Fish and Game

BULLETIN

DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND
FISHERIES AND GAME

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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

With spring well on its way and a busy field season in store for all divisions, perhaps it would be a good time to take stock and evaluate our progress in intra-divisional cooperation. As I have pointed out before, there is always the tendency for one particular division of fish and game to think in terms of only its specific activities. This is only natural. But we all realize that a large organization such as ours needs constantly to think in terms of the "whole," and to familiarize ourselves with the work of others outside of our immediate sphere of activity.

Responsibilities of the department are growing each year with the steady increase in outdoor activities. As more and more knowledge of fish and wildlife populations is gained through research, greater emphasis is placed on specialization in the areas of research and management. Thus the tendency for a person working in one specific field of fish and game is to become so wrapped up in his own situation that he may neglect opportunities to help others in their work.

I don't wish to imply that cooperation between divisions hasn't been good, but I do feel, however, that there is always room for improvement.

Let's all make an extra effort this field season to familiarize ourselves with each other's work, and to lend assistance whenever possible.
IN 1956 A STUDY OF THE BROOK TROUT MIGRATIONS IN A MOOSEHEAD LAKE TRIBUTARY WAS UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL FISHERY BIOLOGIST ROGER AUCLAIR AND ASSISTANT BIOLOGIST DAVID LOCKE. SOCATEAN STREAM WAS SELECTED BECAUSE IT IS KNOWN TO BE ONE OF THE MAJOR TROUT-SPAWNING TRIBUTARIES OF THE MOOSEHEAD LAKE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

A WEIR WAS CONSTRUCTED APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES UP THE STREAM TO CAPTURE MIGRATING FISH. ALL TROUT AND SALMON EIGHT INCHES OR MORE IN LENGTH WERE MARKED WITH A MONEL JAW TAG. TROUT AND SALMON LESS THAN EIGHT INCHES LONG WERE MARKED BY REMOVING ONE FIN. A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WAS CARRIED OUT TO INFORM ANGLERS OF THE PROJECT AND TO RECOVER TAGS.


A PARTIAL CREEL CENSUS WAS CARRIED ON AT THE MOUTH OF THE STREAM DURING THE PEAK OF THE EARLY FISHING TO ASCERTAIN REPORTS ABOUT THE HEAVY CATCH THERE AND TO RECOVER TAGS. A TOTAL OF 84 ANGLERS FISHING FOR 506 HOURS CAUGHT 242 TROUT, EIGHT OF THEM TAGGED. USING THESE FIGURES AND KNOWING THAT 22 TAGS CAME FROM THE MOUTH OF THE STREAM DURING THE EARLY MAY FISHING IT IS POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 900 TROUT WERE CAUGHT THERE.

TAGGED FISH WERE RECOVERED FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE LAKE AS FAR DOWN AS DEER ISLAND BUT MOST OF THE TAGS WERE RECOVERED ABOVE MT. KINEO. THE LONGEST MIGRATION WAS A DISTANCE OF 19 MILES TO THE HEAD OF DEER ISLAND.

IN 1957 A BETTER WEIR WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE FALLS ON SOCATEAN AND TAGGING WAS RESUMED. FORTY-TWO SALMON AND 1149 BROOK TROUT WERE TAGGED.

APPLYING KNOWN EGG PRODUCTION FIGURES CONSERVATIVELY TO THE WEIGHT OF FEMALE TROUT ON THIS SPAWNING RUN, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 500,000 YOUNG TROUT WILL BE PRODUCED NATURALLY IN THIS SINGLE TRIBUTARY TO MAINE'S LARGEST LAKE.
NEWS FROM THE GAME DIVISION

HISTORY OF A SMALL MARSH by Robert Boettger, Biologist

During the past year the Game Division has gone into the small waterfowl marsh development business in a big way. The basic procedure followed in this phase of Federal Aid Project 47-D was described in the January issue of the Fish and Game Bulletin. Instead of saying that many marshes have been investigated, surveyed, designed and built, it might be interesting to single out one particular marsh and follow it through from start to finish.

The Bishop-Cyr-Cooper Marsh, usually referred to as the Bishop Marsh, was one of the first established under the new 47-D program. It is located near the east side of the Kennebec River in the town of Madison and was formerly an oxbow of the river. The original information regarding the area was obtained from the Somerset County Soil Conservation Service Office. Members of the S. C. S. work units in the various counties throughout the state cooperate closely with regional biologists in locating suitable marsh sites and cooperators.

An aerial photograph of the area in question was examined in the S. C. S. office. It seemed to be a suitable site. The next step was to talk to the landowner, Hazen Bishop, who lives at the site. In the process of explaining our program to him, data were recorded concerning the following points:

Total acreage he owned, the main use made of his land, membership in other cooperating (conservation) agencies, his attitude toward our program, the potential of the marsh site, accessibility of possible development sites (in this case the proposed dam site), and the names of any other landowners that might be affected if a marsh were created.

From this it was determined that Bishop was very interested and probably would be quite cooperative. The site had good biological potential and would be readily accessible to earth-moving machinery and two other individuals owned portions of the marsh area. One happened to be a neighbor of Bishop.
AND THE OTHER LIVED IN THE TOWN OF NAPLES. IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONTACT BOTH OF THESE MEN, WALTER CYR AND ARTHUR COOPER, AND GO THROUGH ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PROCEDURE AS WITH BISHOP. FORTUNATELY ALL THREE THOUGHT THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARSH WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AND AGREED TO COOPERATE.

THE NEXT STEP WAS TO TAKE SOIL BORINGS IN THE MARSH AND AT THE PROBABLY DAM SITE. AN ON-THE-GROUND RECONNAISSANCE WAS CONDUCTED AND AERIAL PHOTOS WERE STUDIED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF SURROUNDING WATERSHED, THE COMPOSITION OF ITS VEGETATIVE COVER, AND ITS RUN-OFF CHARACTERISTICS. THE SOIL IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA PROVED TO BE IMPERMEABLE AND, THEREFORE, SUITABLE TO USE IN AN EARTHEN DAM. CIVIL ENGINEERING TABLES WERE USED TO CONVERT WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS TO NUMERICAL FORM. THESE WERE APPLIED TO ENGINEERING FORMULAS TO DETERMINE AVERAGE WATERSHED RUN-OFF IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND AND TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES ADEQUATE TO HANDLE THE GREATEST FLOOD LIKELY TO OCCUR ON THE WATERSHED IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS. SO FAR THE PROPOSED MARSH SITE HAD MET ALL REQUIREMENTS.

AN ON-THE-GROUND SURVEY WITH TRANSIT AND LEVEL ROD WAS THEN MADE. ELEVATIONS WERE TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE MARSH AND TO POINTS THREE FEET ABOVE TENTATIVE NORMAL WATER LEVEL. SPECIAL CARE WAS TAKEN TO DETERMINE ELEVATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED DAM AND SPILLWAY. ALL NATURAL AND MAN-MADE FEATURES IN OR ADJACENT TO THE MARSH WERE LOCATED. ALL PROPERTY LINES IN THE AREA WERE ESTABLISHED. AFTER FIELD WORK WAS COMPLETED THE SURVEY NOTES WERE PLOTTED ON A WORKSHEET. IN THIS MANNER, THE MARSH AREA SHOWING ONE FOOT ELEVATION CONTOURS WAS REPRODUCED TO SCALE ON PAPER. A DAM, WATER CONTROL BOX, AND SPILLWAY WERE DESIGNED TO SCALE ON THESE DRAWINGS. TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION COULD BE ACCURATELY ESTIMATED BY TAKING MEASUREMENTS FROM THE SCALE DRAWINGS AND MAKING CERTAIN COMPUTATIONS. THE AMOUNT OF LABOR REQUIRED WAS ALSO ESTIMATED AND ENTERED ON THE COST ESTIMATE SHEET. THE TOTAL COST FELL WELL WITHIN ALLOWABLE LIMITS. ALL THIS WORK FINALLY RESULTED IN A DESIGN THAT WOULD ADEQUATELY HANDLE ABNORMAL RUN-OFF AND MAINTAIN A STABLE WATER LEVEL WHILE CREATING THE MOST MARSH AT THE LEAST COST IN CONSTRUCTION. IT WAS CHECKED AND APPROVED BY THE ENGINEERING DIVISION.

AFTER APPROVAL A FINISHED TRACING WAS MADE OF THE WORK SHEET. AS MANY COPIES OF THE MARSH PLAN AS WERE REQUIRED WERE EASILY REPRODUCED FROM THIS TRACING.

THE AREA TO BE FLOODED TOTAELED SLIGHTLY OVER 27 ACRES, SOMewhat LARGER THAN THE FIVE TO TEN ACRE STANDARD SET BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE PLANS HAD TO BE SENT TO BOSTON FOR APPROVAL BY THE FEDERAL ENGINEER. THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED.
Before actual construction could begin it was necessary to sign mutually satisfactory lease agreements with all three landowners. After this was accomplished, the dam and spillway were staked out on the ground. All brush was cleared from these areas. A bulldozer, a dragline and hand labor were employed to construct the dam and spillway. It was necessary to remove two beaver and their dams from a location downstream from the proposed development. Beaver activity had backed up water enough to create a mud hole in the center of the dam site that tended to hinder bulldozer operation.

Forms for a concrete water control box were built by members of the labor crew. Transit mix concrete was poured in these completed forms. A close check was maintained to assure that elevations of all phases of construction agreed with those specified on the working plan. When all construction was satisfactorily completed lime and mulch were applied to the bare earth slopes and stop logs were fitted into the water control box. The marsh filled to designed normal water level in a few days and has remained stabilized since. It was necessary to drain standing water from below the foot of the dam last fall.

This brings the history of the Bishop marsh up to date. This spring the bottom of the emergency spillway and the top of the dam will have to be smoothed. Then the dam and spillway will be sown to a grass seed mixture in order to establish a sod cover. After that it will be up to the waterfowl.

In brief summation, various individuals were actively engaged for approximately eight and one half weeks to convert the Bishop marsh from a wet area to a waterfowl marsh with an optimum, stabilized water level. It may be concluded that development of small marshes is a big job.

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Big Bag for Blazer

This year's raccoon season was a pretty successful one for Blazer, eight and a half year old half-hound, the pride of Harley T. Stevens of South Paris. He successfully tracked 130 coons representing the second highest year. One year he and his master got 167. The dog has taken "well over 1000" raccoons in his career and 40 bobcats.

Blazer rides on the front seat of Stevens car, head out the window, front legs resting on a special platform built for him. He "winds" the raccoon while traveling 15 miles an hour.

Portland Press Herald, Dec. 31, 1957
ACTIVITIES OF GAME DIVISION PERSONNEL

February was marked by rapidly accumulating snow through all but eastern Maine. This meant that deer were being forced into their winter yards. Snow depths on February 20 near Ashland measured 31 inches under conifers in a deer yard and 44 inches around the periphery. Deer are being helped considerably by a heavy crust somewhat below the top of the snow. Ice storms have also brought a lot of food near the ground in some sections.

For this winter, Regional Biologists have changed their emphasis from looking over new yards to setting up studies in eight watersheds, so that long-term trend information on conditions of yards can be obtained. Work for this winter on deer yards involves flying over these eight watersheds to locate all yards.

Associated with deer yard flying has been moose flying in each region. Four parallel flight lines are being established in each region. Once again the information being obtained is mostly useful in determining trends.

We have all heard stories on the effect of bobcats on deer. Such stories have a way of pestering every legislative session. Game Division Biologists are on snowshoes again this winter following bobcats and checking on dead deer to learn more of the role of the bobcat as a deer predator.

John Gill had another out-of-state visitor this month. Robbin Hepburn of the Ontario Division of Lands and Forests spent two days in Maine reviewing Gill's and Banasiak's deer research.

In the small marsh program, field surveys were continued in spite of the snow. Two big surveys have been completed during February - one near Gray, the other in Steuben. Other biologists were busy designing other marshes from surveys completed by the two survey census. It's all a part of getting ready for next summer's construction season.

In land purchase, Dick Parks has been working on Hodgdon Deadwater, located near Houlton. Purchase of this area can probably be completed prior to starting on the next major purchase. Transfer of Swan Island to the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is awaiting definite action by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission which must approve all Federal purchases of land for wildlife.
ENGINEERING DIVISION

Purchase of property and the first draft of drawings have been completed for the proposed new Enfield Hatchery. John Ketner, Department Engineer, is now computing quantities and revising specifications.

A complete survey and map has been made of the Victor Leet and adjacent property in Greenville. This property, containing about five acres of land on the shore of Moosehead Lake, is across the cove from the present warden plane base. It has been selected as the site for a new and larger plane hangar, regional headquarters for the biologists, and a dwelling for the plane mechanic. It is hoped that purchase of the lot can be completed within the next few months and that the project can be completed in 1959.

During the month new fishways, of the denil type, have been designed for the St. Regis Paper Co. dam on the Machias River in Whitneyville, and for the Department's dam at the outlet of Chain of Ponds.

At the St. Regis dam there is an old timber fishway of the pool overfall type which, in spite of alterations made in recent years, has not passed Atlantic salmon in satisfactory quantities. The trouble seems to be due partly to the zig-zag arrangement of the small pools, and partly to the fact that the paper company is holding the water above the dam at a higher level than was contemplated in the original design. This higher level causes excessive turbulence aggravated by the small pools. The new design should prove much more efficient.

The Chain of Ponds dam, designed and built by the Department a few years ago, contains a fish screen. The removal of this screen and the installation of a fishway will permit fish to utilize excellent spawning areas of the stream and to return to the ponds.

Design is continuing on new fishways and dam alterations for two Game Division dams on the Pennamaquan River in Pembroke.

One engineer, Clayton Grant, continues to work with the Game Division on investigating marsh sites and designing dams when required. Sites recently examined include Willey Marsh and Krah in Sheepscot and Wayne Marsh in Wayne. Dams have been designed for Upper and Lower Bell Marsh in Trescott, and Etna Marsh in Etna.
THE HATCHERIES

Hatchery personnel are in the middle of their annual winter jobs. Much of the work has been delayed this year because of comparatively mild weather in December and January.

The crew at Palermo has been cutting oak and ash for the new fish tank to be installed at Embden. They are turning the wood over to the Dry Mills crew who will construct the tank.

Cutting ice for the refrigeration units has been a problem until recently. Ice is used in hatcheries where electricity is not available for modern units. Usually most of the ice is cut by Christmas. The men at Dead River found that when it turns cold, it really gets cold. They cut 600 cakes of ice at the foot of the mountain on Lexington Flats in 24 degrees below zero weather. Trucks from Oquossoc, Dry Mills, Governor Hill, Palermo, and Embden hauled the 23-inch ice up to the Dead River Hatchery.

The crews at both Enfield units, LaGrange, and Deblois are currently harvesting ice. By the last week of February, Moosehead Lake still hadn't frozen solid enough to permit men from Lily Bay to get their supply of ice. Hatchery officials are keeping their fingers crossed hoping the slush will become more solid.

At Littleton the water supply is now abundant. Operations there were curtailed last summer and fall because of the drought. Two hundred thousand brook trout eggs have been hatched. At present they are in the fry stage and should be feeding shortly.

The lake trout (togue) eggs obtained from western Canada have been hatched at the Governor Hill hatchery, Augusta. They have been placed in outdoor feeding pools and have been feeding two to three weeks.

The extended freezing and thawing period prior to February resulted in much surface water in the rearing units. This retards the growth of fish that require a fairly constant water temperature. Salmon eggs at Sebago and Oquossoc are nearly all eyed and some have been upset.

The engineers have cleared the site at Enfield for the new hatchery scheduled to be constructed this year. The hemlock and pine taken from the land will be used by the engineers for dams in the Game Division program.
HATCHERY OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT STOCKING FOR SPRING FISHING IN STREAMS PROBABLY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE APRIL 1 OPENING OF THE FISHING SEASON. STOCKING WILL BE LATER THIS YEAR DUE TO THE HEAVY SNOW COVER AND THE RUN-OFF WHICH SHOULD BE LATE AND HIGH.

MORE DEADLY THAN DDT

A WHOLE NEW FAMILY OF LETHAL INSECTICIDE SPRAYS (CHLORINATED HYDRO-CARBONS) WAS DEVELOPED DURING AND SINCE WORLD WAR II. THE PUBLIC IS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH SEVERAL. PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN IS DDT.

SOME SIGNIFICANT DISASTERS IN NATURE HAVE FOLLOWED WIDE-SPREAD USE OF THIS POISON. AN EXAMPLE WAS THE REPEATED DEVASTATION OF SALMON AND SALMON FOODS BY SPRAYING DDT (FOR SPRUCE BUDWORM CONTROL) ON THE MIRAMICHI RIVER DRAINAGE IN NEW BRUNSWICK IN 1954-1956.

BUT DDT IS MILD COMPARED TO DIELDRIN OR HEPTACHLOR. THIS POISON IS PERHAPS 20 TIMES MORE TOXIC TO FISH AND WILDLIFE THAN DDT.

IN THE DITCHES OF THE SALT MARSHES ALONG THE INDIAN RIVER ON THE FLORIDA EAST COAST DIELDRIN PELLETS WERE AIR-DISSEMINATED AT THE RATE OF ONE POUND PER ACRE OVER SOME 2,000 ACRES BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES IN MAY, 1955. PURPOSE WAS TO KILL SAND-FLY LARVAE.

THE FISH KILL WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE. THE MINIMUM IMMEDIATE OVER-ALL KILL THROUGHOUT THE MARSHES EXCLUSIVE OF THE INDIAN RIVER SHORE LINE WAS 20-30 TONS OF FISHES, OR ABOUT 1,175,000 FISHES, OF AT LEAST 30 SPECIES.

MOLLUSKS SEEMED TO BE UNHARmed BY DIELDRIN. CRUSTACEANS WERE VIRTUALLYexterminated throughout the area. THE ENTIRE AQUATIC CRAB POPULATION WAS APPEARENTLY DESTROYED. THE LARGE GAME AND FOOD FISHES SUCCUMBED THE SOONEST. CRABS SET UPON AND DESTROYED THE MORMON BUND FISHES, BUT NEXT DAY WERE DEAD THEMSELVES. AFTER TWO WEEKS NO TRACE REMAINED OF THE LITTER OF DEAD FISHES.

THE GENERAL ABSENCE OF DEAD AND DYING FISHES AND THE SCARCITY OF LIVING FISHES IN THE MARSH AFTER TWO WEEKS AND LATER SUGGESTS THAT MUCH OF THE FISH POPULATION COMMUTING BETWEEN THE MARSH AND ADJACENT INSHORE SHALLOWS OF INDIAN RIVER WAS DESTROYED.

SPORT FISHING BULLETIN, JANUARY, 1958
Many inquiries are directed to the Accounting office as to the method of selling licenses, as well as the possibility of obtaining an agency to sell licenses. C. Keith Miller, head of the Accounting Division, sets forth the following policies in order that all Fish and Game personnel will be better informed on the subject.

The Inland Fisheries and Game Department has nearly 1,100 agents who sell both Resident and Non-Resident licenses. Of this number, 520 are town clerks or agents appointed to replace town clerks. These local officials sell all the resident licenses. In this group, the number varies only slightly. Any change in the number would be affected only in those instances where it is learned that residents find it difficult to obtain their license from the town clerk and request that a second agent be appointed.

The balance of the 1,100 agents sells non-resident licenses. These agents are located in all parts of New England, as well as in New York and Canada. They are required by law to report to the Accounting Office once each month. Those who fail to report as required, forfeit their agency. For this reason, the list of non-resident agents varies somewhat from year to year.

Non-resident agents are appointed on the basis of service in a particular locality and the number of agents selling licenses in that area. All applicants are required to submit bank references prior to obtaining the agency. The Department does not encourage new agents and when an agency is finally appointed it should be one that can offer licenses for sale seven days a week.

Each year the Inland Fisheries and Game Department sells about 400,000 licenses of all types. To sell this amount and provide all the agents and town clerks with an ample supply, it is necessary to print one million licenses. This means that each year, more licenses are destroyed than are sold. That explains why the Department does not wish to appoint any more agents than are necessary in any one area.

Undoubtedly many of our Fish and Game personnel in the field receive inquiries on this subject. It is quite possible that in some instances the Accounting office should be informed about a location where it is difficult for non-residents to purchase their license and where the appointment of an agent in that locality would correct a poor situation. It is felt, however, that coverage in most localities is substantial and that prospective applicants should be discouraged from trying to obtain an agency.
Mrs. Dora Hudson, resident license clerk, in the main office, died suddenly on February 3. She had been with the Fish and Game Department since June 16, 1947.

Her death as a result of a coronary attack was a shock to all who knew her. The Friday before she had been at work joking with her coworkers. She had the ability to make any hardship seem comical and would never complain, regardless how difficult a task would seem or how bad the weather might be.

Dora was the widow of Myron Hudson of Winthrop.

New Personnel

Mrs. Lillian Belden joined the staff of the Warden Division in the main office as a clerk stenographer on January 15, 1958.

Mrs. Belden, a graduate of Erskine Academy, is a resident of Palermo. Before coming to the Fish and Game Department, she worked as stenographer and key-punch operator for the Central Maine Power Company and the Federal Government.

Lillian and George Belden have three children, Michael, 5, Tommy, 3, and Susan, six months.

Fishway Course

Eleven Maine fishery biologists of the Department and the Atlantic Salmon Commission recently attended a two-week school covering principles of design and operation of fish path systems.

Milo C. Bell, associate professor in the College of Fisheries, University of Washington, served as instructor of the course. Bell has been active in fishery work for 35 years, some 28 of which have been spent in fishery engineering. He is considered one of the country's foremost authorities on fishways.
MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH THE WARDENS

DIVISION A

MAYNARD MARSH, SUPERVISOR

NEAR THE END OF JANUARY, WARDEN THOMAS BRYANT RECOVERED A DEER WHICH HAD BEEN CHASED INTO THE OCEAN AT KENNEBUNK. HE TOOK THE ANIMAL HOME AND KEPT IT OVERNIGHT. IT APPEARED IN GOOD CONDITION SO HE RELEASED IT THE NEXT DAY.

THE BEAVER TAKE IN DIVISION A IS LIGHT THIS YEAR COMPARED TO OTHER SEASONS. THE LOW TAKE WAS DUE TO POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LOW PRICES QUOTED EARLY IN THE SEASON.

WARDEN CHARLES COCHRAN SAW A FLOCK OF BLACK DUCK AT SHY BEAVER POND IN SHAPLEIGH NEAR THE END OF JANUARY. WARDEN CHARLES LIBBY REPORTS THAT A FLOCK OF EIGHTEEN CANADA GEESE ARE WINTERING AT WELLS BEACH.

TOGUE WHICH WERE FIRST PLANTED IN OSSIPPEE LAKE IN 1955 ARE NOW BEING TAKEN BY ICE FISHERMEN. THE LARGEST CHECKED EARLY IN THE SEASON WAS SEVENTEEN INCHES LONG AND WEIGHED ONE AND THREE QUARTERS POUNDS.

DIVISION B

ROY GRAY, SUPERVISOR

WARDEN CHARLES TUTTLE REPORTS FIVE DEER KILLED BY CARS AND TRUCKS ON ONE SHORT STRIP OF ROAD ON ROUTE 201 BETWEEN GARDINER AND BRUNSWICK. THE DEER ARE PLENTIFUL IN HIS DISTRICT WITH LARGE GROUPS OF DEER VISITING THE ORCHARDS EVERY NIGHT.

ICE FISHING HAS BEEN SLOW IN DIVISION B ACCORDING TO SUPERVISOR GRAY. HE CHECKED NEQUASSET LAKE RECENTLY WITH WARDENS BEANE AND GORDON AND SAW ONLY TWO TROUT AND ONE PICKEREL. VERY FEW FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN OUT IN THE POOR WEATHER.

DIVISION C

ARTHUR ROGERS, SUPERVISOR

WARDEN HAROLD TUKEY OF BELGRADE LAKES REPORTS LITTLE ACTIVITY BY THE ICE FISHERMEN DUE TO THE HARSH WEATHER AND POOR ICE CONDITIONS. RABBIT HUNTERS ARE DOING WELL AND CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY GOOD ON THE HIGHLANDS.

WARDEN LOUIS CHUTE NOTED THAT MOST OF HIS BEAVER TRAPPERS WERE THROUGH TRAPPING EARLY IN THE SEASON. THEY ALL MENTIONED THAT THEY HAD A VERY BAD SEASON, DESPITE THE JUMP IN PRICE NEAR THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY.
Chute checked only fourteen fishermen at Embden Lake at the opening of the season. These men had two salmon, about 2½ pounds each and one togue weighing 4½ pounds.

Warden Leon Gilpatrick of Belfast reports that fishermen are having good luck catching smelts at Swan Lake. The smelts are from six to eleven inches long. Gilpatrick also has checked some good-sized game fish on the same lake. Don Eastman of Monroe caught two brown trout, six and seven pounds each and Charles Porter of East Dixmont caught one weighing ten pounds. A few salmon are being taken in the two and three pound class.

Warden Basil Closson of Winterport noted that the smelt fishermen on the Penobscot caught a 43-pound striped bass in their smelt nets recently.

Warden Norman Gilbert, Hartland, has several large deer yards in his district. The largest at Mainstream and Sibley Pond bog is supporting a big herd of deer.

One way to get a bobcat is to run over him with a car. Bruce Coates of Kezar Falls, enroute to Plymouth, ran over a small bobcat in Buckfield. Coates is Warden Stanley Richardson's son-in-law.

Activity is almost at a standstill in Division C. Warden Tukey said rabbit hunters have been stopped by the snow. Warden Gilbert, notes that it is difficult getting around on snowshoes. Warden Richardson has no hunting or fishing in his district.

Division D

Fishing was off to a slow start in Division D. Warden Arthur Hitchcock reports that no fishermen were on the south portion of Sebec Lake the first two days of the season. He checked a group of six fishing Kingsbury Pond with a good catch of salmon and pickerel. The seven salmon ranged from three to five pounds and they had 15 pickerel.

Warden Earl Tukey checked 20 fishermen with a total of seven togue on Schoodic Lake on opening day. The lake had a covering of 10 to 15 inches of ice.

Supervisor Brown checked ten fishermen on Duck Lake, Hancock County, with two salmon and an 8-pound togue for two days effort. The following two weeks on the same lake he talked with 16 fishermen with no fish then 21 fishermen with three salmon and one trout.

Brown remarked that this is the slowest season that he can remember.
DIVISION E

RAYMOND MORSE, SUPERVISOR

Warden Dave Mercier, Orrington, has had an epidemic of dogs chasing deer in Brewer, Eddington and Clifton. Three dogs chased a deer into the built up portion of the city of Brewer, then into the Penobscot River.

Warden Raymond Harrington, Deblois, found a number of camps broken into at Sabio Lake, Cranberry Lakes and Crooked River, Township 30. Apparently all the camps were entered by the same party. They used a wrecking bar and pried the padlocks off in each camp break.

Sylvester Allen of Brooksville had an unusual experience this month. He heard a commotion out in his woodshed and found his tomcat fighting with a wild cat. He hit the cat a number of times with a stick of wood and the cat finally staggered out into the yard. Allen ran across the road, borrowed a .22 caliber rifle from a neighbor and killed the cat. The animal was in very poor condition. Although it was a comparatively large one, it only weighed 21 pounds.

Supervisor Morse said that ice conditions were the poorest of any opening day of ice fishing that he has seen on a February 1. Tunk Lake, a favorite winter spot, was all open water the first of the month. It finally froze over near the end of February.

Lawrence Clossen of North Blue Hill shot a 37-pound lynx in North Penobscot. This lynx has been traveling from Sedgwick through to Orland for the past two years. Clossen and his father Mel are both cat hunters and had seen its tracks each winter in the snow. This month was the first time that Clossen found tracks fresh enough to put his dog on the trail. The dog is fast and in 20 minutes had the lynx up a tree where its master shot it.

Morse checked with all the cat hunters in his area and the last lynx killed in the Division was 42 years ago. Edwin Douglas, Ellsworth, killed a lynx in February, 1916, on Backwood Mt., Brooksville. Clossen's lynx was taken to the University of Maine for permanent identification.

Morse was called out in the middle of the month to search for a lost hunter in the first real snow storm of the winter. A Fletchers Landing man became lost in back of Township 8. A Civilian Defense Unit under Fire Dept. Chief Fred Beal searched the area along with wardens and the sheriff. It was snowing and blowing so hard that it was impossible to follow any tracks. The man made his way out of the woods at 5:15 the following morning.
JACK BURKE OF MILBRIDGE, CAUGHT A 7½-POUND BROWN TROUT FROM PINEO POND IN DEBLOIS, THE FIRST OF THAT SPECIES TO BE TAKEN FROM THE POND.

DIVISION F  

LLOYD CLARK, SUPERVISOR

Beaver trappers have had excellent traveling in Division F except for lack of ice the beginning of the month. Six fur buyers from Canada purchased licenses and have been active.

Fishing in general has been slow. There were quite a few men out for opening day and some good size trout and toge were checked. Clifford Lake which produced many pickerel two winters ago has yielded none so far this year.

Supervisor Clark reports that cat hunters are having good luck in his division. Some very large cats from 35 to 38 pounds have been checked.

DIVISION G  

DAVID PRIEST, SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Priest spent two days in the back country with the warden pilot checking ice fishermen. They were getting few fish. Priest was surprised to see as many deer signs as he did. There were more than he had seen in several years.

Fur buyers are more interested in beaver pelts this season than for many years. Trapping interest picked up as buyers began to compete for the catch. Four Canadian fur dealers have provided stiff competition for resident buyers. The Canadians have bought an estimated 90 per cent of the pelts sold.

Of four bobcats that Priest has run with his dogs this winter, two were started near deer carcasses which they had just killed.

Parts of the division were coated with the worst ice storm during the month of February that the supervisor had ever seen. The storm did a great deal of damage to the trees. He saw many fir and spruce trees a foot or more thick broken by the weight of ice. The storm was beneficial to the deer herd as it bent the cedar trees over so the animals could feed on the upper branches.

Warden Howes reports fairly large concentrations of moose along the East Branch of Penobscot. They are having a hard time getting through the crust. They cut their legs and dew claws leaving a trail of blood in the snow.
Warden Kennett remembers finding where an owl attempted to catch a rabbit. The wing imprints on the snow measured 41 inches.

Supervisor Priest reports that 400 beaver had been tagged in his division by February 22.

Division H

Warden Reginald Durrell heard of an unusual incident that took place in his district recently. As a Masardis woman was getting ready to take her grandson to town, the boy looked out in the yard and said, "Look at the dog, Grammie!" The woman looked and saw a small bear. She screamed and ran into the yard. A passing motorist stopped for a moment then continued down the road. The woman went back into the house and called three or four different people asking them to come and kill the bear in her yard. But no one believed her, thinking that no bear would be out of its den in the middle of winter. One man finally responded to her pleas, came and found the bear in the barn, then shot it. The animal weighed 13 pounds. Later it was discovered that the bear had been denned up in the barn for some time.

Wardens in Division H have been reporting other unusual happenings involving animals. Trappers have been noticing bear wallerings in the deep snow in certain heavily wooded areas. A raccoon was picked up by a resident within the limits of Presque Isle and brought into the Police Department. Warden William Atkins checked a beaver flowage with a dead beaver lying on the dam. The beaver had been dead for some time. Warden Lawrence Caron was called to Caribou to check a deer found dead on the Woodland Road. He discovered that foxes had dug up the hide and head of a deer killed in the fall season. A buck deer was seen recently by Truman Tapley of Blaine in Twp. D Range 2 still carrying one of its antlers.

Fishing activity has not been heavy in Division H. Pleasant Lake became open to the taking of game fish this month for the first time in about 20 years and no fish were taken on opening day.

Deer conditions are fairly good for this time of year. Warden Ivan Porter of Ashland remarked that while in a deer yard this month, he noticed the great amount of food available due to the heavy snow and ice clinging to the branches of the cedar and forcing them close to the ground. However, Warden Virgil Grant of Houlton has noted that large deer have been bleeding about the feet due to the sharp crust under the light snow.
Lumbermen are having difficulty breaking out their branch roads to back lumber yards. They probably will be forced to leave much of the lumber in the woods this winter.

Trappers Sterling Cook and Elwood Buck, both of Mapleton, had taken 75 beaver by the middle of February. Most of them were taken from nuisance areas close to the towns. They are realizing a much better price than expected at the first of the season.

Warden Caron of Fort Fairfield reports he will be without his automobile for about a week, due to an accident. He says that he is going to suspend his wife's license indefinitely.

Division I

Curtis Cooper, Supervisor

Game are apparently plentiful in Division I this winter. Warden Charles Allen has noticed a large number of deer wintering in the pulp operation at T 16, R 5. They appear to be in excellent condition and are getting around fairly well.

Warden Philip Dumond reports a very high rabbit population in the Estcourt area. He found about 200 rabbit snares while patrolling along the boundary between Blue River and Beau Lake. He was not successful in finding anyone tending the traps, but is satisfied they are Canadians, mostly teenagers.

Warden Hill came across a lynx track which measured 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches recently. Both Wardens Hill and Noyes feel they are getting quite numerous. Warden Leonard Pelletier reports sable very plentiful in the Big Brook section of his district. They seem to be increasing throughout the entire division.

Several people have become interested in raising pheasants this year. One farmer from Wallagrass has asked Warden Pelletier for information and he told the warden that he would like to raise one hundred birds.

Warden Hill had a lost person that may well be the first one for 1958. On January 16, a woods boss at T 14, R 15 became lost. He traveled through lumber operations and on old roads looking for a short cut back to camp. He was found at 2:30 the following morning, still wandering and very tired and hungry. He was out 16 hours.

The recent spurt in the price of beaver pelts has given trappers more incentive to work harder. Two trappers from Fort Kent filled out applications for licenses to trap during February. Supervisor Cooper talked to the same men in December and they were not interested because of the price outlook being so low.
WARDEN HILL REPORTS THAT THE BLANCHETTE LUMBER CO. OF T 15, R 15 WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FILL THEIR CONTRACT BECAUSE OF THE MILD WINTER WHICH IS HAMPERING GOOD ROAD CONDITIONS. THEY CLAIM THEY WILL RUN ABOUT 1½ MILLION FEET SHORT.

PILOT VARNEY AND SUPERVISOR COOPER CHECKED TWO CANADIANS FISHING AT ROSS LAKE, FEBRUARY 7, WHO HAD SNOWSHOED FROM DESOLATION POND BY WAY OF LITTLE ALLAGASH LAKE. THEY PITCHED A TENT AND SLEPT THERE THEN WALKED TO ROSS LAKE TO FISH. THE DISTANCE TRAVELED IS ABOUT 15 TO 18 MILES ON FOOT FROM WHERE THEY LEFT THEIR VEHICLE. THEY HAD CAUGHT TWO SMALL TROUT.

DIVISION J

WALLACE BARRON, SUPERVISOR

THE FISHING SEASON WAS OFF TO A GOOD START IN THE ROCKWOOD REGION OF MOOSEHEAD LAKE. WARDENS HARRIMAN AND PERRY REPORT THAT IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF FEBRUARY TOGUE UP TO FIVE POUNDS WERE COMMON. TROUT UP TO THREE POUNDS WERE CAUGHT AT THE MOUTH OF MOOSE RIVER. TROUT FISHING AT BRASSUA WAS SLOW BUT THE SMELT FISHING GOOD. TRAVEL WAS DIFFICULT DUE TO SIX TO TWELVE INCHES OF SLUSH COVERED WITH A LITTLE SNOW.

SUPERVISOR BARRON FEELS THAT PUBLICITY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HEAVY SNOW ON CAMP ROOFS PAID OFF. SEVERAL OWNERS HAVE PAID VISITS TO THEIR CAMPS TO CLEAN THEM OFF.

DIVISION K

WILLIAM SHAW, SUPERVISOR

ICE FISHERMEN ARE ACTIVE IN DIVISION K. WARDEN CHARLES TOBIE OF RANGELEY CHECKED FOUR SALMON AND TWO TROUT, ALL GOOD FISH, TAKEN FROM HALEY POND ON THE OPENING WEEKEND. AT LEAST TWO FISHERMEN WENT THROUGH THE ICE ON THAT POND. SEVERAL OTHERS WHO DID NOT USE SNOWSHOES WENT KNEE DEEP IN SLUSH.

ON OPENING DAY OF ICE FISHING AT PORTER LAKE IN STRONG AND NEW VINEYARD, WARDEN AYER CHECKED 17 TOGUE AND FOUR PICKEREL TAKEN BY 57 FISHERMEN.

WARDEN GRAY MORRISON OF KINGFIELD REPORTS THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN HARD WALKING TO DISCOURAGE THE ICE FISHERMEN. THE PONDS WERE COVERED WITH SIX INCHES OF WATER AND A FOOT OR MORE OF SNOW ON TOP OF THE WATER AND THIRTY INCHES OF SNOW ON THE TRAILS LEADING TO PONDS.

WARDEN MORRISON WAS WITH TRAPPER DONALD HORTON WHEN HE REMOVED TWO BEAVERS FROM SETS ON THE CARRABASSET RIVER. AS HORTON CHECKED ANOTHER SET, THE WARDEN NOTICED A BUBBLE ON THE NOSE OF ONE BEAVER, THEN A BUBBLE ON THE OTHER NOSTRIL. THEY SHOOK THE ANIMAL GENTLY BY THE TAIL AND TURNED HIM OVER ON ITS STOMACH. THE BEAVER CAME TO LIFE AND BEGAN WALKING AROUND AFTER SNEEZING ONCE.
Warden Charles Tobie of Rangeley reports seeing a yearling bear track in the snow while checking beaver sets in the Kennebago region on January 25.

Warden Dwight Lander of Stratton reports that a mink is living under his house. Mrs. Lander smelled a strong odor and saw the mink. She passed the word to Dwight that it had to be eliminated because the odor is too obnoxious.

Warden Edwards of Oquossoc recently received a phone call from a Rangeley man who lives in a camp on the outskirts of town. The man told Edwards that there was a bear sleeping in the baled hay in his hovel and he would like to have it removed. The warden went to the woods camp and picked up the bear by the scruff of the neck. The animal weighed 11 pounds. Edwards believes the mother was killed during hunting season. At last report the bear was doing fine on dog food and milk.

Warden Dwight Lander of Stratton reports that a great many camps in the area are loaded with five feet of snow and some have collapsed. More camps will be damaged if they are not shoveled soon.

Division L

Wayne Lindsay, Supervisor

Warden Harry Kearney checked 58 fishermen on Thompson Lake opening day with 58 togue. There were about 500 fish traps on Pleasant Pond, Turner, the same day. Of 107 fishermen checked only 30 trout and 12 pickerel had been taken. Warden Wilson said that Bryant Pond, Woodstock, open to ice fishing the first time for a number of years, produced 19 brown trout and several pickerel. The largest brown trout weighed three pounds and the largest pickerel the same. South Pond in Greenwood had slow fishing for togue opening day. Thirty-five fishermen on Crystal Lake in Harrison had only one legal-sized togue by noontime on February 1.

Freezing rains near the first of the month caused heavy icing on Streaked Mountain and hills of equal altitude. Probably 50 per cent of the trees were bent over or broken. Old timers in the area state they have never seen such heavy icing.

Warden Lord reports tagging 119 beaver in his district by February 12.

The deep snow is giving deer some difficulty. Depths up to six feet were reported by February 19.
Augustus Plummer of East Raymond caught a 5 pound 5 ounce pickerel at Bear Pond, Waterford. This is the largest pickerel caught in that area for some time. Thompson Lake continues to produce fair catches of togue mostly 15 to 18 inches. Fishermen report catching many togue only 7 or 8 inches long.

Dwight Hannon, a Central Maine Power Company employee, found an unusual shaped deer antler that had just been dropped in West Leeds. There were two prongs, one 22 inches and the other 18½ inches. At the base of the prongs the antler had a 5-inch web. Hannon saw the deer and it was still carrying the other antler.

Bobcat hunters in the Norway-Paris area continue to bag three or four cats a week. Warden Adams reports rabbit hunters out in force. During a recent weekend Adams checked 25 hunters with a total of 25 rabbits.

NEW WARDENS

Chief Warden Elmer Ingraham has announced the appointment of four new wardens.

John Leathers has been assigned to the Allagash Plantation District replacing Donis Rogers, who resigned to go into a taxi business in Millinocket.

Herbert Brazier, Rockland, a temporary warden last fall, was appointed to fill a vacancy at Mapleton. Harvard Bellatty, the warden who formerly handled that district transferred to Franklin.

Lyle Frost, Southwest Harbor, is the warden in a new district created on the International Road west of Ashland. A vast network of roads extending 75 miles into the woods has made it possible for fishermen and hunters to get to remote places.

Conrad Hutchings, Randolph, has been assigned to the Burbank Warden Camp, North East Cary, near Moosehead Lake. He formerly worked with the Central Maine Power Company.

The four new wardens are all married. They are presently attending warden school at Camp Keyes, Augusta.
WARDEN PILOTS

The Aviation Division flew the Game Division on their annual Moose Survey during the week of February 16, when clear weather and good visibility permitted.

Fishing at Ross Lake was exceptionally good Sunday, February 23, when the wardens checked several togues that tipped the scales at ten pounds. Chief Pilot later saw ten toge taken from five holes with three of them in the eight to ten pound class.

Pilot Stinson reported that he had a great deal of difficulty with the ice on his plane. He experienced one of the worst sleet storms in years at his home in Enfield. Much of his time has been spent with the wardens checking fishermen.

Recently Stinson and Warden Robert Tait of Princeton intercepted an unlicensed hunter. They first saw him running off the ice on Big Lake into the woods. As it happened there were fields on the other side of the woods so the plane landed there. When the hunter went across an opening Tait approached him.

The hunter said, "Hello Bob! I had no idea that was you."

The fellow is a confirmed poacher and must have been nervous to see the warden approaching.

WARDEN SCHOOL

Several of the warden supervisors are serving as instructors at the Eighteenth Annual Session of the Warden Service Training School being held at Camp Keyes from February 23 to March 13.

Warden Supervisor Raymond Morse is serving as school director. Working with him and instructing classes are Warden Supervisors Wallace Barron, Maynard Marsh, Wendell Brown, and Roy Gray.

Twenty-two wardens are attending the session. Many of them are new members of the service employed since the school was held two years ago.
Registrations for next summer's Conservation Education Workshops at Christopher Lake are coming in at an increasing rate to Larry Stuart, Director of the program. Additional facilities at Christopher will enable some 100 Maine teachers to participate this coming summer.

The Division's film library is being utilized by various organizations and schools throughout the state to the tune of better than 100 bookings per month.

The first Warden Training Film produced by the I and E Division was used at Warden School this month and was well received. It deals with the apprehension of night hunters, complete with court procedure and evidence.

The Department's informational exhibit shown at Montreal earlier this year has been re-vamped and improved, and will be shown at the Bangor Sportsmen's show March 19 through the 22nd. The exhibit consists of a series of eight panels with photographs in color and black and white, a publication display, and a map of the state showing the Department's field installations and personnel. Each photo is captioned, and a photo series is devoted to each Division of the Department, explaining the major activities and programs of the divisions.