

headlines state-wide, or if it is estimated that your bounty system saved 1,000,000 rabbits from predators, but it is extremely hard to convince Honest John hunter that the profound effect is going to be of lasting description, if the two-legged varmint which walks like a man can go his way of nefarious operation at any time of the year, day or night, while Honest John is awaiting the open season to exercise the lawful methods his dad and his granddad taught him were part of playing the game according to the rules.

The whole idea of law is simply that political sovereignty is not an absolute thing, that it is subject to limitations. These limitations are not simply the written constitutions or other political devices for restraining power—these limitations are embodied in laws which are superior to man-made government. It is concerned with God's plan for man on earth and with man's ability to participate in the reason in which that plan is founded.

Natural law is not the whole answer, manmade laws are essential. In the art of learning the manner in which the value of law is made effective, we must call upon human intelligence, experience, reason and understanding—remember the harsh voice of misinformed people is unlikely to hold the voice of God.

Enforcement of conservation laws involves the function of government dealing with its exercise of power over individuals. It is inevitable that conservation laws will be enforced consistent with public sympathy and support, our part is to see they are executed with understanding and in accord with the theory of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. We must train and educate accordingly. We must never fail to recognize our duty in defense of the rights and dignity of our fellow men.

Let us never be tainted with barren skepticism. Each as he goes about his daily law enforcement tasks should never be satisfied with either the past or the present as mediums to the future. Every day should foal a new vision of what can be initiated and practiced to place and maintain conservation law enforcement on the pedestal it deserves as one of the true keys to insurance of satisfactory hunting and fishing conditions and optimum game populations for the future.

Finally let us always keep in mind the words of the incomparable Clarence Darrow when he said, "The pursuit of truth shall set you free—even if you never catch up with it".

Includes excerpts from *The Rule of Law* S.M.U. Press—1961.

## USE OF AIRCRAFT IN THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*By* JOSEPH W. PERROUX, *U. S. Game Management Agent*  
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Aircraft having been with us for the past 60 years, you would think that by now every way and technique to use it would have been tried, the good and bad parts separated and its use perfected to the point of just asking the question and getting the right answer.

Gentlemen, the use of aircraft in the Wildlife Management Program is new; in fact, so new that the novelty of it keeps some of us flying around gathering data day by day when we should be analyzing some of the data we have on hand. I do believe that we have slowed down enough to come up with the fact that the use of aircraft only plays a part in the program, but I want to emphasize that it plays a major part.

Game management, and I mean both research and law enforcement, is already at a point where it is very dependent on the use of aircraft.

In research, that which deals with cells, germs and microscopic particles, the microscope is used because a very small area has to be enlarged to make it possible to view the subject with the human eye. In wildlife research, and I am speaking of waterfowl, such as inventories and breeding-ground surveys, the subjects are plenty large enough to see; and almost too large to comprehend. Many waterfowl problems are

as large as the continent of North America, and here we use the aircraft 100%.

Now flying over an area counting ducks per square mile and multiplying by the total square mile is not the complete information. After the data is compiled, someone has got to go out and see if this area produces every year, every three years, or each ten years. There are three ways to do this: I, disregard it; II, 100 men with various modes of travel such as auto, boat, foot, and horse, plus at least 60 days; or III, 2 men, a plane and 2 or 3 days. Don't get me wrong, you can't count every duck, deer, moose, or what have you by plane, but just remember, wildlife have not yet learned to report to some agent every day so you have to go to it and a few spot checks by ground crews and with a correction factor employed, we can come pretty close; in fact real close when you are speaking in terms of several million of square miles and ducks, give or take a few thousand.

In law enforcement the plane is a very important piece of equipment, both as a preventive aid or in the actual apprehension. Even if you couldn't land and check a suspect, few men will continue to violate if a plane circles a time or two. The use of 2-way radio has made the plane of greater value.

The boy who must be told by the judge to stop violating poses a greater problem. He is generally hunting in an area well known to him with all the odds in his favor. To the enforcement officer who has to cover so much territory that it is humanly impossible for him to learn every trail, pond or stream, the aircraft is the answer. In a few minutes flight he can find the way in and, in a short while, the man who was too smart to be caught is wondering who talked.

The use of bait, live decoys, duck traps and other means of illegal equipment can be spotted from a plane. Not only can the plane be used as an observation aid but a large number of cases have been made by landing the plane near their blind or boat and checking them. You have all heard the story from various sportsmen about all the game slaughter taking place in a certain area, but would not go there with you for fear of being seen—well he will hop in a plane with you on short order, point out the area because he knows he is safe from sight.

In the states where there is a depredation problem caused by ducks and geese, the plane plays a major role. In the rice fields and pastures where geese are playing havoc with winter wheat and rye grass, I have found that the sooner you begin to move the birds away the less chance there is for them to want to hang around or return. Geese will herd like cattle with a plane, and I know of no other way to expedite this movement except to the few people who want to reopen the season about February 27. Aerial noise bombs dropped from a plane smoke out the few remaining birds who thought that the great bird overhead could not get to them.

In hard winters, some states have flown feed to both birds and animals with marked success. Forests are replanted, patrolled and fires are fought by plane. Fish ponds are fertilized, weeds destroyed and fingerlings are dropped from aircraft. I don't think that we have even scratched the surface yet.

On the other side of the ledger, the picture is not too good but is still very bright. No one plane can do the various jobs demanded by wildlife management. They come in various sizes, but each one is either too small, too costly, too slow or something. Every model has several good points and a couple of bad ones. This even includes the helicopter which is almost the answer, but its main fault is not only the initial cost, but the maintenance.

If there is to be a sacrifice somewhere to do a certain job, let it be in speed or a pretty paint job. Don't try to save money by cheap equipment, poor maintenance or lack of experience. Anyone can make the best management program flop.

The use of aircraft in the wildlife management program, although young, has been proven, if used wisely, can be adopted to every phase of animal or waterfowl management. Aircraft, in capable hands, have proved themselves to be a splendid new wildlife management tool. They enable the enforcement officer to discourage law violations before they ever occur, and assist him in apprehending the incorrigibles. (This big

word means those little guys who *won't* ever learn). Aircraft help where farm crops must be protected from the depredations of wildlife. To the wildlife technician aircraft are a scientific tool of immense value. And last, but not least, those wildlife managers who fly are given the unusual opportunity of seeing vast problems not through academic, nor statistical nor administrative knot holes, but as if through the very eyes of the wild creatures we seek to perpetuate.

## WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT AS A PROFESSION

*By* GEORGE T. BROWN, *Administrative Officer, Law Enforcement Division  
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In beginning, let me say that law enforcement (all law enforcement) should be referred to as a profession. Since the days of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, and even before, it has been a necessary and important part of the growth, welfare and progress of all community life. In reality this seems to be a comparatively simple subject matter. Actually about the only angles open for discussion are:

1. The wildlife enforcement programs that now exist in our respective states and the related conditions which have a tendency to keep them in a nonprofessional class.
2. A wildlife enforcement program as it must be in order that administrative personnel may be rightfully called professional people and what can be done to achieve this.

"Profession", this is the key word and means amo other things "an occupation to which one devotes or dedicates himself". Also, "a body of persons engaged in a calling."

The majority of the people engaged in the "calling" of wildlife enforcement are devoted and dedicated people who eat, sleep, and drink the conservation of our natural resources; however, there are those who will disagree with this statement and they will point out individuals and relate particular cases and incidents which they say will disprove it. To be honest, we must accept these disagreeing statements as being at least partially true as all too often examples and incidents brought about by the small number of enforcement personnel whose only interest in conservation is quitting time and payday, discredit and reflect upon us all.

We must constantly strive to see that such instances are eliminated or else the weight of adverse public opinion will eventually drag us under.

Gentlemen, I make no attempt to discuss the present enforcement programs in the various southeastern states other than on a general basis and along lines which I believe to be true in most cases. I do this simply because I believe that people by nature are not much different no matter where they be from.

One of the first things we should consider is the elimination of enforcement personnel who are constantly causing discredit and reflection to be cast upon us all. To be more specific, we must weed out the uneducated, untrained, immoral and dishonest persons who have by political and other maneuvers wormed their way into an organization or profession which we have chosen as a career and to which we are devoted and dedicated.

Second, we should tighten the reins on the over zealous officer who actually enjoys arresting people and who boastfully states that he enforces the law to the smallest letter. We should teach our people that it is not necessary for the Judge to decide every case. (Incidentally, this statement should make for interesting discussion in our question and answer session.)

I am not going to dwell any longer on the negative side of this topic. All, or most of you, have been in the field of wildlife enforcement longer than I and you know the main things which must be corrected. Are you going to take steps to make these corrections or adopt an attitude of "et someone else do it?"