

Wildlife Afield

BY JIM DEAN

Low clouds hugged the tops of the mountains and a cold rain was falling in the quiet woods as I walked up the trail to the creek. The creek spilled through fast riffles and spread out into flat pools covered with glistening droplets.

It was the kind of day beloved by ducks, water spaniels and big brown trout. That may sound a bit strange to you. After all, rain is not held in high regard by most fishermen.

But rainy weather - under certain conditions - can be the trout fisherman's friend. That's particularly true for the trout fisherman who likes to fish for wild brown trout in public streams.

Many trout fishermen spend years fishing public streams without ever learning that a lot of those streams are full of wild trout, particularly brown

trout. In fair weather, browns are very wary. The first person up the stream will send them scooting for shelter of a rock and most of the time, they'll remain hidden for several hours. Small wonder that brown trout have a reputation for being hard to catch.

But the same rain that makes fools of brown trout can bring the aura of wisdom to any angler foolish enough to fish in a downpour.

Here's why. In the first place, rain pattering the surface of the water hides the fisherman and he can get closer to the trout without them seeing him. Second, the gradually rising water begins to discolor slightly, further adding to the angler's camouflage. Also, trout like to feed on rising water because more food is washed into the stream. If by some stroke of good

fortune, a hatch of mayflies happens to come off the stream during the rain, the trout often go into a feeding frenzy. The mayflies cannot dry their wings quickly in the rain, and they may drift helplessly on the currents until the browns pick them off.

That's the kind of situation I found when I reached the stream. I could see the mayflies floating past, and by watching the stream carefully, I could see the larger dimples made by rising trout.

I fished for perhaps two hours in the steady, soaking rain. It was perfect. A cloudburst would have muddied the stream and shouldered it out of its banks in a matter of minutes, but the light rain was just enough to allow the water to rise gradually.

The fishing was ridiculously easy. In the first pool, I caught four brown trout on a dry fly, and by the time I had fished half a mile of water, I had lost count of the trout I'd caught. I figure that I caught and released at least 30, every one of them fat browns that ranged from seven to 14 inches long.

My only disappointment was in not having a really big brown because I know that they are there. I have seen them, and once in awhile, I hook one.

Now comes what may be a surprise. The stream I was fishing is open to the public. It's one of nearly 1,800 miles of public water open under N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission regulations. No, I'm not going to name the stream because if you fish rising water, you can duplicate the fine fishing I had on virtually every public stream in the state, and that takes in not only the "native" and "trophy" streams, but also most of the "general" streams.

You may think your favorite stream has only a few stocked rainbows and brookies in it, but if you really want to know what else is there, fish it during a soaking rain.

My guess is you won't think anglers who fish in the rain are all wet.

Man has made his mark on this planet in curious ways. According to the Department of the Interior, 32 species of birds native to the 50 states are now extinct. Nine modern mammals are extinct.

If you ask the first 10 people you meet on the street to guess how this happened, I'd be willing to bet that at least half would lay part of the blame on hunting for sport.

That's a rather curious situation. For instance, twenty-four of these

extinct birds live in Hawaii and were never hunted by sportsmen. They were wiped out largely by domestic cats and mongooses. How did domestic cats and mongooses get to Hawaii? Men brought them.

Of the remaining eight extinct species of birds, only two - the heath hen and the passenger pigeon - were ever hunted for sport. And yet, in neither case did hunting for sport cause extinction.

The heath hen was pushed aside by spreading civilization in the densely populated northeast. The passenger pigeon was the victim of changing habitat and market hunting.

Market hunting was rather common in the United States until sometime after the turn of the century. Men hunted strictly for profit, trying to kill as many birds as possible without any regard for the future of the passenger pigeon. The sportsmen, of course, does not hunt for profit, and his very sport depends upon how carefully he protects the breeding stocks of his quarry so that he will have sport in future years.

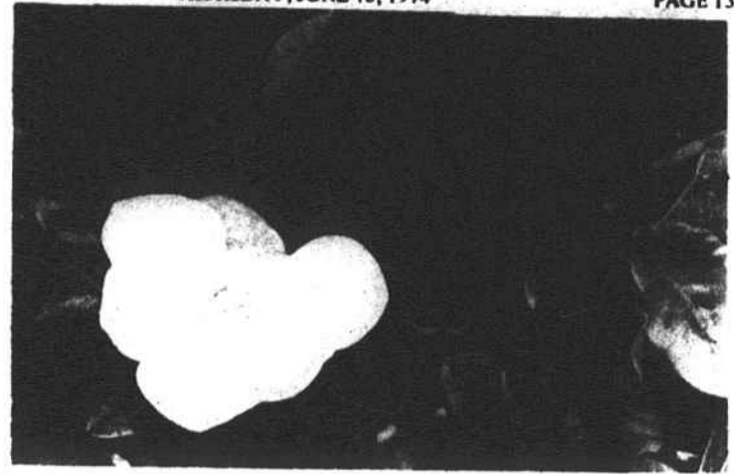
Nine species of modern - times U.S. mammals are extinct. Only three of these could have ever been pursued by hunting sportsmen. They are eastern elk, Merriam elk and Badlands bighorn sheep. All were wiped out before 1910, during the settlement of their respective ranges. They were hunted for food by pioneers, and for the market, but they were long gone before hunting for sport achieved any popularity.

In fact, there is not a single species of bird or mammal in the 50 states whose extinction has been caused by men who hunt for sport.

And yet, sportsmen have saved many species from probable extinction. Wildlife management programs at both state and Federal levels are almost entirely financed by sportsmen's dollars. This money comes primarily from licenses and special taxes.

Because there are sportsmen who like to hunt - and who are willing to pay for the privilege - the elk, wild turkey, deer, pronghorn antelope, beaver and wood duck have been saved and returned to healthy population levels in this country.

In the past 50 years, the American hunter who hunts for sport has poured as incredible \$2.5 billion dollars into conservation and wildlife development



MAGNOLIA BLOOM - A common sight along city streets this time of year are huge magnolia blooms such as this one unfolding its petals along W. Donaldson Avenue. (N-J Photo)

Per Capita Health Costs In Hoke County Area

NEW YORK, May 11 - For people living in Hoke County and vicinity, what do their out-of-pocket medical costs amount to per year?

What part of their doctor bills, dental expenses, prescription drugs, optical costs and other health needs do they have to shoulder on their own?

These out-of-pocket costs, which are exclusive of the share borne by insurance companies and others are the subject of a nationwide survey undertaken by the National Center for Health Statistics. The previous study of this type was made in 1962.

Since that time, according to the findings, an increasing proportion of medical expenses have been covered through insurance benefits, government programs such as medicare and other sources.

In the region encompassing Hoke County, the most recent figures show no health expenses at all during the year for 13.4 percent of the population and expenses of \$100 or less for another 38.0 percent.

On the average, the per capita out-of-pocket costs in the area amounted to \$182. This included health insurance premiums.

The outlay throughout the United States as a whole was somewhat higher, \$183 per capita.

This was the average. It varied considerably from family to family and from region to region. It was higher for the white population, higher for those

with big incomes and, of course, much higher for the elderly.

The total amount spent in the year by Hoke County residents, based upon the average cost, is estimated at about \$2,967,000.

Although hospital charges have been rising rapidly in recent years, insurance has taken up the major part of the burden for most people.

Because of this and because only one person out of nine was hospitalized in the year, the out-of-pocket cost was only \$21 per capita, the government report states.

In general, the payments to doctors amounted to \$47 per capita, to dentists, \$29, for prescription drugs, \$27, and for optical needs, \$10. The remaining outlays were for other health services, equipment and insurance premiums.

Turtles Banned

M.R. Mills, Hoke County sanitarian, began making preliminary checks this week to advise retailers of the state ban on sale of turtles after June 30.

Mills explains the N.C. Division of Health Services (board of health) banned the sale of turtles because of the danger of salmonella contamination. Salmonella bacteria causes food poisoning reactions in human beings, said Mills.

Under the ban turtles may be sold only for educational scientific or food purposes but not to be kept as pets.

Candidates' Reports List Campaign Funds

May 7 primary candidates' contributions and expenditures reports filed with Hoke County clerk of superior courts of office show front runner in county commissioners race, James Albert Hunt, received highest total contributions and spent the most money of all ten candidates in the race.

Hunt listed \$712.60 in contributions including R.W. Williamson, Lumberton, \$20; Hoke County Jayettes, \$58.82 and \$15.10; Brady Locklear, \$20; Earl H. Oxendine, \$25; Jeffery Maynor, Pembroke, \$20; Robert Taylor, \$20; and J.A. Hunt Trucking Company, \$533.68. Hunt listed expenditures of \$712.60.

Woodrow Woody Wilson Jr., listed \$269.60 expenses and \$65 contributions including Paul Johnson, \$20; O.B. Israel, \$5; Red Scarboro, \$20; and Royce Locklear, \$20.

Dannie Deloris McCollum listed \$95.66 expenses and \$89.25 contributions including Shady Grove Baptist Church, \$10; Buffalo Springs Baptist Church, \$10; Carolyn McKoy, \$5; Johnnie Kershaw, \$3; East Freedom PT Church, \$30; and Civite Leger Club, \$31.25.

John G. Balfour listed no contributions and \$38.80 expenditures; R.L. (Lud) Hales, listed \$10 contribution from Neil McFadyen and \$174.24 expenditures; A. Smith McInnis listed \$50 contribution from Grady Ellis and \$186 expenses; Clarence G. (Joe) Odom listed no contributions and \$28.99 expenses; Ralph Barnhart listed no contributions and \$60 expenditures; and Mrs. Kermit (Mabel) Riley listed \$151.70 expenditures and \$20 contribution from Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Scarborough.

In other county races Clerk of Court E.E. Smith listed no contributions and \$331.28 expenditures while his opponent Robert Weaver listed no contributions and \$209 expenses. In coroners contest successful incumbent G. Franklin Crumpler listed no contributions and \$20 expenses while his opponent W.D. (Danny) Morrison listed no contributions and \$117.50 expenditures.

Car Crusher

City Manager John Gaddy announced Hoke County residents may have old autos picked up for crushing. Gaddy said a United Car Crushers firm is operating from the city landfill. For information call City Hall, 875-3789.

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