Maine



1983 Maine Guide To Hunting

Maine Publicity Bureau, Inc.



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1983 Maine Guide to Hunting

Editor Mimi E.B. Steadman

Advertising Director Peter K.J. Montross

> **Art Director** Dawn Peterson

Art Assistant Kathleen Chmelewski

> **Publisher** India Howell

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of
HE STATE OF MAINE PUBLICION

THE STATE OF MAINE PUBLICITY BUREAU, INC. In Cooperation with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



DEPARTMENT OF

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

284 STATE STREET STATE HOUSE STATION 41 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



NORMAN E. TRASK DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



Welcome, hunters!

I am pleased that you have chosen the Great State of Maine as your hunting spot this year. With more than 17,000,000 acres of forested land and a total area nearly as large as the rest of New England, Maine's potential as a productive hunting state is one of the best in the nation!

Whether you are planning a hunting trip to Maine, or have already arrived, it is my hope that this booklet will help you. It is filled with valuable information concerning hunting seasons, license fees, and accommodations for hunters, and represents a major effort on the part of the Maine Publicity Bureau to keep Maine's sportsmen informed.

There is one other publication that every hunter should have, however -- and that is the current hunting regulations summary. Maine deer hunters this year should acquaint themselves with a major change: Two new districts have been created within the Southern Zone where hunting will be restricted to shooting only deer with antlers at least three inches in length. This measure is aimed at increasing deer populations in those areas where they have declined due to habitat loss, predation, and other factors.

If you hunt in one of the bucks-only districts, I urge you to use restraint and make sure your deer is legal before you shoot. Your reward in the long run will be a larger deer herd.

The hunting regulations booklet will provide you with the specific and general laws and regulations pertaining to hunting in the Pine Tree State, as well as a complete breakdown of season dates, some of which change every year. If you don't receive one with your license, ask the clerk for a copy of the regulations booklet. You'll find it a great help.

As you travel through Maine, don't hesitate to seek assistance from members of the Maine Warden Service. For everything from directions to law interpretations, the wardens are there to help -- and they know their business!

Again, thank you for choosing the Great State of Maine for your hunting experience -- and good hunting wherever you go!

Sincerely,

Lenn Handel anul



Maine Hunting

You are about to enjoy the best hunting New England — and, for that matter, most of the country — has to offer. Not only does Maine abound with a variety of game, but it also possesses more remote wilderness acres than anyone could possibly fully explore in a lifetime.

Iliken a hunter's first experience in the Maine woods to a young ball player's first game at Yankee Stadium. This is the big time. There is no other place to match Maine's splendor, treacherous terrain, unforgiving weather, and fan-

tastic and varied hunting opportunities.

When I first started hunting here, I was only old enough to tag along behind my father. Every little movement, real or imagined, every sound ever so slight, seemed amplified by our hopes that a ten-pointer would step into view. Well I've matured somewhat now, but the pounding of my heart when I've a hunch there's a deer nearby still must frighten away many more than I ever see.

An old-timer used to tell me, "There are more big bucks runnin' the ridges in the State of Maine than anywhere else." I guess there's no real way to prove that scientifically. I do recall, however, the year I saw the same twelve-pointer

three days in a row a week before opening day. Of course I never did get a glimpse of him during the season, but I passed up several lesser bucks looking for him.

Deer hunting certainly attracts the greatest number of hunters to Maine every season, but small-game and bird hunting are popular, too, and Maine

offers some of the best.

Nothing quite matches the experience of paddling a canoe before sunrise on opening day of duck hunting season. I remember the first few times I went out, my Ithica propped next to me, a mess of decoys stuffed into a burlap bag, and my black lab standing up in the bow trembling with excitement. He'd turn around as if to urge me to paddle faster, then he'd scan the sky for ducks.

We'd set into our favorite cove, put out the decoy, and wait for legal time. Then a chevron of ducks would fly by overhead. "Woodies," I'd whisper as a couple of F-14-like feathered figures whistled down through the cove at mach-3. The dog would look at me with an expression that seemed to say he

could have hit those two, so why didn't !?

There was the year that three black ducks barreled on by right on schedule — legal time. I pulled the trigger three times. They seemed to pick up speed after the first shot, I rationalized, as my lab turned with that sarcastic, "nice

shot" expression. The ducks disappeared into the distance.

Partridge and woodcock shooting are always excellent in Maine, although population numbers for the two species vary from year to year and from area to area. Weather, predators — even terrain changes — determine the number of partridge, while the majority of woodcock are migratory birds on their way through from Canada.

The Pine Tree State is a wonderful place for any sportsman to be this hunting season. Whether you carry a bow, shotgun, rifle — or even just a camera — it will afford you the opportunity you're after. What's more, there's the special tradition of Maine hunting, still alive and well in our remote wilderness camps

and lodges.

This is the last New England region where some hunting destinations may be reached only by float, plane, or boat. Often a guide is not just a luxury, but a necessity. And a hunter should be well prepared for survival in the outdoors here because it isn't just a ten-minute walk through the brush to the next road. It may take you a week.

When you come to hunt our beautiful state this season, bring with you a sense of adventure and of sportsmanship. And most of all bring a camera, so you can record your trophy. The photographs will help you remember your

great Maine experience.

Best of hunting, safety, and luck.



— Peter Montross

Taxidermists and Kennels



Photo by Peter Montross

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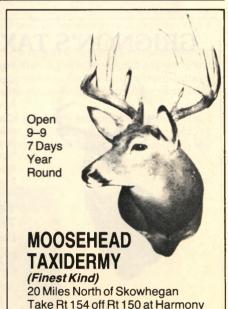
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DICK OSBORNE

Taxidermist

Helpful Hints For the Maine Hunter

Keep Firearms Safety Fresh On Your Mind

A gentle reminder will go a long way in promoting gun safety in the field. After refreshing your memory with a few gun-handling tips, pass them on to your hunting partners the next time you are in the field. Some key safety points include:

—Check your hunting vest before the hunt. Never allow different

gauge or caliber ammunition to become mixed.

—Load your gun only when you arrive at your hunting destination.

Step out of the vehicle, point the barrel in a safe direction, and load up.

—Unload your firearm whenever you face a situation where you might lose your balance and drop or lose control of your gun, such as crossing a fence or stream, or climbing steep terrain.

—Point the muzzle in a safe direction, whether the gun is loaded or not.

—Be absolutely sure of your target before you shoot. Be extra careful at dusk and dawn.

—Know where your hunting companions are, what a safe zone of fire

is, and how far your gun will shoot.

—Unload your gun as soon as the hunt is over. A loaded firearm has no place in a vehicle.

Take Precautions When Boat-Hunting In Winter

The boat is a valuable tool for waterfowl hunters. It also comes in handy in states that allow big- and small-game hunting from a boat. But hunting from a boat in winter does bring up a few safety problems. Rough weather can rock the boat on a good hunting trip, and a dip into the icy water could prove fatal.

Hunters should choose a boat with high sides, a wide beam, and a minimum carrying capacity of 400 pounds. The boat should be carefully packed to distribute weight evenly. A balanced boat is more stable and less likely to capsize if rough weather is encountered. As in any boating expedition, a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) should be worn at all times. Special camouflage PFDs can be obtained, as well as hunting jackets that double as PFDs. These lifesaving devices will not only provide buoyancy but will also reduce the loss of body heat and slow down the process of hypothermia.

One basic rule will save a lot of hardship while hunting in a boat — never stand up when shooting. A hunter faces a good chance of being thrown into the water, capsizing the boat, or having a firearms accident by standing up to take a shot from the boat. If a hunter is thrown into the water, quick action is necessary to slow or prevent hypothermia, a state of reduced body temperature that can lead to death. Stay with the boat unless it is only a *very* short distance to the shore. Any flotation object will provide support. Body movement must be kept minimal to preserve energy. Clothing will provide warmth and added flotation. To reduce the loss of body heat, draw your knees to your chest and wrap your arms around your legs. If more than one person is in the water, they should huddle together to conserve body heat.

Blaze-Orange Clothing — A Hunter's Lifesaver

Over 30 states require blaze-orange clothing for big-game hunters, and some also require it for small-game hunters. In all these states, hunting accidents have dropped considerably. Here are a few examples:

In 1962, Massachusetts became the first state to require blaze-orange clothing for deer hunters. In 1961, there were 10 hunting accidents during the deer

Cont. on page 16

1983 Maine Deer and Bear **Hunting Seasons**

Deer Season

Northern Zone

Firearms (all hunters): Oct. 31-Nov. 26 Maine Residents Only: Sat. Oct. 29 Special Archery Season: Oct. 1–Oct. 28

Southern Zone

Firearms (all hunters): Nov. 7-Nov. 26 Maine Residents Only: Sat. Nov. 5 Special Archery Season: Oct. 1-Nov. 4

North-South Zone Line: Canadian Pacific Railway Line (same as last

year).

Note: In two portions of the Southern Zone (Eastern District and Western District), only deer with a minimum antler length of 3 inches (measured from skull to tip) may be taken during the firearms season, including on residents-only day. (See following descriptions of Eastern and Western districts.)

Eastern District (general description): Coastal Hancock and Washington counties and

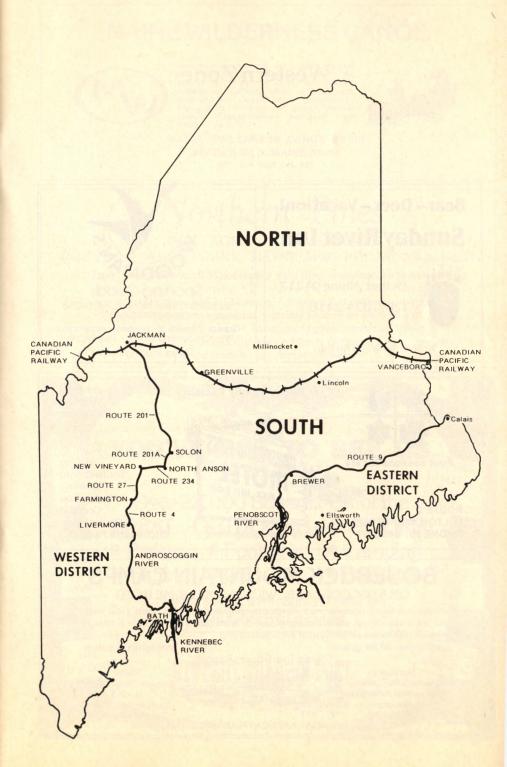
a small portion of southern Penobscot County.

Western District (general description): All of the area west of a line connecting Bath, Lewiston, Farmington, Bingham, and Jackman. This includes all of Oxford, Cumberland, and York counties; most of Franklin County; the western half of Androscoggin County; the southwestern portion of Somerset County; and a small portion of Sagadahoc County.

Bear Season

Sept. 1-Nov. 30 (except no hunting north of the Canadian-Pacific tracks during moose season, Sept. 19–24).

License Fee: Nonresident, big game, \$66 (same as last year).



Western Zone

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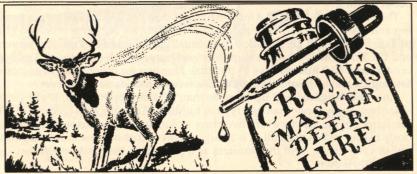
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More Helpful Hints

Cont. from page 7

season with two fatalities. There have been no fatal deer hunting accidents in

Massachusetts since the blaze-orange law was passed.

Pennsylvania used to average 50 to 60 fatal hunting accidents annually among its half-million hunters. In 1980, when blaze orange was required, there were only seven fatal hunting accients among one million hunters. Except for self-inflicted wounds, there has never been a hunting fatality in Pennsylvania involving hunters wearing blaze orange. The first year that the blaze-orange law went into effect, Pennsylvania had its lowest number of hunting accidents, even with record numbers of hunters and an all-time-high deer kill.

Colorado reported a 31 percent decline in hunting accidents after blazeorange clothing was made mandatory for big-game hunters.

No one wearing blaze orange has ever been shot in Delaware, Georgia,

Utah, Illinois, or Rhode Island.

There were 153 hunting accidents in North Carolina between 1975 and 1980, and a study shows that over one third of these could have been prevented if the victims had been wearing blaze-orange clothing.

Recent Survey Contains Good News About Hunting

If anyone thinks that hunting is on a decline, he should spend a little time looking over the 1980 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation released by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. This publication, re-researched and reissued every five years, has recently been published again and contains plenty of good news about hunting.

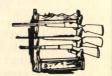
The survey found that 17.4 million hunters devoted 330.2 million days hunting and spent some \$8.5 billion doing so. Hunting for big game involved 11.8 million hunters and 112.8 million days. Small game added 12.4 million hunters and 151.2 million days, while migratory bird hunters added another 5.3 million hunters and 42.9 million days to the total. Hunting for other types of animals, totaling 2.6 million hunters and 38.4 million days, rounds out the survey.

Since these figures add up to more than 17.4 million hunters, it's obvious that many enjoy more than one type of hunting. And although changes in the mechanics of the survey every five years make direct comparisons with previously made studies difficult, it is clearly apparent that interest in hunting continues very strong, and that hunters as a percent of the total population are holding their own.

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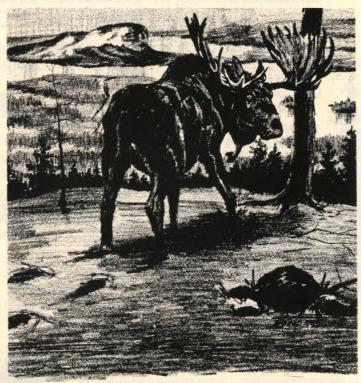
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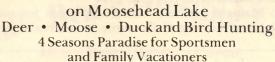


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