

## ask about Wildlife

A cooperative effort of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and this newspaper.

**QUESTION:** I see in the North Carolina Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest that many areas are closed to turkey hunting. Does this mean that there are no wild turkeys in North Carolina to hunt?

**ANSWER:** From the number of counties and portions of counties listed in the Regulations Digest as closed to turkey hunting, one might get the impression that there are few turkeys to hunt in North Carolina — and there are fewer than North Carolina's wildlife managers would like. Actually, though, most of North Carolina's counties are open to Spring turkey hunting. Fall hunting for turkeys has not been allowed since the late '60's as part of the effort to rebuild our turkey population. The counties and portions of counties listed as closed in the Regulations Digest are closed because those areas have been recently stocked with wild turkeys. The stocking program is an integral part of the effort to build the wild turkey population in North Carolina. It involves live trapping wild birds from stable populations around the state and relocating them to new areas in the same geographic region which have suitable habitat but no turkeys. There is a great deal of territory like that, particularly here in western North Carolina. Five new areas were stocked with turkeys in North Carolina last year, with a similar number stocked for several years prior to that, and an effort will be made to expand that number this year. Currently the wild turkey population in North Carolina is estimated at around 8,000 birds, but we have suitable habitat to sustain 25,000 or more wild turkeys — and that's what the Wildlife Resources Commission's biologists are working toward.

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Questions should be sent to Curtis Wooten, Wildlife Education Specialist, Rt. 1, Box 824, Morganton, N.C. 28655.



Beginning on December 3 and continuing through the month, Biltmore House will host concerts by area choral and instrumental ensembles. These groups, which include the

Asheville Symphony Orchestra, Western Carolina University Early Music Ensemble and Mars Hill College Choir, will perform in the Palm Court and Library on the weekends.

## Christmas At Biltmore

**Asheville, N.C.**—The sights and sounds of a Victorian Christmas will fill Biltmore House beginning December 3 and continuing through December 31, 1983. The celebration of "Christmas at Biltmore"

recreates the holiday charm that graced the Estate when George Vanderbilt opened Biltmore House on Christmas Eve in 1895.

During the month of December, Biltmore House is

adorned with opulent decorations authentic to the Vanderbilt's time - German wax ornaments, feather wreaths, evergreen roping, topiary, poinsettia trees, tussie mussies, handmade paper chains, fruit trees, and velvet bows. These colorful, fragrant and authentic details provide a fitting background for the Christmas Concert Series, held each weekend during the month.

Providing this year's entertainment are Asheville Symphony Orchestra Ensembles and Chamber Orchestra, the Mars Hill College Choir and Brass Ensemble, and Western Carolina

Turn To Page 20-A



Topiary, the art of trimming or training trees and shrubs into ornamental shapes was a Victorian favorite. It is also a favorite at Biltmore House where topiary animals and a 40-foot Frazier Fir grace the Banquet Hall.



During the month of December, Victorian Christmas traditions come alive at Biltmore House. This cinnamon stick tree is one of many scattered throughout the 250-room French Renaissance chateau. The trees are misted regularly during the holidays, filling the house with the spicy aroma of Christmas.



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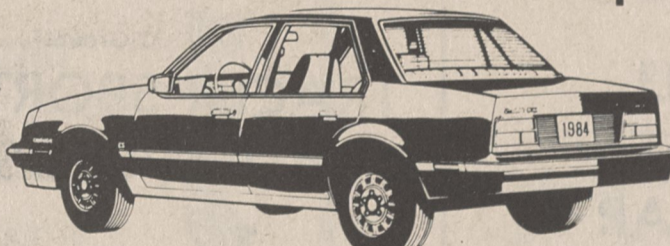
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