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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME
COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

In the last issue of the Bulletin I mentioned the upcoming Legislative session, which will bring with it a number of Fish and Game proposals. As far as this Department is concerned, there are some revisions which we are recommending, and these are summarized on pages 2 and 3 of this issue. Reasons for the proposed changes are also given for your information.

By this time you should have received a copy of our 1957-58 Annual Report. I feel that this report summarizes our Department operation very well, and I would like to congratulate every member of our team on what I believe to be real progress in fish and game conservation. We certainly have many problems unsolved, but on the black side of the ledger, we have some real accomplishments to point to.

Copies of the Annual Report are available to any individual free of charge by writing to the Information and Education Division at Augusta.

With Christmas just around the corner, I would like to extend seasons best wishes to you and yours.
Some of the bills relating to inland fisheries and game that may be introduced during the 1959 session of the Legislature are:

A BILL PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION OF BAIT FISH INTO THE STATE. There is no such law as this at the present time. Also, a BILL PROHIBITING THE USE OR POSSESSION OF ANY SPINY-FINNED FISH AS BAIT. Carp have been discovered in Merrymeeting Bay, and there are many other instances throughout the State where rough fishes have been introduced into good game fish waters through their use as live bait. This bill would specifically guard against any further introduction of pickerel, goldfish, yellow perch, white perch, bass, sunfish, crappie, hornpout or carp in trout, salmon and togue waters.

CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING LAW RELATIVE TO FISHING NEAR HATCHERIES AND FEEDING STATIONS. This law presently states that "All pools, beginning at a point 200 feet above and running to a point 200 feet below all state fish hatcheries and feeding stations, shall be closed to fishing at all times." It will be proposed that the word "pools" be changed to "waters."

A BILL PROHIBITING DOGS FROM RUNNING AT LARGE IN DEER AREAS. Present law states that "From February 1st to March 31st of each calendar year ... it shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog to roam-at large in any area frequented by deer." The intent of this law is to protect deer during periods when deep snow and crust conditions make it easy for dogs to run down deer. Since in some years April is part of such a season, it will be proposed that the period be extended to April 30th.

A BILL DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SEVERAL POINTS OF ACCESS TO THE MERRymeeting BAY AREA. This would guarantee duck hunters permanent access to the Bay.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE DEER SEASON. Game biologists and others feel that some changes in Maine's deer season are needed. A bill will probably be introduced which will be designed to better utilize the state's deer herd.

A BILL PERMITTING MAINe CITIZENS TO REAR, BUY OR SELL, OR HAVE IN POSSESSION HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE, CHUKAR PARTRIDGE OR Bob-WHITE QUAIL. Present law states that no person shall have these game birds in his possession. It is felt, however, that Maine game breeders may want and should have the right to rear these birds commercially. In addition, Maine bird dog owners would like to train their dogs on one or more of these species.

A BILL RELATING TO THE COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT. Under present law the Commissioner is required to make a report to the Governor "for the year ending December 31st." By legislative act, however, the state, including the Fisheries and Game Department operates on a fiscal year basis and its books cover the period from July 1st to June 30th. A bill proposing that the Commissioner's annual report be on a fiscal year, rather than calendar year basis will probably be introduced.
SALE OF DEPARTMENT OWNED REAL ESTATE. A bill will provide that when property owned by this Department is sold, the funds from the sale shall be credited to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game.

A CHANGE IN THE LAW RELATING TO ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS. Present law requires that the Commissioner shall publish notice of hearings "in a newspaper published in the county where said hearing is to be held, and if no paper is published there, in a newspaper of statewide circulation." It is felt that this wording is unnecessarily restrictive. Many hearings of statewide interest receive only limited publicity when advertised in a small weekly paper. The proposed wording will probably be "a newspaper published in the county where said hearing is to be held, or in a newspaper having statewide circulation."

Other bills will be introduced which will propose minor changes in the wording of existing laws for purposes of clarification.

IT HAPPENED THIS WAY ...

A lone game warden was walking through the country in plain clothes when he came across half a dozen hunters shooting doves out of season. The men were scattered over several fields, however, and he knew if he arrested one, the others would get away.

Strolling up to the nearest hunter, the warden said casually, "Say, I just saw a warden up the road a piece and he was headed in this direction."

"Oh? Yeah! Thanks!" was the startled reply, and the man rushed to inform his buddies.

The warden went back to the road where the hunters' car was parked. He was waiting for them with arrest warrants when they dashed in from the fields.

Texas Game and Fish

ACCIDENT REPORT, 1958

Hunting accidents this year total 40, of which eight were fatal.

Last year the annual total was 57, nine of which were fatal.

Leading causes of accidents so far include being in the line of fire and accidental discharge.

An example of the latter was reported recently by Warden Supervisor Wendall Brown.

Seems a hunter in Brown's Division fired three shots at a buck and brought him down. The hunter then reloaded his gun and approached the deer, which was still threshing about. Deer turned on hunter, hunter grabbed gun, now fully loaded, by the muzzle and proceeded to club deer over the head with it.

Result: One more statistic. (Hunter in hospital with shattered right leg and kneecap.) Also, one broken shotgun.
INTRODUCING THE COUNCIL

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONER IN HIS WORK OF DIRECTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT IS THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. THIS GROUP IS COMPRISED OF SEVEN MEMBERS WHO ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM. THEY RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICE.

THESE MEN ARE NOT ONLY DEVOTED PUBLIC SERVANTS, THEY ARE ARDENT SPORTSMEN AS WELL, AND HARD WORKERS IN THE CAUSE OF IMPROVING MAINE'S HUNTING AND FISHING RESOURCES.

Maine Hills, Belfast, is chairman of the Council and also its veteran member. First appointed in September, 1933, he was re-appointed in August, 1957, for his fifth term and 25th consecutive year. A drugstore proprietor, he is also an official of the Belfast, Burnham and Moosehead Railroad and has long been prominent in community activities.

Youngest member in point of service is Don Wilson, appointed in September, 1957. Mr. Wilson is the third generation proprietor of the famous East Outlet Camps on Moosehead Lake. In this capacity he has devoted his lifetime to serving sportsmen. He is considered by many to be the foremost authority on Moosehead and its vicinity, and is also highly regarded as a fly fisherman.

Rev. Arthur MacDougall, Bingham, is pastor of the Congregational Church there and was appointed to the Council in April, 1953. An ardent sportsman, he is author of the widely-read Dud Dean books. The Anglers' Service which he inaugurated at his church has become a well-known annual event in Maine.

Nicholas G. Morrison, Rumford, has been a member of the Council for the past 15 years, having been first appointed in October, 1943. For a number of years he operated the Pleasant Island Lodge and Camps on Cupsuptic Lake. A former member of the Legislature, he served two consecutive terms in the House of Representatives, beginning in 1943. Mr. Morrison is a highly-regarded sportsman and an excellent fly-caster.

George Fletcher of Rangeley operates a sporting goods store. A simon-pure fly fisherman, he knows the Rangeley area thoroughly and is particularly well-acquainted with the many small ponds there that most people don't know anything about. He is a director of the Rangeley Chamber of Commerce and member of the Rotary Club and was appointed on September 8, 1955.

John C. Page, Jr., Gorham, was appointed in April, 1953. Prior to his present position with the Sterling Brass Company of Cleveland, Ohio, as factory agent for Northern New England, he was a member of the staff of the Maine Publicity Bureau for 16 years, serving as outdoor editorial writer and later as executive manager. Fly fishing and duck hunting are two outdoor sports in which he takes a particular interest.

Arthur Bennet, Presque Isle, is a former Department member, having served on the warden force in Washington County from 1938 to 1942. For the past 11
years he has operated his own dry cleaning establishment in Presque Isle, and previously was a border patrolman for the U.S. Immigration Service. He is president of both the Presque Isle Fish and Game Club and the Aroostook Federation of Fish and Game Clubs, and is a vice president of the Maine Fish and Game Association.

**ARCHERY SEASON**

The first deer taken by an archer this year was also the season's largest. The 12-point buck weighed 200 pounds and was taken in Rockwood, T3R5, on October 1. A total of 18 deer were tagged by Maine archers this season.

**DEER HUNTING, ROBIN HOOD STYLE**

If you're a person who enjoys a real challenge, try bowhunting sometime. There's a real thrill to it, knowing that all the force or power in your weapon comes from your own strength, and that the opportunity for the shot came from outsmarting one of nature's wild creatures. You'll also appreciate the difficulty your distant ancestors had in trying to feed themselves by the use of their primitive weapons.

Success with the bow depends not only on being able to shoot an arrow accurately, but also on outsmarting the deer by approaching within 50 yards of him. This close approach requires that one be a good hunter. The skill needed to stalk deer is doubly apparent when one realizes that the deer being stalked owes its life to its constant alertness.

Deer bagged in bow season are taken at an average distance of about 30 to 35 yards. To make a kill, even at this distance, is no easy task because the vital "killing area" of a deer—the chest—is only about 10 or 11 inches from top to bottom and 12 to 15 inches from front to back. In addition, the first arrow must do the trick, since the deer seldom lingers long enough for a second shot.

The first arrow in particular is difficult to speed on its way with accuracy for the simple reason that the hunter is usually excited and tense when he gets his chance. If a bowhunter could stop to warm up as a baseball pitcher does before he goes into a game, there would be many more deer bagged. But part of the fun in bowhunting comes from knowing that one is handicapped and, perhaps, suffering from a mild case of "buck fever."

To a bowhunter, a miss is no catastrophe. He can often enjoy a miss almost as much as a hit because the flight of the arrow can be followed, showing how wide or short of the mark the arrow fell, or how a sapling or overhanging branch deflected it.

If you enjoy putting your skill against the instinct of animals, if you like the silent and undisturbed out-of-doors, and if the idea of trying to get a deer with the odds against you is appealing, then chances are you'll get a big kick out of bowhunting.

From an article in the Iowa Conservationist
"During the past 25 years," according to Dr. Arnold Haugen, past president of the National Field Archery Association and author of the article reprinted above, "the number of archery deer hunters in the United States has increased from less than a hundred to more than a quarter of a million bowhunters."

In Maine the sport has steadily gained in popularity, as license sales indicate. In 1951, when a section of the state was first opened to archery deer hunting, there were only 50 licensed bowhunters among its residents. Two years later the number had increased to 189.

This year 603 resident licenses were sold, as compared with 523 in 1957.

The first state to provide a special season for bowhunters was Wisconsin, which did so in 1934. Oregon followed in 1935 by setting aside an area for their exclusive use.

Mainers have enjoyed a separate bowhunting season since 1950. In that year two counties, Franklin and Somerset, were opened to bowhunting for the period of October 1 to October 15.

In 1953 all counties, with the exception of Waldo and a portion of Piscataquis, were declared open areas. Two years later Waldo County was removed, leaving the southern section of Piscataquis as the only closed area in the state. That same year the open and close dates were clarified to read: "from the first Monday of October to the second Saturday," both dates to be inclusive.

Last year, with the removal of the closed area in Piscataquis, the entire state was opened to bowhunters. Also, the season was extended from October 1 to October 20 in the five northern counties, and from October 1 to October 31 in the remainder of the state.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY PAYS OFF

During this fall's hunting season the regular fulltime warden force of 115 men has been reinforced by the addition of 57 temporary wardens. These men, some of whom are stationed in every division in the state, were employed in October and will serve on the force until approximately December 1.

More efficient law enforcement during the time of year when it's needed most is, of course, a prime benefit of the policy, now in its third year, of supplementing the warden force during the fall hunting season. But the plan also has other advantages.

For the men, particularly those who are applicants for fulltime positions on the warden force, it provides an excellent opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of what the work of a warden is really like. By actually working on the job for an 8-week period they not only get valuable experience and training but also have an opportunity to find out if their choice of the warden service as a career has been the right one for them. And some men who haven't yet filed their applications for appointment to the warden force will do so when their tour of duty is over.
For the Department, the seasonal employment plan, in addition to these obvious advantages of recruitment and on-the-job training, solves the problem of obtaining sufficient coverage during the hunting season. Each temporary warden, although he works with a district warden at all times, releases another regular warden for other duty and the net effect is double coverage. In night hunting cases and similar types of duty the temporary wardens are an especially valuable adjunct to the force.

Although the funds budgeted for this program would provide only six additional wardens if expended on a 12-month basis, the seasonal employment plan makes it possible to increase the force by half again as many men when the need is greatest. The benefits ultimately are in terms of more efficient enforcement, both now and in the future.

"ANSPRECKEN" Means "BE SURE BEFORE YOU SHOOT"

In Bavaria if you want to go hunting or fishing you must first get your license. This, however, isn't just a matter of paying your 50 German marks ($12) as it is in America. In Germany you must be 18 years of age and have hunting insurance ($35,000 personal liability and $3,500 property liability). And, as a new hunter, you must take a class on hunting laws and customs and pass a special examination by a board of qualified German jaggers (hunters) before you become eligible to buy your license.

All hunting and fishing is carefully controlled by laws and customs which follow either a well-regulated management plan or centuries-old tradition. You must know the birds and animals you hunt in Germany and many that you do not.

Not only do you learn which animals can and cannot be hunted, but their physical characteristics and life history as well. You must know what is considered a "trophy" for each species and the season when these may be hunted.

Among other things, you learn that you're supposed to sit and wait an hour before tracking a wounded animal, thus increasing the chances of finding it within a relatively short distance. You are told about the necessity of securing a guide, and also of obtaining permission to hunt from the man who controls the hunting rights on the land.

Customs alone do not control German hunting. In Bavaria an overall shooting plan defines how many animals may be taken in each season and describes the grade and sex of these animals. When the red buck season opens in June, for example, the bucks with deformed racks or other defects are taken first, thus saving the better males for breeding. Later in the season the better males, as well as fawns and does, may be killed. With permission, even in closed seasons, crippled, diseased or wounded animals may be shot,
and these are charged to next year's "Plan." The number and types of animals to be killed each season is determined by the government, in cooperation with volunteer "jaegers," according to the ability of the land to support animals.

A word heard frequently during the classes is "ansprecken" — Be sure of what you shoot. Before firing it is essential that the animal be positively identified.

Whether this kind of closely regulated hunting will be adopted anywhere in America it would be hard to say. But perhaps if new hunters were required to take a course in the fundamentals of hunting before they were given a license there would be fewer cows mistaken for deer and fewer hunting accidents where "ansprecken" might have saved a man's life.

From an article in Outdoor California

NEWS OF THE ENGINEERING DIVISION

The work at Enfield is nearly complete and the new hatchery will be turned over to the Hatchery Division in December.

A break in the 24-inch pipe laid out into Cold Stream Pond has delayed the progress of the work somewhat, but otherwise the project is on schedule.

The old hatchery building will be completely renovated. The upper two floors will be converted into a dwelling for Warden Pilot Andrew Stinson and the remainder of the building rebuilt to provide office and storage space for the biologists.

Raymond Lemelin is supervising this work which at the moment consists of replacing the building foundations.

Work has been completed at the Lower Dam on the Pennamaquon River in Pembroke for the Game Division and is now in operation.

In addition to rebuilding the dam and providing a new hoist-operated gate, two Denil-type fishways were built to provide for passage of alewives and sea run salmon.

The upper, or Little Falls dam on the same river will be rebuilt in a similar manner in 1959.

The fish pass on Saco Falls on Pleasant River in the town of Columbia was completed by the construction crew this summer and is now in successful operation.

This pass consisted of excavating a channel through ledge at the upper portion of the falls and constructing a Denil fishway at the lower portion.

The fishway is also intended to pass alewives and Atlantic salmon as well as brook trout.

A construction crew under the supervision of Forrest Smart has begun preliminary roadwork and grading at the site of our new plane base at Greenville.

Complete construction is scheduled for the 1959 season and will include a modern plane hangar, a dwelling for the plane mechanic, an office building, including sleeping quarters and kitchen facilities, for the biologists, and a boathouse.
ENGINEERING DIVISION (Cont.)

A fish weir designed by the Engineering Division is in process of being constructed on the Narraguagus River on the outlet of Bennington Lake.

The actual work is being directed by Fisheries Biologist Dick Cutting.

*A * *

A 20 by 54-foot building designed by the Engineering Division is being constructed by Arthur Rankin of Denmark at the Walkers Falls picnic area on the Saco River.

HATCHERY DIVISION

Salmon stripping operations at Cross Lake Thoroughfare of the Fish River Chain have now been completed.

The project was directed by Percy Robinson, fish culturist of the Littleton Hatchery.

By agreement between the Fish and Game Department and the Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Aroostook County, only a small number of eggs, approximately 150,000, were taken.

Hatchery personnel reported an unusually heavy run of salmon in the Thoroughfare.

*A * *

At Grand Lake Stream, trapping operations at the outlet of West Grand Lake began several weeks ago.

By the end of the first week in November, 218 male and 194 female salmon had been taken.

The site is on land acquired by the Game Division and the building will be used as a residence for the superintendent during the summer.

Forrest Smart of Milo, who has been working this year for the Game Division building marsh dams, has recently been transferred to the Engineering Division as a construction foreman. His work will still be largely in connection with Game Division activities.

* * *

The Sebago salmon run was a bit earlier this season and by the end of October 153 males and 278 females had been netted. The operation was directed by Clarence Quint, superintendent of the Dry Mills Hatchery.

* * *

All stocking for the year 1958 has been completed and stripping operations are now underway.

* * *

PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS

Warren Wilbur of the Crane Hatchery at Oquossoc retired November 1 after serving with the Department since 1931.

Lawrence Hamm of Old Town retired in October due to a disability. He had been with the Department since 1939.
NARRAGUAGUS SALMON WEIR WILL BE NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST

Fishery biologists and personnel of the Atlantic Salmon Commission are cooperating in the planning and construction of a salmon weir on the Narraguagus River at Bennington.

Slated for completion early next summer, the weir will operate the year round, trapping both adult and young salmon for the purpose of measuring production per mile of stream in the upper reaches of the Narraguagus.

Over 300 feet long, the weir will be the largest fish trap of its kind ever built in the northeastern states.

It will consist of rock-filled log cribs spaced 20 feet apart, with screen sections between cribs.

* * *

TEACHERS STUDY CONSERVATION

A further step in the direction of expanded conservation education in the Maine school system was taken in October, when an in-service training workshop for teachers in the Lisbon school area was presented.

It was the second workshop of its kind to be given in the state. The first one was held in the fall of 1957 for teachers in the Madison-Skowhegan School Union.

Sponsored by the Department of Education in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, the workshops were patterned after the Christopher Lake summer program, with short field courses being given by members of the two resource departments.

* * *

GAME DIVISION

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT FOR BETTER DEER HUNTING

The first of a series of meetings aimed at improving deer habitat in key areas throughout the State was held last month, with Commissioner Cobb, Russ DeGarmo, chief of the Game Division, and John Gill, deer yard management leader, meeting at Great Works with officials of the Penobscot Development Company.

An outcome of the meeting was the setting up of a procedure whereby game biologists from the Department will survey all cutting sites on the company's lands where the deer herd would be affected by logging operations and will then make recommendations to company officials.

Last year Penobscot Development cooperated with the Department in setting up a demonstration situation in the town of Willimantic, where biologists surveyed a deer yard area and selected portions of it which they recommended be left standing. The boundaries were marked with red paint on the tree trunks, and when the cutters came through these areas were bypassed.

Whenever feasible, the same procedure will be followed on other company holdings where habitat improvement is considered desirable.

Management programs are primarily concerned with improving the deer herds in areas accessible to hunters. Where existing populations are now being under-harvested, any attempts at habitat improvement would be of only limited benefit to hunters, and consequently to request companies to leave timber uncut in these
areas would hardly be justified.

The success of these programs depends largely on the degree of cooperation extended by private landowners. Other companies have shown an interest in this type of participation and meetings will be held to draw up management plans on sample yards.

To the Penobscot Development Company goes credit for setting a fine example.

BEAVER SURVEY

Game biologists and warden pilots are now at work on the annual serial survey of live beaver colonies. Sample sections for the survey, which will give an index of the state's beaver population, include some 10 percent of Maine's total watershed area.

The annual beaver survey originated in 1949 as part of a five-year study which resulted in the writing and publication of Game Division Booklet #3, "Beaver Management in Maine."

SMALL MARSHES

The Game Division's construction crew for small marshes wound up its activities for the year with 12 small marshes built during the summer. The last of these was built on town property in Monroe.

DEER KILL, 1958

The Game Division is also gathering data on this year's deer kill throughout the state.

Age, sex and growth factors will be tabulated for future research use, in addition to regional information such as deer kills and hunter success in each county.

A similar survey, though on a more limited basis, was conducted last fall by the Division. This year the deer samples are being taken from all areas in the state, with data being obtained from tagging stations, sporting camps, frozen food lockers, and in some areas on a house-to-house basis.

Each game biologist is devoting approximately two days a week to the survey.

SMALL MARSHES

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Making the Rounds with the Wardens

Division B

Very good duck hunting in Merrymeeting Bay itself on opening day with many ducks taken. Heavy fog enclosed the Bay most of the forenoon giving hunters some very good shooting.

Shooting was slow in the small ponds and pot holes around the area but picked up later in the season. Ducks killed have been mostly blacks with some teal. Several flights of Canada geese have been reported with quite a few birds stopping off in the Bay area.

Hunters were everywhere on opening day of the deer season and several big kills were reported. Continued heavy rains made for exceptionally good hunting conditions. During the first week 50 deer were registered at Palermo and 75 in Waldoboro. The men reported a good representation of non-resident hunters in their respective districts.
Division C

Arthur G. Rogers, supervisor

Most wardens reported that partridge were very scarce in their districts. Ducks were plentiful in Belgrade Bog on opening morning but not many stayed after the shooting began. Opening day in Belfast was poor with few ducks and few hunters.

A Massachusetts hunter who had left his car in the Kimball Pond area near New Sharon returned to find both tires flat and the valve cores thrown away. Nearby was a "No Hunting" sign.

The tagging station at Belfast registered 14 more deer this year than they did last.

Division E

Raymond L. Morse, supervisor

Not many black ducks were taken on opening day. Coots and eiders were reported plentiful off shore and some hunters bagged their limits by braving the rough water to get off the outer edges.

There was some excellent woodcock shooting in this division. Partridge shooting was slow until the leaves fell and then it improved somewhat.

An example of poor judgement on the part of a hunter happened in East Holden, when a hunter shot at a deer in line with a house. The bullet went through the front door, through a bedroom wall, through a bureau, and out the bedroom window. The owner was in bed within two feet of the bureau at the time.

Division F

Lloyd Clark, supervisor

Ducks and hunters were both scarce on opening day. The woodcock season was one of the best in years, however. The birds were plentiful up until about two weeks before the end of the season, then became harder to find.

Opening day of the deer season brought a heavy concentration of hunters to the Moonshorn Refuge. Hunting conditions were ideal, although a high wind in the afternoon no doubt favored the deer.

Division G

David Priest, supervisor

Wardens in this division checked a total of 118 partridges for the month of October this year as against 516 for October, 1957. They also checked 609 fewer hunters for October than for the corresponding month last year. Although we haven't had the usual number of deer hunters, those who have been out report seeing plenty of deer and a large number have been shot. Mink and muskrat trappers report fair success.

Division H

Wilfred Atkins, supervisor

As of November 10, the deer kill was somewhat less than last year's. This was probably due to fewer deer in the fields at the first of the season. Partridge showed up poorly throughout the season.
Division I

Warden Allen has an interesting colony of beaver in his district. They flooded a farm road leading to a small field where uncut oats had been left standing, then cleared a portion of the field and now have their feed bed well-stocked with oats. Although hunters report seeing many deer, the count as of November 16 was still below that of last year. Warden Pelletier reports that deer have been plentiful along the Allagash River and hunters have been quite successful hunting from canoes.

Division J

Woodcock hunters were hampered by heavy foliage during the early part of the season, but the shooting improved and was good after that. Partridge were scarce and one hunter, after being stopped twice, remarked that the blankity blank wardens were more plentiful than the birds. Hunting pressure was light during the first part of the season but took an upturn towards the middle of November, so that by the 17th the count was ahead of last year. During that week Tessier's tagging station in Rockwood went from minus 80 to 40 more deer than were tagged by that time last year.

Division K

The first hunting accident in this division was caused by a baby and a beer can opener. A mother and her four children were on their way to camp when she spotted a partridge by the roadside. Stopping the car, she got out and fired at it, whereupon the choke end of the shotgun split open and a piece of it cut a long gash in her hand. Near the car was a beer can opener with shot marks on it, leading to the deduction that the baby had been playing with it and dropped it into the gun barrel!

Division L

Heavy rain on opening day curtailed hunting activity. There was more interest in bow and arrow hunting this year in this division. A bird hunter in Warden Jordan's district took his jeep down an old road one afternoon and returned to find that a beaver had felled a 10-inch birch across the road. Since he didn't have an axe with him he had to drive about a mile in reverse before getting back out onto an open road.

Warden Adams reports that on opening morning he had never heard so much shooting and checked so few ducks. They were flying high and the hunters kept firing. Deer season opened in Franklin County with clear cold weather and noisy travelling. The number of hunters was about on a par with last year but decreased notably during the day. Hunting success was fairly poor due mainly to adverse weather conditions.

November 1, on the other hand, was a very successful opening day. We had the heaviest concentration of hunters ever and the largest deer kill for any one day. This without a shooting accident or lost hunter. The fisher population seems to be on the increase. Five have been shot by hunters and an unconfirmed report has it that one trapper has caught thirteen.
DID YOU KNOW . . .?

The black bear does not truly hibernate. It becomes dormant in winter as does a raccoon. The weather and amount of food available determine the time the animal will den up. A female anticipating a blessed event selects a secluded, protected spot for winter use. Her den may be a hollow log or stump, or a depression under the large roots of a fallen tree. Wherever chosen, a mattress of leaves is first pawed into position. It is not uncommon, during a mild winter, for a mature male to be found sleeping, snow-covered perhaps, out in the open.

Pennsylvania Newsletter

WILD RELATIVES OF THE CHICKEN

If you begin to discuss quail with someone from a different part of the United States it would be well to be specific, since each one of you might be talking about an entirely different bird.

There are, for example, the Eastern Bobwhite, Masked Bobwhite, Mountain Quail, Gambel's Quail and the Mearns' Quail, all with varying shades of differences, depending on the part of the country they come from.

The grouse group is even more complicated. In the United States we have Dusky Grouse, Franklin's Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Spruce Partridge, Greater Prairie Chicken, Lesser Prairie Chicken and the Sage Hen. These in turn show up in 17 different varieties.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

The skunk uses his potent scent sparingly. He produces it at the rate of only about one-third liquid ounce per week.

New Hampshire Newsletter

A hunter who stopped at a tagging station in Missouri was wearing an Austrian hunting coat, leather breeches, and a Tyrolian hat complete with a little brush in the hatband. To complete the European atmosphere, his deer was in a Volks-wagon. Asked if he would like to have it weighed, the hunter replied, "Oh no, don't take it out. If you do I'll never get it back in again."

Missouri Conservation Comm.

New Hampshire Newsletter