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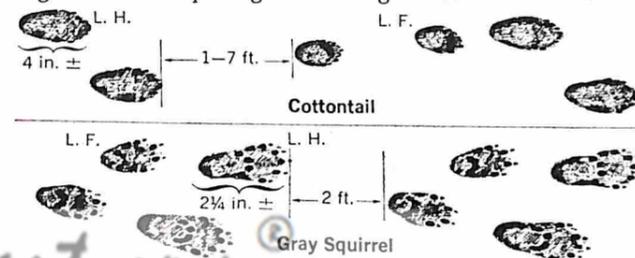


page 50: sound advice for aspiring marksmen

Make small-game hunting hard on yourself.

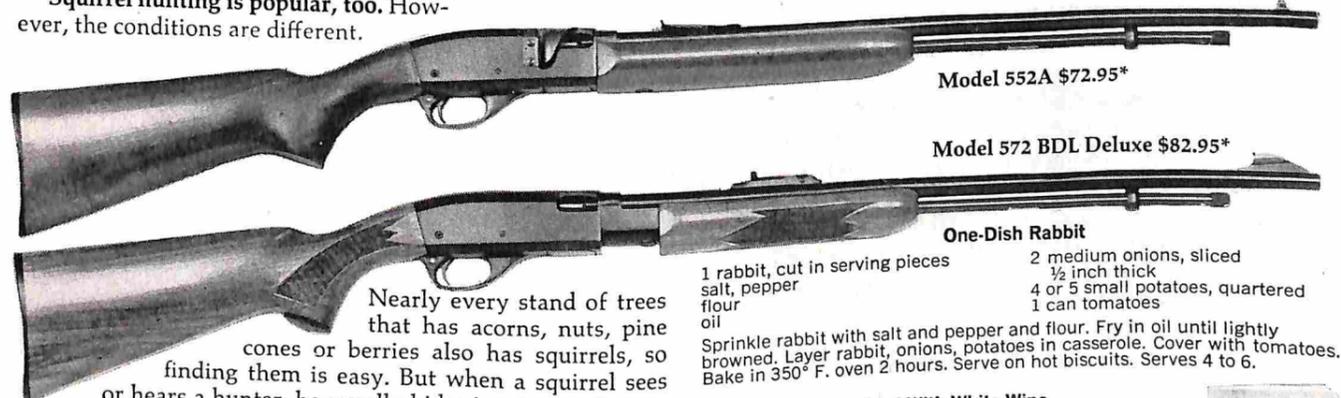
Hunting rabbits and squirrels with a 22 is a real challenge. Here are some tips that'll lead you to some real sharpshooting... some real sport... and put some meat in the pot, too.

Rabbits are by far our most popular small game. They are found almost everywhere and present a very sporting target—especially for riflemen. They also make good eating. There are a number of species, each with its own habits, found in America, so if you're hunting in a strange locale, the easiest way to get started is to check the local farmers. They usually regard wild rabbits as pests and will be glad to show you where to find them. Always consult your state hunting regulations for opening and closing dates.



Once you're in a likely area, the fun begins. The western jackrabbit tends to run from a hunter—and he can reach speeds of 45 miles per hour! On the other hand, the eastern cottontail tends to hide, and you've got to make him break cover. A good dog that can go into the thickets after them is invaluable. When a cottontail comes bursting out of the brush, you're in for some real fast action that can help improve your shooting. East or west, north or south, a running rabbit is not an easy target for a rifle.

Squirrel hunting is popular, too. However, the conditions are different.



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One-Dish Rabbit

1 rabbit, cut in serving pieces
salt, pepper
flour
oil

2 medium onions, sliced
1/2 inch thick
4 or 5 small potatoes, quartered
1 can tomatoes

Nearly every stand of trees that has acorns, nuts, pine cones or berries also has squirrels, so finding them is easy. But when a squirrel sees or hears a hunter, he usually hides in a tree and stays there. Unlike a rabbit, no amount of noise or commotion is going to budge a squirrel. Sitting still and quiet will often produce good results.

Early morning is the best time to hunt squirrels. You can usually hear them in the trees, scolding or dropping shells. Once you hear one, study the tree carefully to find him. Squirrels are curious, so a squirrel call can sometimes bring

Sprinkle rabbit with salt and pepper and flour. Fry in oil until lightly browned. Layer rabbit, onions, potatoes in casserole. Cover with tomatoes. Bake in 350° F. oven 2 hours. Serve on hot biscuits. Serves 4 to 6.

Squirrel With White Wine

4 squirrels, cut in serving pieces
2 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup olive oil
salt, pepper
2 cloves garlic, crushed

1/2 teaspoon rosemary
1 cup dry white wine
1 cup chicken broth
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
2 cups sliced mushrooms

Sauté squirrel in butter and oil until lightly browned; add salt and pepper to taste, garlic, rosemary, wine and broth; simmer until nearly done, turning often. Add parsley and mushrooms; cook 5 minutes. Serves 4.



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Sports Afield

MARCH 1972

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