

# Game Commission Releases 20,970 Pheasants

## A View From The Governor's Office

BY GOVERNOR  
RAYMOND P. SHAFER

"On a Clear Day, you can see forever" — or so Madison Avenue's advertising geniuses would have you believe.

But not, editorializes one of Pennsylvania's leading daily newspapers (Philadelphia Bulletin) when you're trying to "peer into the state's fiscal future from the Governor's murky window in Harrisburg."

And that is precisely why, in my State of the Commonwealth message to the General Assembly on January 2, 1968, I proposed something never undertaken in any other state in the Union:

—An action program leading to establishment of a five-year State budgetary system which could result in an end to government from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis, year in and year out.

Today, with organization of our new Priorities Commission, Pennsylvania has taken the first long step towards ending the practice of handing out your money on a crash basis without a clear, long-range plan to balance our aspirations with realities.

For the first time anywhere, we have begun to face up to the

spring liberations. Britt said that the 20,970 birds released this month include 12,200 hens and 8,770 cockbirds. This is about the same number of pheasants released last spring.

Large-scale spring liberations in areas with adequate winter carryover of breeding stock or in marginal range have been de-emphasized in favor of large releases of cockbirds prior to and during the open season. Birds released this month have been liberated mainly in second-

ary pheasant range. Nearly 21,000 ringneck pheasants have been released in the state this month under the Pennsylvania Game Commission's spring stocking program, according to Ralph E. Britt, Chief of the Division of Propagation.

The pheasant stocking program has undergone changes in the past several years in an effort to provide greater recreational opportunities and returns for sportsmen during the hunting season. Pre-hunting season

grams to support them in order of importance to all our citizens.

To that end, an outstanding group of Pennsylvania citizens already has begun a task no other similar group has ever been asked to do anywhere in the Nation: to provide both this Administration and the General Assembly with a meaningful list of program priorities based on an understanding of all the needs of our people.

All are outstanding and concerned citizens who represent almost every field of human endeavor — business, labor, government, law, medicine, science, human services, education, our cities and farms. All represent expertise in their own fields, as well as understanding of the problems and needs in other fields.

It is our great hope that, by working together, they will soon become a single voice speaking for the well-being of Pennsylvania. If they do, they will have brought about a basic and clear program of putting first things first — something never before accomplished in government.

Only then will we be able to plan intelligently for the fiscal future. Only then will we be able to set up a program of priorities, put a price tag on each — and yank government from its annual state of fiscal crisis.

need to determine, rationally and realistically, what it is we want to accomplish — and what it is we can reasonably accomplish.

Simply stated, the problem is this: Demands for State services from citizens — in teachers' salaries, other educational programs, health, welfare, conservation, transportation, economic development and the like — are far outstripping our financial ability to meet them.

The time has come when the financial structure of our Commonwealth has reached its elastic limits. We must now distinguish between that which may be desirable and that which is essential, and strike a balance that can be achieved only if we clearly rank the needs and pro-

and in-season stocking with higher returns to the hunter are being emphasized to avoid low yield and poor return from

The current stocking program came about as the result of studies conducted under the direction of Game Commission Research Division Chief Harvey A. Roberts. The studies showed that widely-distributed, large-scale spring releases put little in the game bags of hunters who finance the program. On the other hand, hunter recovery of

cockbirds released in October and November exceeds fifty percent in many areas.

Experience has shown that it is futile to release game farm breeding stock in areas that do not normally support pheasants, according to Roberts. It would be equally unsound to release breeding stock in primary range which has an adequate winter carryover of birds. Hence, the emphasis on secondary range for liberation of pheasants this month.

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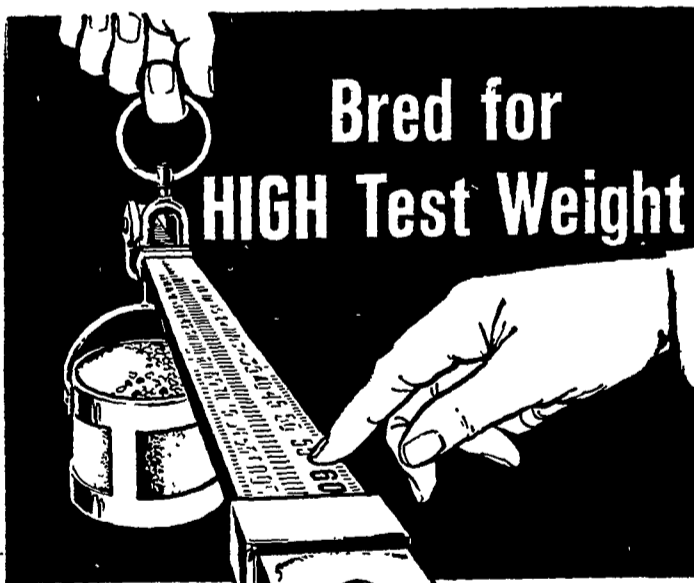
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