

OUTDOORS *With Marty*

By ERIC MARTIN

The previously mentioned brick wall of carrying capacity is not a fully stationary point, it moves up and down with rainfall and other food growing factors. A mild winter causing a 30 per cent increase in carrying capacity would bring about a corresponding increase in reproduction, to be balanced by a larger kill during the hunting season.

It is easy enough to show that any given area is at its limit of capacity if the browse is eaten down to stubs, but areas with smaller yet adequate populations show very little sign of browsing; these populations have not increased during years of total or "bucks only" protection. Actually some of the best deer herds in the Northwest are the result of attempts to destroy herds in order to lessen game damage. An example is the Whidby Island herd in Washington. This island is about 50 miles long and three miles wide, and yielded kills of around 100 buck deer yearly before 1937. At that time the strawberry crop was being severely damaged and the Game Commission decided that the only solution was to allow hunters to eliminate the offending deer herd.

In 1937 the whole season was opened on deer of either sex, with no limitation on the number of hunters; about 400 deer were killed. Such a season was continued the next year with the hope that the remaining deer would be cleaned out, and again more than 400 deer were harvested. This same season has now been continued for 16 years and the average take is between 500 and 600 animals annually. Here there was no obvious range problem, yet it was definitely demonstrated that the carrying capacity for deer had been reached, and it was only necessary to harvest the increase to keep them "crusting."

THEORY TRUE

We now arrive at the seemingly contradictory conclusion that the only way to produce and have more game is to kill more game. It doesn't seem logical, but it is true. If the habitat bucket is full, the reproduction is largely wasted, unless we dip more out of the bucket. A game crop is not "money in the bank," it is a perishable product, it may be compared to a warehouse full of apples which, if not utilized, will rot before another season.

When only buck deer are harvested, the kill rarely exceeds 10 per cent of the herd; however, most herds reproduce 35 per cent or more per year. A properly harvested deer herd should yield the equivalent of a three-fold increase over its kill of bucks alone. One hundred per cent increase in kill can be derived from does alone and the other 100 per cent comes from increased sur-

vival of both bucks and does; thus a 10 per cent kill increased three-fold would equal a 30 per cent harvest. This is merely a general figure and may be too high for practical management of most herds, however, it well illustrates the potential of harvesting that still is available and serves as an objective for future management. Even at the present time the waste of game through failure to harvest far exceeds that killed by hunters.

It should be apparent that harvest of any wildlife species actually is beneficial rather than harmful to that species, a harvested big game population should remain at a generally higher level than a similar population that is unharvested. A farmer who sold no female animals from his herd of livestock over a period of years soon would have a sickly, diseased, underfed herd. Natural losses would control the size of the livestock herd, but the surviving animals would all be in poor condition. A properly harvested game herd, like the properly harvested livestock herd, will be made up of strong, healthy animals.

MAINTAIN RATIO

To economically utilize the forage supplies available for big game, an equal sex ratio should be maintained. Excess hunting pressure to keep buck numbers down will result in greater carrying capacity for females, thus producing a higher reproductive potential. On a black-billed deer study at the Clemons Tree Farm in western Washington, a two-week buck season followed by a three-day either sex season resulted in a harvest of 50 per cent of the bucks and 20 per cent of the does. This area supported a kill of 10 deer per square mile out of a pre-season population of about 40 animals per section. This seems to be a desirable kill ratio, but further study may show that the harvest can be increased.

Habitat improvement is one method of moving upward this "brick wall" of carrying capacity and definitely is good management. Some assume that if we improve the range we will not have to kill does. Actually, we find that it is usually necessary to harvest does to reduce pressure on the range while it is being improved. It is also necessary to keep in correct perspective the benefits to be derived from various types of management. On a buck kill basis this increase would be hardly discernible by the average hunter. Yet there is now available, without cost, a surplus from which the deer harvest may be increased at least 100 per cent and possibly up to 200 per cent by merely inaugurating a harvest of females. This indicates clearly that habitat improvement must be accompanied by herd management.

Next week's column will conclude this series with a resume of the foregoing, together with purely local reasons why we must prepare ourselves for open seasons on the two sexes of our game animals.

Second Season Big Worry To Baltimore Not First

By GAYLE TALBOT

NEW YORK (AP)—The new Baltimore Orioles are not worried about their first season in the American League. They expect to sell around \$500,000 worth of tickets by opening day. But they realize they will face trouble the second year unless they have a greatly improved ball club, plus some color, and that was why they made their unsuccessful bid for Frank Lane, whose lavish trading pulled the Chicago White Sox out of the doldrums.

Actually, some of the members of the Baltimore group would have favored bringing Bill Veck along with his St. Louis Browns franchise, at least for a season or two, because they realize they need such a go-getter and showman to tide them over during the rebuilding process. They know that the attendance record Veck set at Cleveland in 1943 still stands.

"But we can't sign him," one of them said, "because the group of owners who hate him got it down in writing that we couldn't before they agreed to let us have the franchise."

Scouting the minor leagues is a sad story these days, says Billy Myers, the former Pittsburgh pilot who now is beating the bushes for the same club and trouble snooting for Branch Rickey.

Flyweight Champ Retains Crown

TOKYO (CP)—World flyweight champion Yoshio Shirai tonight turned back the challenge of London's Terry Allen in 15 dreary rounds that were heavy on clinches and light on action. The decision was unanimous. It was a dismal fight. Two more reluctant fighters probably never tangled for a world crown.

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Calgary Loses Top Scorer In 6-4 Mauling by Cougars

CALGARY (CP)—Second-place Calgary Stampede lost the game and a key player here Monday night as they dropped a 6-4 Western Hockey League decision to Victoria Cougars.

Calgary forward Steve Black, the league's No. 1 point-getter, was taken to hospital with a possible fractured collarbone after being injured in the second period.

Coach Billy Reay's Cougars,

ANCIENT PORT

The river Mersey, on which the port of Liverpool stands, has been a well-known anchorage for more than 1,000 years.

winners of only one game in eight on the coast this season, were always on top, holding 3-1 and 5-3 period leads.

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Today we have moved far beyond the point where we light our homes solely for the purpose of being able to see comfortably; we now devise interior lighting schemes for each room to add to the decorative effect of furniture and drapes. We have increased the intensity of outdoor lighting until there is hardly an activity of the daytime that cannot be successfully carried on "under the lights"—from playing baseball and tennis to loading freight cars and landing airliners. In our stores, we use lighting to present the goods in a sales-compelling setting. Schoolrooms have a high

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