

FIELD NOTES

From Pennsylvania Game News October 1951

Practice Run

WILLIAMSPORT—On August 29 I released a crate of twelve pheasants and they flew into a corn field. I observed a bird flying with the pheasants that did not look like one of them, and discovered that it was a Cooper's hawk. It was following one of the pheasants, but when the pheasant landed in the cornfield it did not follow it down, but landed in a nearby tree. District Game Protector Paul Ranck, Williamsport.

More Crow Depredations

LIGONIER—Varied and new depredations by crows seem to be commonplace. I was told a story by a fisherman to the effect that he observed a trio of crows disturbing a mallard duck and her brood. The crows scattered the brood, driving some of the young ducks to land, then killing some of the very young ducklings. The fisherman on the opposite shore was helpless to do anything but throw stones—which did not seem to bother the black killers. Conservation Education Assistant Robert D. Parlamen, Ligonier.



Killer vs. Killer

MEHOOPANY—While repairing a road in Potter County, Charles Gratton, a highway crew foreman, and several of his crew noticed a large grayish hawk making determined swoops at the ground. After the fourth dive Gratton walked over to the place and found the hawk trying to make off with a large rattlesnake. The snake proved too big for the hawk and it flew away. The head of the rattler was neatly severed from the body. From the description

of the bird it might have been a goshawk. District Game Protector Keith C. Hinman, Mehoopany.

Weasel Takes To The Trees

SOMERSET—On July 21 I observed a disturbance in a large wild cherry tree and then two small animals either fell or jumped about 30 feet to the ground. When they crossed the road it turned out to be a weasel pursuing a red squirrel. The chase continued up another tree and then through a tile and into some high weeds, where I heard the squirrel squeal. The weasel had evidently made a kill. District Game Protector E. W. Cox, Somerset.

He Who Laughs Last

WILCOX—My son reports that while visiting his predator traps he found a red fox in one that was staked fast, and he flushed five grouse within fifteen feet of the trap, in plain view of the trapped fox. District Game Protector Vern A. Van Order, Wilcox.

Rabies in Sullivan County

LAPORTE—In the immediate vicinity of Sullivan County we are having an outbreak of rabies. At the present time we have been able to secure two specimens of wildlife that had positive rabies, one raccoon and one grey fox. Along with those, specimens of dogs and cattle had the disease and were lost by the farmers in Sullivan County. District Game Protector Robert K. Benschoter, Laporte.

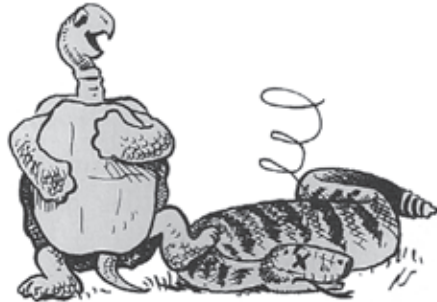
Food Plots Really Producing

BENTON—During the month of August approximately 170 bushels of wheat and approximately 140 bushels of rye were combined from approximately 27 acres of food plots on State Game Lands No. 13. These food plots were newly cleared a year ago. Besides the grain that was harvested a narrow strip all around the edges of the plots was allowed to remain standing for turkey feed. One evening in late April I counted more than sixty deer eating in these same food plots. District Game Protector Razell A. Stidd, Benton.

Rattler Meets His Master

MIDDLEBURG—In the early part of June Mr. Miles R. Crebs, line superintendent for the Middlecreek Valley

Telephone Company was checking some lines and found a rattlesnake about 30 inches long that had just been killed by a large land turtle. The turtle had caught the rattler back of the head and had pinched it badly over the neck. He was still holding the snake in that position when



found by Mr. Crebs. There had been quite a struggle according to the markings on the dusty road. District Game Protector Raymond Holtzapple, Middleburg.

Corn-fed Bears

WILLIAMSPORT-Am having lots of bear damage complaints-more this year than in the past several years. There are plenty of apples and some cherries and blackberries, and the scrub oak has loads of acorns. The dry weather has cut down the corn crop and the bears are taking the best corn. They are working the corn fields on Game Lands, which is of some help to the farmer. The largest amount of damage in this district is a 10 acre lot of soy beans damaged by deer. The same farmer had 18 acres of corn considerably damaged by bears. District Game Protector Levi R. Whippo, Williamsport.

Don't Leave Good Manners At Home

WILKES-BARRE-I noticed that the hunter is taking advantage of the farmer that is keeping his land open to public hunting. Recent cancellations of farms in the Game Commission's Farm Game Project reveals that the hunter is abusing the land of the farmer as well as his own right to have a place to hunt. Practicing a few lessons in hunting etiquette would be a credit to the hunter. Not asking permission to hunt, parking in a lane where the farmer cannot get by and tramping down the farmer's unharvested corn are just a few of the unpardonable sins. District Game Protector John C. Behel, Wilkes-Barre.

Tip on Self Preservation

ST. THOMAS-Probably one of the best places to avoid during a thunder storm when caught out in the woods, would be our refuge lines. We see evidence of their being struck pretty often. This year we noticed on 503-A and 503-D where one of the bolts had struck and followed the wire for at least a mile on each refuge. The one on 503-D

killed six good-sized oak trees to which the wire was fastened and in addition killed all the leaves and branches of trees and brush within one foot of the wire. District Game Protector Edward Campbell, St. Thomas.

Bob-White on the Increase

WASHINGTON -During the spring and early summer few quail were heard or seen, but now there seems to be quail calling everywhere. The broods that I have seen are big ones—fifteen to twenty birds—and I have seen two and three broods in one hay field. They came through the winter one hundred percent better than I ever hoped for and I have observed quail in areas that have not been stocked with quail in the past three years. District Game Protector G. T. Church, Washington.

Too Many "Rats"

MT. HOLLY SPRINGS-The closed season on muskrats has resulted in a remarkable increase in these furbearers in this district. I have received many complaints of muskrat damage done to field corn, farm ponds, springs, and in one case last spring they got into a farmer's barn and destroyed his apples. In a number of places they have corn-completely destroyed as much as 1 ½ acres of standing corn. District Game Protector John R. Spahr, Mt. Holly Springs.

Late-comers

WEATHERLY-While assisting Game Protector Ramsey on August 27 we observed a ringneck hen on Farm Game Project No. 179 with a brood of week-old chicks. This was an extremely late hatch but the brood seemed healthy enough. District Game Protector Glenn A. Kitchen, Weatherly.

Fox Has His Hands Full

WHATON—D u r i n g the past month Bert Williams, of Whaton, told me that he was sitting on his porch watching a large turkey feeding in a field across First Fork. A gray fox stalked it and succeeded in catching it twice but each time it managed to get away. At last it was able to get into the air and flew into the woods. It did not seem to be any the worse for the encounter except for the loss of some feathers. District Game Protector William D. Neely, Austin.

