

## 1977-78 Waterfowl Season Announced

Continuation of five-zone waterfowl hunting, more areas where steel shot will be required, limited hunting of canvasback and redhead ducks, no hunting of brant; and an October 5 upstate opening for Canada and blue geese highlight the 1977-78 New York State Waterfowl season as announced by Environmental Conservation Commissioner Peter A. A. Berle.

While waterfowl hunting prospects are generally good for this fall, brant geese had a poor breeding season following heavy mortality from the winter weather and consequently brant will be fully protected again this year. Several species with relatively low populations — wood, black, canvasback, redhead, and hooded merganser ducks — will have restricted bag limits.

This will be the second year for five-zone waterfowl hunting in New York State. The plan provides the flexibility needed to assign season dates that best fit the weather type of hunting and duck migrations in each zone. The Department and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated the first year of the new zoning system and determined that zoning did not result in an overharvest of waterfowl. A summary of the report is available from the Bureau of Wildlife, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233 or any D.E.C. regional office.

The duck season in the Northeastern Zone will begin at noon on October 5 and continue through November 18.

The Western Zone will start one week later at noon on October 12 and continue until November 17, then close for five weeks, reopening at noon December 21 and closing on January 2.

The duck season in the Southeastern Zone will run from noon October 19 until December 2. Basic bag limits (with certain exceptions) in these three zones are five daily and 10 in possession.

In the Lake Champlain area which takes the same season and limits as Vermont, the 50-day straight season runs from noon, October 5 through November 23. Basic limits are four per day and eight in possession.

Liberal daily bag limits in the form of two bonus blue-winged teal in addition to the basic bag will be in effect for the first nine days of the season in all zones — except Long Island.

Scaup also are in excellent supply and there will be a special bonus bag limit of two a day in addition to the basic bag on many of the waters in the upstate zones. In Lake Champlain, both scaup and goldeneye are legal game in a special season from November 26 to December 11. The aggregate of goldeneye and scaup is three per day and six in possession.

There will be the same limited season for canvasbacks and redheads as last year with a bag limit and possession limit set at one canvasback OR one redhead.

Hunters are advised that the Fish and Wildlife Service has designated Cayuga Lake and the Niagara River between the Peace Bridge and the Peace Bridge as steel shot areas for canvasback and redhead hunting. These areas were closed because of the high canvasback harvests that have occurred there in the past.

Hopefully, this system of limited harvest will allow populations of these species to continue to grow until all areas can be opened to canvasback and redhead hunting. Hunters should limit themselves to only drakes, which outnumber hens by ten-to-one in some areas. If they do, the prospects for the future will be even brighter.

Canada geese season in all upstate zones will begin at the same time, October 5 at noon, and will run 70 days until December 13. Three Canada geese may be taken daily (six in possession). The season on snow geese will open upstate with the Canada geese season October 5 and run for 60 days to December 3 with a bag limit of two per day and four in possession.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken additional steps to reduce lead poisoning in waterfowl by requiring the use of steel shot for hunting waterfowl in certain areas of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways. In New York, these areas are: All of Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the area west of

Interstate 81 and north of Interstate Route 90 (N.Y. Thruway) encompassing the lake plains region from Canada to Pennsylvania.

In the steel shot areas, steel shot must be used in 12 gauge guns for taking waterfowl. It is illegal to have 12 gauge lead shot shells in possession while hunting waterfowl in steel shot areas. Because shells loaded with steel shot in gauges other than 12 are not readily available, waterfowl hunters will be permitted to use shells loaded with lead in these other gauges. The U. S. Department of the Interior has stated that by 1979 all waterfowl hunting in steel shot areas will require the use of steel shot regardless of shotgun gauge.

Once again Long Island's waterfowl seasons will be entirely separate from those of any other area. Long Island will open its 50-day duck and Canada and snow goose seasons at Noon on November 16. Regular duck season will end on January 4, but a special scaup-only season of 16 days will be held after that on tidal water only January 7 - 22. During that time five scaup per day may be taken and 10 kept in possession. The Canada goose season, during which limits of three and six may be taken, runs through January 20. The snow goose season runs thru January 14 with a bag and possession limit of two and four.

Mergansers, outside the regular duck limits, may be taken at the rate of five per day and 10 in possession during regular duck season anywhere in the State. Hooded mergansers still are limited to one per day and two in possession, as has been the case for some time.

The special sea-duck season for scoters, eiders and old squaws will continue in the Long Island region from September 22 through January 6 with a daily bag limit of seven with 14 in possession. Boundaries of this area are the same as they have been since 1968 and include Long Island and Block Island Sounds, associated bays eastward from a line running between Miamogue Point in the Town of Riverhead to Red Cedar point in the Town of Southampton and ocean waters south of Long Island. This does not include any south shore bays. Upstate, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular duck season, but bag and possession limits are the liberal seven and 14 in addition to the basic duck bag.

The special scaup season and the special blue-winged teal bonus are temporary concessions from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in relaxing restrictions on species in good supply. Sportsmen are warned to be particularly careful in identifying ducks at these times since there may be other ducks in the same waters which may have restricted bag limits. Hunters are encouraged to attend one of the waterfowl identification courses sponsored by the Department and other organizations to ensure that they will be able to distinguish between ducks in limited supply and those that are abundant.

Shooting hours for all seasons and all species are one half hour before sunrise to sunset, except opening day. On opening day ONLY shooting begins at noon. By accepting a noon Wednesday opening for waterfowl seasons, the Department was permitted an additional five-days of hunting under terms of the Federal framework.

All waterfowl hunters 18 years and older must have a Federal duck stamp. The stamps, purchased by non-hunters as well as hunters, cost \$5 with all proceeds committed to buying and improving habitat for migratory waterfowl. The stamps, available at Post Offices, must be signed across the face by the hunter before they become valid.

Copies of the complete New York waterfowl regulations and a leaflet, "Waterfowl Season and Identification Guide for Hunters", will be available from all license issuing agents and Department of Environmental Conservation regional offices prior to opening of the season.

"Tables of Sunrise and Sunset" are listed in the small game-hunting summary for 1977-78 available at all license-issuing agents.

### Appreciation

Many thanks to my friends neighbors and relatives who sent cards and inquired about my health while I was in the Genesee Hospital at Rochester.

Gerald Hann

Commercial Printing at The News Printing House.

## New Bowhunters Must Pass Course

This should be the third year that the number of bowhunters in New York has exceeded 100,000. To get some idea of how fast this sport has taken the public's fancy, one needs only to glance at the license sales for 1977. Ten years ago, there were less than one-third as many bowhunters. Five years ago, it was about half as many as will be afield this season. It is obvious that many must be novices.

Starting this year, all new bowhunters must pass a course designed to teach them not only bowhunting safety, but many of the facets of bowhunting which will improve their skill and ethical standards. By 1980, all bowhunters, regardless of their experience, must have taken the course and received a certificate of qualification before they can get their Bowhunting Stamp.

There are a few things that even new bowhunters may give lip service to, but don't fully appreciate the importance of. One of these is the importance of keeping your arrows sharp, for the arrow kills by cutting, and thus causing hemorrhage. Death results from the loss of blood. It is axiomatic that the sharper the arrow, the more cutting it can do.

How sharp is "sharp"? Many bowhunters use just a file to sharpen their broadhead. This is a good start, but only that. Filing should be followed by 15 to 20 strokes on a good whetstone with plenty of oil, and this in turn should be followed by 15 or 20 strokes of a butcher's steel. Done properly, this should give you a blade which is razor-sharp. If it isn't, keep at it until you have acquired the technique.

You should carry a sharpening device with you in the field, for after an arrow has been shot, it should be touched up before it is used again.

Some bowhunters file down the very sharp point of their broadhead, giving it a "chisel point." This type of point is less likely to stick if it hits a bone.

Tree stands are very popular with bowhunters, and can be one of the best hunting situations. Improperly made or used, they can be a safety hazard to the user, and an irritation to the landowner. Nails used in permanent stands or ladders are not only injuries to the tree, but can cause disaster years later when hit upon in a sawmill or during logging operations.

Many bowhunters now carry their stand on their back, using a couple of straps — like a pack. When they leave, the stand goes with them, not revealing the spot they have located for hunting. Climbing blocks on 12' or 3/16" nylon rope make it possible to climb limbless trees without damaging the tree.

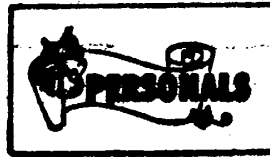
There have been at least two fatalities resulting from bowhunters falling from tree stands. The use of a shooting-safety line when on any stand above the ground will prevent this possibility. Though it may sound a little cumbersome at first, shooters who use them report that with the extra security they felt much more relaxed and found they could see better, had better mobility and their accuracy in shooting also improved.

Use a quarter-inch high-test nylon rope about 16 feet long. Double it and tie one end snugly around the tree with a bowline knot at about shoulder height. Allow eight to twelve inches and tie another bowline loosely around your chest. This should permit you to get all the way to the edge of your stand, but not so far out that you are off-balance. The nylon will slip silently and easily giving you the ability to turn completely around.

Don't climb to your stand with your equipment — a slip or fall with a sharp arrow can be fatal. Pull your bow, arrows and extra gear up with a rope. A very simple method is to tie one end around the tree at your stand, tie a bowline at the other end, pass the bowline through all your gear, ending by passing it between the bow string and the bow. Then slip the bowline over the end of the bow and everything is secure. No knots to tie or untie in cold weather with stiff fingers.

Keep On Buying Savings Bonds

Use the Classified Ad Section



—Mrs. Robert C. Spicer of Wells ville and Mrs. Dale Spicer of East Bethany, called on Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Spicer, Saturday evening.

—Mrs. Ernest Theetge of Sarasota, Florida, was a Thursday caller at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Spicer.

—Lt. and Mrs. James H. Kessler IV, enroute to Quantico, Va., were Sunday guests of his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. James H. Kessler II.

—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spicer of Olean were Tuesday afternoon and evening callers of his parent's Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Spicer.

—Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Alvord spent a few days last week at their cottage on Waneta Lake.

—Miss Eileen Snyder left Wednesday to spend a few days with her parents and family. Mr. and Mrs. Craig Snyder of Canandaigua, Miss Michelle McNeill is staying with Mrs. R. O. Snyder at night and Mrs. Decatur Clarke is assisting during the days while her granddaughter is away.

—Mrs. Bessie Mulconery and her guest, Mrs. Ernest Theetge of Sarasota, Florida, were luncheon guests Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Claire C. Backus.

—Mrs. Finley McCoubrey entertained six ladies at a one o'clock dinner at her home on Pond Hill Saturday. She was assisted by Mrs. Claire Backus.

—Mrs. Gertrude Lynch received phone call from her son, Ligouri Lynch in Gowanda, who reports that a severe storm which occurred Tuesday evening, did heavy damage in that area and their barn was destroyed.

—Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mclee of Penn Yan called on Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Spicer Tuesday afternoon.

## From Our Files

A card from Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Fuller who left by motor for Florida, Saturday a. m., states that Monday they made Gettysburg where they were nicely located in a cabin, as Route 15 to the South was blocked by snow. Icy roads thru Pennsylvania made driving very difficult. Andy said they hoped to make Florida by Easter.

A new control switch known as the photo-rell, or electric eye, was installed last week by the Village Electric Department to replace the clock system of wiring on and off the street lights. The new electrically controlled device operates

## Ag-Tech CVA To Present Cable TV Series

Local Television programming will begin Thursday (Sept. 15) when Community Video from Alfred (CVA) presents the opening segment in a weekly health series titled "Consultation."

The programs, scheduled for 7 p. m., will be shown Thursdays through Dec. 15 on Channel 3 for Alfred and Almond cable subscribers and on channel 6 for cable subscribers in both the Hornell and Wellsville areas.

The "Consultation" series is produced by the Medical Center of the University of Illinois and offers the most recent and basic health information available, according to CVA officials. Programs utilize a question-and-answer format with visual inserts and demonstrations to illustrate how, why and where a health problem occurs.

The "Consultation" series is currently offered to more than 100 television outlets across the country and attracts an audience estimated at more than three million.

CVA, now in its second season of providing programming for this area, is managed by the Communication Media Department at Alfred State College. Professor Jerry Gordon is program coordinator, Robert Allgrim is technical coordinator and others associated with the program are Edward Gilbert, technical assistant, and Susar Stanley, publicity.

Funding for the weekly offerings which will be expanded during the second semester to include local news, is provided by the Educational Foundation of Alfred, Inc., the Andover Lions Club, Alfred Cable System, and the Office of Continuing Education at Alfred State College.

on the density of light, turning the street lights on when a set degree of darkness falls and turning them off when light again appears.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robinson of Buffalo are parents of a daughter born Feb. 12. Mr. Robinson is the son of Lloyd Robinson of Andover.

Dr. Howard J. Leahy closed his office in Andover and left Monday evening on Erie Limited No. 1 enroute to Jackson, Mississippi where he has been assigned to the Veterans Administration Staff at the Jackson General Hospital. Mrs. Leahy and family will remain in Andover until suitable living quarters can be secured in Jackson.

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