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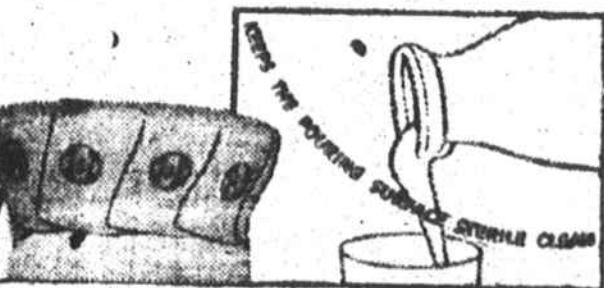
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GASTONIA, N. C.

**Wildlife Notes**

The Sportsman's Column

**Wildlife Commission Sets Tentative Hunting Regulations**

In an effort to give Tarheel sportsmen a better opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the setting of the 1949-1950 hunting season, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has adopted a plan whereby tentative regulations have been set up and which will be presented to sportsmen at a series of public hearings to be held in each of the nine Commission districts, according to Clyde P. Patton, executive director of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

The recommendations are based on reports, records, and opinions of Commission field personnel, and also on what is believed to be the general opinion of many sportsmen throughout the state. Patton said, and due regard was given to the differences in distribution, abundance, economic value, and breeding habits of game species throughout the three physiographic regions of the state: Coastal Plains, Piedmont, and Mountain.

The public hearing for district 8 will be held in Marion on June 1 at the courthouse at 10 a. m. Final regulations for the 1949-50 season will be set at a meeting of the Commission in Raleigh on June 13.

Here are the proposed seasons and bag limits:

**BEAR**—October 15 to January 2. Bag limit 2 daily, 2 in possession, and 2 per season, except 1 daily, 2 in possession, and 2 per season in and west of Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Rutherford counties.

**White-tailed Deer (Males only, with visible antlers)**—All counties or parts of counties not listed below are closed to deer hunting:

**EASTERN COUNTIES**—October 15-January 2, Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Currituck, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Martin, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrell, and Washington, except that in Hatteras Township in Dare county the season will be open November 1 through November 30 and in Atlantic Township and on Roanoke Island in Dare county there will be no open season on deer. The season will be November 1 to January 2 in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, New Hanover, Richmond, Sampson, and Scotland counties. Due to heavy hunting pressure on deer in the southeastern counties a shortened season in these counties was deemed desirable by the Commission. Many sportsmen in this section of the state have requested a two months open season. The Commission believed however, that a continuation of the 75 day season for other eastern counties can be justified due to the substantial deer populations. Crop damage by deer in this section of the state is further justification for a longer season. The bag and possession limits for eastern counties

are 1 daily, 2 in possession, and 2 for the season.

**WESTERN COUNTIES**—In Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania counties the season for taking white-tailed deer shall be November 14 to December 5 inclusive except as follows: Buncombe county: The area southeast of Asheville and bounded on the North by U. S. Highway 70 and on the west by U. S. Highway 25, no open season. Henderson County: The area north of U. S. Highway 25, no open season. Haywood County: The area north of U. S. Highway 19-23, no open season. In Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties: The areas south of U. S. Highway 64-70, in Burke and Caldwell counties, no open season. The open season for the remaining portions of these counties shall be November 14, 15, and 16 and December 5, 6, and 7. In Macon and Clay counties and that portion of Cherokee county lying east of U. S. Highway 19, the open season shall be November 14, 15, and 16, and December 5, 6, and 7. Alleghany and Surry counties to have a two-day open season on deer hunting, the dates to be the same as allowed for hunting in Grayson county, Va. (November 21-22.) The bag limit for western counties are 1 per day, 1 in possession, and 1 for the season.

**RUFFED GROUSE**—November 24-January 2, except that in and west of Madison, Buncombe, and Henderson counties the season will be October 1 through January 2. Bag limits for ruffed grouse are 2 daily, 4 possession, and 20 during the season. An increase in the grouse population has made a longer season and an increased season limit justifiable.

**FOXES**—Foxes may be taken with guns when the season is open for any other game birds or animals, except that where local county fox laws regulate the season, the local law shall prevail.

**MINK, MUSKRAT, OPOSSUM, and RACCOON**—May be taken by trapping from December 15 to February 28, except that the season for trapping muskrats in Ashe and Alleghany counties shall be from November 1 through February 28. In and south of Scotland, Hoke, Harnett, Sampson, Wayne, Lenoir, Craven, and Pamlico counties the season

is recommended on the basis of reports of good population carry-overs attributed to a good 1948 breeding season, a short 1948-49 hunting season, and a mild 1948-49 winter. The Commission believes that if for some unforeseen reason this year's breeding season is unsatisfactory, appropriate adjustments can be made at a later date. Because surveys and reports indicate a shortage of quail in mountain counties, the Commission believes that a shorter season in these counties is desirable.

**WILD TURKEYS**—November 24-January 31. Daily limit 1, possession 1, and 2 for the season, with gobblers only permitted in the bag.

**RUSSIAN WILD BOARD**—October 15-January 2 in Cherokee, Clay, and Graham counties only. The limits are 1 daily, 2 in possession, and 2 for the season.

**OPOSSUM AND RACCOON (with gun and dogs)**—October 15-February 15, except that in and west of Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Rutherford counties the open season will be November 1 through February 15. There are no daily, possession, or season limits on opossum and raccoon, except that in and west of Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Rutherford counties there will be a daily possession of one raccoon with no possession or season limits.

**RABBITS**—November 24 to January 31, with a daily bag of 7, possession 14, with no season limit.

**SQUIRRELS**—October 15 to January 2, daily bag except limit 8, possession 16, and a season limit of 100. The limits listed, however, may include only one fox squirrel per day, 2 for squirrels in possession, and a total of 10 fox squirrels per season. In Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Rutherford counties and all counties west of these counties the season for taking squirrels will open October 1 and close December 15. The daily bag limit of squirrels in this section will be 6 with 12 in possession, and a season limit of 75. There will be no open season on fox squirrels in these counties. As an experiment for the 1949-50 season only, the season for taking squirrels, rabbits, and quail in Gascon county only has been tentatively set to open November 24 and end January 31.

**QUAIL**—November 24 to January 31, except in Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Clay, Macon, Jackson, Transylvania, Haywood, Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery, Watauga, Ashe, and Alleghany counties the season shall be November 24 through January 2. Daily bag limit on quail 8, possession 16, and a season limit of 100. A longer season for quail in most of the state

shall be January 1 through February 28 for mink, muskrat, opossum and raccoon. The difference in the season in southern counties is due to the fact that the furs become prime in southern latitudes at a later date than farther north. A later opening date in northern counties will give additional time for the furs to become prime and thereby increase the profit from the sale of furs.

**OTTER**—Open season from January 1-31. There will be no open season on beavers.

Read the WANT-ADS

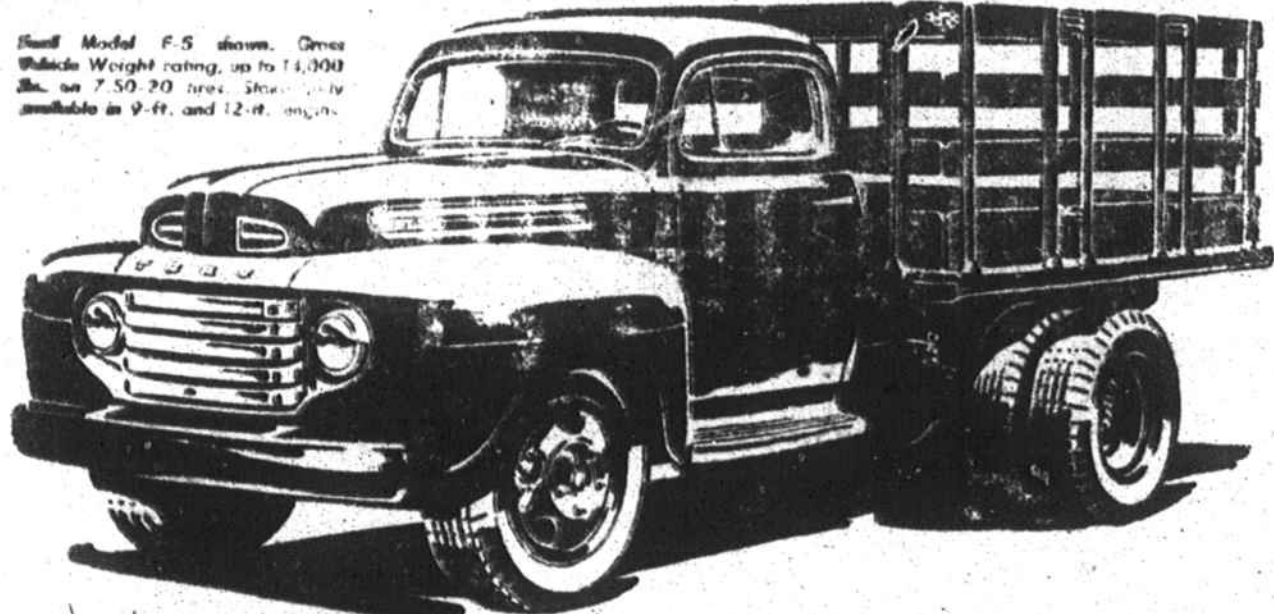
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