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# New Jersey

# Outdoors



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January, 1964



# Hunters Must Begin To Police Themselves

By Ernest Swift

**G**UN-TOTING gangsters and the owners of sporting firearms are rapidly being thrown into the same pot. Each year more legislation to restrict the possession of firearms finds its way into the bill factories of Congress and the state legislatures.

The F.B.I., together with state and municipal enforcement agencies, has been vigorously advocating for some years the registering of all firearms, whether for sale or owned by individuals. The contention of these agencies is that it would reduce robbery, murder, and general lawlessness.

On the other side there are over 150,000 sportsmen in New Jersey who go afield each fall and are equally determined that their right to possess arms is a constitutional guarantee and should not be abridged. There is also the National Rifle Association, with strong backing from the armed services, which has led the fight for sportsmen and rifle teams to own arms without being suspected of wrong-doing.

Shooting, other than hunting, for competition has been a popular sport since the days of the flintlock; and it is an American tradition, if that counts for anything. Thousands follow this recreation. They have local firing ranges; they compete among themselves and the best in national and international meets. There are thousands, men and women, who shoot clay pigeons, skeet and trap. It is also mighty big business, and, of course, has the blessing of the arms and ammunition companies.

But over and beyond these many participants in gunnery, there are millions of citizens with no interest in hunting or shooting as a form of recreation. Their views take off in all directions of the compass. Some are indifferent, others passionately opposed to guns because of some incident, factual or otherwise, that developed a built-in repugnance to firearms. Such attitudes are often impressed on young children.

Keeping restrictive gun laws off the statute books will rapidly become a rear guard action if interested groups do not bestir themselves and develop a better public understanding.

Each fall there is much to-do regarding gun accidents as a result

*(Continued on Page 23)*

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## In This Issue

Hunters Must Police Themselves . . . . .	<i>Ernest Swift</i>	C-2
Snowshoe Hares . . . . .	<i>Edgerton Grant</i>	3
4-H Conservation Programs . . . . .	<i>Francis S. Mansue</i>	8
Game Never Had It So Good . . . . .	<i>J. P. Linduska</i>	12
January and Ice Fishing . . . . .	<i>A. B. Pyle</i>	15
Tip-ups . . . . .	<i>Phillips and Grosch</i>	18
Ice Fishing Comforts . . . . .	<i>Phillips and Grosch</i>	20
N.R.A. Hunter Safety Award . . . . .		22
Forked River State Game Farm—Notes . . . . .		26
Council Highlights . . . . .		27
Fur, Fin and Campfire . . . . .	<i>Jack Sheridan</i>	31
Violators Roundup . . . . .		32

Cover—"Shadows on the Ice"—*Harry Grosch*

The shadows lengthen at the end of  
an ice fishing day in North Jersey.

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# Snowshoe Hares

## *Liberated in North Jersey*

By EDGERTON GRANT

"We have some snowshoe hares coming in at Rockport Wednesday," Mac said. "You and Harry should get up and see them."

This was last January.

"Mac", of course, is L. G. Mac-Namara, then the Division Chief of Wildlife Management and now Director of the Division of Fish and Game. Improving the rabbit population is one of his major concerns.

Habitat improvement is the principal key to providing more rabbits. Bill Shoemaker's article in the October 1962 *New Jersey Outdoors* gives a good description of some phases of this work.

The attempt to re-introduce snowshoe hares in suitable areas of northern New Jersey is an additional effort to fill a niche and add variety in areas where cottontails have not flourished. Snowshoes populated ridge tops in the Sussex-Warren-Passaic area in the last century. They are still found in the nearby Catskills of New York and Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania. Lumbering and other human invasion drove them out of New Jersey, and urban and agricultural

development severely limits the area where successful re-introduction appears possible.

Being unaware of the vicissitudes of animal transportation, I arrived at the game farm at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Superintendent Duncan Buntain invited me in to his kitchen, and Mrs. Buntain brewed welcome coffee. George Alpaugh, Assistant Wildlife Management Chief (now Bureau Chief), Wildlife Control Representatives Leon Kitchen and Joe Taylor, and photographer Harry Grosch soon joined us.

As we waited for the hares to arrive from Maine, the talk drifted to shad fishing. It was entertaining to hear these old hands fence, each trying to learn the other's secret hot spot and favorite lure without revealing his own.

Harry tried to learn the knack of trapping from Leon and Joe. They remained close-mouthed except that Leon claimed, "If it walks it can be trapped."

Mostly, of course, we talked about the hares. A total of 200 of them had been ordered from Marshall Harriman and Sons of Orlando, Me. They were to be held at

← *The Division of Fish and Game is attempting to re-establish snowshoe hares in suitable areas of New Jersey*

## . . . Snowshoe Hares

the game farm for 72 hours, since the company guaranteed to replace any that died during that time.

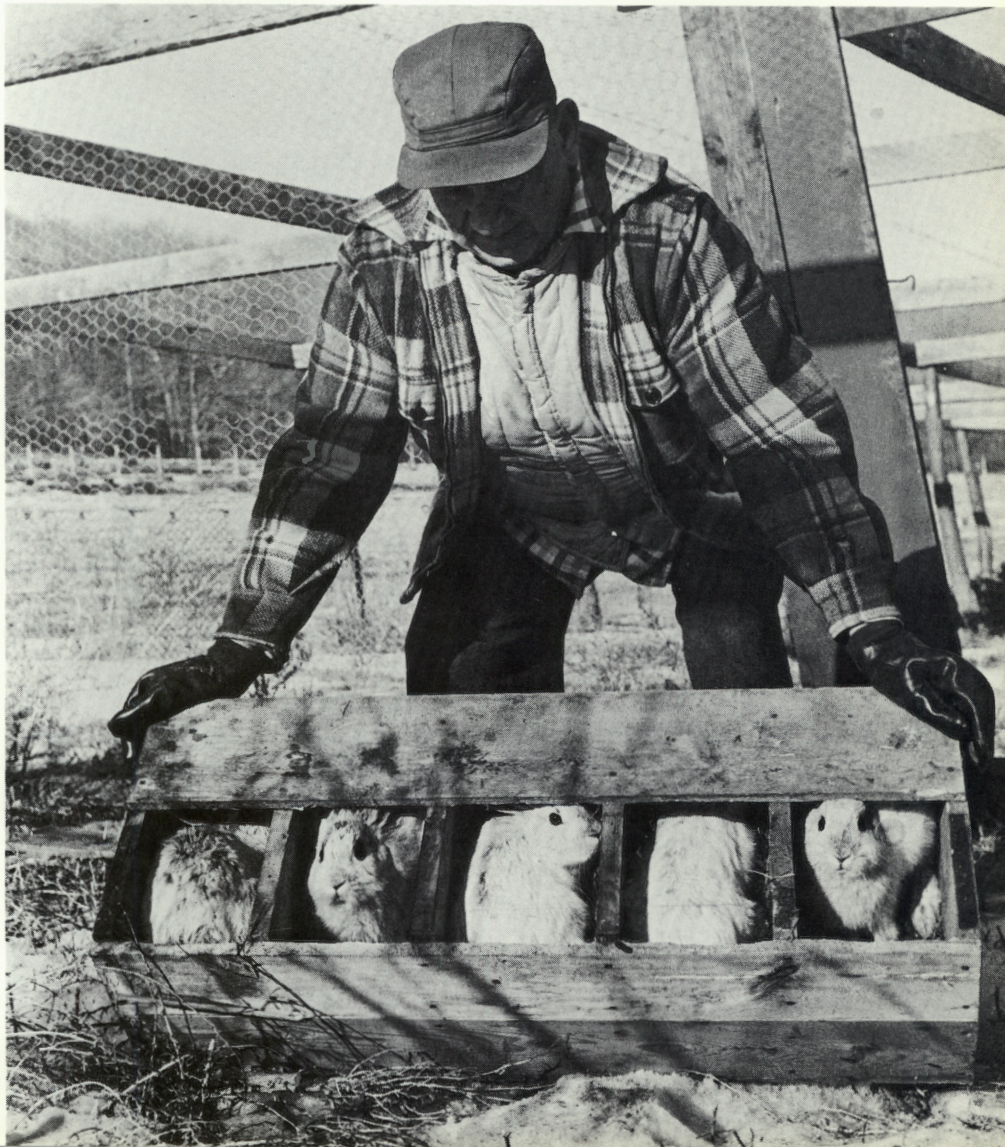
On Saturday they would be divided into lots of about fifty and liberated on open land at four separate locations. George explained that this would be the best number for likely breeding success. He readily assented to Duncan's

request to hold a few pairs for experimental breeding at the farm.

Joe was not about to reveal where the hares would go to any snoopy reporter. It was clear, however, that they would be put where there was ample rhododendron, huckleberry, and some hardwood sprouts for food and cover. George urged Harry and I to come back Saturday to see the liberation.

Finally the truck arrived, and

*The snowshoe hares came in crates from the State of Maine*



*Snowshoe hares are so-named because of their large, heavily furred feet that serve as webs to help travel over deep snows*



Duncan directed it immediately to the holding pens. George's fears about their surviving the long ride were quickly allayed. Most leaped out as soon as the box covers were removed. Some even tapped their feet in impatience and pushed the slats with their noses. A few were sluggish and had to be helped out, but they soon bounded across the snow-covered ground and munched on the food that Duncan had made available.

We could not help admiring the little creatures. They were in obviously healthy condition, and their rear legs showed remarkable strength. Harry had quite a time keeping up with them, and his results taught me new admiration for his ability as a wildlife photographer.

George caught one long enough

to show me the soft fur on its feet. This winter padding gives the hares their name. He explained that their color changes from white in winter to brown in summer. Despite this camouflage, their ability and willingness to scurry across the snow makes for good winter hunting.

On Saturday I arrived too late, due to fog, to see them caught. Although Duncan's crew used fish nets that would not hurt their noses, I learned that the hares still made quite a fuss. Obviously they did not know that they were destined for freedom.

Harry and I followed Wildlife Manager Russell A. Spinks (known as "young Russ" to distinguish him from his father, the affable Wildlife Manager at the Clinton Public Shooting Grounds) and Irv

## . . . Snowshoe Hares

Raser who were taking some of the hares to the Flatbrook area. Clearly Russ knew just where he was going, as he took a dirt road as far in at the Hainesville tract as snow would permit. He and Irv then carried the boxes some distance more to a particular clump of bushes. Again the hares frustrated Harry with their eagerness to scoot for food and cover, but again he got some good shots despite

hap and proceeded to the Flatbrook Shooting Grounds. Russ stopped at his home base to pick up a jeep. We drove on to the foot of a snow covered hill. Clearly no spot on the 2,000 acres would suit Russ except the trees and bushes at the top. If there was a road, it was invisible under the snow.

We quickly transferred boxes to the jeep. Irv stood up in back to steady the precious cargo. Still the jeep had only two seats. Since one picture is worth a thousand words



*The boxes containing the hares were transferred from the truck to a jeep for the ride up the hill*

their antics. Even the empty boxes were hard to carry through the crunching snow.

Miraculously we backed out about a quarter mile without mis-

and one camera is worth a thousand pencils, Harry got the prized seat and I one of lesser quality. The ride up was quite comfortable, as Russ plowed between the rocks



*Snowshoe hares being released at the Flatbrook Shooting Grounds*

and trees as surely as if there was a road. The ride back down was more breath taking with the shortage of hand holds.

Once again the hares scurried for food and cover. Harry exclaimed over their healthy appetites. With Irv's assistance he was able to "shoot" some hares against the background of Flatbrook Valley.

As the frisky animals bounded into the bushes, there seemed no doubt that they could provide excellent sport. We only hoped that introduced into their once-native habitat they would "breed like rabbits." (The fact that this was the year of the hare on the Chinese calendar encourages our expectations.)

# 4-H Club

## Conservation Programs

By Francis S. Mansue

4-H Club Agent, Ocean County

"State's Woods, Streams, Wetlands Beyond Hope."—This was the heading of an article datelined Toms River in the May 21, 1963, issue of the *Asbury Park Evening Press*. The masthead also carried this notice—"How Pollution is Killing Game Fish."—Do you ever wonder what young people think when they read articles of this kind?

My purpose is not to become involved in any public controversy concerning who is responsible for pollution of our streams or the violation of good conservation practices. My purpose is first to acquaint you with the 4-H Club program and what it is doing in conservation; and secondly, to leave with you some ideas of how you may contribute to good conservation practices through young people enrolled in the 4-H Club program.

It might be well to establish at this point the fact that 4-H Club work seeks first and foremost to

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Based on a paper presented to the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Annual Convention, May 25-26, Long Valley, New Jersey.

develop good citizens. My experience has been that a good citizen is also a good conservationist.

### The Problems

Some of the questions which we as adults might ask ourselves as we consider the problems of conservation are:

1. Where and how have we failed in the past to tell the conservation story to young people? (I am sure that this is at least partially responsible for our situation today.)

2. What is morally right in the case of conservation? (Should we be satisfied to depend upon the passage of laws, rather than the education of the individual? We should all recognize that there are good laws and bad laws.)

3. How has our concept of land ownership contributed to conservation problems? (Should we give more consideration to the concept of land ownership, whereby, we hold land in trust for future generations and seek to improve it rather than to destroy it?)

4. How can we, as adults and as sportsmen, help young people to

develop beliefs and values to live by, which will include good conservation practices?

### **Objectives of 4-H**

*What are the objectives of 4-H Club work?* There are ten 4-H objectives. Time does not permit me to discuss all of these. I will only quote for you two of these objectives since they are directly concerned with the theme of your convention.

4-H Objective #7 is: "Appreciate Nature—Understand Conservation and Make Wise Use of Natural Resources." Objective #8 is: "Cultivate Traits of Healthful Living, Purposeful Recreation, and Intelligent Use of Leisure Time."

*How are the 4-H Clubs in New Jersey meeting these stated objectives concerned with conservation and recreation?* In 1962, there were 12,907 boys and girls enrolled in New Jersey 4-H clubs. Of this number, 1,102 were enrolled in conservation projects and activities; an additional 2,818 participated in projects under the heading of Recreation, including Camping.

### **Wildlife Programs**

Let us examine some of the 4-H programs in which young people throughout the state are participating. Many of you are acquainted with the Game Bird Rearing program. This is a project carried out by the 4-H Clubs in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Game. The members raise pheasants or quail supplied to them as chicks at one-day of age. During 1962, there

were 92 4-H members participating in the Pheasant Rearing program. These members raised 10,632 pheasants. Eighty 4-H members raised quail, for a total of 10,488. In other words, more than 20,000 game birds were raised by 4-H members in the State of New Jersey last year. All of these birds were released for re-stocking purposes, helping to perpetuate a time-honored sport and a part of our heritage. The more participation by 4-H members in a given county, the greater population of pheasant or quail expected in that particular area.

The Game Bird program does not end with the raising and liberation of the pheasant or quail. Many of these 4-H members also contributed to wildlife habitat through the planting of food patches, food bearing shrubs, and trees. The members also develop a better appreciation of the problems concerned with wildlife through these activities. This is conservation education.

### **Other Programs**

Many 4-H members participate in other conservation programs. Forestry projects include such activities as tree planting, woodland management, growing trees from seed, forest tree pruning, forest tree disease and insect projects, and others. In the Nature Study series, 4-H members are active in such projects as tree identification, bird study, wild flowers, animal study, and a project which we have introduced in Ocean County—fishing.

The most recent 4-H Project to

## **. . . 4-H Club**

be introduced is another program being conducted in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Game. This is the growing of wild-life shrubs from seed. For the first time this past year, 4-H members throughout the state tried their luck at growing Tartarian Honey-suckle. Their efforts will make available a new source of this valuable wildlife shrub.

In a discussion of 4-H conservation activities, we should not overlook the benefits of 4-H Camp. Annually, club members from 20 New Jersey counties attend a week of camping at our New Jersey State 4-H Camp in Stokes State Forest. Conservation is one of the popular camp subjects.

### **In Cooperation**

Let us take a closer look at what is being accomplished by 4-H Clubs in cooperation with sportsmen and other adults. In Ocean County, 4-H members have, since 1950, raised more than 16,000 pheasant and quail through the 4-H Game Bird program. This project has been supported by one of our local sportsmen's group, the Ocean County Fish and Game Protective Association. These sportsmen not only provide awards, but they actually roll up their sleeves and work. The 4-H Committee of this organization visits the quail projects of 4-H members several times during the growing season. Their recommendations to the young people have had a great influence on

the quality of the job and the understanding which the young people have of what they are attempting to do.

### **Field Day**

In addition, this organization holds an annual Sportsmen's 4-H Field Day. The 1962 Field Day was the sixth annual. This activity is carried out by the Field Day Committee of this association. The members enrolled in the 4-H Quail Program are in the limelight, of course, but to round out the program and the education of the young people, a complete day's activities are planned. Included are activities such as archery shoot and demonstration, retriever exhibitions, a dog show by 4-H members, a beagle exhibition, bird dog exhibition, trap shoot and turkey shoot, and of course the 4-H quail show itself. The Field Day is well attended. It is held at the Public Shooting Grounds at Colliers Mills. This is truly a living example of how sportsmen can, through 4-H, work with the youth of today.

### **Forestry**

In the field of forestry, Ocean County has the distinction of having a 4-H Club at the Switlik School in Jackson Township which is now in its fifteenth year. Annually, 40 to 50 boys are enrolled in this program which consists of woodland management. These youth are fortunate in attending a school which not only has its own woodland as a forest laboratory, but also school officials who are farsighted enough to realize that there is an oppor-

tunity to teach conservation and good forest practices first-hand. One needs only to walk through the plots of pine or oak which have been managed by these boys annually to see the effect which it has had on the growth and development of the forest. They have had not only the cooperation of the Extension Service through the 4-H Club Program, but also the aid of the New Jersey Bureau of Forestry.

### **Wildlife Area**

Another example is the Conservation 4-H Club at this same school. Three or four years ago, the State Bureau of Forestry drew up a detailed plan for the woods at Switlik School. One of the areas on this plan was designated as a wildlife management area and has been developed. This project is not complete and neither is it intended to be completed. It is hoped that it will provide activity for many, many years to come. The important point is that, as these young people have the opportunity to watch their area develop and to participate in the planting of trees, and food-bearing shrubs, and the other wildlife management practices, they will receive indoctrination in good conservation. At the present time, some 50 boys are participating in this program.

### **Good Citizens**

How do these 4-H programs affect you and me and our interests in good conservation? Earlier I mentioned that 4-H is primarily interested in developing good citizens. I also said that young people

as they develop into adulthood find for themselves a set of beliefs and values with which they can live.

### **Your Part**

You can aid young people to fully understand conservation. First of all, your own example as an individual and as a member of any organization of which you are a member. Conservation must be practiced individually and collectively.

Second, you can contribute to the development of young people in their concept of good conservation through action in supporting and sponsoring 4-H projects and programs in your local areas. There is always a need for assistance and support on the county level and on the local 4-H level.

Third, you can really help young people to live conservation if you will be concerned first and foremost in their development, their needs and interests. Always keep in mind that the boys and girls of today are the adults of tomorrow. They have a way of replacing those of us who are adults. The beliefs and values which they develop as young people will stay with them throughout their lives. It is important that we do not permit ourselves to fall into the old trap of spending all our time trying to correct mistakes of the past, and in so doing give little or no consideration to plans for the future.

The 4-H Clubs stand ready and willing to aid . . . with your assistance, their efforts can be multiplied many-fold. #

# Game Never Had It So Good

By J. P. Linduska

You pay for what you get.

Hunters afield don't always get a rabbit, a pheasant, or a Canada goose, but they hope to. And, in this hope, the hunting fraternity pays annually about 150 million dollars into the game management kitty. The money goes to buy land; to restore and improve habitat; and to do research, so that every whim of wildlife can be met.

The motive, of course, is purely selfish. Hunters pay more with the expectation that they'll get more. But to get more game there has to be more. And so it is that game species are sheltered, protected, and produced in quantity so that, finally, a fair portion of each fall crop can be converted to the stew pot or broiler.

There's a moral, or an economic lesson, in all this. And according to Remington's Wildlife Management Division, here's the way it figures.

Bluebirds are in short supply. Some claim they're a victim of the flit gun; others say clean-up forestry and the removal of den trees has resulted in a housing shortage. The fact is no one really knows. But, if the bluebird weighed a pound and held to a pointing dog—then, we'd know. And we'd be doing something about it.

The wood duck is a disappointment over a pointing dog. But it fits neatly in the mouth of a Labrador. It weighs a pound and is good eating; and, after all that, it serves well the needs of fly tiers. Wood ducks, too, had problems of housing shortage, but not for long. Across the country dens were provided in quantity, and research to establish its other needs is going on apace. Things for the woodie are looking up.

The bald eagle—our national bird—is on the skids. It's getting surveys-of-its-status, nominal research, and a lot of sympathy. But as for a determined, well-financed management program — nothing. But antelope, a huntable game species, were also on the ropes a few decades back. They got lots of attention and help, and a big new lease on life.

All this is not to say that the way to save bluebirds and bald eagles is to declare them game and hunt them. But it is fair to say that game species are privileged species, and money in quantity is spent in support of their welfare. It is fair to say that hunters are not about to abuse and destroy something they cherish and pay good money to produce in numbers. And it is fair to say that responsible ad-

ministrators of game affairs are not about to risk jobs and reputations in unwise use of the game resource.

We strongly favor and support the better management of non-game as well as game species, and believe wildlife can serve admirable purposes without gracing the dinner table. We respect the interest of non-consumptive users of wildlife while pointing out that hunting, as a consumptive use, is not one to affect any permanent reduction in numbers. All told, it's a fair claim that game species, because of investments in their behalf, are far better off numerically than if they were not being hunted and, with it, not being provided for in terms of land reserves and habitat improvement.

It's a fact, too, that a lot of the management for game species rubs off on non-game associates. Take,

for example, the \$105 million treasury loan to purchase and manage land for waterfowl. Duck hunters will pay the bill, but the benefits will extend beyond the primary intent of safeguarding producing areas for ducks. A great host of songbirds, shorebirds, and other marsh inhabitants will be benefitted in equal degree. And who's to argue whether a rose hedge for game is worth more for rabbits and quail or the endless variety of non-game types.

Protectionists, sincere but misled, may argue for the "protection" of doves and other game species. But the fact is that it's nice to be wanted and that's why game never had it so good. Without habitat, which hunters are providing, many species could be "protected" to vanishing levels by the indifference that comes to the non-hunted. Game for hunting means eating your cake and having it, too. #

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## Sky Hopping Rabbits

A calendar featuring fish and wildlife cartoons was much enjoyed by the Trenton office staff of the Division of Fish and Game. A special favorite pictured a hunter at an airport, with his dog pointing skyward, inquiring, "Did anyone see a rabbit board flight 308?"

The cartoon came to life last spring at Salem Airport with results that were not comical. Conservation Officer Mat Engels reports that a rabbit did hop into a small plane while fleeing from some dogs.

Unfortunately New Jersey dogs are more alert than the cartoon variety, even out of season. They arrived on the scene before the plane took off and, with no master present to control them, tore away the fuselage in search of the elusive cottontail. The end was as happy for the rabbit, if not the plane's owner, as in the cartoon. The rabbit got away to produce more rabbits for New Jersey hunters. #



*A nice catch through the ice from Lake Hopatcong*

# January and Ice Fishing

By A. B. Pyle

**J**ANUARY AND Ice Fishing Season have been synonymous in New Jersey for many years. This year New Year's Day is on a Wednesday which presents an excellent opportunity to interrupt the weekly routine and enjoy a day on the ice.

Major regulation changes placed in effect this year have reduced the number of lines that can be fished at one time from ten to five and have increased the season by extending it through February 16. Also, present regulations do not permit angling through the ice on waters other than the Delaware River after February 16, except for carp and suckers with hooks attached to a rigid handle. The 1964 Compendium of Fishing Regulations should be consulted for more detailed information.

## Equipment

The equipment employed in ice fishing is varied and it would do well for the inexperienced to spend a day on a lake acquainting himself with it and angling techniques. Satisfaction with these matters aids appreciably in the enjoyment of the sport. Basically, all that is necessary are a bait bucket with live minnows, some sort of rigged tip-ups, a tool to cut holes in the ice, and a strainer to keep the holes from freezing over.

Golden shiners are the most popular bait fish although any small minnow will do. These can be obtained from bait dealers or by trapping or seining in unfrozen waters as permitted by law. It is recommended that the bait be acquired or reserved at the bait dealers sometime before the day of the fishing trip to avoid delays.

## Tip-ups

Tip-ups may be obtained from tackle dealers or may be homemade without difficulty. Any contrivance which will signal when the bait is being tampered with and maintains the line so that it is free-running will suffice. Although tip-ups are rigged depending upon the desires of the individual, about 30 feet of line terminated with 2 feet of 6-pound test monofilament leader and a No. 2 or 4 hook should prove adequate. Attachment of small split shot at the top of the leader will serve to keep the bait down immediately above the weed beds.

An implement, generally an axe or an ice spud, is necessary to cut holes in the ice. Spuds are designed for cutting ice and do a much better job, especially when the ice is thick. Anything may be used for a strainer which will serve to remove the reforming ice from the holes.

Further equipment is not neces-

## . . . Ice Fishing

sary but may serve to make the trip more enjoyable. What is taken depends upon the individual and the ability of the ice to support it.

### **Jigging**

Jigging for schooling yellow perch in the deeper portion of a lake sometimes results in excellent catches. Where such fruitful fishing may be had requires considerable knowledge of the lake. Although exploring with the aid of a contour map, showing the lake's bottom, may result in the discovery of a hitherto untried perch schooling area, observing successful old-timers will provide a knowledge of the established, more promising jigging spots.

For this method of angling, only an ice spud or axe, possibly bait, and a single line to be held by hand or attached to a short rod are necessary. Approximately 50 feet of line with about 6 feet of leader and a No. 6 or 8 hook, or a single hook jig, is a suggested rig. The practice is to lower the bait or jig to just above the lake bottom and then proceed to raise it periodically about two feet quickly and allow it to settle back. This movement should be modified to prevent the loss of bait if it is used. If yellow perch are present, action should begin rather quickly. It is recommended to try another area if they are not readily caught.

### **What and Where**

Although eastern chain pickerel and yellow perch are the principal species harvested through the ice,

trout, largemouth bass, calico bass, and others are also taken. As all species are in season, most lakes in the state should produce worthwhile ice fishing. Lakes Hopatcong and Swartswood, Bear Pond, and others should provide plenty of action for anglers seeking pickerel. With the exception of Bear Pond, these lakes together with Budd Lake, Lake Musconetcong, and others should again provide excellent yellow perch fishing. Also, there is the possibility of anglers catching large holdover trout from Greenwood, Hopatcong, and Swartswood Lakes.

Largemouth bass in the past have been taken frequently from Cranberry Lake, Sussex County, and Turnmill Pond at the Collier's Mills Public Hunting and Fishing Grounds, as well as elsewhere. If freezing conditions prevail over the entire state as they did last year, excellent opportunities will also be available in waters of central and southern New Jersey. In fact, in many of the waters of the latter area, pickerel are abundant.

Although ice fishing presents a chance to stock the larder with fillets it is probably enjoyed by more people for the opportunity it presents to socialize with people of similar interest. In addition it affords many other forms of enjoyment, any description of which would be inadequate. And always, there is the excitement associated with fishing and the anticipation when a fish strikes that perhaps this fish might be the "grand-daddy" of 'em all. #



*January finds fisheries biologists from the Division Fisheries Laboratory conducting ice fishing surveys on ice-locked lakes*



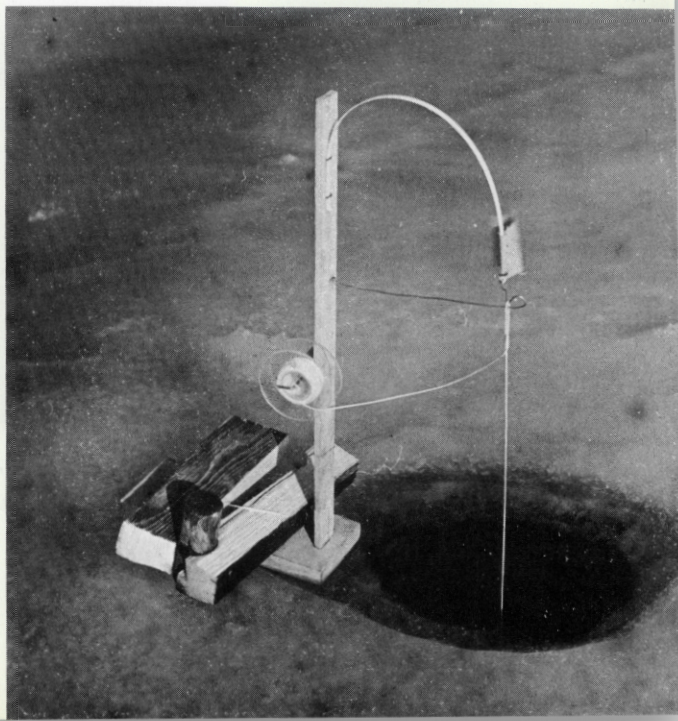
*A tip-up with the reel submerged to prevent freezing. This is probably the most common tip-up used in New Jersey*

*By Jack Phillips  
Photos by Harry Grosch*

# Tip-ups

Tip-ups come in just about as many varieties as there are ice-fishermen. Just as long as a tip-up holds the line as desired, does not freeze up, and signals the fisherman when a fish bites, it should be acceptable.

*A neat, plain rig. The simple reel is not likely to freeze very readily*





*Indian style. When a fish  
bits, the line snaps free  
and the twig dances*

*After the tip-up snaps up,  
the fisherman anxiously lets  
the fish have a little line  
before setting the hook*





## Ice Fishing Comforts

Ice fishermen often go to great lengths to be comfortable at their sport—or as one frostbite angler put it, “To keep from freezing to death.”

*The fellow in the plastic house may look like a man in a fishbowl but he is at least warm*

*The ice creepers on the fishermen's boots, right, provide more than comfort. They are a safety must on glare ice*





*All the comforts of home! The tarpaulin windbreak, the well-equipped sled, and the coffee pot help make the day enjoyable*

**By Jack Phillips**  
**Photos by Harry Grosch**



*Kneepads are one of the ice fisherman's best friends*

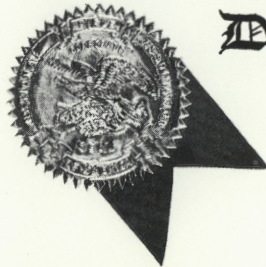
*This award was presented by the N.R.A. to the Division of Fish and Game in recognition of New Jersey's Hunter Safety program achievements. The states' 639 volunteer, qualified firearm instructors make possible the gun safety program which provided instruction to 10,033 persons during the past fiscal year*

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



## HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM 50,000 Club

The National Rifle Association of America, in recognition of a major contribution to Safety through the graduation of many thousands of hunters from its Hunter Safety Training Program, takes pleasure in presenting this certificate to **New Jersey**  
**Division of Fish & Game**



this 11 day of **Sept.** 19**67**

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

## . . . Hunters Must Police Themselves

*(Continued from Inside Front Cover)*

of hunting. It is legitimate news, but some reporting is biased by including all heart attacks afield as hunting "casualties."

One state report listed 951 traffic deaths in 1962 and 31,180 personal injuries in 1961. For 1962 the same state reported that firearms were involved in seven fatal hunting accidents, 161 nonfatal hunting accidents, five fatal nonhunting accidents, and 33 nonfatal nonhunting accidents. Heart attacks while hunting claimed 12 victims.

Automobile accidents have become so commonplace that gun and hunting accidents make better horror headlines. However, these comparisons are lost to the nonhunting public; and at the same time they read of robberies at gun point, of murder, and of the ease with which gangsters obtain firearms.

Within my own experience there is no question that there is a greater percentage of men and boys in the woods today who are ignorant of gun-safety than 50 years ago. The gun has long since lost its daily utility and historical significance as household equipment. Today when a man walks out of his house he does not reach up over the door and take down a loaded rifle; and boys are no longer sent out with guns to supply the table with fresh meat.

Preaching gun safety in the

backwoods was equal to memorizing the commandments against sin. Boys learned early by resting an old "Betsy" over a stump or fence rail. And some got their hides tanned when careless or when they missed a shot. Ammunition cost money, and money did not come easy.

Such training has long been forgotten. Most of today's boys do not learn proper gun safety, because their fathers are not schooled in it even though they may have been in the army. But Dad—he would never admit it—envisions himself as a counterpart of some bold mountain man.

So each fall we turn loose men and boys who have little knowledge of the lethal weapon they carry and who are mentally unalert to the death and heartache they can inflict by their ignorance. Many are in poor physical condition, which leads to carelessness. They do not know the safety rules of unloading a gun, or how to crawl through a fence or down timber with it. They use their gun to club game, leave the safety off when walking in the field or woods, get the trigger caught in brush, and leave their loaded guns around camp. They are responsible for the worst type of publicity that can be imagined, and their misuse of firearms is the best argument for those who want gun restrictions,

## . . . Hunters Must

even though their activities have nothing to do with bank holdups and homicide.

Much as I dislike more laws, I feel that the only way to overcome the accident onus will be by requiring stricter gun safety training before a hunting license is

New Jersey has definite laws pertaining to gun safety, the age of licensees, and intoxication while hunting. Loaded guns may not be carried in automobiles. From a safety standpoint, no loaded gun should ever be carried in a vehicle by hunters.

New Jersey officials have greatly improved gun safety programs,



*New Jersey has definite safety programs for young hunters*

issued. The standards should be tough; eyesight, mental attitudes, and physical fitness should be tested. Hunting eventually must be restricted only to those who have passed a rigid test and are physically and emotionally competent to go afield. This in itself would improve hunting ethics and the pleasure of those who are qualified.

realizing that severe laws may eventually circumscribe the sport of hunting, skeet and trap shooting, and rifle teams.

The time has arrived when hard-boiled standards of training for would-be Daniel Boones must take precedent over the number of licenses sold or a wished-for game harvest. Human life will have to come before money and biology.

In this state boys are considered sufficiently grown up at the age of 14 to be on their own with a gun. Instead of placing the whole responsibility on the conservation officers to ferret out violations of such regulations, a greater responsibility would be required of parents. If regulations of such nature are violated, both the parent and boy should lose their licenses as part of the penalty. This might not fit in all cases, but it would in many.

Sportsmen could also let judges know that they want gun and game law violations prosecuted, and the defendants should be made to realize they have been in court. Judges reflect public attitude. Where the public takes an interest in seeing that game law violators are not molly-coddled by the courts, general lawlessness is much reduced. Good citizenship requires the risk of being unpopular at times.

The father-image has a powerful influence on youth; like father, like son. When the regular gun safety courses are taken by young hunt-

ers and new licensees, the father should be required to attend and take a refresher course in gun handling and conservation laws in general. If the father neglects to attend, then the boy would get no license whether or not he passed the tests.

Fussing and fretting is not going to correct this situation. Every year restrictive gun laws will be introduced, and when finally passed may not be to the liking of many.

Sportsmen should start policing themselves and not be classified with gangsters. Although the sportsmen and gun enthusiasts sometimes disagree among themselves, this is one issue they had better take seriously. Regardless of all the noise that may ensue, no person should go afield with firearms unless he is a master craftsman of the out-of-doors, knows gun safety rules, and is mentally and physically alert. This goes back to the old law of the survival of the fittest. Hunting may not survive as we have indulged in it in the past if strong measures are not taken. #

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## **Do You Want To Hunt Next Fall ?**

If you are between the ages of 14-21 and do not have a previous Hunting License you cannot obtain a current license unless you present a signed certificate showing you have successfully completed a course in Gun Safety. Do not wait until hunting season is here to get your certificate. Contact a Conservation Officer, the Division of Fish and Game Office, or any license issuing agent immediately and get the name and address of the Hunter Safety Instructor nearest you and take your course now. Many Hunter Safety Instructors hold winter and spring classes.

## Forked River State Game Farm

The Forked River Pheasant Farm is located in Lacey Township, Ocean County. The entrance is on Route 9 less than a quarter mile north of the traffic light in the center of Forked River where Lacey Road intersects Route 9. The farm was originally built in the 1800's and was acquired by the State after 1912. It has undergone considerable remodeling and now covers 537.6 acres.

About 2,000 pheasants make up the breeding stock. Birds are put in breeding pens in mid-March in a ratio of 7 hens to 1 cock. They are fed special mash once a day and watered automatically.

When laying starts, eggs are gathered twice a day. They are put under incubation for 24 days at a temperature of 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit. They are turned regularly during incubation.

Sorting of chicks by sex starts as soon as chicks dry after hatching. Males are put in brooders or distributed to 4-H cooperators. Sportsmen's groups can obtain hen chicks if they agree to release them when raised to supplement natural breeding populations. Only cocks may be hunted on open lands in New Jersey.

4-H youths raise the chicks for 17 weeks and sell them back to the State for release. Over 10,000 pheasants a year are raised under this program.

In the brooder house at the farm, chicks are kept close to a gas hover with a 98-degree temperature. As they grow they are gradually given more room. After six weeks they are transferred to range pens.

The range pens are planted with grain to provide food and cover. The birds are fed growing mash daily, and watering is again automatic.

At the age of 17 weeks the birds are let into a common corridor, gathered and taken away for liberation on Public Shooting Grounds and other land open to hunting. Some 18,000 male pheasants raised at Forked River are released each year.

The birds from the first hatch, numbering about 4,000 are held in the range pens over the winter. Their diet is supplemented with good quantities of grit. As March approaches, about half the birds are released to breed in the wild, and the remaining 2,000 are put in breeding pens to start the life cycle again.

Visitors are welcome from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

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# Council Highlights

## October Meeting

The open session of the regular monthly meeting of the Fish and Game Council was held in Trenton on October 8. In addition to the Council members and staff personnel present the following persons attended: Robert Vreeland, Bill Backus, John Russack, and Ralph Alloca.

### License Revocation Appeals

An appellant appeared before the Council to plead for the return of his license privileges which had been revoked on March 28, 1962, following conviction for two violations of the fish and game laws. One offense was for hunting rabbits with a rifle and with the aid of car lights, and the other offense was for the illegal possession of deer meat.

Speaking in his own behalf, the appellant stated that he realizes now that he was wrong in having committed the offenses, he was truly sorry for them, he sorely missed being able to participate in the sport of hunting, and he requested the Council to give consideration to returning his license privileges to him. Following discussion, the Council voted 5 to 4 to deny the request for the restoration of the license privileges.

A second appellant also appeared before the Council to appeal for the restoration of his hunting license privileges which had been revoked following conviction for three offenses of hunting deer at night. He stated that he had nothing special to say, that he committed the offenses, pleaded guilty and paid the fines and now takes the opportunity to ask the Council for consideration in restoring his license privileges. The Council passed a motion denying the request.

A request was received from a third individual for the opportunity to again appeal before the Council for the restoration of his license privileges. The appellant had previously appealed on October 9, 1962, and his request was denied at that time. Chief Coffin informed the Council that he had been in contact with the man concerning whether he had any additional evidence to present in his own behalf. The appellant had advised that he did not. Therefore, the Council was opposed, to granting another hearing since the appellant had no further evidence to submit.

### Law Enforcement Report

William P. Coffin, Chief of Law Enforcement, reported that during September the conservation officers had assisted in the stocking of 11,000 quail and 6,600 pheasants from the State Game Farms and 4-H

## . . . Council Highlights

cooperators. They also assisted in stocking bass, sunfish, and channel catfish. Considerable time was spent on the Hunter Safety program which is more active at this time of the year, and also in patrolling the woods and fields. The conservation officers picked up 138 deer carcasses, 122 of which were killed accidentally.

### **Walkie-talkie Radios**

Councilman Alampi reported that the Gloucester County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs had recently voted to provide two walkie-talkie radios for the use of our conservation officers during the waterfowl and deer seasons, the cost of renting the equipment to be borne by the club. Director MacNamara is to contact Commissioner Roe to ascertain if this arrangement can be made through state channels, using the same radio frequency as that now used by the conservation officers.

The Council passed a motion approving of this project. Councilman Alampi contacted Commissioner Roe by telephone and received his verbal approval of the project.

### **Fisheries Report**

Robert Hayford, Chief of Fisheries Management, reported that six pools had been completed at the Pequest Hatchery and fish should be placed in them within the next week or two, depending on the delivery of some lumber which has been ordered. He stated that the fisheries unit is continuing work on the pollution problem in the Toms River but that no definite conclusions have been reached.

### **Coastal Patrol Report**

Chief of the Coastal Patrol, Newman Mathis, reported on fishing conditions in the marine waters and stated that the pogies had moved out of Raritan Bay during the latter part of September. The weakfish also moved out of Delaware Bay during the month. It was interesting to note that this year, for the first time in many years, the Mullica River had been filled with small weakfish in the four- to six-inch class. All boats are in good condition with the exception of the *Kathleen* and the *Weakfish*.

### **Wildlife Report**

George Alpaugh, Chief of Wildlife Management, reported that waterfowl populations have been building up and the Tuckahoe Tract has approximately 1,000 blue-winged teal, 3,000 to 5,000 green-winged teal, and between 1,000 and 2,000 wood ducks, with several hundred gadwall, pintail, mallards, and Canadian geese making their appearance.

Indications were that the sportsmen would have some good hunting this season. The annual fall inventory commenced on October 13. The public shooting grounds had been posted and made ready for the coming hunting season. There has been increased utilization of the public shooting grounds by campers and this interest will probably continue.

### **Rabbit Trapping**

Councilman Alampi inquired concerning his question raised at the last Council meeting concerning the trapping of rabbits by sportsmen and the re-liberation of them on the open lands of the state. Chief Alpaugh reported that this type of program is not economically practical and that the experience of other states, including Pennsylvania, would verify the fact. However, he said that our personnel would be pleased to cooperate on such a project with interested sportsmen's clubs.

### **Commissioner Roe**

Director MacNamara advised that following the dedication of the Spruce Run Reservoir, Commissioner Roe had inspected our headquarters facilities at Spruce Run, the Clinton Tract, and the Fisheries Laboratory, and was much impressed with what he saw. Following his visit to the laboratory he had suggested that a list be prepared of equipment which is still needed at the laboratory, presumably because we render service to many other agencies. The Director further advised that Commissioner Roe had inspected many of our facilities and hopes to pay a visit to some of our southern installations in the near future. Commissioner Roe has also agreed to have the Green Acres program take over our land purchases for this year, thus freeing our money so it will be available for participation in the Accelerated Public Works program. Under this program several boat launching ramps, parking lots, roadways, and a storage building will be built on public shooting and fishing grounds.

### **Land Acquisition**

Councilman Canale suggested that we investigate the possibility of acquiring private land which may be land-locked as a result of the construction of the Atlantic City Expressway.

### **Pollution Reports**

In accordance with the request of Councilmen McCloskey and Charlesworth, they are to be sent the reports of pollution in the northern and southern regions, respectively.

### **Marine Fisheries**

Councilman Lunsford reported that he had recently attended the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in Boston, Massachusetts. Many papers of interest were presented on pollution, fisheries, the

## **. . . Council Highlights**

Atlantic Bight, and on the operations of the Russian fishing fleet in our waters. As a result of the activity of these foreign boats, Mr. Lunsford said it was very likely that some action would be taken to change the territorial limits of our coastline.

### **Farm Reassessment Referendum**

Councilman Space had urged newsmen present to write favorably on the farm assessment referendum which was on the ballot in November. He said that this question was very important to both farmers and sportsmen.

### **Public Relations Report**

Jules Marron, Supervisor of Public Relations, reported that over 100,000 persons viewed our exhibit at the Trenton State Fair.

### **Pollution Meeting**

Robert Vreeland inquired whether it would be possible for the Pollution Committee of the State Federation to meet with the Pollution Committee of the Fish and Game Council. Chairman Hart advised Mr. Vreeland that arrangements for such a meeting should be made with Councilman Canale who is chairman of the Council's Pollution Committee.

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## **Forum on Conservation Slated for Farm Week**

"Conservation and the Agricultural Responsibility" will be the subject of a general forum of particular interest to sportsmen scheduled during New Jersey Farmers Week in Trenton this January.

The public is invited to attend the session, which will be held Wednesday, January 29, at the War Memorial Building.

Vernon D. Northrop of Washington, D. C., Alternate U.S. Commissioner, Delaware River Basin Commission, will comment on the Federal Government's role in land and water conservation. The Commission on which Northrop serves in a full-time capacity was established in 1961 to carry out a multiple-purpose water resource development program for the Delaware River Basin.

Northrop became U.S. Alternate Commissioner in 1962. His past experience includes more than 30 years in administrative and financial capacities for the Federal Government and for the City of Philadelphia. He is a former Under Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and from 1959 to 1961 was president of the Food Distribution Center, Philadelphia.

Other participants in the conservation forum will be Robert A. Roe, State Commissioner of Conservation and Economic Development, and Dr. Firman E. Bear, editor of *Soil Science* and a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Commissioner Roe will discuss the State's responsibility in conservation of natural resources. Dr. Bear will speak on the obligation of local organizations and private citizens.

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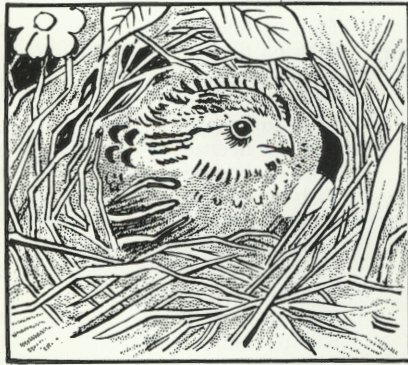
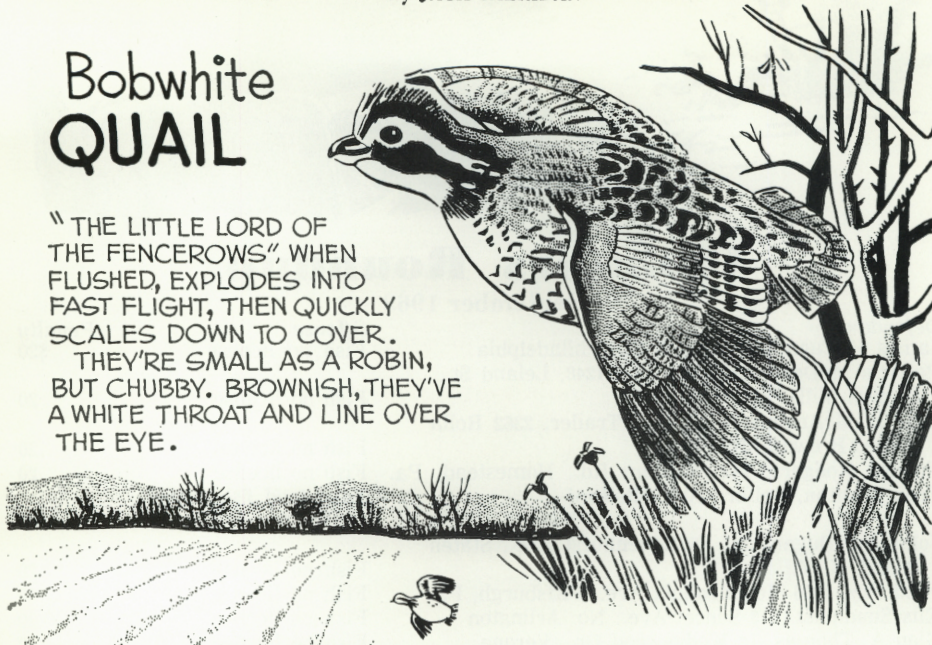
# Fur, Fin <sup>and</sup> Campfire

By JACK SHERIDAN

## Bobwhite QUAIL

"THE LITTLE LORD OF THE FENCEROWS", WHEN FLUSHED, EXPLODES INTO FAST FLIGHT, THEN QUICKLY SCALES DOWN TO COVER.

THEY'RE SMALL AS A ROBIN, BUT CHUBBY. BROWNISH, THEY'VE A WHITE THROAT AND LINE OVER THE EYE.

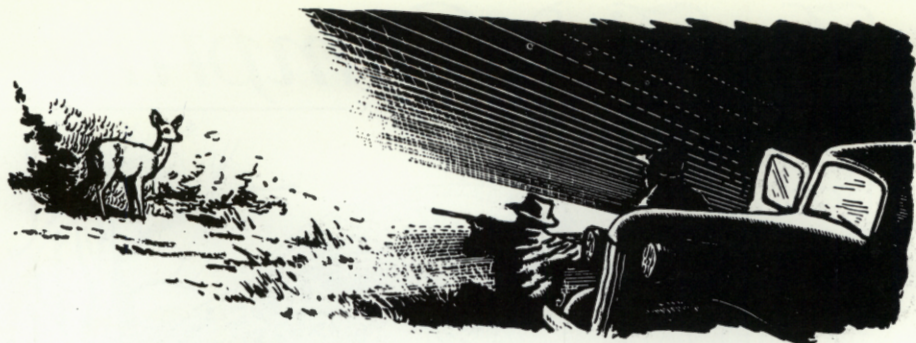


THEY'RE BIRDS OF REGULAR HABITS, USING THE SAME FIELD YEAR AFTER YEAR. THEY ROOST ON THE GROUND IN THICK COVER, GOING FOR FOOD IN EARLY MORN.



**MOST** HUNTERS KILL THEM ON THE RISE. QUAIL HUNTERS SHOULD HAVE A DOG ALONG.

The quail season (as well as the grouse and squirrel seasons) is open until February 1, this year. Remember to obtain your 1964 Hunting License, and a Compendium.



## Violators Roundup

September 1963

<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Penalty</i>
James McCann, 1925 S. 65th St., Philadelphia	Fish no license	\$20
Patricia McDermott, R. D. Box 1248, Leland St., Browns Mills	Fish no license	20
Dale L. McArthur, R. F. D. 1 Trailer, 2362 Rolla Home, Browns Mills	Fish no license	20
Vincent Rodgers, 142 Marham Rd., Homestead, Pa.	Fish no license	20
Fred Johnson, Belford Ave., Belford	Take food fish with otter trawl	200
John Jos. Dugan, Jr., 45 Ravenhurst Ave., Staten Island, N. Y.	Fish no license	20
Fred Fry, 1696 Monongahela Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.	Fish no license	20
Elis Sundquist, 113 Sunset Ave., No. Arlington	Fish no license	20
Glen A. Thomas, 14 Wedgewood Dr., Verona	Fish no license	20
Leonard Carida, 431 Abington Ave., Bloomfield	Fish no license	20
Vincent T. Kepler, 17 Balsam Pky., Sparta	Fish no license	20
David M. Thomson, 47 N. Fullerton Ave., Montclair	Fish no license	20
Franklyn Muenzel, 37 Monhegan Ave., Oakland	Fish no license	20
David J. Hertz, 20 Annabelle Ave., Trenton	Fish no license	20
Ralph Wilson, Box 315, R. D. 1, Newton	Fish no license	20
Laszlo Dallas, R. D. 1, Box 143, Newton	Fish no license	20
John R. Middleton, Box 306, Andover	Fish no license	20
Mrs. Geraci, 372 Union St., Jersey City	Fish no license	20
George Kuhn, Box 224 A, Branchville	Fish no license	20
Thomas Loughlin, 2 Montclair Ave., Nutley	Fish no license	20
Boyd Bergen, 4 Surrey Dr., Wayne	Fish no license	20
Ray Reeber, 1179 Stuyvesant Ave., Irvington	Tag not displayed	5
Thomas Floriani, 311 26th St., Union City	Fish no license	20
Charles R. Law, Jr., 427 Oak Avenue, Linwood	Kill protected bird	20
Harry Gonser, 7352 Dorcas St., Philadelphia	Fish no license	20
Charles Compton, 1427 Pepper Rd., Jenkintown, Pa.	Fish no license	20
George A. Doman, 309 Point St., Camden	Fish no license	20
Robert Hill, 21 Conklin Rd., Flanders	Gun on Sunday	20
Jos. F. Frost, Jr., Box 106, Main St., Pt. Norris	Fish no license	20
Milton Lanning, R. D. 4, Bridgeton	Illegal poss. pheasant	20
Anthony Ventulo, W. Oak Rd. & Charles St., Vineland	Fish no license	20
Richard Strongel, 2214 N. Sydenham St., Philadelphia	Fish no license	20
John H. Dominick, 2104 N. Woodstock St., Phila.	Fish no license	20
Eddie Perez, Puerto Rico	Fish no license	20
James B. Williams, 1506 W. 9th St., Chester, Pa.	Fish no license	20
Michael Nechupas, 348 Roseberry St., Philadelphia	Fish no license	20

# don't miss



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