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**1963-64 LAWS ANNOUNCED**

**Squirrel Hunting Rules Simplified; Change Made In Wild Turkey Season**

Tar Heel hunters will have a greatly simplified squirrel season this fall. At a meeting of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, held in Raleigh, 99 counties were included in a uniform squirrel season, beginning October 15 and ending January 1. One Dare County township, Atlantic and part of another—that part of Nags Head Township east of Roanoke Sound—will have a shorter season, lasting from December 2 until January 15.

The decision for the state-wide season was based on research which showed that Tar Heel squirrels produce young twice a year, usually in March and July. It was also found that very few of the March broods are around for the gun season in the fall, while the July crop furnishes most

of the fall hunting. All across the state, most of the July squirrels are weaned by the middle of October. Biologists believe that since the nimrod's gun is only one of the several factors in squirrel mortality, the hunting season should begin when the late crop has left the nest. This will give the sportsman more hunting that previously has been lost because of food shortages, inclement weather, and predators.

**Public Hearings**

Hunting regulations, such as the new squirrel season, are decided upon only after a series of nine public hearings across the state. At these hearings, the Commission presents its proposals, based on sound biological principles and careful research. Hunters, landowners, and other interested parties are invited to attend these proposals, and heard the reaction of hunters across the state, the Commission assembles in Raleigh with the staff of Clyde P. Patton, executive director of the Commission, and sets regulations designed to give hunters the best possible harvest and assure a supply of game for the future.

**Wild Turkey Change**

Another change is the wild turkey season. Still gobblers only, but running from January 2 to February 15, this new arrangement, though shorter, gives the turkey hunter a better chance to enjoy his sport with less of his favorite game being taken by the relatively non-specialized squirrel and deer hunters. This group in prior years, has been "incidental turkey hunters," bagging a good many turkeys when they were out looking for other game. But with both deer and squirrel hunting ending January 1, there should be very little "woods" hunting after this date except by turkey hunters. And with a \$100 fine for killing a turkey out of season (passed by the 1963 Legislature), a fellow will think twice about shooting at a "movement in the bushes" before January 2.

**Quail and Rabbit**

The quail and rabbit season will open on November 23 and close February 15. While closely approximating the opening date for '62, it falls on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

**Bow Hunting**

Bow hunters will again be permitted to hunt during the 20 days immediately preceding the open season for a particular game species. However, where the deer season opens on November 18, the 20-day bow season will begin on October 18 and close November 9. Before we all go Robin Hood, let's remember that a bow must have a rated pull of at least 45 pounds. Arrows, except the blunt head type used for small game and birds, must have a minimum broadhead width of at least 7/8 inch.

Since county laws govern some forms of hunting and trapping, it is impossible to cover the whole list here. Hunting and fishing license dealers will soon have printed copies of the complete regulations.

**AT POPE AIR FORCE BASE**

**Air Division Headquarters To Be Activated, 2 C-123 Units Retained**

Plans to retain two C-123 troop carrier squadrons at Pope of which three will be equipped with C-130s and two with C-123s.

Secretary Zuckert explained the Air Force's recent change of plans. He said experiences in counterin - surgency operations have revealed the C-123 aircraft is an extremely valuable supporting tool. As a result, the Air Force plans to retain a number of these aircraft in the active inventory, both within the United States and its overseas locations.

Three of the Pope AFB C-123 squadrons are presently located overseas on temporary duty, and it is planned to effect a permanent overseas reassignment of these units this summer.

It is expected the three C-130 squadrons at Pope AFB will be

fully equipped and operational by July, 1964.

The need for an air division headquarters at Pope AFB was said to be necessary because of the heavy training and operation-

al responsibilities placed on Pope by the continuation of the C-123 program, the support of overseas units, and the activation of the C-130 squadrons.

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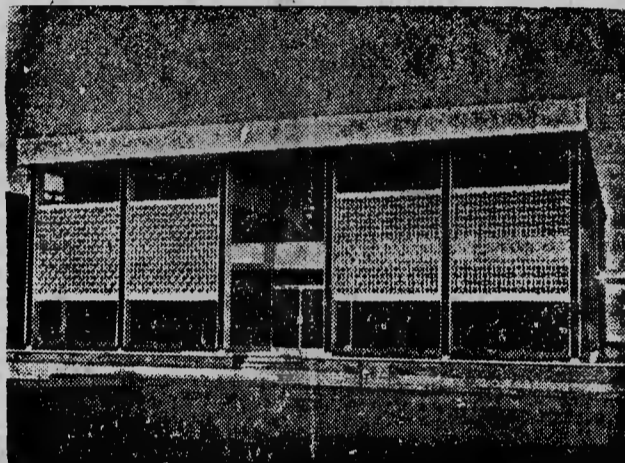


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