

# Fin, Fur and Feather

## Food Need Continues

"The winter in the Game Commission's Northeast Division has been fairly open although colder than normal", says Nicholas M. Raha, Land Utilization Assistant.

"Wildlife in this area has been able to survive rather well because there was a good food supply on the ground last fall", he says. "Additionally, several hundred tons of ear corn and other grains have been distributed by Commission employes in this division. However, the critical period is just arriving. Natural food becomes scarce from now into Spring, when supplemental feed for certain game species, wild turkeys particularly, will be needed more than ever."

## Rabbit Trapping Experiences

"Despite the increased kill of gray squirrels in my district during the past hunting season these animals plagued Game Commission representatives who trapped rabbits for release in open hunting territory. Also, more than 100 opossums were taken in the box traps in my area, showing a definite increase in these varmints." So says Game Protector Mark L. Hagenbuch, Columbia County.

Game Protector Bruce P. Yeager, in adjoining Montour County, tells that one of his deputies used a new rabbit bait successfully. Stanley Weaver switched from apples to onions and lured quite a few bunnies into the live traps with the scallions.

## Planning For Waterfowl

Just as the Game Commission's land management program is planned well in advance, so is the authority's marsh pond and duck program set up to carry through coming years.

As the marsh pond program progresses wild ducks in flight will find more and more water areas having food and nesting facilities to lure them into staying and raising broods in the Commonwealth, or lingering longer in fall, during the waterfowl hunting season.

In the last two years 8 marsh ponds were completed by the Game Commission. Twenty-seven others have been approved for construction. The wildlife authorities plan to have all of them built within the next three or four years. The Conneaut Marsh Dam, which impounded 550 acres in Crawford County, was the largest so far constructed. Several other possible sites of similar size are being investigated.

The story of recent-year marsh dam construction and the waterfowl restoration project in Pennsylvania was well told in a three-part article titled "Destination Ducks." It appeared in recent issues of Game News. High points of the history

Hattie: Lower Mathematics.

Sarah & Gertrude



Right now I'm only 5 min. late if I were already there.

# Your Health

From The Luzerne County Medical Society

Coronary thrombosis claims hundreds of thousands of lives every year in this country.

A thrombus is a clot that forms in the blood vessel where the lining is rough, or through which the blood flow is slow as in arteriosclerosis where the vessel passageway is narrowed.

Thrombosis is serious when it occurs in the brain or in the heart for in either location it may prove immediately fatal.

For some time anticoagulant or anti-clotting drugs have been used to treat persons who have suffered a coronary thrombosis.

These drugs have also served to prevent a clot in a leg vein after childbirth; in phlebitis, a similar type of clot sometimes seen after major surgery or excessive bed rest; in lung embolism, a clot that becomes lodged in the lung; and in cerebral embolism, a clot lodging in the brain.

Until about 15 years ago, the use of anticoagulants was hazardous because overdosage thinned the blood too much.

Researchers have developed a test to determine the clotting capacity of a blood sample and thereby estimate the safe anticoagulant dosage.

Additional research has shown that clotting time of blood depends on invisible but solid particles in a substance called thromoplastin, one of the many substances having to do with blood clotting.

While all the details of the mechanics of blood clotting are not known, enough has been determined to make possible the testing of blood in persons whose lives are endangered by possible blood clots.

This new knowledge is expected

# Returns To Berth On Great Lakes Freighter

Michael Tworek, 32, Harveys Lake RD, returned Saturday night to Buffalo, en route to Loraine, Ohio, where he will rejoin the freighter R. W. Moody for his eleventh season of work on the Great Lakes. According to Mrs. Leo Yankowski, the sister with whom he spends the winters between open shipping seasons, and Mrs. John Tworek, his sister in law, the ship will make shore runs between Cleveland and Toledo until the Great Lakes are free of ice.

The R. W. Moody will make its first run the last week in March. Men were recalled earlier than last year, in spite of the bad weather. In 1955, Mr. Tworek did not leave the Back Mountain until early

to offer wider use of anticoagulants and fewer blood clots, especially in those conditions where clots can be anticipated, as in childbirth, surgery, and prolonged bed rest.

## DO YOU KNOW?

Dr. William Shippen, Sr., one of the first native American medical students to finish his studies abroad, was a distinguished member of the Continental Congress, a founder of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, and a trustee of the College of Philadelphia.

Diseases of the mind impair bodily powers, wrote Ovid, Roman poet, in the First Century.

April, returning to this vicinity on Christmas Eve, when shipping lanes were finally closed by ice.

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follow:

There is little point in constructing a pond for ducks unless food and cover plants for the fowl are provided. When locations for marsh dams are cleared by bulldozers, often in winter, much of the topsoil is stockpiled for future use on cleared strips around the high-water levels of the dam. Later, buckwheat and other farm crops utilized as food by migratory waterfowl are planted annually. Mud flats and wet areas below normal-water levels are planted with seeds and tubers of suitable aquatic plants.

The Game Commission has long recognized the need for suitable waterfowl habitat. For more than two decades the agency has done things to improve it. First came the establishment of the Pymatuning Refuge in Crawford County in 1935. This refuge now contains 4,145 acres, more than half of them now under water. The area is a portion of the Pymatuning Reservoir Project, a tract of 25,000 acres, about 17,000 of which are covered with water.

In all, 17 ponds and marsh dams have been constructed by the Game Commission. They lie in the counties of Bucks, Bradford, Wyoming, Somerset, Wayne, Pike, Jefferson, Crawford, Elk and Forest. In size they run from a few acres to the before-mentioned 550-acre Conneaut Marsh Dam.

Ponds and marshes acquired by the Commission through land purchases also number 17. They lie in the counties of Bradford, Sullivan, McKean, Susquehanna, Monroe, Luzerne, Columbia, Butler, Lebanon, Wayne and Pike. They vary in size as do the ponds and marshes constructed by the game Commission. The largest is 207-acre Brady's Lake, in Monroe County.

When coupled with the State's duck rearing and release project, the nesting box program, and the duck banding effort, it becomes apparent that wild waterfowl are not forgotten game birds in the Keystone State.

Game biologists are convinced that grouse hunting during the low of the cycle does not injure the grouse population then or in the years that follow. They are of the belief, also, that when grouse are gunned heavily during peak years the die-off as the cycle swings downward may be less severe.

William E. Laycock, biologist for the Michigan Department of Conservation, has written an article titled "Why Close The Season?". It is based on a three-state grouse cycle study. The information gathered applies as well in Pennsylvania as the Midwest. Excerpts from Laycock's study report follow:

"A generally accepted fact is that grouse populations have their ups and downs . . . go from years of plenty through years of scarcity and back to abundance again in a period of about 10 years. There still is much to be learned about why

these cycles occur or what to do about them, but during the lean years all kinds of solutions to the problems are passed around the hot stove league. The most popular one is to close the season.

"During the middle 40's, grouse in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan were few and far between. The kill was off in all three states by about the same amount. Game men were hounded from all sides to close the season and hasten the upward trend of the cycle. In Minnesota a four-year closed season started in 1944. Wisconsin followed suit and closed hers in 1945 for three years. Michigan let her hunters take what birds they could in a somewhat shorter season with the daily bag limit reduced from five to three.

"G. A. Ammann, with the game division of the Michigan Department of Conservation and working on a Federal Aid Project, thought the states' various solutions would provide a good test, so he watched their progress. He found that grouse made a brilliant recovery in all three states. In 1948-49, after the season was open again, Minnesota hunters were happy. So were those in Wisconsin. When he checked Michigan hunter reports he found that they, too, were happy because the kill figures showed that with continued open seasons their grouse populations recovered just

as fast as in Wisconsin and Minnesota with the seasons closed. In fact, in 1949 Michigan had the highest kill on record.

"If the season had been closed in Michigan from 1945-47 we would have wasted over a half-million grouse, or what is more important an estimated two million hours of healthful outdoor recreation. It begins to look as though the grouse hunter can 'have his cake and eat at least part of it, too!'"

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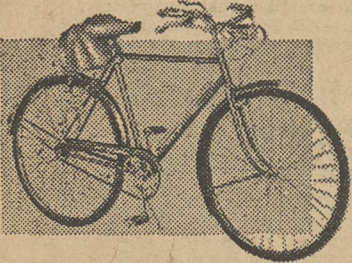
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