

INFORMATION SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

# WILDLIFE IN WARTIME

A CLIPSHEET ISSUED IRREGULARLY BY THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chicago, Ill.

RELEASE SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1943

Vol. 4, No. 1

NOTE TO EDITORS: Wildlife in Wartime is not a new clipsheet but merely a new name (and a more fitting one, we believe) for Wildlife Tips and Briefs, first issued in January 1940. The primary purpose of this clipsheet is to provide newspaper correspondents, editors of outdoor columns in newspapers and magazines, and editors of State conservation publications, with information which will keep the public posted on the status of wildlife conservation during this war period; record the contributions that our fish and wildlife resources are making to the national war program, particularly in the way of food; and report on the progress of war-connected activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

## REFUGES FOR WILDLIFE PRODUCE FOOD FOR WAR

Some 4,000 acres of national wildlife refuge land in California, capable of producing 200,000 bushels of grain, were leased recently to private individuals by the Fish and Wildlife Service to help augment the national food supply, according to a report made to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The production of food on the refuges, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Service, pointed out, is achieved principally through cooperative farming, controlled under a permit system whereby local residents utilize available refuge lands for haying, grazing, or farming.

The removal of surplus game and fur animals on the refuges is accomplished through the use of cooperative agreements with State Conservation Departments. Whenever concentrations of big game animals, upland game birds, or fur animals occur in excess numbers so that the normal restocking of adjacent areas will not take care of the available surplus, authorization is obtained from Secretary Ickes for removal by live-trapping for stocking purposes, trapping for food and fur, or by hunting.

All of the 272 national wildlife refuges, which protect all forms of wildlife from the big bull moose to the tiny marsh wren, are thus making a small but important contribution to the country's food production program. According to Service officials, the refuges are managed for their maximum economic usefulness as well as for the primary purpose of conservation.

These refuges range in size from the one-half acre Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota to the 2,900,000 acre Aleutian Island Refuge that extends 1,200 miles from the southwestern tip of Alaska westward almost to Siberia.

BACKYARD RABBITRIES SUPPLY  
NEW SOURCE OF FAMILY MEAT

"A small rabbitry in every back yard is proving to be a bonanza for city dwellers who have trouble in stretching their meat points," Frank G. Ashbrook, in charge of the Fur Resources work of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, has announced.

Because of wartime conditions, many new sources of meat supplies are being explored and as a result the domestic rabbit is stepping into the limelight all over the country as a rapid producer of highly nutritious, palatable and fine-grained white meat that can be served any day of the year. Only 90 days are required from the time the doe is mated until the young rabbits are ready for the table.

"Domestic rabbits have a very definite place in connection with Victory Gardens," Mr. Ashbrook said. "Some of the waste products from the gardens can be used for food, and there is no danger of these rabbits over-running the gardens, as cottontails do, because domestic rabbits are kept in their hutches. In addition, rabbit manure makes a mighty fine fertilizer for Victory Gardens.

"Domestic rabbits, unlike wild rabbits, can be eaten at any time of the year," Mr. Ashbrook emphasizes. "They are always in season, the same as chicken. Also, hutch-raised rabbits do not get tularemia. No case of the disease has ever been recognized in commercial rabbitries."

Complete information on raising a few rabbits to supplement the family meat supply can be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.

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REFUGE AREAS USED  
FOR WAR PURPOSES

More than 4,645,000 acres of land on 33 national wildlife refuges in 18 States and Alaska are being used by the Army and Navy Departments for such varied purposes as bombing ranges, gunnery ranges, air bases, tank maneuvering areas, docking facilities and for recreational activities of the men in the training camps, according to a statement made by J. Clark Salyer II, chief, Division of Wildlife Refuges, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

These lands, however, are primarily submarginal areas in the South and Midwest and parts of large areas in the West used jointly for wildlife and livestock. No highly developed wildlife areas were released and little or no harm has resulted from military activities, Mr. Salyer declared.

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25 MILLION MIGRATORY WATERFOWL  
PATRONIZE FEDERAL REFUGE AREAS

More than 25,000,000 migratory waterfowl of various species patronized Federal refuge areas during their southward journey last fall, according to a report made by the Fish and Wildlife Service, to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

This figure is based upon the total waterfowl utilization of some 90 national wildlife refuges during the September-December migration period, as reported by field personnel of the Service.

Mallards ranked the most numerous among the nation's wildlife guests during this period with about 11½ million, followed by pintails with nearly 6 million, baldpates, 898,900; green-winged teals, 726,000; blue-winged teals, 600,000; and shovellers, with 576,000.

The following list includes some of the more important game species noted during the fall flight:

Whistling swan	62,124	Pintail	5,898,610
Canada goose	285,485	Green-winged teal	726,480
Cackling goose	145,500	Blue-winged teal	601,100
White-fronted goose	255,900	Shoveller	575,920
American brant	36,000	Wood duck	124,025
Lesser snow goose	378,350	Redhead	175,040
Greater snow goose	20,000	Ring-necked duck	206,560
Blue goose	200,000	Canvas-back	510,990
Mallard	11,600,585	Scaup	406,440
Black duck	704,110	Bufflehead	33,525
Gadwall	517,115	Ruddy duck	132,190
Baldpate	898,988	Coot	834,878

Seen in smaller numbers but interesting because of their rarity or greatly restricted range were 350 Ross's geese seen on the Tule Lake and Sacramento (California) refuges, and 3,000 New Mexico ducks reported from the Bosque del Apache Refuge, New Mexico. The American brant reported from the Brigantine (New Jersey) and Pea Island (North Carolina) refuges comprised about 54 percent of the total existing population of these birds. The numbers of whistling swans attain greater significance when it is recalled that the estimated total population of the United States is not in excess of 100,000 birds.

HOW TO CONTROL COTTONTAIL  
RABBITS IN VICTORY GARDENS

Although Victory Gardens and cottontail rabbits apparently do not mix, these animal pests can be controlled without destroying them, Dorr D. Green, chief, Division of Predator and Rodent Control, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, has advised gardeners.

Live-trapping is the method recommended by the Service, particularly in or near towns and cities. Trapped animals should be transported and released in areas where they will do little damage since they are valuable for food and afford excellent sport for gunners.

Before beginning trapping operations, gardeners interested in protecting their plots from rabbit depredations should consult their State game laws. If the removal of rabbits by traps or other means is contrary to the State or local law, information on control may be obtained from a State game conservation officer, suggests Mr. Green.

In addition to cottontail rabbits, moles, pocket gophers, field mice, ground squirrels, woodchucks, and rats also cause havoc in Victory Gardens.

The Service has prepared a mimeographed leaflet, "Protecting Victory Gardens from Animal Pests," which describes methods of controlling these pests. A free copy may be obtained by writing to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Chicago 54, Ill.

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REVISED LIST OF WILDLIFE  
ORGANIZATIONS NOW READY

The forty-first edition of the directory of all organizations and officials concerned with wildlife protection is now available in printed form, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, has announced.

The pamphlet, compiled and revised by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, internationally known ornithologist, is designed to meet the needs of officials charged with the administration and enforcement of fish and game laws. It is also convenient for the use of persons who wish to communicate with officials and organizations concerning wildlife conditions in the several States and Territories, the Canadian Provinces and Territories, Newfoundland, Mexico, the West Indies, Central America and South America.

"Organizations and Officials Concerned with Wildlife Protection: 1942", as the new publication is titled, may be obtained at 10 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

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FARM FISH PONDS CAN  
ADD TO FOOD SUPPLY

A farm fish pond one acre in size, properly fertilized and managed, and located in a region where favorable natural conditions exist, can supply 200 to 400 pounds of fish per year for the family table, says the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This is particularly true in the southern States where most pondfishes attain sufficient growth for table use within a year. Toward the North, however, production will be reduced in proportion to the shortening of the growing season and lower water temperatures.

According to fish cultural experts of the Service, farmers who own a pond site can build a small fish pond with a little labor and the use of non-critical materials, which will produce sufficient fresh fish to supplement their meat supply and also furnish minerals and vitamins required in the diet to maintain health.

To aid prospective pond builders, the Service has issued as Fishery Leaflet 17, a mimeographed leaflet, "Construction of Farm Ponds," which gives information on selection of the site, grading of pond bottom, construction of the dam, and construction of drain surface. Sketches are supplied as a guide in the construction of the small farm pond.

The technique of farm-pond management is built around fertilization. By proper fertilization the productive capacity of ponds may be enormously increased, the gain in fish production ranging from 50 percent in naturally poorer waters to a threefold increase in ponds draining rich soils. Information on choosing a fertilizer, amount to use, and method of applying are to be found in another Service publication, Fishery Leaflet 12, "Fertilization of Fish Ponds."

Either or both of these papers may be obtained without charge by writing to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.

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NEW LEAFLET AVAILABLE  
ON HOME CURING OF FISH

Salting, smoking and other methods of curing fish at home are described at length in a new 26-page leaflet recently issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

"Canning is not the only method of home preservation of fishery products," says Norman D. Jarvis, Service technologist and author of the leaflet, "they may be corned, brine cured, dried, dry salted, smoked, or pickled (vinegar cured)."

These methods, Jarvis points out, have several advantages over canning: they are simpler, do not require much equipment, are less expensive, and permit the utilization of varieties of fish which cannot be canned successfully. These points are all worth considering, especially when canning equipment and containers are scarce and should be used to the best advantage.

"One disadvantage must be kept in mind," warns Jarvis, "unlike canning, these methods do not preserve indefinitely; in fact, for certain fish and certain methods, preservation is limited to a comparatively brief period."

Sport fishermen, desiring to utilize their excess catches of fish for later use, will find the new leaflet of particular value. Fishery Leaflet 18, "Home Preservation of Fishery Products," may be obtained free of charge upon request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.

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## ARIZONA

### PREDATORY BEARS KILL LIVESTOCK IN ARIZONA

Although bears are not as a general rule classed as predatory animals, when some "outlaws" in the northern part of Greenlee County, Arizona, recently got a taste of livestock, the sum total of their depredations caused stockmen a loss of 30 head of calves and two cows, worth more than \$1,320 at prevailing market prices, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. A predatory animal hunter, sent into the area by the Service, succeeded in stopping further livestock losses.

In Graham County, one cow and four calves were killed by bears on the Seventy-Six Ranch. A Service hunter was sent immediately to the scene and the two bears responsible for the killing of cattle were trapped on successive nights.

Another Service hunter took a bear that had killed several head of cattle on ranches in the Galliuro Mountains in southwestern Graham County. In one night a bear killed eight head of sheep on a large sheep ranch southeast of Flagstaff, in Coconino County.

Since bears are protected animals in Arizona, the control of predatory bears is conducted by the Service in close cooperation with the State Game Department and in strict accordance with State laws or any temporary regulations that may be established from time to time by the Game Department. Bear hunting is confined to individual animals that have developed serious stock-killing habits.

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## COLORADO

### RAT CONTROL SAVES FOOD AND PROTECTS HEALTH IN WARTIME

The new impetus to protect the nation's food supply and the health of its people has created considerable interest in both rural and urban areas for rat control, the Fish and Wildlife Service has reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

For example, rat control work has been conducted in every city and county along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado from Wyoming to the New Mexico line and on the Arkansas River Valley to the Kansas line, except at Las Animas, Colo.

At the present time the Service is conducting a maintenance operation with the various cities of Colorado, making a periodic checkup every three months.

Service field personnel in the Colorado district have also cooperated in control of rats with Camp Carson and Peterson Field, Colorado Springs; Lowry Field, Buckley Field, and the Medical Depot, Denver; Camp Hale, Pando; the Air Base at Pueblo and the Air Base at La Junta.

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## GEORGIA

### PITTMAN ROBERTSON FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE TO GEORGIA

"Wildlife restoration work in Georgia will now have the chance to benefit considerably through the use of Pittman-Robertson funds," according to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

These funds became available to Georgia when Gov. Ellis Arnall approved, on February 8, an act of the State Legislature which included assent to the provisions of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

Since the inception of the Pittman-Robertson program in 1938, Georgia is the 47th State to become eligible to participate in the benefits of this Act. Nevada is the only State not now participating in this cooperative Federal-State wildlife restoration program.

Funds for the Federal participation in the cost of work carried on under the Act come from the Federal excise tax paid by the manufacturers of sporting arms and ammunition.

Pittman-Robertson funds are used to finance projects set up and directed by State governments for the restoration of all forms of wildlife within the individual States. All projects are approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of Secretary Ickes to determine whether they are sound in character and design. The Federal Government pays 75 percent of the cost of the project and the State 25 percent. Funds appropriated by Congress for this purpose cannot exceed the amount received from the 10 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1943, the 47 cooperating States, Alaska, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico submitted and had 289 projects approved, involving \$2,187,211 of Federal funds.

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### OREGON

#### WOMEN REPLACE MEN AS FISH COUNTERS AT BONNEVILLE DAM

"Something new has been added" in the way of fish counters at Bonneville Dam, Oregon, for war conditions have made it necessary to utilize women for this type of work instead of men, according to a report made by the Fish and Wildlife Service to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The counting of fish as they pass through the fishways at the Bonneville Dam has always been done by men who, through past experience, were qualified to identify the several species of fish. However, when the war came along and took these experienced men, it was decided to employ a staff of women.

Although none of the women now on the job have had previous experience in such work, they rapidly have learned to identify the several species of fish and are proving to be very satisfactory counters, Service officials said. The accuracy of their species determinations is being checked by means of a trap in which fish occasionally are caught for positive identification after being checked by the counters.

The intricate piscatorial bookkeeping system is based on the counting of the fish as they pass through gates in weirs built in the fish ladders, on their way to tributaries of the middle and upper Columbia River. Counting starts regularly at 4 a.m. and except for a few minutes at regular intervals when the counters rest their eyes, continues until 8 p.m. when the gates are closed for the night. The observers stationed at the ladders check off on mechanical counters the number of fish of each species that pass through gates at the top of the ladders.

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## OREGON

### OREGON PREDATOR HUNTER MAKES OUTSTANDING CATCH

When Robert E. Long, a predatory animal hunter employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, trapped 317 predators (304 coyotes and 13 bobcats) last September in Malheur County, Oregon, he not only broke his own record made in 1937 but established a new record among Service hunters.

During the period from July 1, 1942 to March 8, 1943, Hunter Long succeeded in taking 953 coyotes and 50 bobcats.

The predatory animal control activities of the Service have been geared to wartime needs in order to give material aid to farmers and stockmen who are faced with the problem of meeting increased demands for wool, meat and poultry products for military and civilian use.

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## TEXAS

### SERVICE HUNTER TRAPS MOUNTAIN LION KILLER

After two years of depredations that caused losses amounting to several thousand dollars, a 151-pound mountain lion was trapped recently in the southern part of Kinney County, Texas, by Tom Taylor, a predator hunter of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Service officials said that for the past 2 years this animal had been preying on livestock on eight ranches in the area. In addition to a number of deer, it was charged with having destroyed 300 sheep and goats valued at \$1,800.

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## TEXAS

### RATS ENJOY VARIED DIET

Rodents in Texas apparently eat anything that comes their way, according to a report submitted by District Agent C. R. Landon to the headquarters office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Interior.

In San Angelo, for example, rats got into a stock of matches in a grocery store and ignited them. The resulting fire on the premises caused damages amounting to \$1,550.

In Texarkana, rats destroyed several hundred gladiolus plants that had been purchased for use at a wedding. The wedding took place, but not with gladioli.

A department store owner in Tyler reports that rats had eaten holes in the silk lining of comforters and in three months' time has caused a \$120 loss.

The manager of a seed and produce company at Refugio advised District Agent Landon that one morning when he opened his store he found nearly three-fourths of his feed orders missing which he had left lying on his desk the previous evening. By chance, one of his employees noticed a piece of paper sticking out from under the flooring. Upon removing a board from the floor, it was discovered that the rats had purloined the orders for the purpose of making a comfortable nest.

In Brownwood, rats were destroying paste brushes in the office of the daily newspaper, apparently being attracted by the taste of the paste. The rats were finally controlled by using the paste as the base of a bait into which rat poison was incorporated.

With rat populations now rising at a time when the nation is being called upon to conserve and utilize every bit of food for human needs, the demand for rat control throughout Texas has been unprecedented. Service employees have been hard put to meet this pressing demand in congested areas.

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#### WYOMING

##### DEER CONDUCTS "ELITZ" ON ITS OLD ENEMY - THE COYOTE

While tending his trap line on French Creek in Johnson County, Wyo., last December, Predatory Animal Hunter Charles Vest, employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Interior, stopped on the ridge to look around and suddenly found himself in a ringside seat viewing an unusual fight.

Just as Vest spotted two coyotes leaving the bottom of the draw, his attention was attracted to a noise from another direction. This proved to be a big dog coyote running at top speed with a buck deer in hot pursuit. When the deer caught up with his ancient enemy, he knocked the coyote down with his front feet, then jumped on him with all four feet.

After taking a hard pounding, the coyote managed to crawl into a brush patch. Although the deer did not attempt to follow the coyote, he circled the patch until he spied Hunter Vest and took to his heels, followed by three does that had been waiting at a distance. The coyote, Vest discovered, was trampled so badly he could hardly crawl, so it was an easy matter for the Government hunter to finish the job the deer started.

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