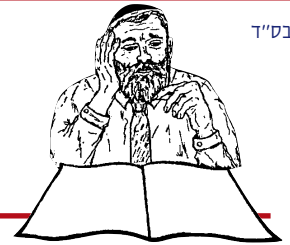


# THE DAF HAKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE OU RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

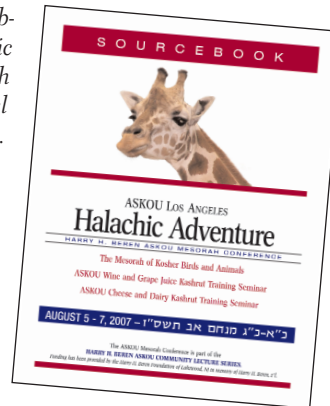
**DAF NOTES:** The following article is taken from the soon to be published Sourcebook of the Three Day Harry H. Beren ASKOU LA Halachic Adventure which is to take place B's'd August 5-7. We thank Rabbi Seth Mandel and Rabbi Chaim Loike for their efforts in transcribing Rav Yisroel Belsky Shlita's response concerning the specific animals and birds listed below.

## OU POSITION ON CERTIFYING SPECIFIC ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Regarding mammals, the OU position is given in the article about bison (© Document B-55). If it is clear after careful study that the mammal has split hooves and chews its cud exactly as most kosher animals, the OU will accept it as a kosher species, as this is the position of all Poskim except the Chazon Ish and some in Israel who follow the Chazon Ish. However, unless there is a clear masorah as to whether the animal is a *b'hemah* or a *chaya*, the mammal will be considered a *sofek: kissuy hadam* will be performed without a *beracha*, and the animal will be considered to have *chelev*.

Regarding cases where some communities have a clear masorah permitting other animals, and other communities avoided it, the OU will not give certification, as is the case with grasshoppers. This is not because the OU relies only on an Ashkenazic masorah, but because OU certification means that the item may be eaten by everyone according to *halakha*. If the animal was avoided in certain communities, that may indicate that those communities had a masorah that it was not kosher. In such cases, OU certification is inappropriate; the OU will not give a certification for an item which may be eaten only by Teimanim, or only by Hungarians.

However, if a particular animal did not exist in a particular community, the fact that the community has no masorah to eat it is not considered evidence that it has a masorah not to eat it. In the case of grasshoppers, it is clear from *Rashi* that many species of grasshoppers existed in Europe in his time and were known by the Jews, but the Ashkenaz communities did not eat any of them. This is considered a masorah that they are not eaten, and so the



OU would not certify them, even though Teimanim have a masorah and can rely on their masorah. But if certain species of bird did not exist at all in Germany, for example, and existed only in Iraq, testimony from an authoritative source from Iraq that that specific bird was sheched and eaten in Iraq would suffice to permit the bird.

Such testimony must be from an expert shochet and recognized authority, and must be given about a specific animal that was shown to the expert. Testimony from someone in the community who was not a shochet, or not an expert on

species, that the bird was eaten, would not be considered sufficient. In addition, testimony by an expert that a bird called "X" was permitted would not be sufficient. Names of creatures are not valid for identification purposes, since in hundreds of cases a creature is called one thing in one community and another thing elsewhere. The bird must be shown to the expert who is giving the testimony, and only that specific species is then considered to have a masorah.

Specific examples are listed below. Much of the relevant material, both halakhic and historical, has been presented later in this book.

### QUAIL

There are multiple species called quail. There was a well-accepted tradition in Europe to eat *coturnix coturnix* and *coturnix japonica*. Other species of quail, such as Scaled Quail and Gambel's Quail, will not be permitted by the OU unless and until a valid masorah for that specific species is obtained.

### PARTRIDGE

The OU has obtained testimony from an expert shochet from Europe that the species called in Latin *Perdix perdix* was eaten. Another species, Rock partridge or Chuker in English, *Alectoris chukar* and *Alectoris graeca* in Latin, lives in desert areas and was not known in Europe. We have testimony from two experts, one

*continued on next page*

INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE!

## A Three Day LA Halachic Adventure

# AUGUST 5 - 7

Rabbi Yosef Grossman at (212) 613-8212 or (914) 391-9470 or Susie at (310) 229-9000 x 200  
email: westcoast@ou.org or kleina@ou.org or visit WWW.OU.ORG

Sponsored by the Harry H. Beren Foundation of Lakewood, NJ in memory of Mr. Harry H. Beren z"l

## BIRDS

continued from page 42

from Yemen and one from Iraq, that it was *shechted* in both places. So the OU will certify these species, but not other partridge species.

### PIGEON, DOVE AND SPARROW

There are multiple species called by these names. There was a well-accepted tradition in Europe (and the Middle East) to eat the pigeon called *Columba livia* in Latin, the turtle dove of the *turtur* family, and the sparrow called *Passer domesticus*. Other species would require an acceptable *masorah*.

### MALLARD DUCK

There was the responsum of the *Maharsham* (*Siman* 56 and 138) that a kind of wild duck with a completely black beak was not to be eaten but if the beak was not completely black then it was permitted. Most *poskim* (e.g. *Zivchei Tzedek* vol. I, 82:18, *Kaf HaChaim* Y"D 82:23, *Kreisi Upleisi Kuntrus Penei Neshet*) permitted ducks with black on the beak. The OU will not certify wild ducks with black beaks. Many mallard ducks have yellow or white beaks, with a dark spot or band on the beak. The OU will certify those since the color of the beaks is primarily yellow or white.

### GUINEA FOWL, PEACOCK

The OU has not obtained testimony from experts about the permissibility of either of these birds. They will not be permitted by the OU unless and until a valid *masorah* for that specific species is obtained.

### MUSCOVY DUCK

There were relatively many *t'shuvos* written about muscovy duck. Many are included later in the volume. It is clear that many authoritative *poskim* permitted it, and others did not. In such a case, OU certification will not be given.

### LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS

As discussed above, the OU will not certify any species of grasshopper or locusts. This does not mean a *p'sak halokho* that no one may eat them; Teimanim or Moroccan Jews who have a *masorah* about which are the permitted species could eat that species (assuming, of course, they they have sufficient expertise to distinguish the permitted species from others). However, OU certification is not appropriate.

בנון. ה' תמוז תשס"ז ישראל הלוי בעלסקי

## MAZAL TOV TO ...

our devoted RFR in Atlanta, GA **RABBI NORMAN SCHLOSS AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their son Zev to Abby Brill of Atlanta, GA.

**RABBI ISSER MORDECHAI FUCHS**, the devoted Kashrus liaison to NCSY, **AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Mindy to Yitzi Younger originally from LA.

our devoted RFR in Chicago, IL **RABBI AARON RUBIN AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Chaya Tova to Yonason Kahanovitch of Winnipeg, Canada

## CONDOLENCES TO...

**MRS. STERNA LERMAN AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of her husband, Rabbi Aryeh Lerman z"l who was a devoted OU RFR for well over two decades.

◆ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ◆

## KASHRUTH alert!

**MCCUTCHEON'S VIDALIA ONION CUCUMBER DILL DRESSING** (12 oz) UPC #8722230291 produced by McCutcheon Apple Products Inc. – Frederick, MD has a limited amount of this product distributed with an unauthorized © symbol which is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting the mislabeled product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8241 or via email at [kshalerts@ou.org](mailto:kshalerts@ou.org).

**HELLO KITTY GUMMY VITAMINS** (UPC #077283044595) produced by Spectra Merchandising International, Inc. – Chicago, IL which is distributed in Target Stores and via internet sales, bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting the mislabeled product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8241 or via email at [kshalerts@ou.org](mailto:kshalerts@ou.org).

Due to ongoing changes in production, selected varieties of **PILLSBURY TOASTER STRUDEL PASTRIES** (All Varieties) produced by General Mills – Minneapolis, MN will no longer bear the © symbol effective immediately. Eventually all varieties of these products will stop being certified and labeled kosher. All products that bear the © symbol are certified by the Orthodox Union. As always, the public is encouraged to check for the © symbol on every product that is purchased.

**PALMER PEANUT BUTTER CUPS** UPC# 4126926078 produced by R.M. Palmer – Reading, PA is an ©P certified product which contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will be revised.

**WEGMAN'S CLASSIC ASSORTMENT CRACKERS** (17.1 oz) produced by Wegman's Food Markets, Inc. – Rochester, NY is an ©P certified product which contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will be revised.

**SOOOO SWEET! STEVIA SUPPLEMENT** produced by EZVille, Ltd. – Ronkonkoma, NY bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting this product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8241 or via email at [kshalerts@ou.org](mailto:kshalerts@ou.org).

The following wine products **RAYSHEET CHIANTI** (2004), **RAYSHEET ROSSO DI TOSCANA** (2004, 2005), **BIANCO DI TOSCANA** (2005), **ROSSO RELATIVO TOSCANA** (2005) produced by Nobile Prima – Empoli, Italy bear an unauthorized ©P symbol (unless affixed with an © holograph sticker) and are being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting these products are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8241 or via email at [kshalerts@ou.org](mailto:kshalerts@ou.org).

**KROGER BRUSSELS SPROUTS WITH DILL** (16 oz. jar) UPC #1111084046 produced by The Kroger Company – Cincinnati, OH bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting this product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8241 or via email at [kshalerts@ou.org](mailto:kshalerts@ou.org).