save

energy

Parks make good perch for fall bird-watching

Outdoors writer

Between the maze of regulations Michigan hunters are being tapped with and the grim stories of a small phease and processes of the last two severe winters: many outdocates on well consider switching to bird watching.

That way, you can take the write and kids along. That way, you can take the write and kids along. Ducks, geese and swpras remigrating all across southeast Michigan. Even in built-up areas, you can see the repid flutter of duck wings; in tiny ponds where you'd expect to see domestic ducks, there are black-necked nohers—Canada geese.
KENSINGTON Metropark, along 1-96 in western Oakland County, remairs z favorite stopping spot for migrating waterfowl as well as a nesting spot for the native pupulation.

Naturalist Bob Hotaling tells us some 20 species research and the spotted there—widegeons, mergansers send he spotted there—widegeons, mergansers send he spotted there—widegeons, mergansers send he spotted there—widegeons, bufflebead and rudy ducks.

and ruidy ducks. Source ingress, sourceau and ruidy ducks.
You can also spot loons, grebes and coots. In Yourner, watch for whistling swans.
The park favorites are the 10-15 pound Canada geese. Often they fly in during the morning, shend the day exting and grazing (they love grass) and depart late in the altermon.
The 'honkers', as they're affectionately known, will be the subject of a special program at the Kensington Nature Center at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22. A park naturalist will show sides and talk shout the geese. Bring food because the geese love handouts. Orn offers the most nutrition, but they like bread or crackers, to

FRIDAY IS a big day for hunters in the southern lower peninsula. That's opening day for many species of small game.
Cottontial rabbit and showshoe hare season opers then and runs until March 1. Deily bag limit is five, with 10 in possession and 60 for the season. Pheasant season opers Friday and runs until

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Post Time: 7:30 p.m.

indsor Raceway Windsor, Ontario, Highway 18 at Sprucewood

Nov. 10. Daily limit is two males, four.in possession and eight for the season.

Ruffed grouse (partridge) runs from Friday to Nov. 14. then from Dec. 131. Limits are five for the day, 10 in possession and 25 for the season. Woodcock season runs from Friday to Nov. 14. Limits are five a day and 10 in possession. Your gam must not be capable of holding more than three shelles while you're hunting woodcock.

The state Department of Natural Resources has leased many privately owned lands for public hunting. To get a list, stop at the district DNR office at 2455 N. Williams Lake Road, Pontiac.

AS SHOAL waters cool in the southern Great Lakes, watch for salmon and steelhead fishing to pick up—if you can take the stiff breezes over open

water.

On Belle Isle, shore fishermen have taken cohos on lures. Some salmon are being taken in the St. Clair River's middle channel.

these days on Lake St. Clair.

THE METROPARKS have some good familytype programs at the nature centers in the days
alread. A sampling:
Only, one of indirer's finest hunting machines.
Only, one of indirer's and outdoors, with stides,
mounted speech already at 7 pm. Fridays,
mounted speech already at 7 pm. Fridays,
mounted speech finestington Metropark. The
program lasts 90 minutes
A nature cruise aboard the Island Queen excursion boat begins at Kensington at 10 a.m. Sutruvision boat begins at Kensington at 10 a.m. Sutruvision boat begins at Kensington at 10 a.m. Sutrusion boat begins at Kensington at 10 a.m. Sutrubut Magle Beach.
White-tail deer will be discussed in a 90-minute
program at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 22 in Kensington's
rature center.

white-car. And the program at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 22 in Kensington's nature center.

Halloween superstitions and how they started

will be covered in a nature center program at 1 of pm. Wednesday, Oct. 25 in a program that is 1 of for the faint of heart or un-escorted children."

All Kensington programs but the boat ride are free, but you should call the park office at 685-1561 for advance registration.

Over at Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester, widflowers will be the theme of a morning walk beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 22. Park naturalists will cover such questions as how the coak pre-pares for winter and what plants do to ensure survival for themselves and animals which depend on them. Call the park office at 781-4621 for advance registration.

A TIP OF the hat to two Huron-Clinton metroparks leaders on their 28th anniversaries with the Park system.
Charles Damm of Farmington has been superintendent of Kensington Metropark since 1988. He started as a naturalist.



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