

*N.J. Periodical*

# New Jersey *Outdoors*

November, 1971

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# Why Do They Hunt?

What motivates man today to take his gun and head for the woods or fields in search of game? One obvious answer is that he enjoys it. But perhaps that's an oversimplification. He enjoys what? The shooting of a firearm? He can do that at clay targets or on the rifle range. The taking of game? Then how do you explain the deer hunters we all know who return empty-handed year after year yet keep going back? The companionship of fellow hunters? The escape from a desk or a machine, from business pressures, from air-polluted cities? Now, perhaps, we are getting a bit closer.

What hunting actually is, of course, is a basic re-enactment of man's earliest method of gathering food to survive. Today, modern agricultural and food-marketing practices have virtually eliminated this need. Yet, he continues to hunt. Why?

Some will suggest that hunting is symbolically masculine and that hunters take up the sport to assert or prove their manhood to themselves or others. But there are just too many citizens with little apparent need to prove such a point, who are also ardent hunters, to make this assumption valid.

Man, as a species, responds to challenge. Unquestionably, meeting his earliest challenge, that of mere survival, provided exhilaration. Obviously, he still seeks this type of challenge and, obviously, many still find it in the practice of hunting.

Deeper down, however, there is something more. It is a basic need and desire for close association with nature. And it manifests in the very breadth of the average hunter's outdoors activities. Not all fishermen are hunters, but it is hard to find a hunter who doesn't eventually take up fishing. Fishing gives him a reason to be in the woods when hunting seasons are closed. Neither are all bird watchers hunters. But many hunters wind up becoming bird watchers, too. In man's seeking for a return to nature, hunters perhaps merely seek the furthest.

Man springs from, and is inherently attached to, the land and the forests. Take him away from these and he will strive to retrieve or retain a part of them. In our greatest concentrations of concrete canyons, he will set aside land for parks. Others will commute miles and hours from their city jobs to maintain a small plot of grass and trees. Still others will drive an hour to reach their pet grouse cover, or all day to reach the domain of the white-tail deer.

Man will continue to visit his city parks, to tend his patch of grass, to seek the solitude of the forest, to hunt. Why does he do the latter? Perhaps the reason is not so complex after all. It is the same as his reason for doing the others. It is his nature.

— *Dick Dietz*

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# New Jersey *Outdoors*

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### Cover — "Canvasbacks" — *National Wildlife Federation*

Canvasback ducks are probably the most highly esteemed for eating of any waterfowl and are favorites of discerning waterfowlers. However, their numbers are currently rather low, which is the reason for the present restricted bag limit on canvasbacks.

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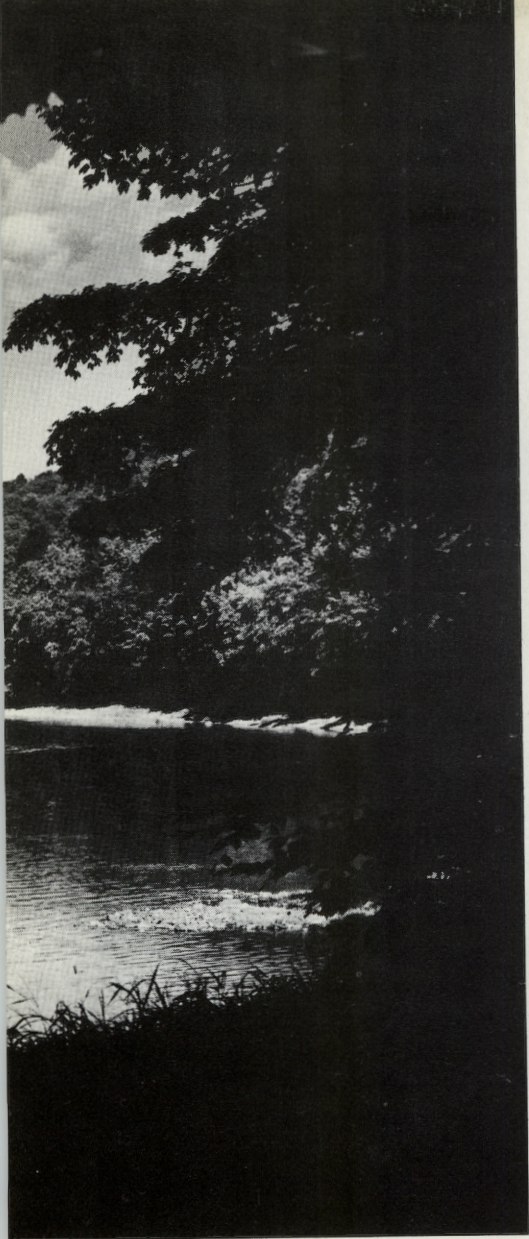
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*There is a volume of "ecology" writing dealing exclusively with camping, boating, fishing, and pretty scenes that bears only indirectly on the subject and lacks depth*



There is an adage that statements oft repeated become accepted as truths. Some of the great tragedies of human history have been perpetrated because of this human failing.

Does this apply to conservation and is the proper emphasis being put on the important things? The present volume of writing and effort on this subject often appears contradictory. On the one hand there is encouragement by the efforts of many sincere citizens groups determined to educate youth because of the mistakes of their elders. There is a definite striving both local and national, to imbue the rising generation with the ecological facts of the natural world.

There is also a volume of writing under the psuedo name of conservation that bears only indirectly on the subject and which lacks depth. This type of writing too often deals exclusively with camping, boating, tying flies, hunting, and fishing—which in themselves are laudable forms of recreation—but which fail to point out that they can only be enjoyed if someone does some work on the land. In all fairness it should be pointed

# The Important Issues

*What counts is how much of the conservation effort really hits the bullseye.*

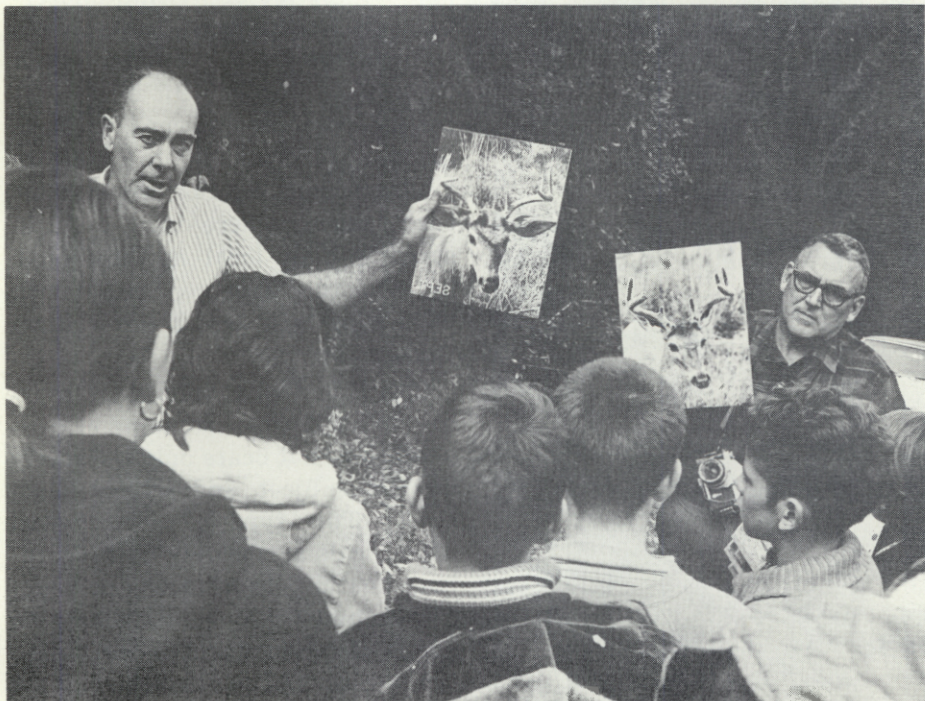
### . . . Important Issues

out that some magazines and newspapers try to sugar important issues by appealing to the personal interests of readers.

Serious editorials get less space than the glamour stories. Repetition of basic tenants seem drab

That is what counts. How much is wasted motion, ineffective though good intentioned, and even detrimental? If all of this is not doing the job fast enough or thorough enough—then why not?

All of this raises some big questions. Does it show a defect in the overall leadership, or in the dis-



*Some leaders are not afraid to get serious about conservation*

and uninteresting and fail to make an impact on those who should get the message.

The volume of theses—the scientific, the serious, the nit-picking, the off-the-cuff opinions, the scoffers, the wasters of paper—grow prodigiously. The question is how much of it really hits the bullseye.

principles? It would appear that there are too many leaders today, both public and private, who are attempting to please everybody or their paid-up followers to the point where there are adverse effects on the really important issues.

Far too many people skirt the important issues; they do not want

to get involved; they look upon them as an albatross around their neck; they would rather leave those affairs to others and accept the lighter concepts of personal

opulence has given people the feeling of a constitutional right to luxuries regardless of consequences. In fact, the demands for creature comforts continues to increase to



*Some programs merely accept the lighter concepts of recreation*

gratification. Too many leaders are afraid of losing their following if they get too serious, by being too repetitious about the things to be done, by preaching too much.

Because of so many of these cross-current attitudes several questions arise: (1) Has our national affluence dulled the edge of husbandry and as a result created a mass-minded monster of selfish interests? There was a time when this nation was less opulent and it was thought the resources were inexhaustible. Resources are not inexhaustible, but our present day

the point where a guaranteed livelihood is demanded without effort. (2) Have too many subsidies and give-away programs bred a cynical attitude toward thrift, self-reliance and individual responsibility? (3) Are these attitudes developing a vacuum of sloth and indifference? People who demand a gilt-edged Utopia handed to them are not going to concern themselves with what happens to the resources which so far have provided them with their effortless existence. (4) Are the conservationists simply talking to them-

### . . . Important Issues

selves? (5) Are their internal disagreements defeating the main issues? (6) Just how many people would be willing to deny themselves some affluence to guarantee the perpetuity of resources?

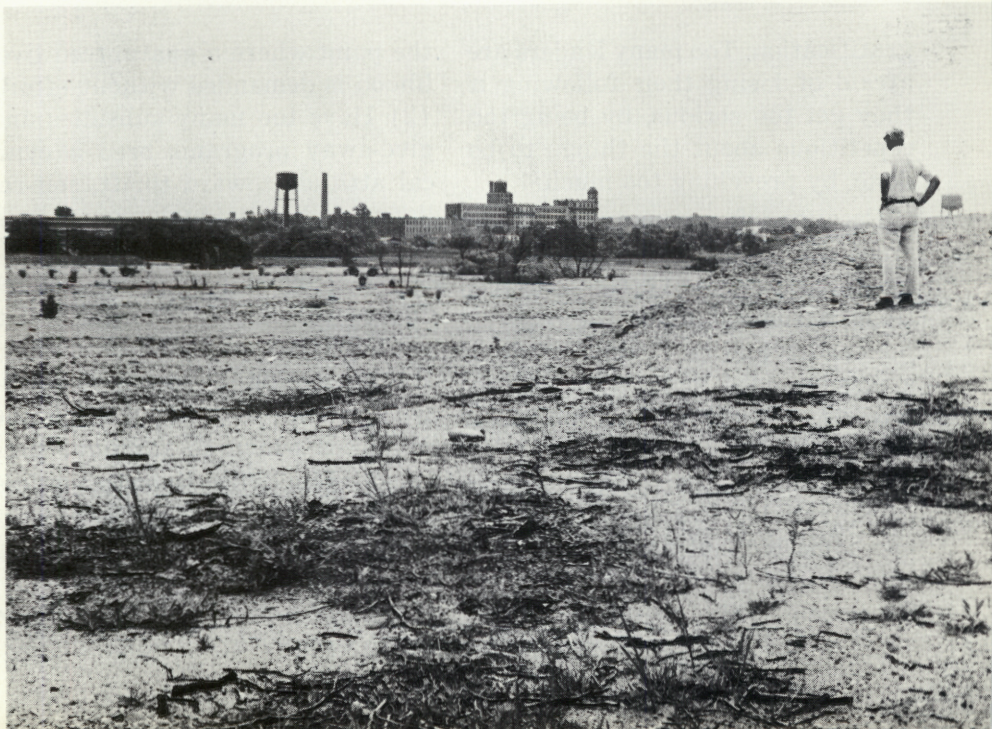
I recently read an editorial in a metropolitan newspaper by a rather noted commentator on the affairs of life in which he stated that to him nature meant bugs, burrs, foxtail, buckbrush, poison oak, scratches, bites, torn clothes and grime. He further commented that we have taken a continent unfit for human beings and made it a cornucopia of unprecedented plenty. That we have enormous mastery over nature. That American destiny would be decided in the cities.

He further states that in fifty years we could transform this continent into its original native state. That would take some doing when one considers bringing back the top soil to Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Missouri from the Mississippi Delta, or regrowing a couple of redwoods in fifty years, or cleaning up the Great Lakes. These are just a few of the reconstruction jobs which would have to be undertaken.

I question if too many people really believe such cynical, off-center hypocrisy. But as stated in the beginning if such statements are repeated often enough some few are gullible enough to swallow them.

God help America if such attitudes fostered in the city jungle will decide the destiny of our re-

*Just how much would it take to change this back . . .*





*... to this, if it were at all practical or possible*

sources and our survival. Fat cities do not thrive on a lean countryside.

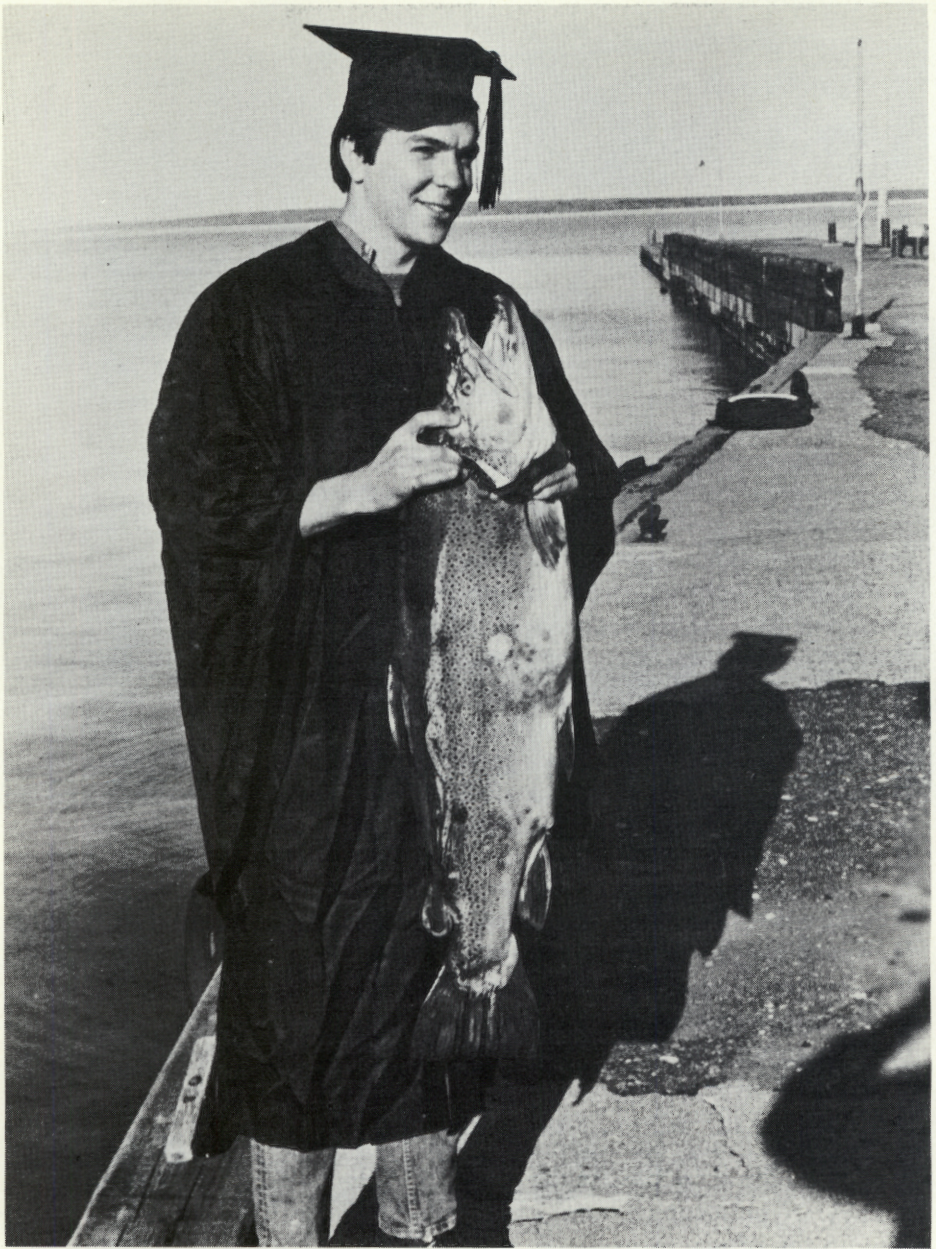
The increasing volume of writing today which either centers around our total environment or only certain phases of it is indicative of MAN'S concern and interests. The above quoted type of hackneyed philosophy does not show up too often.

If our cities are producing the complete life, why the animal unrest so prevalent today, and why do people periodically flee from them as if they had a plague and

seek some isolation and solitude. It is because they cannot stand the impact of their own creations.

People with a small town, rural background are far less inclined to be running away from their environment as if they were trapped animals. They may take a trip now and then to find out how the rest of the world lives, but in the long run they have found the more perfect life in their own bucolic surroundings. They have to spend some of their time entertaining their city cousins. #

—Ernest F. Swift



What a week! Mike Brassic, who received his Bachelor of Science degree May 30 from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, already won another coveted award earlier in the month. On May 24 Mike became the holder of the new North American record for brown trout with this 29-pound, 9-ounce Goliath taken from Lake Superior. Mike, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bound of Pennington, was a 1967 graduate of Hopewell Valley high school.

New Jersey man lands  
new North American  
record brown trout

## Record Trout

"It looked so big and beautiful in the net that I almost let him go," said Mike Brassic, reflecting on his first few seconds after landing the new North American record brown trout. "When it was weighed by an official of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and I was told that at 29 pounds 9 ounces the fish had broken the Wisconsin and continental records, I had no idea of the interest it would generate."

Mike, who graduated in May from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, with a degree in biology, had spent much of his spare time outside the classroom hunting and fishing, but the idea of a record-breaking fish was the farthest thing from his mind. "My biggest fish before this one was an 11½-pound lake trout, also from Lake Superior."

Mike is no novice when it comes to the woods and water. He has his Coast Guard operators license, and is training to become a licensed guide and charter fishing boat captain with the Paula K fleet out of Bayfield, Wisconsin. This past October he bagged his buck during the first 15 minutes of deer season. He managed to take his share of ducks and grouse before going to

his morning classes, and said he had better grouse shooting this fall than during any of his years at Northland. Mike also served as a member of the student-faculty committee which designed Northland's new environmental studies curriculum.

"I'd expected this to be a big time because of graduation, but all anyone wants to talk about is the 'Big Fish.' Does he expect the record trout to have any real impact on his plans, for now or the future? Not really—maybe more business for the charter boats next summer, because of the publicity, and hopefully, the Bayfield-Washburn-Ashland area will benefit from being known as the home of the new record brown."

Mike is having the fish mounted, and will make it available for educational and conservation displays.

His own plans remain as yet unsettled, except guide on Lake Superior this summer, and probably hunt this fall. Mike, a 'B' student, is certified to teach biology on the high school level, and may eventually give the field of education a try, but not yet. He talks of trying life in Alaska, and says that wherever he settles it will definitely be rural America. #



*Considerable amounts of lead shot can be deposited around long established blinds that afford much shooting*

## Soft Iron Shot

*The problem of waterfowl losses caused by lead poisoning due to ingestion of shot by dabbling ducks is of concern to all sportsmen. This report is a follow-up on reports published in the February 1971 and February 1970 issues of New Jersey Outdoors.*

During the past years there has been a steady beat of words on the conscience of American sportsmen and conservationists concerning waterfowl losses attributed to lead poisoning from ingested shot. Respected national organizations have raised questions about progress being made to eliminate or at least reduce those losses. Often their questions are in terms of a timetable: When will toxic lead be replaced by non-toxic iron or some other substitute?

During that period there were some interesting developments. They have not been fully reported. This statement summarizes the progress that the leading North American shotshell ammunition loading companies can report in the serious effort being made to find an acceptable and non-toxic substitute for lead shot in waterfowl hunting.

No one has truly accurate figures on lead poisoning losses in waterfowl. It's no secret that the figures mentioned are guesses. However, in 1965-66 the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife estimated that annual

losses may run to several million ducks. They projected this from observations in selected flyway feeding areas and waterfowl wintering grounds. Unless losses were cut, BSWF said, it might become necessary to shorten waterfowl hunting seasons or reduce bag limits or both.

Systemic poisoning due to ingested lead is a recognized waterfowl fatality factor. Spent shot on certain marsh bottoms is ingested by dabbling ducks sifting for seeds. The amount and availability of "accessible" shot varies from marsh to marsh. Shot settles in soft bottoms beyond the birds' reach. Shot that has fallen in marshes where there is a high rate of siltation, or into tidal waters, poses little or no threat. There is no precise data where waterfowl find the shot they ingest. The sources generally are believed to be relatively shallow waters with what might be characterized as thin, hard bottoms. Not all marshes are sources of shot to feeding ducks.

Members of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers'

## ... Iron Shot

Institute initiated studies in 1966 leading toward development of a research project to find a modification of or substitute for lead in shot. The respected Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute (IITRI) was selected in 1967 to conduct the industry-sponsored project. When IITRI studies were completed in 1969, the results were made freely available to the industry, the government, and to all who made inquiry.

Anti-trust laws restrict the degree to which competing companies can exchange current ideas and engage in cooperative activities. As a result, the ammunition companies felt obliged to undertake separate, independent programs to apply the knowledge gained from the SAAMI-sponsored project. On the advice of counsel, the sharing of talent and information and funding were proscribed. While competition may have benefited, we do not know what effect this proscription had on progress toward solution of the problem.

IITRI tested bio-chemical modifications of lead. What seemed a good theory failed. Metal and plastic coatings for lead were tried along with lead "composites" and alloys. The strong grinding action of a duck's gizzard abrades protective coatings and exposes the bird's digestive system to metallic lead which reacts chemically with digestive fluids. Typically, paralysis

of the duck's digestive system follows with resultant starvation and subsequent death from physical debilitation of predation.

IITRI's research efforts turned next to non-toxic substitutes for lead. Glass and ceramics and certain metals failed for lack of density with resulting poor ballistic performance. Various heavy metals such as silver and nickel would serve, but their rarity and cost excluded them from serious consideration. The avenues of exploration all returned to iron.

Iron as a substitute for lead in shot is not a new proposal. Steel has been used in BBs for air guns for generations. Small iron rounds in an unbelievable range of sizes are produced by the billions for a host of industrial purposes. Why not use iron instead of lead for shot in waterfowl ammunition?

### **What Sort of Iron**

What sort of iron? Ordinary iron shot might shoot well. It also tears up shotgun tubes. Its ravages in a shotgun barrel creates genuine concern for gun and shooter safety. Such iron quickly erodes chokes and renders them useless. A shotgun's ability to produce an effective pattern is diminished after firing relatively few rounds of ordinary iron shot loads.

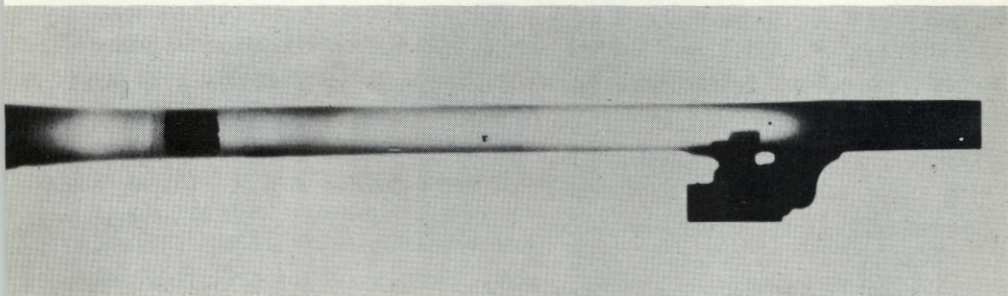
Isn't there a softer iron? Yes, there is. In 1968 the SAAMI/IITRI research project uncovered a soft iron wire. Its production was irregular, because it had few if any

commercial applications. Its ballistic and performance characteristics were unknown.

One ammunition company produced a batch of shot from this soft iron wire. The heading process (common in BB shot production) was used, followed by annealing in a controlled atmosphere to reduce work hardening. A second ammunition loading company took

one test showed there was no apparent deformation nor discernible movement of metal in the forcing cone of those particular guns.

Then why not get on with soft iron shot? Until late 1970, there was no reliable source of soft iron wire. Today there still is no proven practicable soft iron shot production process for bulk manufacture. Shooting tests of soft iron loads



*Iron shot now available "scars" gun barrels. X ray of shot load in barrel*

the soft iron shot and produced loads similar to lead shotshells commonly used for waterfowling.

The Patuxent (Maryland) Wildlife Research Center, operated by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, ran tests with live ducks to learn the "mortality efficiency" of the soft iron shot. This had nothing to do with the shot's performances as related to its effect on gun barrels. Those tests in 1969, and comparisons with data on lead shot, indicated soft iron loads were suitable when fired within reasonable ranges up to 50 yards. The two shotgun barrels fired showed no discernible barrel scoring from the soft iron shot. So far as that

in various makes and models of shotguns also have shown some of the same problems caused by ordinary iron shot: barrel scoring, choke deformation, and forcing cone changes. This raises questions of safety along with doubts of satisfactory performance as related to patterning ability.

These facts have been discussed with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. At a session of the National Waterfowl Council in March 1970, during the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Chicago, a spokesman for the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute reviewed most of

## . . . Iron Shot

this. He expressed confidence that soft iron loads could be universally available by the mid-1970's, and specified the 1975 or 1976 waterfowl seasons.

That spokesman put his own neck on the line to venture a personal prediction: Soft iron loads might be offered by 1972 or 1973, but not with positive assurance everyone will be pleased by their performance. It should be added no one can guess costs for iron shot loads.

That's all well and good, but when can duck hunters look for soft iron shot in waterfowl loads? No loading company can announce a time schedule yet. Two steel companies have claimed ability to supply soft iron wire. One of the companies reports having made wire deliveries to potential shot manufacturers.

Next it's a question of solving shot production problems to assure economic feasibility. Concurrently the essential and extensive firing tests are being conducted to determine soft iron shot's performance capabilities and characteristics in a variety of shotguns and barrels of different makes and models, both foreign and American.

It is too early to speculate what those firing tests with soft iron shot will tell. But shotgun owners have several critical questions and the firearms and ammunition load-

ing companies feel an obligation to provide the answers. They are working independently to do just this. As soft iron shot supplies become available, guns of nearly every foreign and domestic make will be tested. The outcome of these tests must be awaited before anyone can accurately predict when soft iron shot will be offered as a substitute for lead in waterfowling loads.

We now have this certain knowledge: Five ammunition loading companies are separately but actively working to produce soft iron shot or to find production sources. At least three other companies (not in the ammunition business) are working to perfect soft iron shot manufacturing processes. At least three ammo loading companies are conducting independent tests to learn what sportsmen will demand to know about iron shot's performance in existing shotguns. All the companies working to bring about introduction of a non-toxic shot for waterfowling will continue their efforts as aggressively as possible.

State or federal regulations that might be contemplated to prohibit lead in waterfowl loads will not contribute to a speedier development of non-toxic substitutes. Forcing the production of inadequately tested iron shot could be contrary to the best interest of sportsmen in terms of gun safety and diminished gun performance capabilities. It could very well



*In time much of the shot already deposited on soft marsh bottoms should settle or be covered by silt*

compound needless losses of waterfowl as a result of crippling caused by poorly patterned shot.

The public must recognize that lead poisoning in waterfowl will not cease miraculously the day a non-toxic substitute for lead in shotshells is introduced. There is no way to remove from marsh bottoms the lead shot that has fallen upon them over the past century and more. There will never be an assurance that all lead shot in those marsh bottoms will settle out of range of feeding ducks, although shot sizes No. 4 and larger will sink beyond reach of dabbling ducks in most soft-bottomed ponds and marshes. Natural siltation also will help cover spent shot. Soft

iron shot can only be expected to relieve, not eliminate, the problem.

There has been notable progress by the several companies working and testing independently to solve lead poisoning in waterfowl. The suppliers of basic materials, component fabricators, process designers, and ammunition loaders are going about the job aggressively and with conviction that the problem can be alleviated if not altogether eliminated. The American and Canadian ammunition loading companies have established an enviable record for sincere interest and successful pioneering action in wildlife conservation. They are determined to help resolve this pressing problem. #

# Duck Identification Guide For Hunters



After making the first choice offered at the top of the page follow the black lines to secondary choices until the correct identification has been made.

STAR

DOES YOUR



Bill broad, typically ducklike

Wing patch gray, nonmetallic or wing uniform in color



Wing patch iridescent blue, purple, green, brown or black or white



Bill without two rings



Bill with two bluish-white rings, one at the base and one near the tip



**RING-NECKED DUCK**

Head flattish, sloping with straight line appearance from forehead to bill



**CANVASBACK**

Head rounded with angle at forehead and bill



White or whitish cheek patch



**RUDDY DUCK**

Head uniformly reddish or yellowish brown



**REDFEAD**

White face patch behind eye

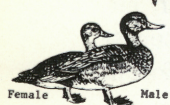


**BUFFLEHEAD**

No white face patch, or if present, in front of eye

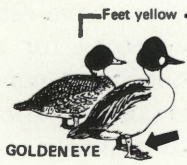


White wing patch with black or dark feathers in center

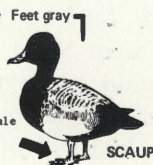


**GADWALL**

White wing patch without black or dark feathers in center

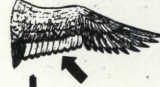


**GOLDEN EYE**



**SCAUP**

Wing patch white



Wing patch brown



**PINTAIL**

Wing patch green, bro



Wing patch blue



Wing patch bordered on both sides with white



**MALLARD**



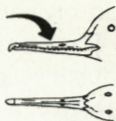
**MALLARD**

Head crested,



**WOOD DUCK**

Bill slender, pointed, and toothed



Feet yellow or yellowish-gray

Feet pink or reddish



HOODED MERGANSER



COMMON MERGANSER



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Blue, purple, black

Wing patch blue, purple, green or black



Wing patch green or black

Wing patch green or black



Wing patch without white border or white only at feather tips

Blue patch on shoulder of wing

Patch on shoulder of wing not blue



Head not crested, feet orange-red or coral red

Bill very large and broad, feet orange or coral-red

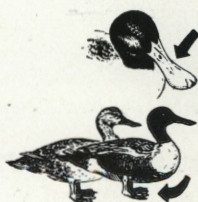
Bill normal, feet yellow

Shoulder of wing gray or brownish

Shoulder of wing with white patch



BLACK DUCK



SHOVELER



BLUE-WINGED TEAL



GREEN-WINGED TEAL



AMERICAN WIDGEON

Cinnamon teal is similar to blue-wing teal except that male cinnamon teal is reddish on head and underparts. The female is virtually identical to the female blue-wing teal.

Female American widgeon has brown breast and flank. Female green-wing teal has gray speckled breast and flank.

This pictorial aid is designed to assist in recognizing ducks in the hand after they have been bagged.

The shape of the bill, wing markings, color of feet or head crest are some of the typical characteristics used to identify ducks in the hand. This is quite different from identification of ducks in flight or sitting on water. When flying or on water other identifying features are used such as silhouettes, mannerisms of flight, wing beat, speed of flight or color patterns on body and wings. Every effort should be made to learn to recognize ducks before they are shot. By doing this the hunter is able to take much greater advantage of his sport.

Although occasionally seen inland, sea ducks are not included in this key. They are most frequently found in open salt water areas.



## Green Acres Bond Issue Referendum

In November, New Jersey's voters will find on their ballot question number 3, which is a Green Acres Bond Issue Referendum for \$80,000,000 to purchase lands for recreation and to conserve natural resources.

This will constitute the second phase of the Green Acres program—the first having been authorized by the voters in 1961. The sportsmen of the state, seeing the opportunity for areas to be acquired for fish and wildlife management, campaigned actively for it and played a substantial role in the passage of this initial act.

It should be emphasized that the Division had not been in a finan-



*Camping and nature study have proved to be popular on past Green Acres lands*

cial position to purchase land for some time, so that the 1961 Bond Issue was a sorely needed and welcome program. As a result of it, the Division has seen its holdings increase by almost 35 percent—a condition which could not have been accomplished otherwise.

When areas are turned over to the Division for administration, they are termed Fish and Wildlife Management Areas. Though managed for wildlife through habitat improvement programs to provide quality

wildlife habitat and increase the recreational opportunity for hunting and fishing, habitat improvement also benefits many species, game and non-game alike. Thus, outstanding opportunities are provided for naturalists, outdoor photographers, bird watchers, and other outdoor groups and individuals. They provide natural areas for conservation education purposes, clearly demonstrating the relationship between wildlife and its dependency on quality habitat. Where compatible, camping, horseback-riding, and picnicking are permitted on a regulated basis, allowing for multiple use recreation on many of the areas.

The 1961 Green Acres Program enabled the Division to obtain for its administration vitally important coastal wetlands. Such areas are



*Fishing and picnicking provide pleasant relaxation for entire family groups*

necessary for the survival of many salt water fish, shellfish, and other invertebrates. They are vital wintering, feeding, resting and productive areas for migratory waterfowl, as well as many species of shore and song birds. Prime examples are the Marmora (coastal wetlands) in Cape May County whose acreage was increased from 876 acres to 3,895 acres; Dennis Creek in Cape May County, 1,325 acres to 4,910 acres; Dix in

Cumberland County, 913 acres to 2,233 acres; and, Mad Horse Creek in Salem County, 3,139 acres to 4,245 acres.

Additional acreage given to the Division for administration became new management areas, such as the Fortesque Tract in Cumberland County, 894 acres, and Absecon in Atlantic County, 638 acres. These areas, while preserving their status in the ecological system, constitute some of the best waterfowl production, wintering, and hunting areas along the Atlantic and Delaware Bay coasts.

This program also added substantial amounts of acreage to already existing upland tracts. Several of the major acquisitions were Collier's Mills in Ocean County whose acreage increased from 9,578 acres to 11,909 acres; Wanaque in Passaic County, 642 acres to 1,412 acres; Peaslee in Cumberland, Cape May, and Atlantic Counties, 9,538 acres to 13,866 acres; and, Greenwood Forest, 7,663 acres to 8,958 acres. Outstanding new tracts created were Beaver Swamp, 2,675 acres, in Cape May County; Assunpink, 2,505 acres in Monmouth County; Black River, 2,205 acres, in Morris County; Whittingham, 1,114 acres, in Sussex County; and, Stafford Forge, 2,755 acres, in Ocean County.

As a result, over 36,000 acres have been added to the Division's original holdings of 91,000 acres for a total of 129,000 acres. This is in addition to the 64,000 acres which were added to state forests and parks, most of which are open to hunting and fishing when compatible with other utilization programs.

As New Jersey's population continues to grow, areas for recreation are vitally necessary in order to fulfill man's need to spend his leisure time in a natural setting away from the hustle and bustle of his normal activities.

The 1971 Green Acres Bond Issue will help to provide more of these areas by providing funds for municipalities, counties, and the state to acquire and develop such recreation areas. One-half of the funds will be available to municipalities. Priorities for state acquisitions will include additions to existing areas, outstanding recreation areas near centers of population, and quality natural and wildlife habitat areas.

Much can be realized from municipal or township acquisitions. With foresight and planning, these areas, regardless of size, become important as wildlife habitat areas. Parks with ponds can become a source of fishing recreation, if fisheries management is practiced, or provide the means for relaxation through picnicking or other associated activities. A five-acre fresh marsh can provide permanent habitat to hundreds of species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

The new Green Acres Bond Issue offers the opportunity for the department's divisions, especially Parks and Forests and Fish, Game, and Shellfisheries to be assigned additional areas for public recreation

and environmental protection not planned for in future budgets because of restricted finances.

Certainly it would be for the benefit of present and future generations if all of the diverse conservation interest groups in the state work



*Hunting and field trials are prime uses made of the wildlife lands*

together harmoniously toward achieving this one supremely important goal—that of acquiring recreational areas, natural areas, and quality wildlife habitat in New Jersey.

Your careful consideration and support is needed so that the citizens of today may pass on to the citizens of tomorrow greater opportunities for enjoying the great out-of-doors. #

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For the Conservation of Our Natural Resources

## Support the National Wildlife Federation

by Purchasing Wildlife Conservation Stamps

## Hard Hunts

There's a special breed of hunter who's never happy unless he's suffering.

Well, here are some offerings that should make him leap with unbridled joy. We herewith nominate the following ordeals as some of the toughest outdoor fun in New Jersey:

1. *Ruffed grouse*: when hunted in wet, tag alder runs in the northern counties or in the southern counties in dense cover.
2. *Red fox*: "walked down" by the hunter in late winter in wet or crusted snow.
3. *Snipe and rail*: when hunted by wading in a soft-bottomed marsh.
4. *Late-season pheasants*: when hunted in rose thickets, cat briar jungles, and snow-choked potholes and marsh edges that aren't quite frozen.
5. *Raccoons*: hunted in the dark of the moon, in bottomland thickets and gumbo fields, with a long-legged buddy, after a light supper. When it's wet.
6. *White-tailed deer*: when hunted in heavy down-timber when there's just enough snow to need snowshoes, and not quite enough room to use them.

All that may not be the ruggedest hunting, but it will make your eyes shine and your belly growl until harder hunting turns up. What are your personal nominations?

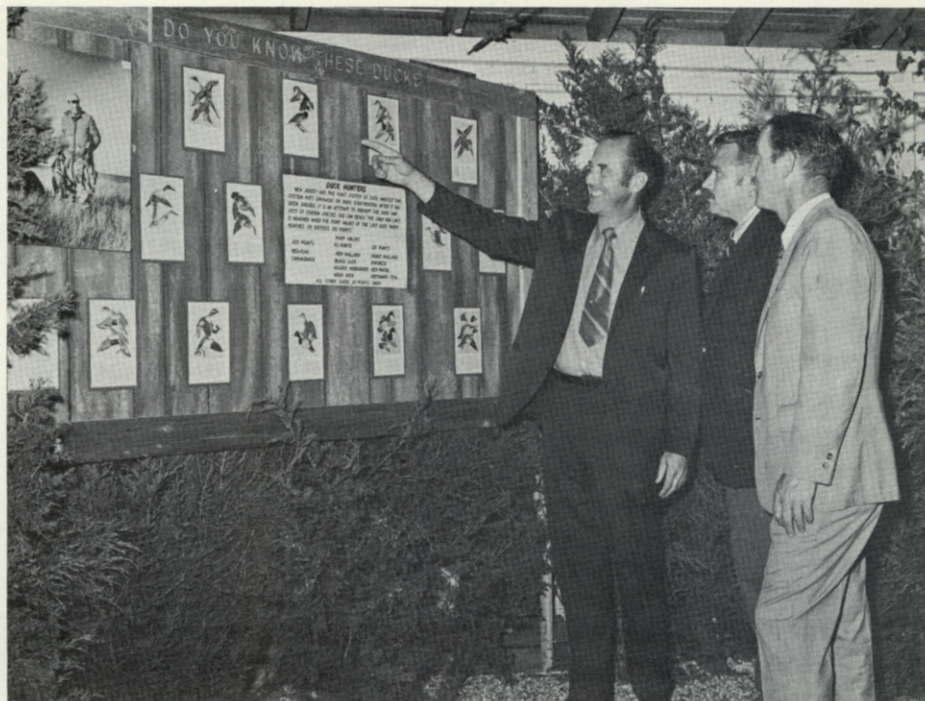
There is easier hunting. In fact, most hunting is easier. But the "hard hunts" have special rewards: no crowds, little competition with other hunters, more hunting, and generally freer access to game range, and a high level of sport.

If a hunter wants quality sport, it isn't really hard to find. It all depends on how much he wants it—and how much of himself he's willing to spend. #

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Preservation of hunting opportunities for Americans depends on successful wildlife management. An important aid in the management of migratory game birds is the individual identification of birds by numbered bands placed on their legs. Every year many thousands of bands are placed on migratory birds, and subsequent reporting of these bands helps to build up a store of reliable information about bird migration, development, length of life, and other important aspects.

## Division Exhibit at the State Fair



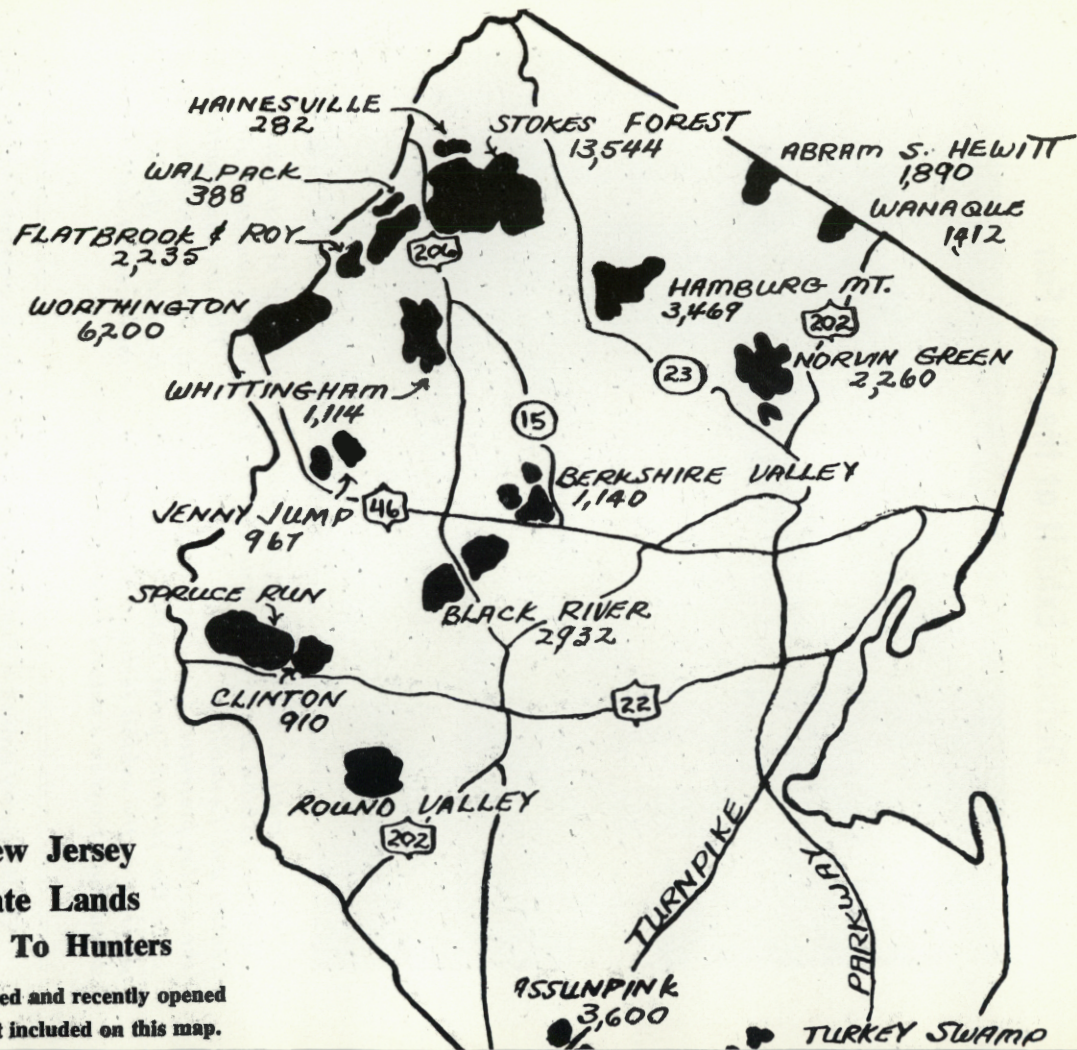
*Director Russell A. Cookingham, left, points out features of a section of the Division's exhibit at the 1971 State Fair in Trenton to Councilman Al Toth, center, and Councilman Randle N. Faunce, right. The pictured portion of the display presented duck identification aids to help hunters recognize ducks since the current "point system" for bag limits is based on species. Other displays in the exhibit included live trout and live snakes and a duck hunter's blind and decoys in a natural looking marsh setting*

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The New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Shell Fisheries, in cooperation with the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, is again sponsoring the state big deer competition.

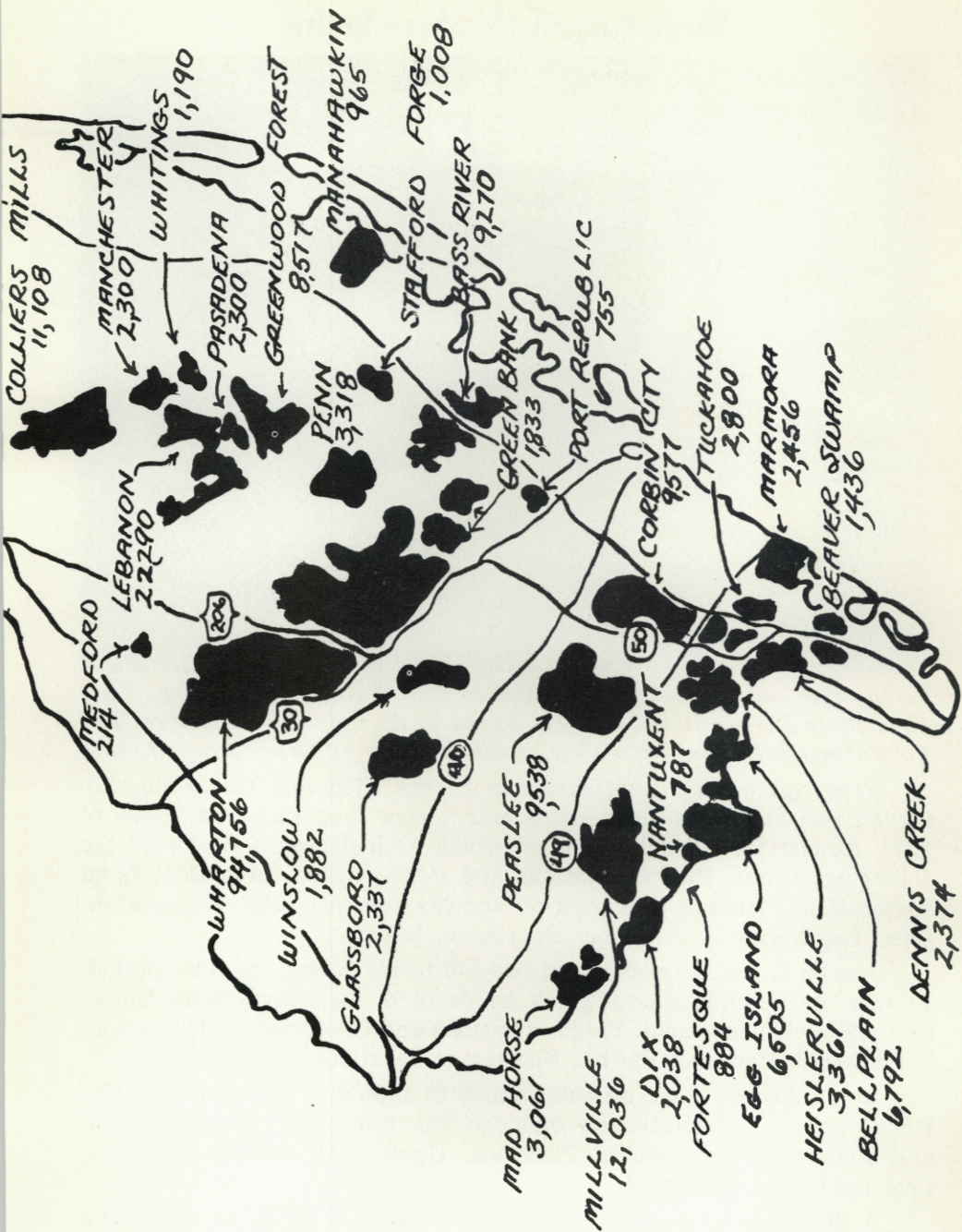
The competition is divided into two divisions; the 200-pound club (for weight) and antler score. Certificates and patches will be awarded to hunters killing a deer with an authenticated dressed weight of 200 pounds, or better. Trophies will be awarded for deer with the largest racks scored under the Boone and Crockett Club measuring system. The antler competition will be divided into two sections: firearm and archery, with typical and non-typical classifications in each. There will be first, second, and third places given for typical. One award will be given for non-typical.

Entry blanks available from the Division office, conservation officers, or fish and game wildlife management areas. Address all correspondence regarding this program to the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Shell Fisheries, P.O. Box 1809, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.



**New Jersey  
State Lands  
Open To Hunters**

Newly acquired and recently opened  
lands are not included on this map.



## Three Council Members Retire



*Former Fish and Game Council Chairman Fred Space, is flanked by former Councilmen Ralph Allocca, left, and Joseph L. Alampi, right. The three past Council members have retired after completing their respective terms of office*

Fred Space, who was Chairman of the Fish and Game Council, served two full, consecutive four-year terms that ran from 1963 to 1971. Among the Committees upon which he had been active were the following: Game, Public Relations and Conservation Education, Land Acquisition, Planning Construction and Maintenance, Salt Water Fisheries, Legislative, and Farmer Sportsmen Relations.

Joseph L. Alampi also served two full terms during the same period. Among the Committees to which he devoted his efforts were these: Game, Law Enforcement, Public Relations and Conservation Education, Land Acquisition, and Farmer Sportsmen Relations.

Ralph Allocca came on the Council in 1966 and served until 1971. His Committee appointments included the following: Administration and Finance, Fresh Water Fisheries, Game, Salt Water Fisheries, Legislative, and Personnel.

A dinner is to be held, sometime in January 1972, to honor the above three former Councilmen, as well as G. Albert Reid and James V. Stabile who also recently went off the Council. Council member Al Toth is Program Chairman for the planned event.

## Parks and Forests Open to Hunting

The Division of Parks and Forests has advised that the following areas, under its jurisdiction, will be open for the 1971 hunting season.

Restricted and no hunting areas will be adequately posted and all regulations will be subject to Fish, Game and Shellfisheries laws.

State Forests	Acres	Counties
Bass River	8,935	Burlington and Ocean
Belleplain	11,178	Cape May and Cumberland
Abram S. Hewitt	1,890	Passaic
Jenny Jump	967	Warren
Lebanon (including Whitesbog area)	25,739	Burlington and Ocean
Penn	3,318	Burlington
Norvin Green	2,260	Passaic
Stokes	14,188	Sussex
Wharton	99,036	Atlantic, Burlington, and Camden
Worthington	5,711	Warren
Sub-Total	173,222	

State Parks	Acres	Counties
Allamuchy	2,200	Morris and Sussex
Double Trouble	1,614	Ocean
Duck Island	177	Mercer
Farny	803	Morris
Great Sound	198	Cape May

Only that State-owned land which is within the following area:

North of Stone Harbor Boulevard  
 South of Avalon Boulevard  
 West of Intercoastal Waterway  
 East of Garden State Parkway

Greenwood Lake	2,525	Passaic
That State-owned property west of East Shore Road including the former Wehran Tract.		

Inskip	1,600	Gloucester
Millstone	1,170	Somerset
Rancocas	850	Burlington

Hunting permitted for the period November 13 through December 4 inclusive for game which is in season during that period.

Ringwood (Skylands)	1,700	Passaic and Bergen
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As posted on Skylands section only.

Swartswood	513	Sussex
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That State-owned property south of Newton-Swartswood Road and east of East Shore Road.

Voorhees	437	Hunterdon
Wawayanda	5,750	Sussex

Sub-Total	19,542
Grand Total	192,764

The grand total comprises approximately 87 percent of the total forests and parks lands. #



**"SHOOT WHEN YOU  
SEE THEIR EYES"**

**A DUCK'S EYE IS  
VISIBLE WHEN THE BIRD  
IS WITHIN EFFECTIVE  
SHOOTING RANGE.**

**LET THEM COME IN  
CLOSE ———  
THEN YOU  
KILL CLEAN  
OR  
MISS CLEAN**



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### **Fisheries Centennial Year**

One hundred years ago in the year 1871, the Congress of the United States authorized the President to appoint the first Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries. Shortly thereafter, President Grant named Professor Spencer Fullerton Baird to this post and in June, 1871, Professor Baird initiated a program of research concerning the conservation of fish at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. From that original effort has evolved both the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The efforts to conserve and improve America's fisheries are vitally important to all of our people. These efforts will require the continuing vigilance of the fishing industry, of government at all levels, of private conservationists, and of the American public.

Therefore, Richard Nixon, the President of the United States of America, has designated the year 1971 as Fisheries Centennial Year. He urges all citizens to support and encourage the work of federal and state administrators and scientists and the work of private conservation organizations in protecting and enhancing the fisheries of our Nation.

#

# Hunting Prospects

This is the time of the year when wildlife management administrators ask their biologists to gaze into the big crystal ball and predict the hunting prospects for the coming hunting seasons. Actually, predictions are made as a result of field observations, roadside counts, trap and release, airplane and helicopter surveys. They are as follows:

## **Cottontail Rabbit**—New Jersey's Number 1 Game Animal

There is considerable variation throughout the state. In areas of good rabbit habitat, the population is exceptionally high, while some localities indicate a slight decrease from last year. General prediction—an overall state population slightly above last year.

## **Pheasant**

Field observations indicate a slight decrease in natural production throughout the pheasant range. Liberation from the three state game farms will be in excess of 57,000 high quality birds. Approximately 11,500 birds will be released before the opening day of small game season on privately owned land open to public hunting. Some 9,800 birds will be liberated on wildlife management areas just prior to the opening of the season, and the remaining 35,800 birds will be released periodically, during the open season, on the various wildlife management areas throughout the state. There will be no pheasants released after the deer season.

## **Bobwhite**

The quail population in southern New Jersey appears exceptionally good, a result of natural reproduction. Most of the wildlife management areas in the South will receive supplemental stockings through the production of 15,000 State Quail Farm birds, plus 3,500 4-H chicks.

## **Squirrel**

This year's good acorn and nut crop should result in high squirrel populations. Excellent sport is assured those who hunt this exciting and under utilized game animal.

## **Ruffed Grouse**

Field observations indicate populations about the same or slightly above last year providing adequate sport for those who hunt this, the king of all game birds.

## **Raccoon**

The population of this game and fur species is somewhat lower than last year. However, the sportsman with a good dog will have no trouble in finding plenty of animals to work with.

## **Fox**

There is an indication of a slight decrease in numbers of both reds and greys. However, sufficient animals are present for those who enjoy the chase, be it on horseback or foot.

## **Jack Rabbit**

A remnant population continues to reproduce in the central agricultural section of New Jersey. The numbers present are small and, when taken, are considered by sportsmen to be a trophy.

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

By JACK SHERIDAN

## Don't forget **SAFETY--**

WHEN YOU GO ON THAT FALL HUNTING TRIP. IMPRESS ON YOUNGSTERS, OR NEWCOMERS, THAT ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY CARELESS SHOOTERS.

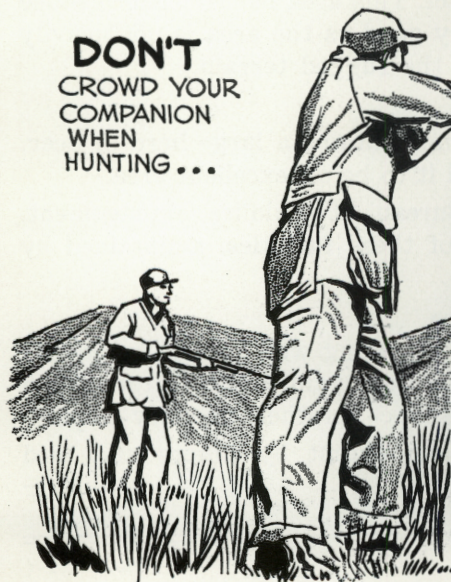
NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO SHOOT.

DON'T SHOOT AT ANYTHING YOU CAN'T CLEARLY SEE.

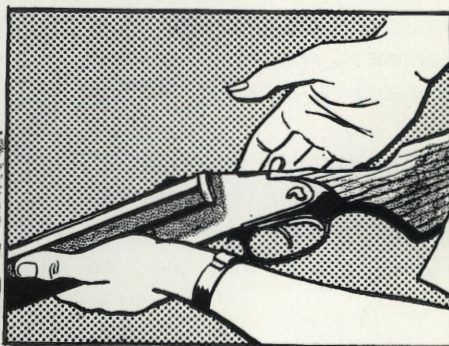


**DON'T**  
CROWD YOUR  
COMPANION  
WHEN  
HUNTING ...

**DON'T**  
LOAD THAT GUN UNTIL  
YOU'RE READY TO DO  
SOME SHOOTING.



GIVE HIM ROOM  
TO SWING THE GUN FOR A SHOT.



**SEE** THAT THE **SAFETY**  
IS ON UNTIL YOU'RE READY TO  
SHOOT. CHECK THAT SAFETY  
**FREQUENTLY!**

No person may, for the purpose of hunting, carry a loaded firearm within 450 feet of any occupied dwelling or of a school playground. See New Jersey Game Laws for details.

## **Guide to the**

# **Hamburg Mountain Tract**

The Hamburg Mountain Fish and Wildlife Management Area, located in Hardyston and Vernon Townships of Sussex County, is one of the most under-utilized of all the Fish and Wildlife Management Areas.

Acquisition began in July 1940, and today this area totals over 3,636 acres. This area is being managed primarily for upland game and deer. The area is heavily forested and very mountainous. Because of this, access to the area is limited. Parking is limited due to the rough topography of the area.

The tract is administered from the office on the Flatbrook-Roy Fish and Wildlife Management Area.

### **Upland Game**

Because of the management employed, there is excellent rabbit, squirrel, and grouse hunting on the tract. This area has excellent grouse habitat. Hunting opportunities are very good as the area is not heavily utilized since access is limited due to the rugged terrain.

### **Deer**

This area is natural deer range and contains a large herd of deer. Bow hunters and shotgun hunters find it to be an excellent area.

The Division, along with the Bureau of Wildlife Management, welcomes all sportsmen to make use of these facilities, maintained by license money of the sportsmen.

### **Ski Area**

The area adjacent to the tract is becoming well known for its ski resorts. There are two ski areas. Vernon Valley and Great Gorge, which lease and utilize a small portion of the tract for their primary slopes.

The area is also used to quite an extent by hikers and bird watchers. #

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## **National Rifle Association Centennial**

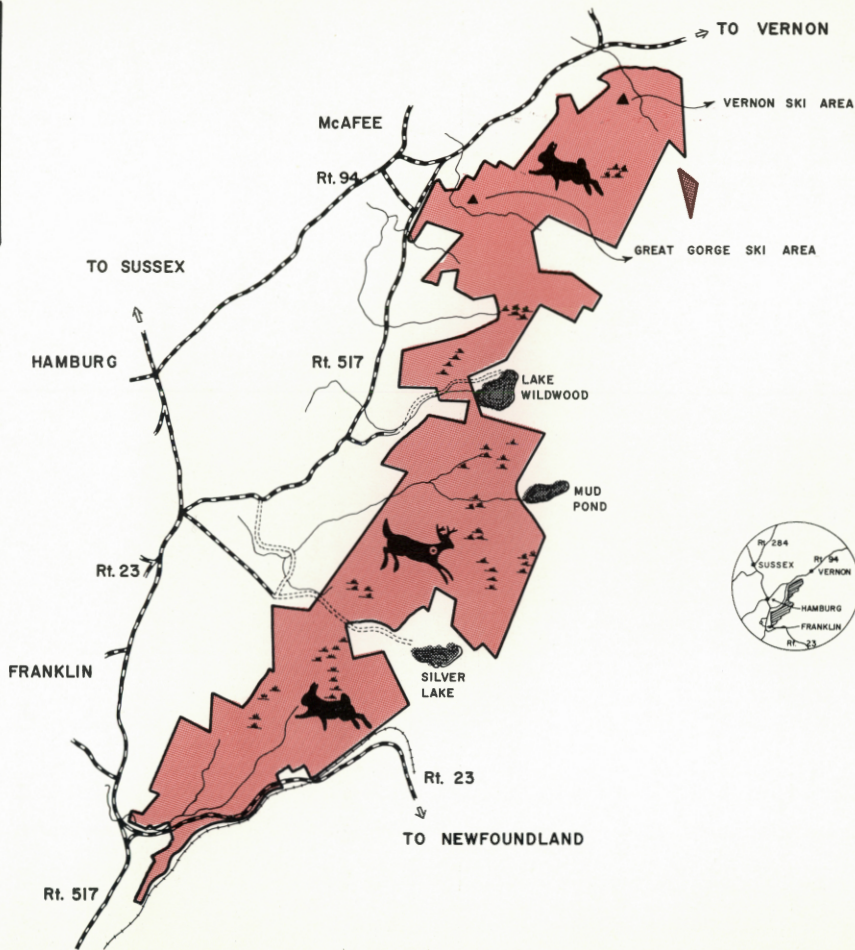
A century of dedicated service to the American rifleman—symbolic backbone of the nation's founding and perpetuation—will mark the celebration this year of the 100th anniversary of the National Rifle Association. The NRA, a million-plus-member organization, was founded in New York State on November 17, 1871. #

# HAMBURG MOUNTAIN FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

SCALE:  1 MILE

## SYMBOLS

ROAD (IMPROVED)  
ROAD (UNIMPROVED)  
TRACT BOUNDARY  
FRESH MARSH  
STREAM  
LAKE



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5. Subscriptions for more than one year count one point per year.
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9. Subscriptions will be accepted in lots of 25 or more.
10. Each subscription should be marked  
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