



COVER GREATEST ASSET TO RABBIT PROPAGATION

Hunters wanting more cottontails to furnish sport for fall shooting must think of the problem in terms of territory where rabbits can live. Paul Hickie, mammalogist of the department of conservation's game division, reports in the 112-page bulletin, "Cottontails in Michigan," just published.

Food is much less a problem than cover, Hickie asserts. The value of restocking depleted areas with imported or artificially propagated rabbits is discounted not alone because of the high cost, but because the carrying capacity of the area rather than the reproductive ability of the rabbits is the principal factor determining the density of rabbit populations.

"The widely accepted myth that wild rabbits released in wild areas will multiply like guinea pigs needs exploding," he says.

Because cover is the key to rabbit abundance in Michigan, "the rabbit in the best position to do something for the cottontail are the landowners, the great majority of whom are farmers," the bulletin states. The value of game as farmland crop and forest agricultural practices which also benefit game are pointed out.

Cottontails are reported to be still the "most important small game animal in Michigan" with sportsmen in the state normally harvesting annually more than two million animals, which in meat value alone are worth a million dollars. "Even though dissatisfaction exists," says Hickie, "the best information we have, that from the hunters themselves, indicates not a scarcity of game, but a scarcity of game per hunter."

Besides more and better cover, Hickie recommends that cottontail management include flexible bag limits and season dates, so hunters may reap a full harvest in years of abundance, while the stock may be protected in years of scarcity to fit the normal cyclic fluctuations in rabbit populations.

HARRISVILLE STATE PARK TO BE ENLARGED

Improvements costing \$70,000 and now more than half completed will triple the capacity of Harrisville state park, officials inspecting the progress of WPA workers said this week.

Heretofore, in 1920 with a 32-acre tract from the city of Harrisville, the park was later enlarged by additions of 54 and then for 10 acres. Good gravel roads completed through the camping area have opened up more than 200 individual camp sites, in both wooded and exposed locations. A new entrance

removes through park traffic from the camp section.

Running water from the Harrisville city water system has been made available throughout the park, after two wells put down produced water that was objectionable because of its salty taste. Electricity is available for campers, who number about 5,000 each season. One modern sanitary toilet building in the camping area is completed, and a second which will be equipped with laundry and showers is being built this summer. The city is in sight of the park, which lies half a mile to the south.

The park has excellent beach on Lake Huron, and has considerable day use, with annual attendance averaging 60,000. Campers from the southeastern Michigan metropolitan area reach the park over US-23, which runs within a few thousand feet of it.

Of the \$40,000 already expended on improvements by state and federal governments, the state has contributed \$6,000 in cash besides materials, equipment and supervision. Of the \$30,000 worth of work now underway or projected, the state's cash share is about \$7,000.

MICHIGAN GETS MOST MONEY FROM WILDLIFE ACT

Michigan's share of the \$2,500,000 appropriated by Congress for federal aid to wildlife restoration under the Pittman-Robertson act in the fiscal year 1940-41 is about \$131,000—the most any state will receive.

New York and Pennsylvania will receive the next largest shares of the fund derived from a federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, and distributed according to the area of the cooperating states and the number of hunting licenses sold.

Following the established policy of the conservation commission, the game division of the department of conservation will use 10 to 20 per cent of the money for investigations of game, species and game management, while 10 to 20 per cent will be allotted to improvement of wildlife habitat and other improvements in game areas acquired by the department in southern Michigan.

The remaining 60 to 80 per cent will be used to acquire lands in areas approved by the conservation commission and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

Land for Pittman-Robertson game has already been acquired at Rose Lake in Clinton county, and in Tuscola and Barry counties, and it is on these three areas that improvement of living places for game will begin. Next acquisitions planned will be at Crane Pond in

Cass county, and on the Gratiot-Saginaw county border.

Pittman-Robertson projects now underway include a study of raccoon management at Swan Creek; investigation of farm game management at Rose Lake; pheasant investigation at Prairie Farm, near Saginaw; fox squirrel management on the Swan Creek; statewide check on abundance of Hungarian Partridge; and statewide investigation of favorable and adverse effects on game of plant succession, following forest fires.

As investigation of prairie chickens and sharpshinned hawk in the upper peninsula will begin shortly.

HUNTING DATES TO REMAIN UNCHANGED

Upland game hunters already looking ahead to the fall season's sport may plan their shooting knowing that season dates and bag limits continue unchanged.

Pheasant, cottontail, saw-whet, quail, squirrel, gray squirrel, prairie chicken, sharpshinned hawk, grouse and raccoon populations have varied so little from last year that the conservation commission has changed none of the 1939 regulations for hunting them.

Muskrat trapper along the Lake Erie shore, from the Ohio line to Wyandotte, bothered in recent seasons by fluctuations of water levels in the marshes, will be allowed to operate in January as well as December. Elsewhere the muskrat season is to be the same as before.

Local orders by the commission provide that Muskegon lake again will be closed to waterfowl shooting in season after 3 p. m. daily game club cooperated last winter in planting sharpshins, will be closed to sharpshin and prairie chicken shooting for a year. The commission order closing Otsego game area, refuge to all hunting and trapping will be allowed to expire October 1.

MICHIGAN TO HAVE SHARE IN RURAL HOUSING

Michigan is to have a share in the expanded rural housing program, according to information received by the extension service in agriculture and home economics of the Michigan State College.

Announcement of the plan has been made in Washington by M. L. Wilson, director of the extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Under the new program, farm families in Michigan and in other states are to receive information on the finance and credit facilities available through existing government financing agencies. These include the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Home Land Bank Board, the Federal Housing Administration, Federal National Mortgage association and the F.R.C. Mortgage company.

Surveys have indicated need for many types of low-cost village homes, farm substance homes, farmhouses and productive farm buildings which can be financed through existing agencies in these areas. Cooperation from the building industry is assured through an

organization of the National Housing Foundation which represents manufacturers, local building material dealers and trade associations in the building and allied fields.

Services to home builders will consist of recommendations as to type of construction for improved design and lower cost and description of most suitable financing methods. Widespread additional employment and sound investment of private funds are expected to result from stimulation of the program.

Holland Park Auto Space To Be Increased to 500

Upon completion of additional paying which increases the parking capacity of Holland state park from 450 to 500 cars, WPA workers are turning to installation of a water system and construction of a combination toilet, shower and laundry building in the camp ground to be finished in time for use next season.

In Muskegon state park the pouring of concrete slabs to provide parking space for 500 cars at the new beach development north of the shipping canal is underway, and is to be completed about August 1. In late summer construction is scheduled to begin on a sewage and water system and a reinforced concrete bathroom in this park.

Hardwood Trees Planted On Old Forest Site

Whether hardwoods will thrive where pine once flourished, on the sandy Kingston plains now barren after lumbering, and forest fires, is being tested in a 212-acre planting of 32,000 trees set out by CCC workers in Cass county game area near Shingleton.

Three non-native species—hickory, black walnut and white oak—are getting a trial introduction to the region. Other varieties planted are white ash, wild crabapple, box elder, mountain ash, red oak, sumac, choke cherry, winterberry, and moose maple.

These trees and shrubs furnish game cover and produce fruits and seeds eaten by prairie chickens and sharpshins, and so may influence game populations favorably.

The young trees are spaced at 10-foot intervals, and planted in plots of from three to 20 acres.

According to professional guides of the north who have accompanied tourists on both camera and hunting trips, it is much more difficult to secure a good picture of game in its native wildness than to kill it with a high powered rifle.

CHERRY PIE IS FAVORITE WITH TRUCK DRIVERS

For the same reason that a crash at the intersection of U.S. 27 and U.S. 12 at 2 o'clock tonight is no longer news to the truck driving clan when the morning newspapers reach Cheboygan, certain restaurants become favorite stops of those who, during all hours of the day and night, transport a major portion of the nation's freight over the highways.

News via the "grapevine" to the effect that a certain stand has "good food with pie like Ma made" is certain to interest the three million "gentlemen of the highway," and to firmly establish the business of another restaurant. Through this news channel, Don Smith of the Michigan Trucking Association was able to determine for the National Cherry Festival committee that cherry pie is the year round choice of the truck drivers of the nation.

Don Weeks of the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce wanted the information for use in connection with the Cherry Festival, July 17-19, and may have been a bit disappointed to learn that "fresh fruit pies in season" is first choice, but with a group of 3,000,000 prospective customers for cherry pie should cheer producers of Michigan's No. 1 ranking fruit.

Edson Smith, driver for Kirk transportation Co., twice winner of the World's Truck Driving Championship, stated, "Truck driving is far from an easy job because one must at all times concentrate upon his job, keeping in mind his own equipment and watching the behavior of other drivers. From the time you enter the cab until you stop, it is work, and a job that makes for a good appetite. A driver wants to relax, to eat a leisurely meal, at the same time discussing the news of the road with other drivers. They want tasty and filling meals and this may be why pie is the favorite dessert."

Once the world's chief source of fur supply, the United States is now the largest for consuming market in the world and depends on imports for half its requirements, the federal Fish and Wildlife Service reports.

HIGHWAY DEPT. APPEALS FOR TRAFFIC CAUTION

The Michigan State Safety Committee this week made an appeal to motorists to observe safety rules during the summer week ends.

The committee which includes the department of state, the state highway department, the state police and the department of public instruction said that highways have had a second application of dust layer, sight distances have been improved and maximum police patrols have been ordered.

Lasting highway accidents, as the greatest cause of accidental deaths during holiday periods, the committee recommended that motorists check their cars carefully before starting trips. Special attention was urged for safety equipment such as brakes, tires, lights, horn. They warned against obstructing vision through any windows of an automobile by piling luggage and sports equipment too high. While excessive speed is condemned, the committee warned "pokey" drivers that police officers will require them to keep pace with other traffic.

Suggestions from the committee included a caution against driving in a westerly direction during the late afternoon when the sun is apt to prevent clear vision ahead. Drivers should guard against fatigue by resting for two or three hours previous to driving home after a day or week end of unusual exercise. Anyone planning to indulge in alcoholic drinks should use commercial transportation or should delegate the driving to another member of the party who does not indulge.

Drowning accidents can be prevented by postponing a swim for at least an hour after eating; by not attempting a trip in a canoe unless able to swim; by using only well known or well-marked bathing beaches; by sitting quietly when riding in a boat.

Danger from heat prostration or sun-stroke can be reduced by wearing the proper clothes; by remaining exposed to the direct rays of the sun for too long a period; by guarding against over-exertion.

Negaunee city officials have announced that the centennial of the discovery of iron ore in upper Michigan at a site now within their city will be celebrated in the summer of 1944.

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NEW MICHIGAN MARKETING HEAD IS APPOINTED

Since almost the entire foreign market for American agricultural products has been lost because of the present European war, and with the need for numerous new outlets for Michigan products, Agricultural Commissioner Elmer A. Beamer this week announced the appointment of Clarence L. Bolander of LaPeere as Director of Marketing of the Department of Agriculture.

Beamer expressed with satisfaction that the department was very fortunate in securing a man as capable as Mr. Bolander for solving the present serious marketing problems in Michigan.

Mr. Bolander has had a long and successful career in various branches of agriculture. He received his education, majoring in agriculture, at the University of Wisconsin. His first job, after finishing school, was in county dairy herd improvement work. After a year at this, he spent the next year supervising dairy tests for the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. The next three years he acted as

an agricultural advisor for the Farmers' Savings and Trust Company of Marquette, Wisconsin. In 1922 he came to Livingston County, Michigan as County Agricultural Agent, where he remained through 1930. He then transferred to LaPeere County to serve in a similar capacity. In 1935 he accepted a position with the Michigan Milk Producers Ass'n. He is resigning this position to come with the department of agriculture as Director of Marketing.

"Agriculture is a \$200,000,000 industry in Michigan," Beamer said, "and is the most diversified in its production of any state in the country. It is vital that we now meet the challenge of other states for more markets and outlets for its agricultural products. Foreign markets have been closed due to the war, and we must look to wider distribution in the United States to take care of our surplus. I feel that Mr. Bolander, with his wide experience, in the Marketing field, is very capable of handling this job for us."

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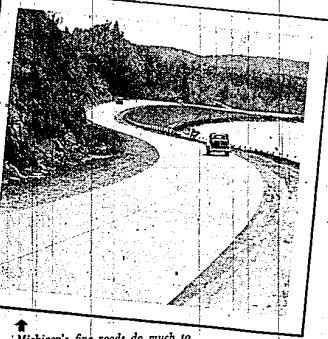
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