

Hunting Outlook For '57-'58

By CLYDE P. PATTON

The shooting started on September first, and will continue until the last season on Tar Heel game closes on the tenth of February. North Carolina ranks among the top states in the Union with regard to the length of the overall hunting season.

Marsh Hens

As usual there were more marsh hens (sora, rails, and gallinules) than there were hunters to take the harvestable crop. The abundance of these birds is reflected in the long season—70 days—and the liberal bag limits. Wildlife in North Carolina and other magazines for a number of years have been urging hunters to take advantage of this unique sport, and this year there appeared to be an increase in hunters of the marsh hen.

Doves

An increase in dove populations throughout the Atlantic States has brought about an increase in the bag limit for doves, with a total bag of ten daily and in possession allowed. Again two seasons on doves, the first from September 7 to October 5, and the second from December 11 to January 10.

Woodcock

Little change was noted by federal and state workers regarding woodcock or timberdoodle populations, and this year the season and hunting prospects are about the same as last. The season opens Thanksgiving Day and lasts through January 6, with a daily bag of four and a possession limit of eight.

Wilson's Or Jacksnipe

As with woodcock, no noticeable population change over last year, with the same season and bag limits.

Ducks, Geese and Coots

For the third consecutive year the populations of ducks, geese, and coots has remained almost constant. It is encouraging to note that these birds have at least been able to hold their own despite an increasing number of wildfowling each year. Record players and tape recorders, used too successfully by many waterfowl hunters in the past few years to call in birds, have been ruled illegal by the federal government. Seasons and bag limits for these birds are identical with last year's.

Deer

There is an apparent general increase in North Carolina's deer population this year as a result of our big game management program and a favorable breeding season. North Carolina now has a law permitting the taking of doe deer in certain restricted areas after studies show the need and public hearings show the desire of sportsmen to take them. Doe deer hunting is allowed only as a means of bringing deer herds into proper balance with environment and sex ratio.

Bear

Little change in the black bear population, and little change in the regulations over last year. As usual, bear are found only in the eastern and western sections of the state, and as usual, bear will be more plentiful in eastern counties.

Wild Boar

To the hardy hunters who go after wild boar in Clay, Graham, and Cherokee counties, wild boar hunting will be essentially the same as during the past few years. Since most of these animals are found on government land, there is little danger to them from the encroachment of civilization. Be-

cause boar hunting is a rugged and dangerous sport, it is not likely that hunters will kill them off to a dangerous degree.

Raccoon

As in years past, 'coons will be fairly abundant in eastern counties, and scarce in most western counties. Partly due to management practices, and partly to normal population cycles, 'coon hunting will be better in the western part of the state and not quite so over-abundant in eastern areas where they have done damage to crops.

Opossum

Not generally popular with Tar Heel hunters, 'possums are common to abundant in nearly all sections. More will probably be killed by highway traffic than by hunters.

Squirrels

No significant change in squirrel populations. Again the state is divided into three geographical areas: east, central, and west. Although the subject is somewhat controversial among hunters, biologists believe that more squirrels could be taken in some areas than are now permitted. Squirrels are one of our most popular game species.

Rabbits

You can expect little change in your rabbit hunting prospects over last year. Despite intensive habitat improvement practices, rabbits have been able barely to hold their own in the face of changing agricultural practices and tremendous hunting pressure.

Quail

Reports from most parts of the state indicate a highly successful quail breeding season last summer. This should be reflected in at least a small improvement in bird shooting this fall. Again there will be areas of relative abundance and areas of scarcity. Habitat restoration has helped to maintain a liberal season and bag limit despite a growing demand for birds.

Wild Turkey

The condition of our wild turkey population is indicated by the closing of a number of counties to turkey hunting this year. In past years turkey hunting has been allowed on a statewide basis. Turkey hunting is a highly specialized sport, and has relatively few participants. In areas open to shooting, you will find hunting about the same as last year, depending on your luck.

Ruffed Grouse

This is another species that Nature produces in more abundance than hunters harvest, although the general population trend is downward this year. Grouse hunting requires considerable mountain climbing, a sharp eye and a quick trigger finger.

General

Again it is satisfying to report that in general Tar Heel nimrods may look forward to a generally successful hunting season. The seasons are set after careful research, thoughtful deliberation, sincere consideration of sportsmen's desires, and above all, close attention to the welfare of the species involved.

The Wildlife Resources Commission is extremely grateful for the cooperation and assistance given by farmers, sportsmen, and interested agencies in helping to make North Carolina one of the great outdoor states in the nation.

WASHINGTON REPORT

The visit of Queen Elizabeth has, taken some of the sting out of the public's realization that the Russians' "Sputnik," or man-made moon, is a stunning defeat for the United States.

Those in charge of our defense program can belittle it all they care to, but it is perfectly obvious that we have suffered a serious setback in the race to develop push-button war machines. I would be the last one in the world to claim to be an expert on such matters, but anybody can plainly see that Russia—Communist Russia—has won the first round in the race to master outer space. And it took a lot more than a "neat scientific trick" to accomplish it.

The public reaction of President Eisenhower has been unbelievable. For my money, he is insulting the intelligence of the American public when he tries to downgrade the importance of the first successful earth satellite. It would have been disastrous if the high-level reaction to Pearl Harbor had been the same as the President's reaction to Sputnik.

In reviewing what has happened in our overall missile program, there can be no doubt where the blame for lack of leadership must rest. Without exception, Congress has either met or increased appropriations requests by the Administration in all research fields related to missiles and outer space experiments. The undeniable fact is, those who have been responsible for our military planning have belittled and underestimated the importance of missile warfare.

It is frightening to think what would have happened to us by now if the government had laughed at Einstein and his ideas about atomic energy. The Manhattan project would have never gotten off the ground and the United States could well be a has-been in world power and prestige. Rehashing the past won't catch us up in the race now, but we ought to think about how serious we have been misled, and the importance of real leadership in the White House in trying to recapture what we have lost.

The loss we have suffered is the sort of thing that can never be iceed over with a nation-wide television appearance and corrected with an inter-office memo from the White House, although we've been led to believe it is a routine development.

What we have to do in the im-

mediate future is pick up the pieces and try to come up with a positive unified program. Unification of our efforts in the missile field, I think, is the first step. Whether we have a Navy missile, an Army missile, or what have you, first, doesn't make any difference. What we need is results, period. We've had enough inter-office competitive spirit. Too much squabbling in the Pentagon has caused serious delays and the Pentagon's attitude toward research in the missile field has been too skeptical and too scornful.

In the long run, we will have to create more respect for scientific training all the way from our public schools through our colleges and universities. For too long, we have been complacent about scientific and educational research. An example of this has been the fate of efforts in Congress, which I have supported, for such things as science scholarships and the guarantee of more science training for our young people. Without exception, all bills relating to such matters have been shunted aside as being unnecessary. The time has come when either we have to wake up or get ready to give.

Vets' Question Box

Q—Are peacetime veterans entitled to compensation for service-connected disabilities? I know they are not entitled to pensions for nonservice-connected disabilities.

A—Yes. Peacetime veterans may be entitled to compensation for service-connected disabilities. However, the rate of compensation for non-extra-hazardous service disabilities is 80 per cent of the rate paid to wartime veterans.

Q—I have been totally and permanently disabled for more than six months, and I've just applied for a waiver of premiums on my GI insurance policy. Will the waiver become effective retroactively, to the date I first became disabled?

A—No. The waiver is made effective from the premium due date following the date the six months of continuous total disability commenced.

Q—I've held a permanent GI insurance policy for several years but about a year ago I let it lapse. Until I reinstate it, am I without

any GI insurance protection whatsoever?

A—No. When a permanent policy lapses, VA extends your coverage automatically as term insurance. Premiums come out of the cash reserve you've built up. The term protection ends when it has used up all the reserve.

IN MEMORIAM Herbert Ross Leary

It is with a deep sense of loss that we, the members of the Bar Association of the First Judicial District of North Carolina, record the death of Herford Ross Leary, a practitioner before this Bar for forty-three years.

Born in Edenton, Chowan County, August 4, 1887, the son of William J. and Emma Woodard Leary, he departed this life the 23rd day of December, 1954, leaving surviving him his wife, Bessie Badham Leary, of Edenton, whom he married December 19, 1928.

He was educated in the Edenton Public Schools, Horner's Military Academy, Poughkeepsie Business College, University of North Carolina, and received his law degree at Wake Forest College in June of 1911. He was admitted to the North Carolina Bar at the 1911 Fall Term of the Chowan County Superior Court, where upon he was engaged in the practice of law in Edenton.

In World War I, he volunteered for service, and served as an officer in the Intelligence Department of the United States Navy, upon being discharged from the military he resumed the private practice of law in Edenton until April 1928, at which time he was appointed Solicitor for the First Judicial District, succeeding the late Walter L. Small, serving in this capacity for the next ten years.

In addition to his public service as Solicitor, he also represented this District as Senator in the State Legislature from 1941 to 1943, and was Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms at the Democratic National Convention of 1932, and a North Carolina Presidential Elector.

In all, he used his profession to better serve all the facets of his life, for he was active in the religious and civic affairs of his community; he was a public servant and private citizen whom all could look up to and respect.

Perhaps his finest contribution to his profession is exemplified in what his associates have said of his work as public prosecutor: "He never prosecuted an accused without scrupulously protecting his rights." This is tribute enough!

Therefore, be it recorded that this testimony of our esteem and admiration be made a part of the permanent records of this organization, that a copy of same be sent to the Secretary of the North Carolina Bar Association for their permanent records, that a copy be sent to the local press for publication, and that a copy be sent to Mrs. Bessie Badham Leary.

KILLIAN BARWICK
Secretary

TRY A HERALD CLASSIFIED

Producers Of Hogs Cautioned To Avoid Heavy Production

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has asked hog producers to consider their production intentions for 1958 with especial care in light of the present hog price situation.

Hog prices have been fairly good this year—running between \$17 and \$22 per hundred pounds through September. But what will happen to prices by fall of 1958 and the following year depends upon the number of pigs produced next spring. Too many sows farrowed early next year could mean a severe decline in price next fall.

Except for slight seasonal downturns, hog prices have been steadily recovering from a low point of around \$10 per hundred pounds to which they fell in December 1955. The gains of the past two years can be maintained only if supply is kept reasonably close to prospective demand.

The Secretary is concerned because conditions exist this fall which could stimulate production to the extent that prices would again dip disastrously. And the market would be flooded with pork beyond consumers' demands.

Among factors which point to increased hog production next year is a large supply of feed grains at a relatively low price due to bumper crops this year. The number of bushels of corn that could be bought with the price of a hundred pounds of hogs has averaged slightly above 12 over many years. This September it rose to a high of 16.6 bushels, and it is expected to run between 14 and 15 during the current breeding season. Such a situation almost invariably leads to

increased farrowings. Increased population should take care of a moderate increase in the 1958 spring pig crop, but growth in consumer demand for pork has been slow. The Department's market analysts warn that more-than-moderate increases could lead to a repetition of the unfavorable price situation of late 1955. They think that at least a

7 per cent increase is in prospect, and for a gain of this size, price declines might not be exceptionally large. For increases above 7 per cent the risk of sharp declines would be greater.

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—Bacon.

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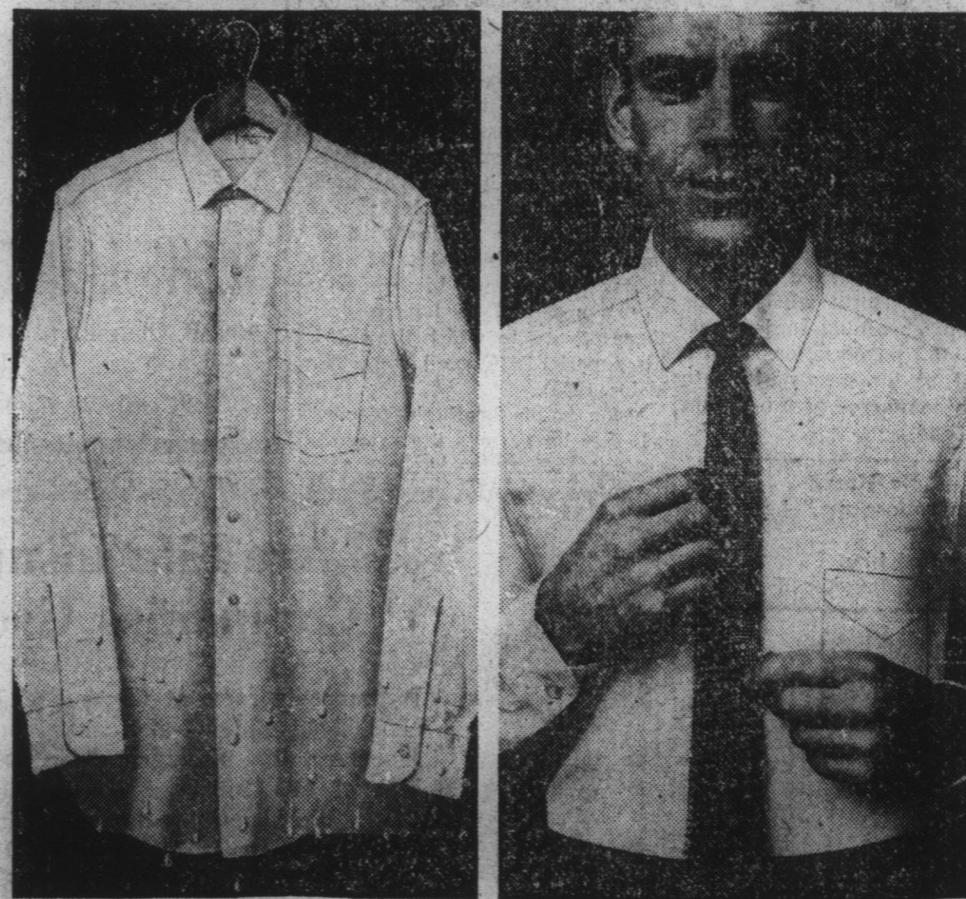
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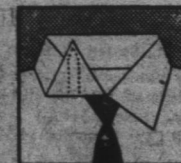
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