

Report Given on Game Birds Released In State Recently

COMMONWEALTH OF PA.
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Game Birds Released

The Game Commission's Propagation Division reports on game birds the agency released in Pennsylvania this spring.

Ring-necked pheasants, approximately 52,000. The sex ratio was about 50-50. Breeder pheasants at State Game Farms, to be released about the first of June, will number over 17,500. The proportion of hens to cocks in this case will be 10 to 1.

Bobwhite quail liberated totaled almost 6,000. These "farmers' friends" were about evenly half males and half females.

Wild turkeys released, in ratios of one tom to five hens, numbered approximately 2,900.

All of the pheasants, quail and turkeys were adult birds. In every case they were given their freedom in areas suitable for natural propagation.

Wild Creatures Meet Unusual Death

Game and fur animals sometimes meet their end under unusual circumstances in the wild. Many die each year from causes other than gun or trap, auto or predator. As proof, these two incidents reported by Game Protector Vern A. Van Order.

About the first of this month two yearling beavers were found dead along an oil-polluted stream in Elk County. A pipeline break had sent a quantity of crude oil down the stream.

All aquatic animals such as beavers, muskrats and muskrats are notoriously susceptible to wetting and chilling. Even though they are in and out of icy water daily during the cold months their dense fur keeps their skin perfectly dry. But in the case of the two yearling beavers mentioned the oil-covered water caused the animals' fur to become matted and soaked, following which the animals were no longer "waterproof". Their skin became wet, they chilled in the cold air, and soon died of pneumonia.

In another case the settling basin of an Elk County tannery recently stopped the flight of migratory waterfowl. About a dozen ducks sat down in one basin, not one of them continued its journey northward. The liquid in the basin destroyed the waterproofing qualities of the ducks' feathers, making it impossible for the birds to fly. Some of them died there; others got as far as nearby weeds before dying.

Deer With A Built-In Compass

Somewhere in Southwestern Pennsylvania there is a doe deer possessed of the instinct of a homing pigeon. Game Protectors discovered her unusual faculty, plus strong persistence, while live-trapping deer from the Rolling Rock Club property in Westmoreland County.

White-tails there were so numerous they destroyed much valuable shrubbery around dwellings, as well as forest growth. Also, they endangered the lives and autos of motorists driving highways in the locality. Specially-built traps were used to catch the deer on the club grounds. Later these animals were ear-tagged and removed to areas open to public hunting. These were mostly on State Game Lands located in Westmoreland, Somerset, Indiana and Fayette Counties.

One doe, ear tag number 83, was taken in the same trap on four separate occasions between early January and the end of March this year. After being caught the first time she was turned loose near Dunbar, Fayette County, about 30 miles from "home". She returned in about three weeks to be taken again. She was then given her freedom near Blairsville, Indiana County, approximately 25 miles distant. This time she swam the Conemaugh River and crossed several highways to return to the same trap in ten days. On the third occasion "old 83" was liberated in Fayette County again, this time in the mountains near Uniontown, some 35 miles away. No longer surprised, the wildlife men found her back in the familiar trap before long — for the fourth time — near the end of the catch-and-deport period. Amused and a bit confused, because deer rarely range more than a mile or two, the officers released "83" about 60 miles distant, at the Indiana-Clearfield County line.

Proof that the heroine of this story is unusual lies in the fact that a few other deer, trapped and released in the same program in 1956 and identified by ear tags, were later killed on highways near their liberation points. With the exception of one deer, the travel trend of these animals was in the direction away from the trap location. None of them were trapped again.

"Juice" Undresses Squirrel, Causes Fire

A Carbon County Deputy Game Protector named Paul Kintzel, a lineman for the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, says that on April 29th he traced down a power failure in Weissport. At the trouble spot Kintzel climbed a power pole. Lying on a cross-arm of the pole lay a large, dead gray squirrel minus all its clothing. Undoubtedly, the squirrel had come in contact with a live wire while touching a cross-arm brace. The short circuit resulting caused the cedar pole to catch fire, and quite a bit of damage ensued.

Dogs Chase Deer Into Path Of Autos

Like other Game Protectors, E. W. Cox, Somerset County, received numerous reports of dogs chasing deer in recent weeks. He says, "In two cases, road kills were caused by dogs chasing deer onto the highway. In each case the female involved was carrying twin fawns."

Spring Vegetable Crops More Higher

Washington — Production of spring vegetables is expected to increase two per cent above last year and 14 per cent above average to an estimated 2.72 million tons.

Increases are indicated in cabbage, cantaloupes, early spring lettuce, onions and tomatoes.

JOYFUL JOYRIDER

RICHMOND, Va. — Police are looking for a joyful joyrider who, on a ride on an early-Sunday morning clipped off a hydrant in front of Richmond's main postoffice, causing a gusher of water to spout 12 feet into the air, knocked down two parking signs, bowled over a parking meter and upset a trash container. Damages were estimated at \$500.

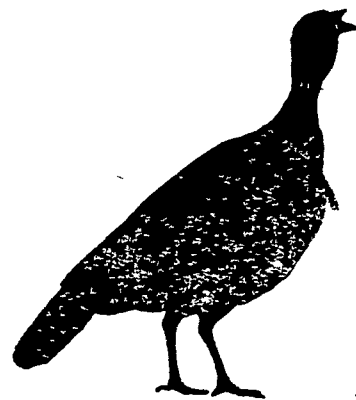
Get-rich-quick schemes multiply faster than the supply of suckers.

Tops Guernsey Sale



Topping the recent "Meeting of the Stars" National Guernsey sale in Lancaster was Bayville Maxprint Bubblemist that brought \$2,550. From left to right are: W. Clark Fleming, Jr., manager of Bayville

Farms, Norfolk, Va., consignor; John D. Worthington III, runner-up in bidding; Bill Chilcoat, manager, Deep Lake Farm, Lakeville, Conn., buyer, with John West, herdsman at Bayville Farms at halter.



This Year . . .

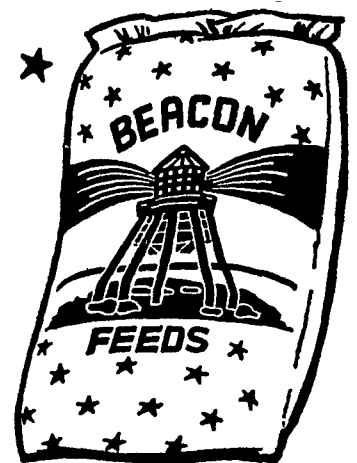
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