

Sports

Wildlife management: mystiques and mistakes

In increasingly vehement confrontations between those who support hunting and those who do not, it often is said that "wildlife biologists only provide game for hunters' guns." That is not just an oversimplification - it's patently untrue.

The goal of wildlife biologists is to enhance wildlife populations.

People often are astounded that a biologist working with the state's deer population has no real idea how large the deer population is and, furthermore, doesn't care. What the biologist does care about is the condition of the deer population. Are the

deer well-fed and healthy, or malnourished and sickly? The biologist wants a healthy deer herd, in balance with its habitat and not threatening itself through overpopulation.

Another erroneous assumption, oddly shared by both hunters and those opposed to hunting, is that the wildlife biologist "manages" only game animals. This is virtually impossible. Single-species inevitably means to "manage" a host of non-hunted species as well.

To delve into this, I enlisted the aid of E.J. Wentworth, a professional wildlife biologist involved with non-game and endangered species field research. She correlated habitat needs of popular game animals with associated non-game species.

Wild turkey and black bear are most closely identified with a mature forest habitat. The forest primeval also is the home of the pileated and many other woodpeckers, several warbler species, the colorful scarlet tanager, the great horned owl and a host of small mammals, including chipmunks.

The white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse, on the other hand, favor botanically diverse "edge" habitats between forest and field. These include actual field edges, forest clear-cuts and other brushy environments. This area also is home to many non-game species, both predator and prey. From indigo buntings and cardinals to the Cooper's hawk -

from field mice to foxes - the diverse "edge" habitat supports many species.

Ducks and geese are popular with waterfowl hunters, and their aquatic habitats in marsh and swamp are shared with many "un-shot-at" creatures. Redwing blackbirds and hooded warblers nest there, barred owls and red-shouldered hawks hunt there, river otters live there.

The wildlife biologist tests theories developed in the controlled world of the laboratory and computer out in the raw, variable and undisciplined "real" world of wildlife.



The Lady Tigers were in uniform together for the last time Monday, when they posed with the trophy they earned at the Knapp Invitational Tournament Saturday. The team defeated Roper and Knapp during the tourney to remain undefeated and post a 16-0 season. (Photo by Susan Harris)

Dream season: Lady Tigers make it 16-0

The Lady Tigers continued to make history this past weekend when the team participated in the first post-season basketball tournament ever entered by the school. They set the standard for other teams to follow by capturing the championship.

Friday, the Lady Tigers (14-0) faced off with the Beavers (10-2) of Washington County Middle School at the Knapp Invitational Tournament. It promised to be a tough game between two conference champs.

Perquimans was a little sluggish in the first period, falling behind 8-5, but got back in synch in the second quarter to pull ahead 20-15. The third quarter saw the Tigers go cold at the foul line and allow the Beavers to take a one-point edge going into the final period. Both teams showed why they were on top in

their respective conferences in the fourth quarter, but Perquimans was able to force key turnovers and hold on for the 43-41 win.

Danita Whidbee led the Tigers with 13 points, followed by Shannon Smith's 12 and Celena Sheard's 10. Amber Curles netted four, and Beverly Russell and Nicole Walker, two each.

In a repeat of the day before, the Lady Tigers began Saturday's game against host Knapp in the hole 8-5, and only led 12-11 at the half. Perquimans blew 13 of 17 foul shots during the first half. The second half saw the steady team play of the Tigers begin to take control and the Perquimans team outscored Knapp 15-10 to claim the championship, 27-21.

Whidbee and Smith again led the offensive charge with seven

points each, followed by Sheard's five and Curles' four. Michele Thomas and Russell scored two.

Smith and Whidbee were selected Most Valuable Players of the tournament.

"The tournament championship really tops off an unbelievable season," said Lady Tiger coach Sid Eley. "The girls never quit and always played as a team. This allowed them to defeat teams with better individual athletes. Our whole team was involved in each game and provided the push needed to accomplish this 'dream season' that they will never forget. Thank you, girls, parents and fans for making this season what it was.

Goodbye, hoops; hello, gloves

Basketball is drawing to a close and baseball time is just around the corner at the recreation department.

Registration for Babe Ruth Baseball is beginning now for ages 13-15 and 16-18. Registration deadline is March 31. The fee is \$15. For more information or to register, contact Roger Morgan at Perquimans Middle School or the recreation department.

Midget Boys

The season ended Saturday for midget boys. Season records were:

- Bucks 10-0
- Suns 8-2
- Bulls 6-4
- Lakers 4-6
- Celtics 1-9
- 76ers 1-9

The Perquimans All-star teams were announced Saturday after the last games of the season. Earning inclusion on the three All-star teams were:

11-12 year-olds: Travis Leary, Zery Skinner, Travis Hurdle, Donald Stepney, Don Crittendon, Melvin Revell, Eric Byrum, Morris Kee, Clifton Jenkins and Adrell Felton. Charlie Mallory and Willie Shannonhouse, coaches.

10-year-olds: Kevin Downing, Delma Fletcher, Devon Lee, Arthur Mitchell, David Byrum, Robert Byrum, Vonderrick Tillet, Ryan Woodell, R.J. Lassiter and Brandon Winslow.

9-year-olds: Maurice Downing, Joel McClenney, Lorenzo Blount, Dana Clair, Dillon Napier, Tyshiem Brown, Jeremy Davenport, Derek C. Hurdle, Allen Peterson and Derek Hurdle.

Suns 34, 76ers 20
Travis Hurdle and Donald Stepney led the Suns with eight points each. Don Crittendon scored seven; Bo Harris, five; and Derek Hurdle, Brandon Winslow and Mason Noordsy, two each.

Nick McLawhorn led the 76ers with 10. Eric Peterson added five; Adrell Felton, three and James Davenport, two.

Bucks 49, Celtics 14
Travis Leary netted 15 in the win. Jamie Brooks scored eight; Craig Boone, Kevin Downing and

Rec Roundup

Delma Fletcher, six each; Zery Skinner, four; and Maurice Downing and Jermaine Mallory, two each.

Scoring for the Celtics were Clifton Jenkins, six; Phillip Jenkins, four; and Tywane Walker and Darryl Swinney, two each.

Bulls 29, Lakers 20
Morris Kee was leading scorer for the Bulls with 18 points. Jason Small shot for six; Andrew Harris, four and Lorenzo Blount, one.

Melvin Revell hit eight for the Lakers. Eric Byrum contributed five; Herbert Farrow, three; Kevin Shannonhouse and John Taylor, two apiece.

Junior Boys

Edenton Sonics 40
Hertford Rockets 34
No statistics available.

Midget Girls

Gates 8, Hertford 6
Gates edged past the Hertford Pirates in overtime. Crystal Blount, Ashley Copeland and Dawn Overman scored two each for Hertford.

Open league

Uniques 60 (1-5)
All-Stars 45 (2-4)
Russell Parker and Maurice Thomas led the Uniques with 16 and 13 points, respectively. Barrett Wilson paced the AllStars with 19. Cliff Shaw netted 14.
Hertford 63 (6-0)
Who's Next 59 (3-3)

Troy Jackson dumped in 27 points, including five 3-pointers in the second half, to lead Hertford, 63-59, over Who's Next. James Miller scored 15 for the winners. Alton Downing and Johnny Frierson scored 16 apiece for Who's Next.

30 and over league

Bulldogs 52 (5-1)
76ers 41 (4-2)
Reggie Hill scored 12 and Darrell Basnight 11 for the Dogs. James White led the 76ers with 21.

Pirate update

The junior varsity squad took Manteo last Tuesday, 58-45. J.J. Ellison came on strong with 19 points. Mark Clinkscales had nine; Amos Fletcher and Johnnie Dunbar, six each; Lyron Welch, two; and Shelby White, Martelly Woodard and Odell Brown, one each.

The Lady Pirates and varsity squads both fell to the visitors, 54-30 and 74-59, respectively. Scoring for the ladies team was Ann Foreman with 12; Kristie Roberson, Amber Bass and Alison Boone, four each; Jenny Hurdle, three; Tanya Everett, two and Yolanda Jordan, one.

Varsity statistics were not

available.

In Weldon on Friday evening, the Lady Pirates took their second win over the Weldon Chargers, but the junior varsity and varsity squads fell to the home-standers.

Full statistics from coaches were not available at press time, but will be run next week.

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