

## Conservation News

### WINTER FEEDING

Wildlife biologists are often accused of being rather callous because they don't believe in winter feeding of wildlife. In spite of our public stand against winter feeding, however, many of us will operate our own small-scale private feeding programs. In these cases most biologists recognize that the animal getting the most benefit is probably the operator, rather than the wild life. This value comes largely from the satisfaction of seeing wildlife close at hand.

However, a statewide feeding program to save hungry wildlife is something else again. Because of the staggering cost of suitable food, and the impossible logistics of getting food to the scattered wildlife populations, a philosophy of discouraging feeding and encouraging self-sustaining forms of wildlife has developed. In short, if it can't survive New York winters, it has no place among our wildlife.

Winter feeding can backfire, causing more loss of wildlife than it prevents. The prime example of this is deer. When deer are starving in their winter yards, it is because of the lack of natural browse for food. If feeding these deer one winter does save some deer, it means that next winter there will be more deer in the yard where there is already a shortage of food. Feeding them simply postpones the starvation crisis till another year.

It is impossible to get food to just starving animals, the stronger

ones must be fed first. "Mother-love" demonstrated by defense of their young does not carry into winter competition for food. It then becomes a matter of survival of the fittest.

There are two common hazards to wildlife from poorly operated feeding programs. If protective cover in the vicinity of the feeder is not adequate to furnish escape cover for all birds and animals attracted, it becomes an attractive feeding station for predators. Any concentration of wildlife such as this is bound to attract the attention of predators in the neighborhood.

Often feeders will concentrate more wildlife in an area than natural food supplies would normally maintain. If feeding is stopped, even temporarily, additional travel and exposure caused by the short food supply can be dangerous.

The time that the public shows greatest concern is during emergency conditions, following heavy snow or ice storms. By the time winter has set in, wildlife has already settled down in an area that they think will provide food and cover to carry them through the winter. Generally they will sweat it out, and if you are going to feed them, you must carry the food to them, for they have no way of knowing your good intentions. Emergency feeding then must be pinpointed to known concentration areas or it will not be utilized.

Healthy animals have an amazing reserve to fall back on during these times of deep snow and ice. Following such storms they may stay huddled up for several days in thick cover where they went to get away from the storm. Ring-necked pheasants can go for 10 days without food with no ill effects, and some have been found under snowbanks on game farms where they have been buried over two weeks.

If you want to enjoy the benefits of feeding small animals or birds adhere to four simple rules:

1. A feeding station should be close to good escape and winter cover.
2. Several small feeders are better than one large one.
3. Start feeding before the need arises. Wildlife establish feeding patterns that they are slow to change. They should be given ample time to locate feeding sta-

tions so that they will know where to go in search of food after severe storms.

4. Once started, a feeding station should be continued until there is no further need for it.

## Births

Dec. 9: To Mr. and Mrs. Merle Dean, Cuba, a daughter.

Dec. 11: To Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Denning, Cuba, a son.

Dec. 12: To Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Porter, Alfred Station, a daughter.

Dec. 13: To Mr. and Mrs. James Bouchard, Belmont, a daughter.

Dec. 14: To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nickerson, Scio, a daughter.

Dec. 15: To Mr. and Mrs. James Spencer, Fillmore, a son.

## Marriages

Nov. 24: Miss Diane Bunnell of Belmont and Steven Zipfel of Coudersport, Pa.

Dec. 5: Miss Bessie E. Hannigan of Belmont and Ross Jay Chalker of Caneadea.

Use the Classified Ad Section.

Dear Jack:

Just a little hint . . . but Ludden's Shoe Store in Wellsville have the biggest selection of slippers and snow-boots in the area. They will gift wrap and exchange too!

Love,

ABIGAIL.

P. S. — In fact . . . I would even like a Ludden Gift Certificate.

## Notice To Harborers Or Owners Of Dogs

Dog Licenses are due January 1st, 1971. They may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office.

The law requires that dogs be licensed by January 1. Failure to obtain a license subjects the owner to a penalty of \$10.00 and costs and the dog is liable to seizure.

The Commissioner of Health has issued an order requiring all dogs six months of age or over in the county to be vaccinated to prevent rabies. Therefore, an applicant for a dog license must present to the clerk a certificate certified by a duly licensed veterinarian showing that the dog has been so vaccinated.

To be acceptable, the certificate presented must show that a modified live virus vaccine was used within the four years immediately preceding the application date, or that killed vaccine of brain tissue origin was used within the year immediately preceding the application date.

If your application is mailed to the clerk, the vaccination certificate must accompany your application and check.

GLADYS FOX  
Town Clerk

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