BLANK BASS IN PONDS.

TAUNTON, Mass.—Forest and Stream: We have here a large pond that has been stocked with salmon, and whose owners have made the exception and not the rule to catch one. When the owners commenced to fish them they caught about 50 or 60 each year for ten years and now saw a small one. The pond has an average depth of about 8 feet.

What is the reason they are so scarce? Can it be that they run the dam to the river? Perhaps the pond is too small, for the salmon are not plentiful, and only a few fry could pass the dam. Or is it the lack of sunshine? Or the abundance of water in the pond? Or another cause? But although their quantity is small, they are delicious, and would make good sport without going too far for it. I have seen many owners make a very bad season of the fish, with the exception of the fry, which is the most successful, but I have very often seen a successful season with only one or two in the pond. The trout are very plentiful and I have good success. They have not been stocked any longer than our ponds here. I was told by a gentleman who lived near the pond that they would catch them.

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without fail to tell why small bass are not to be found in the Taunton pond. Perhaps they may be present, but remain in section and move only at the proper season and in the proper manner, or go to sea and return, I'll go into it, and the dams, unless provided with Viviers, will prevent their return to the pond. Possibly there is not enough food for the bass and the big ones have entered the small ones. If there is an abundance of minnows there should be plenty of bass. The other pond described should certainly grow good bass of both kinds.

Waban pond, at Wellesley, Mass., has the same peculiarities as the Taunton pond. So few have been caught in many years. There are plenty of large small-scaled bass, but I have never seen a bass from Waban pond except the one that was caught in 1887. This was the only one and he had caught only one half-pound bass on a hook, but he had captured many large fish. The fry are plentiful and it is very uncertain when the fish will be abundant. He has caught minnows on one side of his pond and has caught no bass. He has made no attempt to fish bigger bass. This pond is supplied by a brook from Taunton.

The same locality and the same pond will be more successful in the future if it is now prevented. The biting of the bass in Waban pond is extremely capricious and it is often difficult to succeed in catching them. It is a great honor to be able to fish a bass in Waban pond.

That pond, in the same section, has been crowded with bass for years and years. I have fished in it for several weeks and they have been plentiful. In the spring season of 1887, I fished with the same minnows that were used in Waban pond, and I had a good season.

The bass in the pond in Taunton, Mass., is somewhat different from the bass in Waban pond. The bass in Waban pond is a great deal more abundant.