

Snowshoe Rabbit Season Will Open In Pennsylvania Jan. 2 Through 7

Weekly Newsletter Issued by
The Pa. Game Commission

SNOWSHOE RABBITS SEASON NEARS

Snowshoe rabbits (varying hares) will provide Pennsylvania sportsmen their first open hunting season of 1956. The one-week season will begin at 7 a. m. January 2. It will close at 5 p. m. January 7. The daily bag limit is 2; the season limit is 6.

Snowshoe rabbits are scarce in many parts of the state, so the Game Commission limited the upcoming season to one week. Where these animals are presently in fair numbers the supply is about as high as in other recent years.

Destruction of natural habitat caused by maturing forests and overbrowsing by deer have been the principal contributors toward the reduction in the population of this game animal. But the white rabbit provides many sportsmen an unusual type of winter hunting in the northern area of the state. The snowshoe really "makes tracks" as it circles widely ahead of hounds.

Against snow a hunter must look sharply to detect the nearly all-white animals, but if the ground is bare and dark the snowshoe stands out "like sore thumbs".

DEER DO NOT ALWAYS RUN FROM MAN OR DOG

Lester E. Sheaffer, an officer from the Game Commission's Southcentral Division Office, related the following: "Last November 24th Richard Ferrenberg, of Huntingdon RD 2, was hunting small game in Oneida Township, Huntingdon County, when suddenly out of nowhere a large three-point buck charged him. In the attack the hunter was knocked to the ground with such force his gun fell from his hands. Seeing his master in distress, one of the man's rabbit dogs lunged at the deer. The buck turned upon the dog, injuring it. This action gave Ferrenberg the opportunity to get up and seek cover behind a tree. Before the deer left the scene he charged the tree several times, tearing the bark from the trunk in his attempt to reach the man."

WEATHER HURT DEER HUNTING IN NORTHWESTERN

In northwestern Pennsylvania severe winter weather hampered deer hunters, as Game Protector Raymond M. Sickles, Crawford County, tells in the following: "The first day of the '55 buck deer season was bitter cold but hunters were helped by a light tracking snow. However, on the second and third days a blizzard moved in, and this section was covered by so much snow that hunting was at a complete standstill."

Secretary of Commerce Weeks recently declared the Eisenhower Administration was determined to get its multibillion dollar highway construction program through the next session of Congress.

*HOLIDAY
Greetings*

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AUTOS BAG DEER BEFORE AND DURING SEASON

The following statements were taken from reports recently made by the Game Protectors named. They indicate that, over Pennsylvania, many deer met death on highways just prior to and early in the 1955 buck season.

Says C R Kinley "In Allegheny County, an area of great human population density, 23 deer were reported killed on highways during November. Of this number 15 were male deer with antlers of 5 points or more."

W J Brion. "The highway toll of deer reached what I believe was an alltime high for the month of November in Armstrong County. Approximately 60 deer were killed by vehicles on roads."

B. W. Catherman: "During the month of November 15 buck and 9 doe deer were killed on highways in my Indiana County district."

Harold E. Russell: "During November, 1955, there were 26 deer killed by cars in Perry County. Up to and including December 8 there were 16 deer killed on the county highways."

John H. Doebling: "In my Monroe County district 36 deer were

killed by vehicles, 9 for crop damage and 2 were in the 'miscellaneous cause' category during November."

Donald L. Croft: "In November, 26 deer were killed by cars, trains and shot by small game hunters in my southern Montgomery County district."

S. Earl Carpenter: "Bucks County had its share of automobile accidents by deer. In November we had a double-header; two deer were killed in a collision with one car."

HUNTERS GIVEN CLEAN BILL

Game Protector Ralph E. Flaugh, Mercer County, made the following report "On November 15 Deputy Jack Reimold and I investigated a complaint that a hunter had shot and killed a 1700-lb steer belonging to a farmer living near Sharpsville. I received permission from the owner to dissect the huge animal. After a partial examination we were convinced the steer had not been shot by anyone."

"We thought that because of the great number of bruises on its body, perhaps the animal had been frightened and, in running, had fallen and broken its neck. It had died at the time of a fall thunder and lightning storm. Later, a veterinarian who examined the steer stated the cause of death was lightning."

Lancaster Farming, Friday, December 30, 1955—5

BIRD DARES THE WRONG HUNTER

Game Protector William A. Moyer, Lehigh County, recently reported "Mr. Ringneck will strut across the range no longer. Many hunters who 'sighted in' Game Lands No. 205 have been their rifles on the range on State amused to see this pheasant cock cross the range in search of food

while guns boomed. He paid no attention to bullets whizzing over him. But one man, hunting in the safety zone in which the ringneck had taken refuge, found his daring irresistible. A bullet from the fellow's 8 mm rifle found its mark. . . . Not much left of Mr. Ringneck." Needless to say, this person paid a penalty for violating the Game Law.

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