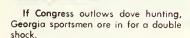


Monthly Publication of the GEORGIA STATE GAME & FISH COMMISSION

DEER FIND NEW HOMES



FULTON

LOVELL

In years to come, the dove will become a very important game bird, even more sought-after than the beloved quail.

The reason for this is becoming apparent throughout Georgia. Land use is returning this "quail capital of the world" into forests . . . forests that will support deer and turkeys but few quail.

Quail are definitely farm birds. They must have food and cover provided by agricultural crops. When this is not available in sufficient quantities, quail populations decrease.

If the current trend toward less farming, more tree planting continues, quail are bound to suffer while deer and turkeys will prosper.

Thus the dove, which may be outlawed as a game bird, looms as an important part of the Georgia hunter's future.

Georgia's mid-section, which is acclaimed as the best deer country in the state, is a good example of what reforestation con do to quail and deer.

Once prime quail country, this area became a haven for deer when reforestation programs replaced farmlands. And, as the deer populations increased, quail slowly decreased.

The results of this transition has made it evident to game managers that the entire state may undergo a change in its wildlife population potterns.

There will always be quail in Georgia. But the great abundance of bobwhites that once inhabited Georgia's agriculture belt can never be replaced unless land use proctices return strictly to farming.

Quail require intense management. Doves, on the other hand, need little encouragement. They seem to fend for themselves on seedy grain and grass crops, whether natural or planted.

To prohibit Georgia sportsmen from their annual shots ot doves—whether they hit or miss—would be a great injustice. Especially since the mourning dove is destined to become such an important part of the state's hunting future.

COMMISSION STOCKS 800 DEER IN FIFTY GEORGIA COUNTIES

The State Game and Fish Commission has announced the completion of the most ambitious deer stocking program in history.

Commission Director Fulton Lovell said his ogency released 800 Virginia Whitetails in 50 Georgia counties and four state management areas.

The deer were purchased by the state from Wisconsin and Texas and transported here by Game and Fish Department personnel.

"We chose not to make a public announcement of the program until its completion," Lovell said, 'to offset public pressure demanding that we stock the deer in unsuitable oreas."

"We feel that this stocking program is one of the most important undertakings of the Commission in mony years," Lovell commented.

"Within the next 10 years, we expect to find deer in every Georgia county capable of providing them with odequate food and other requirements."

The stockings resulted from a wide examination of suitable deer habitot in the state and animals were released only in areos where biologists felt they would survive and reproduce.

All of the counties included in the program will be closed for deer hunting for at least five years. This, Lovell pointed out, is a requirement of the federal government, which financially assisted with the program. Georgia's best hunting oreas will remain open, the Commission said, and will not be affected by regulations passed to protect the newly released deer.

Lovell pledged strict enforcement to prevent poochers and night hunters from shooting the deer before they become acclimoted to Georgia.

Wildlife rangers will constantly potrol the release oreas, Lovell soid, to insure the deer of an opportunity to populate the chosen areas.

The Director requested citizens to report to the Commission any of the deer found dead, crippled or struck by autos.

U. S. MAY HALT DOVE HUNTING

If. Rep. Joseph E. Kaeth (D.-Minn.) has his way, the grand old sport of dove shooting will be a thing of the past.

Kaeth's resolution, HR 9882, if passed, would provide that "the Secretary of the Interior shall not allow the hunting, taking, capturing, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage or export at any time of the mourning dove."

In brief, that means you can't hunt 'em and that there'll be o heap of doves in Georgia going to waste.

State Games and Fish Director Fulton Lovell has announced his opposition to the bill by requesting Georgia's against it.

congressional delegation to vote Doves are considered one of the better game birds of the South," Lovell soid. "It would be a great injustice to Georgia sportsmen to prohibit them from shooting doves."

Lovell said that many states, particularly those in the north and west, do not consider the dove a game bird and are, therefore, opposed to hunting them."

Dove hunting is now legal in 30 states. If the current measure is passed, it would be illegal in all states.

The International Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, of which Lovell and the Georgia Game and Fish Commission ore members, has olso token an interest in the matter.

The Association has informed the Georgia Commission and other such stote conservation departments to suggest increasary action in opposition to this legislation."

It is likely that the Georgia Sportsmen's Federation will also voice an opinion in opposition to the measure.





AIDMORE HOSPITAL GETS ILLEGALLY TAKEN DEER FROM RANGERS ROBINSON, SOLOMON, PALMER, HAWKINS

NIGHT HUNTING TOP PROBLEM, LOVELL TELLS BULLOCH SPORTSMEN

Illegal night hunting has become the number one law enforcement problem for Georgio's wildlife rangers, according to Game and Fish Director Fulton Lovell.

"Night hunting committed throughout the state is one factor accounting for the lack of deer in mony areas," Lovell said.

He commented that without the night hunting problem larger herds of deer would populate the state, and that eventually the number might increase enough to warrant an open season on doe deer.

season on doe deer. Lovell told the Bulloch County Sportsmen's League recently that he favored an open season on does but, 'not until the vorious areas are ready for it."

However, he pointed out that no immediate plons were being made to change the present "bucks only" season in the near future.

While addressing the group of sportsmen in Statesboro, Lovell mentioned Georgia's dove season and said the Commission has its hands



tied against making any changes in the regulations.

"The Federal Government makes the regulations. They won't allow us to zone the state, nor will they allow us any morning hunting," Lovell said.

He spoke in favor of legalizing bating of fields, but added that he will enforce the present laws until they are changed. The law now reads that shooting doves on a baited field is illegal if the hunter is closer than one-half mile to the field. This is considered shooting dove in the line of travel to and from bait and is prohibited.

Lovell said he felt the present regulations do not allow sportsmen to have the best dove shooting.

"We now favor the large land owner who can afford to plant and prepare for doves. This takes the concentrations of birds away from the average hunter," the director said.

Lovell told the sportsmen's group they should concentrate their efforts on providing better habitat for quail and discourage the idea of releasing the native game bird to increase the population.

"In areas where quail have become scarce, much of the blame can be placed on the lack of proper habitat," Lovell said.

He added that pen-raised birds which are released in such areas will not survive because the problem of suitable habitat still exists. He encouraged the group to conserve wildlife hobitat, and to start a fast moving program to restore that which had been lost.



COMING NEXT MONTH!

"GA. GETS 10,000,000 WALLEYES"

"LOOSE DOGS PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1," STATE'S DEER MANAGERS SAY

More deer are killed in Georgia by fiee-running dogs than are killed by hunters.

The State Game and Fish Commission says the problem of dogs is the biggest faced by its deer herd managers.

"We are constantly faced with the problem of dealing with loose dogs," said Commission director Fulton Lovell. "In some areas of the state, packs of wild dogs seriously damage deer populations.

FIDO WAS HERE



"It appears that these loose dogs multiply as fast as deer, even though our management program includes protection of deer both in and aut of the season," Lovell said.

The director said February, March and April are especially dangerous months for deer, since does are carrying fawns that will be born in May.

Georgia has na law requiring dogs to be penned or leashed.

The Game and Fish Commission feels that this contributes to the number of dogs roaming free in the forests.

Since it lacks authority except on its game management areas, the Commission is powerless to combat roaming dogs.

ALLATOONA FISHING CONTEST UNDERWAY

CANTON—The Cherokee County Sportsmen's Club has announced plans for a summer fishing rodeo on Lake Allatoona.

Club spokesman Harvey Mulkey said prizes totaling more than \$2,500 will be awarded during the contest, which officially opened March 1.

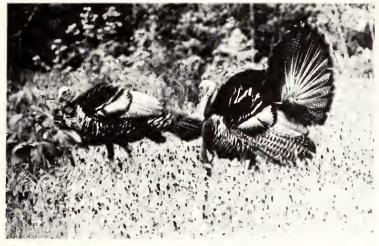
Closing date is December 1.

Included in the assortment of prizes is a grand prize of \$500 for the angler who catches the fish bearing the lucky tag. A special weekly award of \$10 will be presented to the fisherman who catches the fish bearing the highest tag number.

Mulkey, chairman of the club's rodeo committee, said his organization is sponsoring the contest to assist the State Game and Fish Commission with its fishery research program on Allatoona.

Commission biologists have tagged over 2,000 fish all bass—to uncover information about the lake's fish population. These fish, Mulkey said, will be used in the cntest. Only tagged bass are eligible for prizes.





SPRING TURKEY SEASON OPENS; HUNTERS GET SECOND CHANCE

Turkey hunters who failed to connect during the regular season get a second chance this spring.

BLACKBEARD ISLAND FISHING

Fishing on the Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge, about 35 miles north af Brunswick, will be open in designated areas this year from April 1 until October 15 during daylight hours only.

These open areas comprise some 400 acres ar seven per cent of the entire wildlife refuge, and are marked on a map available at the refuge headquarters and from the office of the regional director, Bureau af Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Peachtree Seventh Building, Atlanta 23, Georgia.

Species of fish permitted to be taken and the creel limit on each include largemouth black bass, 15; bream, 70; crappie, 50; and other minor species as permitted by state regulations.

Total aggregote of all species is not to exceed 75 fish in one day with no limit on weight or size.

Fishing equipment permitted includes rod and reel, pole and line, artificial and live baits with the exception of live minnows.

Rowboats, canoes and other flooting devices are permitted on the refuge, but boats with motors are not allowed.

The provisions of this special regulation supplement those which normally govern fishing on wildlife refuge areas set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 33.

A Federal permit is not required to enter the public fishing area.

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HARD LABOR RENOVATED

ATLANTA—Visitors to Hard Labor Creek State Park near Rutledge can expect better fishing in the future. That's the promise from the State Game and Fish Commission, whose New counties added to the list include Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Walker, and Whitfield, whose spring season runs from April 9 through April 14.

Screven, Effingham, Chatham, Bullock, Bryan, Liberty, Evans, Candler, McIntosh, Long, Tattnall, Wayne, Glynn, Comden, Brantley, Ware, Charlton, Stewort, Marion, Chattahoochee and Muscogee Counties have an open season running from March 26 through April 14.

Hunting will be open from March 26 through April 14 outside of the Wildlife Monagement Areas in Gilmer, Murray, Fannin, Dawson, Union, Lumpkin, Towns, White, Rabun, Habersham and Stephens Counties. Also, the part of Banks County lying north of Georgia Highway #51 will be opened.

The Johns Mountain Game Area, Blue Ridge and Lake Burton Wildlife Management Areas, and Clark Hill Game Management Area will be opened from April 9 through April 14.

Hunting on these areas is by special permit which can be secured at the checking stations. Camping will not be ollowed in these areas.

Several stotes including Alobama and Florida have held spring turkey hunts for many years.

Gobbler hunts which have been held in north Georgia counties for several years are quite popular with hunters.

However, this is the first time a spring season has been opened in south Georgia counties.

Clinch and Echols Counties, erroneously reported open for spring turkey hunting, will not open, the Stote Gome and Fish Commission said. Bag limit for hunting is one tur-

key gobbler, and firearms permitted for use in the hunt are limited to shotguns with No. 2 shot or smaller, ond bow and arrow.

Each successful hunter must report his kill in writing to the State Game and Fish Commission, 401 State Capitol, Atlanta, Ga.

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fishery biologists recently campleted a renovation program on the park's Lake Rutledge.

Included in the program was a complete stocking of the lake with several species of fish, including bass, (continued on page 4)

NORTH GEORGIA MUST TRIM DEER FOREST SERVICE A. U.S. Forest Service wildlife biolo-

A. U.S. rorest Service wildlife biologist says north Georgia's deer herd needs a good trimming down because it exceeds the carrying capacity of the area.

Malcolm Edwards, wildlife specialist for the Service, told a large gathering of Rabun Countians in Clayton that overpopulation is a problem of great concern to his agency and to the State Game and Fish Commission.

"We are making every effart to help feed deer by slashing trees and bending them over so that the animals can get to the buds and browse," Edwards told the gathering.

State Game and Fish Commission Director Fulton Lovell said the Game and Fish Department is also striving to help deer in overpopulated areas by planting food patches for grazing.



INTO FRYING PAN

"In the late 1890s almost every deer was killed in north Georgia," Lovell said. "But a restocking pragram by the Game and Fish Department in the 1930s brought them back and now there are plenty of deer throughout the mountain area."

Edwards said more deer should be harvested in the mountains, "not only bucks . . . not only does . . . but bucks and does."

It is illegal to shoot doe deer in Georgia.

The Game and Fish Commission, however, has recommended doe hunts to help reduce the number of deer in overpopulated areas.

Lovell, a native of Rabun County, told the large gathering that President Kennedy will advocate a national conservation program in a special message to Congress.

Included in his plans are provisions for more recreation on federalowned lands like the Chattahoochee and Oconee national forests in Georgia, he said.

Lovell praised the state's management area program as ways of establishing good game populations and as attractions for tourists.

Rabun county's three state areas mean a greot deal to visitors as well as local hunters and fishermen," **he** said.

Judge Lamar Smith of Toccoa also appeared on the program. Judge Smith praised the state's wildlife rangers and the Commission for its role in protecting and preserving wildlife and fish for future generations.

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WATER FOWL SINK LOWER THAN EVER, LATEST OFFICIAL COUNT REVEALS

Cooperative winter woterfoul counts, made by state and federal wildlife agencies in the four continental flyways, show that populations are down this year as compared with 1961.

Total ducks in the Atlantic Flyway were down seven per cent and geese were off 23 to 50 per cent, depending on the species. Mississippi Flyway counts indicated a 15 per cent decline in ducks and 19 per cent fewer geese. The Central Flyway figures show on overall decline of 20 per cent drop in the duck population and a slight reduction in geese. The Pacific (continued on page 4)



J. A. JONES (ARROW) GEORGIA'S RANGER OF YEAR



..... RECEIVES AWARD FROM S.E. ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

WATER FOWL DECREASE

Flyway. which has been the strongest area in the country, suffered a seven per cent drop in overoll waterfowl numbers with ducks down five per cent. Reversing the trend, geese in the Pacific Flyway were up 11 per cent over last year.

Of greatest impact is the drop in numbers of mallard ducks throughaut the cauntry. Counts indicate that mallards are down 25 per cent in the Atlantic Flyway, 38 per cent below the 1961 figures in the Mississippi Flywoy, and 50 per cent fewer in the Central Flyway. One of the most papular ducks in the three flyways, the mallard may be subject to tighter limits next fall if there is nat a drastic reversal of present trends.

Canvasbacks, which have been completely pratected for the past twa

years because of their low numbers, took a 13 per cent drop in the Atlantic Flyway and made a slight, but insignificant gain in the Mississippi Flyway. Redheads, also fully protected along with the canvasback, showed a slight gain in the Atlantic Flyway.

Geese in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways were reduced in numbers due to disasterous nesting conditions last summr along with arctic nesters. Only the Pacific Flyway shaws an increase in geese.

Excellent food conditions in southwestern Louisiana is attracting and holding a large number of ducks which narmally winter south of the United States. As a result of Hurricane Audrey in 1958, coastal marshes af Louisiana have vegetation which is ideal for ducks.

Snow canditions on the droughtstricken prairies, where many af the wintering ducks narmally breed, are somewhat better than thase of a year ago, accarding to recent reports from Canada and the Dakotas. However, exceptionally heavy late winter snows and spring rains will be needed if the birds are to find water in the potholes when they return in May.

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RUTLEDGE GETS BASS, BREAM

bream, channel catfish and a new fish, threadfin shad.

Fishery bialagist Leon Kirkland of Madison explained that shad, a forage fish, were added to the lake's fish population to provide additional food for hungry bass.

White bass, a relatively new fish for Georgia, has also been planted in the lake. These finny fighters are known throughout the state for their annual spring spawning runs, during which anglers have little trouble in catching daily limits of 30 fish.

Tratlines, set hoaks and basket fishing have been autlawed in all State Department of Porks lakes, Director Charles Collier said.

COAST MAY GET FEDERAL AID

Georgia's commercial fishing industry is eligible for over \$94,000 in federal aid under provisions of pending legislation in the U.S. Senate.

State Game and Fish Director Fulton Lavell said Senate Bill #1230, commonly knawn as the Guerning Bill, provides federal aid funds for research and development of the state's commercial fishing areas.

Lovell said he has asked Georgia's Congressional Delegation to support the legislation.

the legislation. "I have been informed by the Atlantic States Marine Fish Commission that this bill has a good chance of becoming law. We, of course, are greatly in favor of its passage since it would provide funds for research and develapment of Georgia's coastal fishing," Lavell said.

The State Game and Fish Department recently undertoak a new federal aid project aimed at improving sport fishing along the coast.

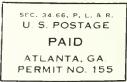
Included in the praject are plans to construct several fish drops in strategic areas between Savannah and Camden County.

One of the drops reportedly will be lacated in the Savannah area, one near Brunswick and one at a midcoast site will be selected.

BIOLOGIST KIRKLAND



....AT LAKE RUTLEDGE



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