but succeeded in escaping to the pool below, where he took up his residence, and continued to ignore the remarkable attractions with which the anglers of the day tried to tempt him to his ruin.

One Saturday evening, in the year 1827, two distinguished looking sportsmen arrived on the Sag Harbor stage coach at Carman's. They, as usual, announced their intention of capturing the “Big Trout.” Their remarks excited no undue amount of interest, for they were about the same as several hundred other sportsmen had uttered on this subject. Sunday morning found these two gentlemen in their boat below the dam, and practically the whole population of Fireplace in the little church up the hill. Probably the only member of the neigh-

p. 665

borhood who was not in church was a ragged little colored boy who was snoozing in the sun on the platform of Carman's blacksmith shop. His peaceful reverie was rudely interrupted by an excited voice, shouting from below the dam: “We have 'The Big Trout!' We have 'The Big Trout!'” Dashing down to the waterside the youngster beheld the fish flopping in the bottom of the boat, and, realizing that every one in the vicinity was in church, he sped up the hill



THE WOODEN DUPLICATE OF CARMAN'S “BIG TROUT”

and dashed right into that holy house. "Dey'se caught de 'Big Trout!" he shouted. It grieves me to state that the congregation and the dominie rushed forth as though possessed of a thousand devils, and in less time than it takes to tell were clustered about the lucky sportsmen and their prize. The reverend clergyman, by the way, is said to have been the first to congratulate these gentlemen on their Sunday morning's achievement.

"The Big Trout" was laid out on a board in the blacksmith shop, and its outline traced; the board was then sawed out, and sent to a wood carver in Bond Street, New York, to be properly finished up. A picture of the fish was painted by one Nellie Stone of Morristown. The wooden effigy was used later as a weather-vane on the South Haven Presbyterian Church, and years later was given to the oldest living member of that church, Ellen C. Miller. Today the wooden duplicate of "The Big Trout" hangs over the doorway of Clinton Miller in Brookhaven. The Miller family also have the water color painting of the fish.

It is written on the wooden copy of "The Big Trout" that it weighed fourteen and one-quarter pounds. This fish is referred to by "Frank Forester," who mentions the wooden copy of it, and says that, in his opinion, it was a salmon. A glance at the watercolor at once dispels this theory. The trout, by the way, was not killed, but placed in a pen which was built for it in Carman's River. After keeping it here for some time it was sent to McCoomb's Dam, above New York City, where I hope it lived happily ever afterward.

The following is an interesting, and well authenticated instance of the enormous size which Long Island brook trout have attained: In the days before the Long Island Railroad was built, market wagons fitted with large tanks set out from New York along the route of the Sag Harbor stage—the South Country Road and, stopping at each trout pond, picked up the fish which were offered for sale by the owners of these ponds. The latter netted the trout, put them in tubs, and sold them by the pound to the market men. The weights of course were estimated, but the parties concerned were so expert in judging these, that little difficulty was experienced.

One Jehiel Woodruff of Bellport raised trout in a spring pond on the east side of Osborn's Brook. His fish are said to have reached the weight of eight pounds, in many instances. He presented a two-pound brook trout to his friend, Salem Corwin, who wanted to "keep a fish in his well. For seventeen years this trout lived in Corwin's well, until the owner decided to instal a pump. Not wishing to cover the well and leave the fish to its fate, he removed the fish and weighed it. The scales registered ten and one-quarter pounds. The trout was returned to Jehiel Woodruff's pond, where it was easy to see that it had lost its sight from the years of darkness.

***The American Angler*, Vol. IV, No. 1, May 1919, p. 481**

"The Big Trout of Carman's River"

THE article in the April number of *American Angler* about the "Big Trout of Carman's River" has been read with interest. Some years ago I tried to get at the facts of its capture and was told that the wooden outline of the trout had been lost, after acting for years as a weather vane, on the Brookhaven Church. According to the tale, as I learned it, down at Brookhaven, the big trout was left by the outgoing tide in a shallow spring hole and was not caught by fishing. The account of the rush of the congregation from the church agrees with what I heard, but Daniel Webster, who had frequently come down to Carman's River after trout, was notified of its capture and came down post haste and, purchasing it, returned with it to New York, where it was enjoyed at a banquet. Its weight was said to have been over fourteen pounds. It was spoken of as the "Daniel Webster trout."

Carman's Pond must have been the pond now controlled by the Suffolk Club, and the spring hole was just below the dam on the south side. As a member of the Carman's River Club for many years I was naturally

interested in the tradition of the capture of this big trout. My son took a three-pound speckled trout in the river on April 5, 1908, and I took one of two and three-quarter pounds on April 15, 1911. Both of these were taken with worms. I have taken trout up to two pounds in the river on the fly, but early in the season the “worm” was the favorite fly.

Robt. B. Lawrence.

United States Department of the Interior
Harold L. Ickes, Secretary

ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION OF BROOK TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT, WITH NOTES ON
THREE OTHER SPECIES.

Revised and enlarged by GLEN C. LEACH, *Chief, Division of Fish Culture*.
Appendix VI to the Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Fisheries for 1923.
Bureau of Fisheries Document No. 955.

Revised July 15, 1939

This document represents a revision and enlargement of the chapters on “The brook trout,” “The rainbow trout,” and “Minor trouts” from *A Manual of Fish Culture, Based on the Methods of the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries, with Chapters on the Cultivation of Oysters and Frogs*, revised edition, published in 1900.

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The brook trout or speckled trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) is one of the most beautiful, active, and widely distributed of the American trouts. It prefers clear, cold, rapid streams, and belongs to that group of trouts known as charrs, characterized by the presence of round crimson spots on the sides of the body. Other members of this class are the saibling or charr (*S. alpinus*) of Europe and (*S. stagnates*) of Greenland; the red charr (*S. Marstoni*) of eastern Canada; the Sunapee trout (*S. aureolm*) found in parts of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont; the blueback trout (*S. oquassa*) of the Rangeley Lakes in Maine, and Dolly Varden, red-spotted, or bull trout (*S. bairdii*) of the Pacific States and Alaska. The lake trout (*Cristivomer namaycush*) also belongs in this group.

The general form of the brook trout's body varies considerably, sometimes being elongated and sometimes rather short, but the usual depth is about one-fourth or one-fifth of the length. The head is large and blunt, and is contained four and one-half times in the body length. . . .

. . .

The brook trout exhibits such a variation in color under the varying conditions of sex, age, size, and locality, that it has been given many local names by fishermen under the impression that it was a distinct species. This variation is a protection provided by nature which permits the fish to change its color and markings rapidly when passing from one environment to another. The appearance of brook trout under various conditions of environment may be described, in general, as follows:

Slender, light-colored, and silvery in lakes, ponds, and swift streams that are clear and sandy, or in parts of other bodies of water where such conditions obtain. Stout and dark-colored in lakes or ponds or localities of lakes or ponds having muddy bottom and considerable vegetable growth and particularly water discolored by vegetable stain. The same may be said of streams, and it may be added that the swifter the flow of water where the trout occurs the slenderer it is likely to be.

. . .

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SIZE.

The size of the brook trout varies in different localities and probably is influenced by the abundance of natural food and the characteristics and range of the water in which it is found. A trout will not attain a very large size in a restricted environment no matter how much food it has. The average size, as taken from time to time in any given body of water, is remarkably uniform. It is generally true, and particularly as regards waters of small extent, that the size of the fish decreases in proportion to the numbers occupying a given body of water. . . .

The largest brook trout taken in American waters whose weight has been reliably authenticated was from Rangeley Lakes, Me., its weight being 12½ pounds, while from the Nepigon River, a Canadian tributary of Lake Superior, an example weighing 14¼ pounds is recorded. From other streams brook trout weighing 10 and 11 pounds are recorded, but individuals of these sizes are by no means common.