

bama in October, one in December and three in January, also in Alabama no more than 50 miles from the banding site. This is between 5 and 6% recovery during the first hunting season.

During 1957 I banded 234 nestling doves, working in the same area as the year before. The percentage of the nests hatching and rearing the birds to banding size was again between 50 and 60%. Of course no recoveries have been reported from the current hunting season.

During 1956 birds of all ages were banded. Some were too small to hold the band without using tape to hold the band on the leg. Others jumped from the nest when approached and had to be chased down and caught. The interesting part is, all 16 recoveries were from birds that were from 6 to 10 days of age when banded.

Where are dove nests found? Anywhere and in most any kind of tree or bush in north Alabama. At least half the nests I found were in small cedars that stood in pasture fields around farm ponds. The reason for this may be because I spent more time looking in this type area.

Two nesting colonies were found in cedars around farm ponds. One had from 10 to 20 active nests during the peak of the nesting, the other had from 15 to 30 active nests. Another colony was found in a fence row and in a dense thicket in most all types of small trees. It had 26 active nests when found.

There seemed to be less depredation on the eggs and the young birds in the cedar tree-farm pond colonies than in the fence row-dense thicket colony. I assume the reason for this is the fence row is a natural lane of travel for several of the predators.

My observations led me to believe that flushing the adult from the nest with eggs in the late evening will sometimes cause the nest to be deserted. I also believe that eggs will not hatch when the adult is flushed from the nest on a cool, windy day. Some adults were observed returning to the nest after flushing in 10 minutes while others had not returned in 30 minutes. Perhaps these eggs will still hatch but I don't believe they will. It is my honest opinion that band recoveries would run 25% or higher provided all nestling doves banded reached the flying stage.

I have some slides that will show a dove egg ready to hatch, already pipped and the following ones will show the dove from one day old to 10 days.

## **THE METHODS USED IN ALABAMA IN COMBATING THE HUNTING OF DEER AT NIGHT**

By D. W. WALTERS

*Conservation Officer, Alabama Department of Conservation*

Night hunting has long been a method of taking deer illegally, dating back to our forefathers. One of the first Game Laws passed, was in Georgia on December 10, 1790, prohibiting hunting with a gun and fire light. The penalty was set at five pounds and 39 lashes. Mississippi Territory passed a similar law in 1803.

Our night hunting law in the State of Alabama is as follows: "It shall be unlawful to take, capture or kill, or attempt to take, capture or kill, any bird or animal protected by the laws of this State, between sunset and daylight of the following day." Upon conviction he shall be fined not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$500.00, and may also be imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed six months.

I think the time has arrived to strengthen our night hunting laws in Alabama, to give us permission to confiscate all equipment being used at that time for that purpose, as some of our neighboring states do.

In the State of Alabama we have deer in 56 of our 67 counties. Only about 25 counties have heavy enough deer concentration for night hunting. And about 10 counties where we have any great amount.

We have two-way radios in most of our patrol cars, when we are patrolling for night hunters. We work two men to the car and also use two or more radio cars in the same area when possible. No two cases are alike, therefore no set pattern can be used in apprehending night hunters. Most of our night hunting occurs on highways and well traveled dirt roads that run through areas where we have a heavy concentration of deer. About 75 percent of the night hunters use only the headlights of their car for hunting deer.

One of the best methods we have found is to park our patrol car off the highway or road where it can't be seen by passing automobiles and where night hunting is most apt to occur. Wait until a suspicious looking car comes by, then follow the suspect with our lights off and see what he does. Sometimes we may follow a car for 15 or 20 miles before he shoots a deer or does something that indicates he is night hunting.

I would like to point out that when we follow an automobile driving in an unusual manner in deer area, such as driving extremely slow, hitting his brakes on deer crossing and zig-zagging where his light will shine into the woods, on stopping this automobile and finding a loaded gun or evidence to show the gun was loaded at the time he was driving in this unusual manner, we make an arrest and can usually get a conviction. We don't have to catch a night hunter with a deer to convict him. Our law in the State of Alabama clearly states: "Attempt to kill or capture bird or animal protected by law at night."

I will give you an example: One cold, rainy night two of our conservation officers were on patrol duty, parked just off a farm to market road where passing automobiles could not see them, when an automobile came by driving about 15 miles per hour. The two officers followed in the patrol car for about four or five miles observing the unusual manner in which the automobile was being operated. Then an oncoming car appeared, the officers pulled off the road. The lights of the oncoming car shined on the patrol car. The car they were following left at a high rate of speed. The two officers followed in hot pursuit with speed over 100 miles an hour. They called another patrol car in that area by two-way radio, who set up a roadblock about 15 miles away. On searching the automobile, officers found a fresh fired buckshot shell, a head light, nine buckshot shells and a jammed gun loaded with buckshot. The two prisoners spent the rest of the night in the county jail.

All of you may not agree with me on this, but when we apprehend a night hunter we usually take him to the county jail, question him, take down all of his statements, then book him and let him make bond with the sheriff.

## **THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO FIGHT OR PREVENT HEADLIGHTING**

*By J. A. McQUERRY, SR.*

*Supervisor, District 6, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission*

Gentlemen, I do not pretend to have the answer to this problem, but can only give you a rundown on some of the means we have employed. When I think of the sleep we have lost, the miles traveled, the gas burned, I am reminded of the young couple that tried for several years to raise a family without any visible results. They had tried physical check-ups, various vitamin aids, physical culture, sought the advice of their family doctor and close friends—still no blessed event! After a consultation between themselves, looking back over their years of efforts, and in view of the fact that they had—shall we say—rather enjoyed the whole program—that they would just keep on trying! So, in spite of the fact that our efforts have not been very rewarding, I guess we shall just keep on trying!

Seriously, gentlemen, I know that in our state this is a major conservation problem and one not easily dealt with. If any of you have the answer to it, we have the time to sit and listen, as I feel we could learn a lot on this subject.

It has been our experience that a hit and miss or one night stand in any location is not very effective. In most cases four to seven nights have been