Tougher Enforcement Of Game Laws

(Continued from page 15)

a fine not to exceed $200. The actual complaint of trespass must be signed in court by the landowner or his agent. The warden can make the arrest but it is up to the discretion of the landowner whether or not to press charges in court.

The gun or guns used in a hunting violation can be seized by the arresting warden as evidence in the case and will be held by the court until the case is disposed of. This assures that the offender will show up in court since the average gun is worth more than the average fine.

Feds To Get Tougher

Recent information indicates that the federal authorities have adopted a "stiffer policy" regarding fines for violatory game bird law violations.

According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife authorities, the new policy calls for the arresting warden to issue a citation or to a traffic ticket by which the offender may pay the miniumum fine by mail. Except in flagrant violations, the officer probably will be taken to the nearest U.S. district judge.

The maximum fine which can be assessed by a federal judge for most common game law violations is $500 and six months in jail. But even the new minimum policy can pack a heavy blow to your pocket book.

Copies of federal migratory game bird regulations and requirements are available by contacting the Houston office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and requesting directives 50 CFR 20 and 50 CFR 21, or you can call 226-4235 in Houston.

September Means Hunting, Fishing License Time

Hunters and fishermen are reminded that as of September 1, 1980, the new hunting and fishing licenses are required in Texas.

The 1980-81 hunting and fishing licenses are now available at stores where hunting and fishing equipment is sold, and at department offices across the state.

In Eagle Lake they may be obtained from Johnny's Sport Shop or Clyde's Feed Market or some hunting club operators have licenses available.

Resident hunting licenses cost $5.25 and are required for all Texas citizens who hunt outside the county of their residence or who hunt deer or turkey. Exceptions include persons under 17 years of age or over 65 years of age; persons hunting on land where they reside or certain disabled veterans. However, persons in the above exempted categories still must purchase a $1.25 resident exempt hunting license to hunt deer or turkey.

Resident fishing licenses cost $4.50 and they are required of all Texas residents who fish in the state's waters except: persons under 17 or over 65 years of age; persons fishing on property they or members of their family own or resident on; those fishing in their county of residence with trotline, throwline or ordinary pole and line having no reel or winding device attached; persons holding a valid Texas commercial fishing license or holder of a $1.25 exempt fishing license available to certain disabled veterans or the blind.

Persons who wish to both hunt and fish may save $1 by purchasing a resident combination hunting/fishing license for $8.75.

The oldest river in North America is the New River in West Virginia. The headwater portion of the ancient Teays River, the New River began tumbling out of the Appalachians 100 million years ago, according to the National Geographic Society.

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Clifton Tyler has lived in this area all of his life, and has been a professional goose hunting guide for over twenty years. This, plus the experience of our other guides, is reflected in the effort put forth to insure you an enjoyable hunt.

Our hunting club stresses a low volume of hunters with greater emphasis on QUALITY HUNTING. We lease about 8,000 acres of riceland scattered across the prairies. This allows us the mobility to follow the concentrations. We can accommodate up to thirty (30) hunters. Our minimum per party is four (4), with a guide for EACH party. We hunt daily from legal shooting time until noon. Lodging can be arranged for your group at one of several hotels and motels in the area.

THE 1980-81 TEXAS WATERFOWL SEASONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

GEESE:
Snows, Blues and Dark Geese in season Nov. 8, 1980 thru Jan. 18, 1981.
(No split season)

DUCKS:
Ducks in season Nov. 8, 1980 thru Nov. 30, 1980
(Closed Dec. 1 thru Dec. 12, 1980)
Reopens Dec. 13, 1980 thru Jan. 18, 1981.

Waterfowl Seasons Part Of Scientific Program

The limit on ducks continues on the point basis with a 100-point limit per day and the possession limit, after the first day of each split, to include the legal kill for two days of hunting.

This year the fulvous tree duck (Mexican squealer) is protected and off limits while it was a 20-point duck last season.

Canvasback ducks are 100 point birds. One shot and the hunt is over. Hen mallards, mottled ducks (black mallards) hooded mergansers and red-heads are local 70-point ducks.

Bluewing teal, greenwing teal, cinnamon teal, pintails, gadwalls, scaup, shovelers (spoonbills), widgeons and mergansers, other than the hooded variety, are 10-point birds.

All other legal duck species including the prized greenhead drake mallard, are 20 pointers.

Hunters are pleased with the generous point system on ducks following gloomy spring and summer reports of drought and poor hatch in the Canadian nesting regions.

Dark Limit Upped

This year the limit on dark geese was retained at one per day however the possession limit after the first day of shooting was increased from one to two dark geese. The total daily limit on geese was also increased this year from five to six (the six to include only one dark goose and the others snow or blue geese). The possession limit is two days' kill or not more than two dark geese and 10 snow or blue geese.

Bill Brownlee, program director for migratory game birds for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, was quoted as stating that the stabilized limits are part of a five-year program aimed at better determining the actual effects of hunting on migratory waterfowl populations. Biologists believe that existing hunting pressure may not be that significant.

Last season was the first year of the program and since bag limits that vary considerably from year to year offer no common denominator, federal and state authorities are anxious to maintain stable limits in spite of a slight decline in waterfowl counts.

The biologists are reportedly watching the waterfowl populations closely and in the event of major catastrophy, the program could be dropped and tighter limits imposed.

Joe Doggett, Houston Chronicle writer, echoed the objective of the program when he stated "both hunter and non-hunter should realize that the current liberal limits are not a callous, greedy plunder but part of a carefully-researched and monitored scientific program."

Bar-D Hunting Club at Lissie In Heart Of Duck, Goose Area

The Bar-D Hunting Club at Lissie, in the heart of the goose hunting country, is operated by Dan and Boyce Gertson and managed by Earl Dutcher, and is known throughout the hunting circles over the entire state for providing first class hunting facilities.

There are plenty of geese and plenty of territory to hunt on at Gertsons' Bar-D. The club extends over a territory five miles long with thousands of acres of rice stubble. In order to hold the geese in their area, they have provided deep water wells which provide the cool, clear fresh water that geese love after a diet of rice and grass.

The Bar-D Club offers wooden and concrete pit blinds on flyways for geese; pit blinds on ponds for duck and goose combination. Each blind is well supplied with full-bodied decoys and silhouettes. They also offer the popular white spread shooting with guides, if requested.

The Bar-D has hunting until noon every day including Sunday.

For reservations at the Bar-D call 234-3657 or 234-3264 or 234-2383 or write to the Bar-D Hunting Club, Lissie, Texas 77454.

HARVEY PROGRAM

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announces that all hunters complete the Texas Voluntary Hunter Safety Training Program. It is an eight-hour course including proper handling of firearms, hunter ethics and laws of land and survival and care of game.

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Duck, Goose Seasons Will Open On Nov. 8th

(Continued from Page One)

ducks.

The daily bag limit on ducks will be one to 10 in the aggregate, the specific daily limit depending on the sexes and species taken as determined by the 100-point system: Canvasbacks are 100 points. Hen mallards, Mexican-like ducks, mottled ducks, wood ducks, hooded mergansers and redheads are 70 points each. Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, pintail, gadwalls, scaup, shovelers, wigeon (baldpate), red mergansers, (except hooded) are 10 points. All other species and sexes of ducks are 20 points. The daily bag limit will be reached when the point value of any birds taken reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit will be the legal kill allowed on two days, according to the point system, except on the first day of each split.

The daily bag limit on coots is 15 and possession limit is 30.

Shooting hours for ducks and geese over the entire state will be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

East of Highway 81, which includes this area, the daily bag limit on geese will be six for light geese (snow, blue or Ross' geese). The bag limit for dark geese is one Canada or one white-fronted goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his person a valid Migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp, commonly called a "duck stamp", in addition to a valid resident or nonresident Texas hunting license if hunting outside the county of residence.

Snipe Season

The season for common snipe and Wilson's snipe is Nov. 1, 1980 through Feb. 15, 1981 from one half hour before sunrise to sunset. Bag limit is eight, possession limit is 16.

The woodcock season is Nov. 15, 1980 through Jan. 18, 1981 from one half hour before sunrise to sunset. Bag limit is five, possession limit is 10.

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Welcome

Hunters

HUNTING Safety Rules

Hunters! Remember these handy rules of thumb for your protection and for the protection of others.

1. Treat your guns with respect. Remove all ammunition from firearms before storing and while driving. Store guns and ammunition away from children.
2. Don't shoot at flat surfaces or at a target without a proper backstop.
3. Never point at anything you don't intend to shoot.
4. Wear the prescribed color for hunting.
5. Keep the "safety" on while carrying your firearms; carry them with muzzles down.
6. Unload your firearms before cleaning or making repairs.
7. Don't mix hunting with alcohol!

Smoke Your Own Bird

Smoking or curing poultry at home goes back to a bygone era, but it can still be done without a lot of "back-breaking" work. All that is needed is a curing vat (insulated cooler or ice chest), a small scale, curing ingredients, ice, a smoker and a hypodermic needle.

Use the hypodermic needle to inject the bird with curing solution. Then put the bird in the curing vat containing the remainder of the brine for about 48 hours. Allow the bird to drain thoroughly, then place it in a smoker that will hold the temperature between 170-200 degrees F. A turkey is usually done in 8 to 12 hours and a chicken in 4 to 6 hours.

Duck and Goose Hunting Clubs

CLIFTON TYLER'S HUNTING CLUB Quality duck and goose hunting in Eagle Lake and Garwood areas. Call Clifton Tyler, Columbus, at 732-6502 or 732-2414 or write 1216 Walnut, Columbus, Texas 78934.

J. R. (JIMMY) REEL HUNTING CLUB, Eagle Lake, duck and goose hunting, call 234-2062 or write Box 756, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434 for reservations and information.

MARVIN TYLER'S BLUE GOOSE HUNTING CLUB, Altair, complete package deal for duck and goose hunters. Call Marvin's in Altair, 234-3597 or write to Drawer M, Altair, Texas 77412.

LONNIE LABAY DOUBLE (L) HUNTING CLUB Lonnie LaBay has day duck and goose hunting in ricefields and ponds for ducks. Located on Hwy. 71 6 miles south of Altair and 3 miles north of Garwood. For reservations call 758-3615 or write to Box 110, Garwood, Texas 77442.

DAN GERTSON'S BAR-D HUNTING CLUB, Lissie, duck and goose day hunting and season leases. Dan and Boyce Gertson, owners; Earl Dutcher, manager. Call Eagle Lake 234-3657 or 234-2383 or write to Lissie, Texas 77454.

W. C. GOOSE HUNTING CLUB, Lissie, Walter Corliss provides good duck and goose hunting. Call Eagle Lake 234-3294 or write to Box 643, Lissie, Texas 77454.

ARTHUR B. AND DICK HUDGINS' HUNTING CLUB, duck and goose hunting in Lissie and Egypt areas. Call 532-3198 Hungerford or write Box 215, Hungerford, Texas 77448.

GG HUNTING CLUB, duck and goose day hunting. Mano Graham and Gayle Gertson. Call Eagle Lake 234-2583 or write to Box 226, Altair, Texas 77412.

License Fees

Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, $7.50; Texas Resident Hunting License, $5.25; Non-resident of Texas 5-day Migratory game bird hunting, $10.25.

State Park Cabins Are A Bargain

For fall and winter vacationers there's a real bargain available in state park cabins, says the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Texas' fall weather and variety of scenery can be enjoyed both comfortably and economically.

In six parks this takes the form of individual cabin units containing sleeping accommodations, bath and kitchen. Linens and towels are provided, but not utensils. Rates are $12 per night for one or two persons, with $3 for each additional adult, $1 for each additional child 6-12 years old and children under six free in the same cabin as their guardians.

Parks with these units include Bastrop State Park in Bastrop County, Lake Brownwood State Recreation Area in Brown County and Caddo Lake State Park in Harrison County; which have especially rustic, log-type cabins; Daingerfield State Park, Morris County; Garner State Park, Uvalde County; and Possum Kingdom State Recreation Area, Palo Pinto County.

Reservations are advisable and may be made within 90 days of the anticipated arrival date. For further information, phone 1-800-858-9327, toll-free.

Rail Season Ends Nov. 9

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What Duck, Goose Tastes Best?

By ED HOLDER

What's your favorite duck? And your favorite goose?

Not for hunting, but for eating?

If you're average, you'll probably answer the mallard or pintail is your favorite eating duck, and the Canada or Specklie Belly is your favorite eating goose?

Like anything else involving taste, it's largely a matter of opinion.

And the fact of the matter is that some hunters, and their families, have no preference when it comes to eating ducks and geese. They don't like any of them!

They've tried them, but found them to taste "too strong." So when they come home with a nice bag of ducks or geese, they give them away.

The truth is that ducks and geese do have a strong, gamey flavor.

But it's also true that much of that objectionable flavor can be removed, if the hunter, and the cook, know how.

Most of the "strong taste" in ducks and geese is in two areas of the body. One is the skin. The other is the back.

Both these areas can be eliminated by (1) skinning the bird, and (2) cutting off the breasts and the legs, and throwing the rest away.

Some hunters object to this, claiming there is too much waste. But a far greater waste is the ducks and geese that are thrown out of freezers because they stay in them too long and have "freezer burn."

So is it better to save and utilize 80 percent of a bird, or throw away 100 percent of the bird?

Get back to the skinning and cooking.

Most ducks skin fairly easily, especially the puddle ducks such as mallard, pintails, teal, that ducks, gadwalls, wood ducks and spoonbills. Most geese also are relatively easy to skin.

Best way I've found to do the job is to first remove the wings, legs, and neck. You can do this with a heavy knife, or with a hatchet.

Next, slice upon the skin down the center of the breast. Then just peel the skin off, working from the top of the breast toward the back and then down to the tail.

You don't really have to skin the entire duck. Just skin enough to expose the breast, then "filet" the breasts off the bones. Then skin the legs and you're through.

(Continued on page 18)

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