



Late Season Ducks A Bonus For Hunters

In an attempt to better manage waterfowl in New York, some new late seasons were inaugurated this year. The result was some hot shooting and cold fingers for waterfowlers taking part in a frostbite hunt.

"Long Island hunters never had it so good," is the way Tony Taormina, Conservation Department regional supervisor, characterizes the delayed 40-day duck season which did not close until December 27. "The opening day was fabulous, with a large buildup of ducks due to hunting pressure upstate. Stormy weather also contributed to first day success."

Upstaters were granted a special 16-day scaup only season which included three week-ends at the end of the year. This really tested hunters' insulated underwear. But on Sodus Bay, in Wayne County just east of Rochester, Howard Miller and I found scaup flying with few hunters braving the elements.

Ice formed on our decoys, but a few seconds of torrid action warmed things up along toward noon. During the regular season, I found duck hunting to be off this year from the Thousand Islands

down through central New York. All the hunters I talked to considered it an unusual season, with sparse, irregular flights.

Geese flights seemed to be normal. Some friends had good early season shooting in Madison and Cortland Counties.

In reporting on the Long Island season, Taormina said that Agricultural Conservation payments to farmers continue to increase cover crops on the eastern end of the island. "This provides good forage for geese, and, in turn, good hunting," he explained.

On the northern shore, brant were taken by most hunters with a considerable number of red-breasted mergansers tallied. Greater scaup and black ducks were most important, as always, in the bags of hunters elsewhere.

The special scaup season for Long Island closed the last Sunday of January — just a few years ago anyone suggesting such an extended hunting bonus for waterfowlers would have been ridiculed. It is a sign that biologists are learning how to better manage ducks, and that hunters are more adaptable to change. Sportsmen are learning to recognize ducks in the air, rather than banging away at everything that flies. All in all these are good signs!

Feed Grain, Wheat Sign Up Scheduled

Allegany County farmers wishing to take part in the 1969 feed grain and wheat programs will be able to sign up at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office in Belmont Monday through March 21.

Under the feed grain program for 1969, Allegany County farmers may earn diversion and price support payments as well as qualify for price support loans on their corn, barley and grain sorghum crops. Feed grain diversion payments will be available to all program participants.

Farmers planning to install a conservation practice under the Agricultural Conservation Program must make application before the conservation work is begun if federal cost-shares are to be paid.

Information can be obtained from the county ASCS office located in the Town and Village Hall in Belmont.

Cornell Research Group Scores Major New Finds In Plant, Fungus Probe

Cornell University researchers have made major discoveries on how certain destructive fungi attack plants and how plants, in turn, respond to fungal invasion in self defense.

Prof. D. F. Bateman, plant pathologist at the N. Y. State College of Agriculture, Cornell, says the work may eventually open the way toward better control of certain costly fungal diseases affecting a great many varieties of economically important agricultural crops.

Bateman and his research team used two types of disease-causing fungi — *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* — and the common red kidney bean as experimental tools in the study, now in its eighth year.

Initiated in 1960, the project is supported by the National Institutes of Health, which has recently awarded Bateman a \$130,000 grant in renewed support to aid the study through 1971.

Molds, mildews, and mushrooms are all known as fungi, and some of these organisms thrive on living plant tissues as parasites. When the *Rhizoctonia* fungus attacks a bean plant, it literally "chews up"

plant cells as it digs deeper into plant tissues.

Bateman's research group has discovered and characterized the activities of six enzymes produced by the *Rhizoctonia* fungus. These

enzymes digest specific chemicals in the plant cell walls during disease development.

Based on these and other findings, the Cornell researchers are now able to tell, step by step, what chemical changes take place in the cell walls following fungal invasion.

They also discovered a group of enzymes that are widely spread among disease-causing fungi. These enzymes are capable of breaking down phospholipids that are contained in plant cell mem-

New Motorcycles Must Be Safety Inspected

New motorcycles purchased on and after February 1 must be safety inspected by the dealer before they are delivered to the customers for registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

This regulation of the State Periodic Inspection law also affects motorcycles used by dealers as "demonstrators", but not those sold to another licensed dealer.

The dealer must show evidence on the bill of sale (MV-50) that the cycle has passed inspection and must affix the approval stickers to the cycle.

However, if the motorcycle is delivered direct to the customer by the factory, the purchaser then has the responsibility of having the cycle inspected.

On and after April 1, all motorcycles must be inspected before they can be registered or have their present registration renewed.

At present, 195 motorcycle inspection stations have been licensed and approximately 75 more applications are being processed for licensing before April 1.

Enzymes

Bateman believes that these enzymes play a major role in killing the plant cells as the fungus spreads through plant tissues.

The researchers also discovered a series of other intricate chemical changes that take place in plants after infection. They uncovered a new antibiotic substance produced by the infected plant and determined that this material is produced by the plant only after it comes under attack.

This and similar substances are found to be extremely effective in stopping fungal growth within the plant, thus arresting further disease development.

Such anti-fungal chemical compounds produced by plants after they are attacked are called phytoalexins, and they play a role similar to antibodies in animals in arresting disease development.

Bateman says disease control now may be approached by developing methods of altering the plant cell wall so that it becomes resistant to fungal attack or by using anti-fungal chemicals similar in structure and function to those produced by infected plants.

Does Your Motor Card Expire?

Has the renewal card mailed application for your registration arrived at your home yet?

The Department of Motor Vehicles has mailed some 700,000 of the renewal cards to owners whose registrations expire on the night of Friday, February 28. If owners have not received them and prefer not to be mailed them, they should write the way.

Motor Vehicle Commissioner Vincent L. Tofany recommends that all vehicle owners check their registration application status for those who have not received the \$1,000 that are expiring.

In the event the renewal card has not arrived by February 19, owners should check with their nearest motor vehicle issuing office and obtain a regular renewal application and use that instead.

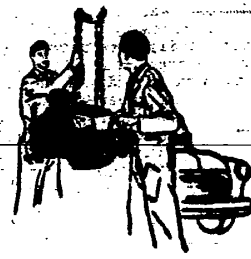
When renewal cards are received, owners should complete the transaction as quickly as possible to allow for the short month. They may use the mail, addressing the envelope to the motor vehicle office nearest their residence. They must include the renewal stub from their present registration, the new application and a check for the fee.

New proof of insurance (FS-1 form from their insurance agents)



must be presented if the registration is renewed past the deadline of February 28.

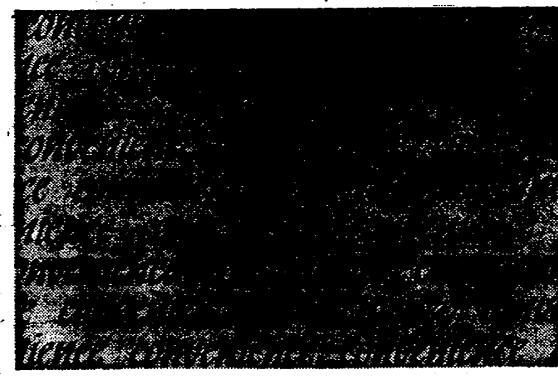
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