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FUR-FISH-GAME

Hordings Magazine

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December Features

- KING OF THE WILD**..... By Charles Sasser 6
Guide R.L. Ford has learned respect for the mighty brown bear
- THE LOWDOWN ON FOX**..... By Bob Gilsvik 8
The dirt-hole set, with variations, is still the best bet
- FROM FIELD TO TABLE**..... By Michael Greeley 10
Carelessness, not poor cooks, spoils most venison dinners
- WALLEYES ON THE ICE**..... By Mike Bleech 12
Fished correctly, jigs can be deadly on winter walleyes
- BEAVER FEVER**..... By Richard Martin 14
Paul Curren has a knack for trapping Ohio beaver
- BOWHUNTING FOR BUCKS**..... By Michael Hoffman 16
Taking deer with a bow requires some special strategy
- SHOTGUN STRATEGY**..... By John Sajo 18
Mixing your loads can make you a better hunter

Other Articles

- THE ART OF SITTING STILL**..... By Don Zutz 24
- BAIT SETS FOR MINK**..... By John Coolidge, Jr. 38
- 'A BRIDGE TO FUR'**..... By Brian DeVore 42
- TACTICS FOR BEAVER SNARING**..... By R. D. Blackburn 46

Outdoor Departments

- CAMPING & TRAVEL**..... Hank Andrews/Tents Provide a Vacation Bargain 1
- CONSERVATION**..... William Hilts/Hunters Emphasizing Trailing Skills 4
- THE GUN RACK**..... Don Zutz/The Legacy of Sam Colt 20
- FISH & TACKLE**..... Mark Hicks/Tips for Winter Panfish 28
- THE TRAPLINE**..... Bob Gilsvik/Better Fur Handling 34
- TRAPPERS' ALERT**..... 44
- MAIL SHOP**..... 58
- THE QUESTION BOX**..... 60
- RAW FUR MARKETS**..... 61
- CLASSIFIED ADS**..... 62
- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**..... 64

Cover Painting by Kevin T. Daniel

true camping experience. You will not find swimming pools or hot showers in these areas, so you make do as best you can.

Try New York for Bear Hunting!

When New York is mentioned, most of us think of towering skyscrapers and masses of people marching to work on crowded sidewalks. Certainly, few of us think of hunting bears in New York state.

However, there is much more to New York state than the city of the same name. In its hinterlands and in areas such as the Adirondack mountains, bears can be taken, and there is some good hunting to be found.

"New York state offers one of the finest black bear hunting opportunities in the eastern United States," says Henry G. Williams, commissioner of Environmental Conservation. "New York's healthy and vigorous bear populations are capable of sustaining annual harvests of 800 to 900 bears. Although harvests of this magnitude have not yet been attained, they are consistent with New York's black bear management goals."

Approximately 85 percent of the state's bear habitat is in the Adirondacks. In the six-million-acre Adirondack Park there are about 2.4 million acres of public lands, the state's highest mountain, extensive wilderness and heavily forested foothills. This wilderness region really sounds inviting. This year, for instance, there was an 80-day bear season in the Adirondacks.

You might keep this in mind for 1984 if you enjoy hunting bears. During the past 30 years, Adirondack bear kills have averaged slightly above 600 annually.

Bears also are hunted in the Allegheny and Catskill regions of the state. In the Allegheny region there have been increases in bear population because of an

influx of bears from neighboring north central Pennsylvania, which also has bear hunting.

The Catskill region attracts many hunters from metropolitan New York and is not particularly recommended for hunting.

If you are interested in hunting in New York state next year, you should write New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY 12233-0001. Ask for details.

How Dangerous Are Snakes?

When many people see snakes, they immediately want to kill them, saying that the only good snake is a dead one.

I have seen children shrink in horror at a harmless garter snake. Too often that fear of snakes has been implanted by the parents.

Out Missouri way, Tom Johnson, a herpetologist with the Department of Conservation, continually battles against people's unreasonable fear of snakes. He has favorable statistics on his side to show that snakes are not all that formidable. The figures come from the Missouri Health Division.

"In an average year, about 200 Missourians suffer a venomous snakebite," he says. "About 97 percent are copperhead bites. No one in Missouri ever has died from a copperhead bite."

"And 200 bites compared to the state's 5.5 million population and hundreds of thousands of tourists is a very low percentage — chances of being bitten are very slight."

In fact, estimates are that your chances of being struck by lightning are perhaps 10 times greater than being bitten by a venomous snake.

(Continued on page 56)



If your car is too small to pull a camping trailer, you can carry a tent instead. Many campgrounds now cater to tent campers.

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Winter Panfishing – Fur Handling – Brown Bears

OUR FISH-GAME

's Magazine

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