



FEWER GAME KILL CARDS RETURNED THIS SEASON

With February 15 the deadline for return of completed game kill reports by Michigan resident and non-resident hunters, considerably less cards have been mailed to the conservation department than had been received in late January, last year.

Pulling off in these returns which reflect hunter success or lack of it may be explained in part, by possible declines in sales of deer and small game licenses last fall. Delay of license dealers in reporting such sales has held up final tabulations but conservation department auditors will not be surprised if it is shown that increased employment has kept some hunters out of the fields and woods in recent months. As of January 20, this year, 14,815 small game and 22,822 deer hunters had complied with the law which requires the return of report cards attached to hunting licenses. On the same date last year 48,888 small game and 43,542 deer hunters had reported.

The law provides fines and penalties, either or both, may be imposed upon conviction of failure to return the report cards. The department, however, has not sought convictions under the law. Instead, conservation officers in Michigan's 83 counties last year were supplied with lists of hunters who had failed to return their cards. Each officer was supplied a list of 100 names. Reporting seasons given by hunters for such failures, officers listed for fullness, claims that cards had been mailed, or had been lost, and an awareness of the law as the more important excuses.

What action may be taken by the department to speed return of cards in future weeks is not determined yet.

TRAPPING VIOLATIONS LEAD

Infractions of trapping regulations accounted for more than half of December's 324 violations of conservation laws resulting in arrests that led to fines totaling \$3,390.40, court costs of \$2,959.75 and jail sentences that add up to 717 days. Theft of trees from state lands brought 29 arrests, and fishing law cases numbered 13. Conservation officers lost only three cases, in court.

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Science Finds New Types Of White-Tailed Deer

The new deer, hitherto unrecognized sub-species of the white-tailed Virginia deer, which ranges over most of temperate North America, have just been described by Smithsonian Institution zoologists.

In some cases they differ markedly from the commonly recognized Virginia deer in size, coloring and shape of head and antlers. They are, for the most part, found only in restricted environments where they may have been known for generations to local hunters but have escaped the attention of science.

One of the most notable is the Carmen mountain deer, found in the high mountains of northern Coahuila in Mexico. For years Texas hunters have recognized that the deer in this region differed noticeably from those found in their home state. They are dark colored animals without the conspicuous blackish tint of the upper side of the tail found in most other Virginia deer varieties. They have moderately spreading antlers with much shorter and smaller tines. The antlers also have a distinctive crescent or basket shape.

On Hilton Head island, off South Carolina, live a smaller sub-species of the Virginia deer that is especially notable, the zoologists found, because of its narrow, highly arched brain case. This brain variation probably has been the result of many generations in such a restricted environment. Nothing is yet known that would distinguish its general behavior from that of the ordinary Virginia deer.

Guinea Pigs Can Stand So Much, Science Finds

A guinea pig, when feeling punk, will go into a real blue funk.

A guinea pig gets neurotic, too, and while we humans should be the last to get the story, he is apt to shiver and tremble and worry and gnash his teeth when confronted with difficult problems.

These conclusions are the results of tests conducted by two Columbia University psychologists, Prof. C. J. Warden and Olga de Carli, graduate student.

The animals were given the problem to solve of jumping through doors to obtain food. Tests showed that when confused the animals were capable of developing a neurotic temperament which would cause them to act abnormally, becoming very shy or having violent body tremors, for instance.

The animals were placed 10 inches away from two doors, one painted black and one white, behind which was a dish of food. If the pig jumped through the black door it opened and he feasted well. If he jumped at the white door he bumped his snout and fell into a net.

The guinea pigs were chumps for about two weeks, when they caught on which door to jump through. Then both doors were locked. Half of the pigs were baffled. The change was too much for them. They became neurotic. Psychologists point out that 50 per cent is about the reasonable proportion, since not every human being goes to pieces in difficult situations.

Fort Jefferson Open

Historic old Fort Jefferson, abandoned as a military post in 1874 and made a national monument by President Roosevelt January 4, 1935, has been made accessible to Florida visitors by the National Park service.

A tri-weekly boat service has been inaugurated to the fort, which is located 65 miles off the coast of Key West on one of the Dry Tortugas islands. Docking and anchorage facilities also have been provided for private craft.

The fort was built on an island in 1840 as the key defense of the Gulf of Mexico, and although it was abandoned as a military post in 1874, troops are still stationed there—100 years later.

It was on this island that Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, Maryland physician who set John Wilkes Booth's broken leg following the assassination of President Lincoln, was imprisoned. He was pardoned on March 21, 1869, because of his faithful service to the island inhabitants during a yellow fever plague.

School for Crime Prevention

"Bringing the law to the child instead of bringing the child to the law," by teaching crime prevention in the public schools has been recommended by Harold H. Krowech, chairman of the state bar committee of Los Angeles, studying juvenile crime. The committee further recommended in a statement issued by Krowech that parents read newspaper accounts of crime to children, stress the penalties imposed by the courts and point out that crime brings suffering to innocent persons. "Authorities realize that juvenile courts can only punish offenders," Krowech said, "and they encourage our plan to teach children about crime and its pitfalls before the child has committed a crime."

Which Came First?

Lincoln, Ill.; Lincoln, Ind.; Cadillac, Mich.; La Salle, Ill.; Packard, Mich.; Bullock, Colo.; Bullock, Mo.; Graham, Ind.; Rudson, Ind.; Mercury, Texas; Nash, N. D.; Chrysler, Ala.; De Soto, Fla.; Dodge, Mass.; Pontiac, Mich.; Plymouth, Ind.; Chevrolet, Ky.; Ford, Ind.; Ford, Kan.; Austin, Tex.; or Austin, Tex.

PLANS MADE TO PLANT 3,224 ACRES WITH PINE TREES

Fitting its spring planting program to the CCC labor supply available for this type of work, the conservation department's forestry division plans to plant 3,224 acres with young pine trees in the season beginning in mid-April. In the spring of 1940, 8,046 acres were planted.

Besides the 2,500,000 pine seedlings and transplants reserved for state forest plantings this spring, another 3,000,000 small pine trees are on hand at the big Higgins Lake nursery to fill the orders of private purchasers and for free distribution to schools and communities maintaining community forests. Public demand for seedlings reached unprecedented volume in the last year.

CCC crews totaling 500 enrollees from seven camps will work on the state forests, setting out the young trees at seven-and-a-half foot intervals along rows that are seven and one-half feet apart, resulting in plantings of 800 trees to the acre. Sod is scalped from the planting spots beforehand, and the seedlings, packed in wet moss, are delivered directly by truck from the nursery.

The five-state forestry sharing plan for 1941 spring planting program, which normally is more extensive than the fall planting, are the Black Lake, Higgins Lake, Houghton Lake, Lake Superior and Au Sable forests.

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TO STUDY EFFECT OF SAND BARS ON FISH MOVEMENTS

The conservation department is going to make an all out attempt this year to find out just what effect sand bars at mouths of streams have on movements of fish. Fishermen complain that the sand bars prevent the free movement of fish upstream from the lakes into which the streams empty.

A two-way trap that will hold fish moving either up or down stream is to be installed in the lower reaches of the Platte river. Sand bars at the mouth of the Platte, where it empties into Lake Michigan are similar to those formed at the mouths of other northern Michigan streams. The fishermen are demanding that the department do something about them.

Just what the department can do is not immediately apparent. It can find out whether the complaints are justified and the fish weir in the Platte will be installed to determine that point. There is some question whether the department has authority to carry on dredging operations if it is shown that such work is necessary. The United States Supreme Court recently extended federal control over such streams.

Bulk of complaints concern the Platte, the mouths of the Sturgeon and Maple rivers emptying into Burt lake and the outlet of Hamlin lake as it empties into Lake Michigan.

The department is still to be convinced that the sand bars seriously handicap fish movements upstream, particularly during spawning runs.

Read the Want Ads!

Fishermen Arrested For Year-old Offense

One day less than a full year after two Michigan City, Indiana commercial fishermen escaped arrest by cutting loose the nets they were lifting illegally from this state's waters of southern Lake Michigan and running for it, the law caught up with them again in Michigan and imposed fines totaling \$225.

Walter and Albert Lutz paid maximum fines of \$100 apiece for fishing in Michigan waters without a license. Cutting the nets when Captain C. J. Allers and Erwin Bely of the conservation department's Patrol Boat No. 1 approached in a small boat to board the fish tug, Walter paid an additional \$25 penalty for hindering the officers in the performance of their duty.

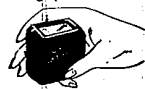
Cottontail and snowshoe or varying hare season ends January 31 in lower peninsula counties north of and including Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, and

Arenac counties. The season extends through February 28 in the upper peninsula.

The tongue of the just is as choice silver; the heart of the wicked is little worth.—Proverbs 10:20.

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