

Fin, Fur and Feather

Only Small Percentage of Rabbits Taken By Hunters

In fall frustrated hunters often ask, "Where are all the rabbits we saw this summer?" A partial answer lies in the fact the cottontail is becoming more nocturnal in its habits and often stays in its burrow during the daylight hours.

A more complete answer lies in facts uncovered by studies that show the high percentage of rabbits present in mid-summer die before the end of the year, but from causes other than hunters' guns. In this state vehicles on highways and machines on farms, great horned owls, crows, dogs, cats, opossums, raccoons and other predators take a high toll of this popular game animal. So do floods, drought, warbles and diseases.

Rabbit tagging information and studies made in various areas of Pennsylvania indicate not more than 25% of our cottontails reach one year of age. The rabbit mortality story was clearly told in a leaflet recently received from Iowa State College. Biologists carefully checked rabbit losses from July 8 to December 31, 1952, on a 186-acre farm in Decatur County, Iowa.

The report tells that on this piece of farmland the cottontail population was 284 on September 1 of that year. On October 1 the number was 238. "On November 1", says the report, "the non-human hunters were getting in their first licks, and the rabbits had declined to 184. On December 1 . . . the rabbits had declined to 102—less than half the September 1 figure."

By January 1 the rabbit population on the farm had dropped to 41. This despite the fact only 10 of the cottontails present the first of September were killed by hunters, according to the biologist's check of shooters on the property.

This comprehensive Iowa report explains what happens to most Pennsylvania cottontails, also. There is seldom a scarcity of native brood stock in our natural habitat in spring. In the Keystone State the rabbit management problem is how to ensure the survival of new crops of rabbits until hunting season rolls around. Wildlife people believe the answer to increased rabbit survival, therefore better hunting, lies largely in more escape cover, additional natural protection from wild and domestic predators. This is difficult of accomplishment these days because most of our cottontails are found on privately-owned agricultural land that is intensely farmed.

Auto Makes Unusual Game Bird Kill

Game Protector George A. Diefenderfer, Luzerne County, reports an unhappy and seldom seen incident as follows: "Making an early evening return from State Game Lands No. 91 recently my attention was called to a mature woodcock which fluttered off the road as our car approached. As two food and cover corpsmen and I stopped to investigate she flew into the alders along the road. Looking around we soon found the reason why the bird was reluctant to leave. In the middle of the road were the crushed remains of two little woodcocks that had been killed by a vehicle. From the size of their downy bodies we agreed they were less than two days old."

Cautious Squirrel Uses Highway Overpass

This interesting little wildlife story is told by Game Protector Bruce P. Yeager, Montour County, who says, "While on patrol in my district last month I was delighted to note an incident that happened along a well traveled highway. A gray squirrel came out of the woods and, stopping along the berm, viewed the heavy auto traffic. It then climbed a telephone pole and crossed the road above the speeding autos by carefully crawling over a cable. When it reached the other side the squirrel scampered down the pole over there and went safely into the nearby woods."

Harveys Lake

Mrs. Howard Higgins, Mrs. Lee Shepperson and daughter, Peggy, of Danville, have returned after spending several days with Mr. and Mrs. John Cowan and family at Snow Hill, Maryland.

Mrs. Joseph Rauch and sons spent last week in Harrisburg, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kuchta.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kuchta of Clarks Summit, visited Mrs. John Kuchta and Mary on Sunday.

Mrs. William Park and son, Garner, of Register, Pa., visited Mrs. Herman Garinger on Tuesday.

Miss Thelma Vargan of Puerto Rico, has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Stenger and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Garrity and son, of Brookings, South Dakota, have returned home after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robert Payne and family.

STATE POLICE SAY

Many serious accidents occur during the summer vacation rush. It is the duty of every motorist to be doubly alert and make every effort to take care of both himself and the other driver.

Quite a bit of the world's trouble is produced by those who don't produce anything else.



Prices in this Ad effective thru Saturday, August 6th

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Short Cut Lb. **59¢** 7-Inch Standing

Acme Quality

Minced Bologna Lb. **39¢**

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Young Ducks Lb. **49¢**

Ground Beef Lb. 35¢ 3 Lbs. **\$1.**

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Kidney Beans 6 ^{16-OZ.} CANS **49¢**

Ideal

White Potatoes 6 ^{16-OZ.} CANS **59¢**

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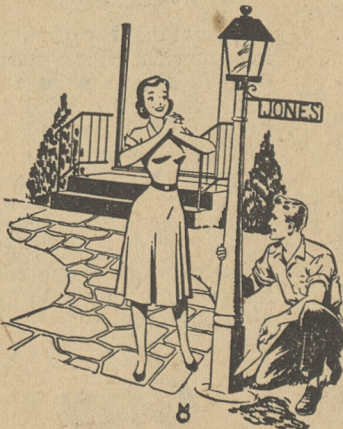
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Delicious Virginia Lee

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Choose a Sirloin, Porterhouse, or Rib Steak cut 1-inch thick. Slash the fatty edge of the steak, but do not cut into the meat. Preheat broiler compartment, but not broiler pan. Place steak 3 to 5 inches from heat. (Well done, 5 inches, Medium to Rare, 3 to 5 inches.) Total broiling time, 15 to 20 min. When one side is done, salt and pepper, then turn with tongs.

AUGUST

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