

Wildlife Notes

The Sportsmen's Column
Wildlife Resources Commission

Wildlife Patrol Clamps Down On Illegal Fish Traps—More than 200 illegal fish traps and 50 illegal fish nets have been destroyed recently by the Wildlife Resources Commission's wildlife patrol and district game protectors in district 4, according to Clyde P. Patton, executive director of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. D. C. Hewitt, district game protector of Columbus county, reported destroying 125 fish

traps in this county alone. Hewitt stated that the traps contained a variety of game fish, including bass, bream, redbreast, and other species. Under the leadership of District Supervisor E. L. Caine of Lumberton, the anti-fish trap campaign has been going on for several weeks, and will be continued until the streams of district 4 are cleared of illegal fish-getting devices.

Members of the Wildlife Patrol are Jack Campbell, Sanford, who pilots the Commission's patrol plane, and Patrolman Oscar Chadwick, Fayetteville; Floyd J. Lupton, Tarboro; Preston Bagwell, Greensboro; and W. D. Kinsey, Asheville. District Game Protectors participating in the drive were W. E. McConaughy of Red Springs; B. K. Hamer, Lumberton; E. W. Woodell, Dublin; and B. L. Boswell, Boiston.

Operations in the fish trap drive have been concentrated in the Waccamaw and Lumber Rivers, where illegal traps have been set in small tributaries of these rivers. In many cases traps were set up with wing nets which completely blocked off the mouths of branches so that all fish which attempted to go upstream were funneled into the traps.

Trout Season To Open April 15—Thousands of trout anglers who have been waiting since last August to resume their favorite sport will be given the go-ahead signal on April 15 when the season on trout opens in the mountain section of the State, according to Director Patton.

Spring stocking of trout has been under way for some time, and stocking operations should be completed or nearly completed by the time the season opens.

Dates and creel limits for trout fishing in National Forest area streams are expected to be announced soon.

This year's trout season extends from April 15 through August 31, 1949, with a daily creel limit of 10, and a possession limit of 20. In Ashe, Alleghany, and Watauga county the trout season closes July 31.

Trout fishermen are reminded that night fishing will not be permitted this year in designated trout waters. The night fishing ruling was passed by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a protection measure for night-feeding brown trout.

State Rainbow Trout Record Broken—The State's record for rainbow trout, which has been standing at a little over seven pounds for several years, has been broken by a 14-pound 1-ounce giant rainbow, according to Mr. Patton.

Max Rogers of Waynesville was the lucky angler. Fishing in Glenville Lake, in Jackson county, Rogers used a black minnow lure on a five-foot bait casting rod, and hooked the super-trout about 20 feet from shore. After 20 minutes of battle, Rogers landed the trout and nearly suffered a nervous breakdown when he realized that the fish was caught on a 15-pound test line. The trout measures 33 and one-half inches, and is undoubtedly a record for Eastern U. S. waters.

Although caught before the opening of the trout season which applies only to mountain streams, Rogers' catch is legal under a regulation which permits trout to be taken from impounded waters throughout the year as in the case of warm water species.

Eligibles Urged To File Claims

Miss Notley Maddox, manager of the Gastonia field office of the Social Security Administration today urged all retired workers and survivors of deceased wage earners to file claims promptly so that benefits would not be lost. Miss Maddox stated that payments are not automatic. A claim for benefits must be filed before payment can be made. A worker or his family may be eligible for benefits if the worker has had a job in private industry long enough to build up an insured standing.

Monthly retirement benefits are payable to an insured wage earner when he is 65 or older and stops work; to his wife when she is 65; and to his unmarried dependent children under 18.

Monthly benefits may be payable to certain survivors of insured workers no matter at what age the worker dies; to his unmarried widow at age 65; to his widow of any age caring for a child entitled to benefits, if the widow has not remarried; and to dependent parents at age 65 when neither widow nor child survive who might be entitled.

A single payment can be made when an insured person leaves no survivor immediately eligible for monthly payments at the time of his death. This lump sum payment may go to the widow who was living with the deceased wage earner at the time of his or her death or, if the worker is not survived by any such relative, to any person who paid the burial expenses.

An amendment to the Social Security Act in 1946 entitles survivors of World War II veterans to receive benefits if the veteran died within three years after his separation from service providing he served any time on or after September 16, 1940, and before the official end of World War II, and had ninety days or more of active service in the armed forces. Discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

At the present time, 42 of the 48 states have artificial dairy breeding associations in operation.



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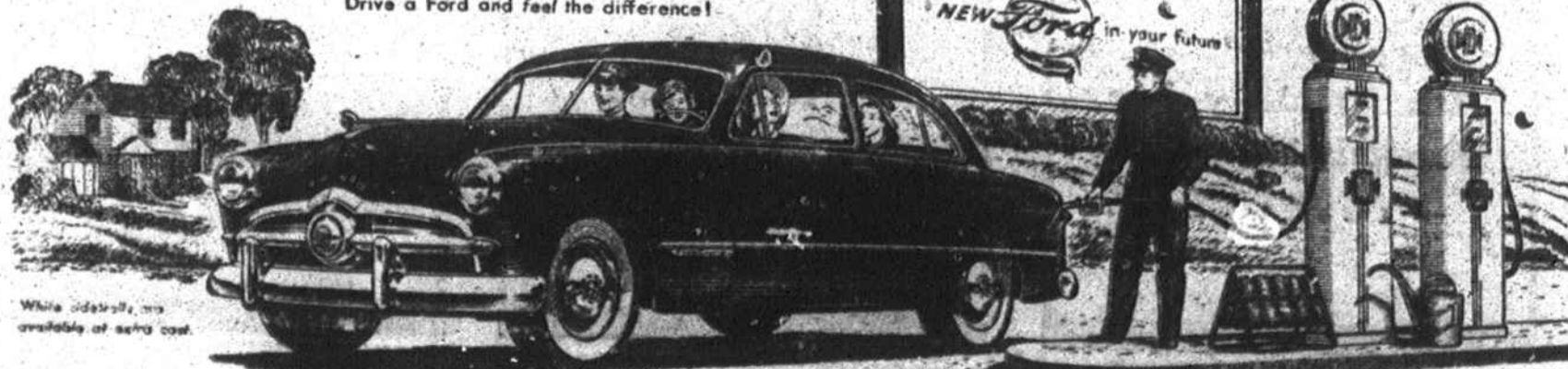
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