

## Adequate Game Populations For 1969 Hunting Seasons

Pennsylvania hunters can expect to find good supplies of most species of game this fall, according to Game Commission field reports. This has been a good year for reproduction of most species.

Habitat for cottontail rabbits, favorite targets for most small game hunters, is continuing to recover from an extensive drought which ended in the state last year. The end of the drought produced more bunnies in 1968, and even more should be in evidence this year.

Late reproduction of rabbits has been noticeable in 1969, and an adequate number of cottontails should be around when the season opens on November 1. Of course, the feeding habits of bunnies have changed in the past month, and many more can now be spotted at night than during daylight hours.

Ringneck pheasants are again expected to be plentiful in their normal range. Size of broods, hatching dates and losses of hens due to mowing were all normal this year.

Although field counts of broods were down slightly for pheasants, heavy cover is believed to be responsible for fewer sightings. A lower density of hay field nesting was offset by a higher density of winter grain field nesting.

The first pheasant hatches this year occurred much earlier than in many years, which means that more of the brilliantly-colored cockbirds should be fully feathered by the start of hunting season than was the case in 1968.

One game species population that has changed from last year is squirrel. For the past few years there has been an overabundance of busytails, but there will be fewer in 1969. However, the overall supply is still good throughout most of the state.

The squirrel decline is normal. Each year following a mast shortage, as occurred in 1968, there are fewer litters of squirrels, and there are fewer offspring per litter.

Quail are continuing to expand their range. Areas of bobwhite habitat formerly devoid of quail are being re-populated.

Grouse availability will be on a par with 1968. The supply of the state bird has been spotty over the state for the past few years, but there are still enough to offer fair to moderately good hunting for the sportsman.

One of the bright spots in Pennsylvania's hunting picture

### Winter Grain

I'm aware that many farmers are anxious to get their winter grain seeded as soon as possible; already we have requests about being the time to seed winter wheat. Usually the last week in September and the first week in October would be suitable to seed the winter barley in this area. Winter wheat will be improved very little by seeding prior to the second week in October unless grazing or green-chopping is to be done to remove the extra growth. Early seeded grains that get a very rank growth in the fall, without being removed, have been known to lodge more severely than those seeded according to the above time. Also, the use of nitrogen on winter grain in the fall is questionable on many farms, with the average soil in Lancaster County little nitrogen is needed and applications could increase the problem of lodging next summer. Phosphorus and potash fertilizers should be sufficient to develop a good root system and strengthen the straw.

this year is wild turkeys. Numerous large broods have been observed, and hunters can look forward to finding abundant supplies of the big, wary birds in their primary range this fall.

All evidence indicates that bears have declined in number in the northcentral part of the state, but they seem to be in normal supply elsewhere. Fewer bruins in prime range led the Game Commission to establish a two-day season for 1969.

Deer, as usual, are in good supply in the commonwealth. The size of the herd, which had been growing in recent years, appears to have been stabilized, which will mean good whitetail hunting in nearly all counties.

Of course, there are always local exceptions to the supply of

any game species. Some areas may have larger-than-normal concentrations of one or more species, while other locations normally supporting large wildlife populations may show a shortage this year.

All in all, it looks like another good year for hunters in Pennsylvania.

### Thousand-Legged Worms & Nuisance

If you've seen slow crawling animals about one or two inches long invading the basement, they may be millipedes, thousand-legged worms, or centipedes (hundred-legged worms). Both are common in yards around mulched shrubbery. They will invade houses under certain conditions, say extension entomologists at The Pennsylvania State University. Although a nuisance, they will not damage food or household furnishings. Contact your county agent for information on control measures.

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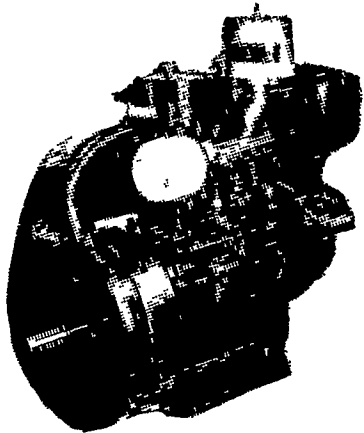
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## ● Pennsylvania (Continued from Page 17)

Progress Through People is a timely, meaningful theme for Cooperative Month 1969. Progress through people is the way America has always moved ahead. It is still the way we can and must advance in the computer-space age of today and tomorrow." The cooperative enterprise, Nixon said, is a "means of satisfying the economic needs of many individual Americans by acting together."

Nearly all fifty states plan to participate somehow in the nationwide observance of Co-op

Month, and over thirty of the nation's governors will make an official proclamation in their states. This is the fifth year for the official observance.

Also listed in Governor Shafert's proclamation were these statements:

"Cooperatives are basic to and a deeply rooted part of the American Free enterprise system.

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