



# AMERICA'S HAPPIEST HUNTING GROUNDS FOR 1960

**T**HIS FALL, as every fall, our fields and forests suddenly come alive as 20 million citizens in fur-lined caps and coats celebrate a tradition as old as America—the annual hunting season.

Except for sportsmen who make the long trip to Africa, our hunters will find more game and greater variety than hunters anywhere else in the world. And although it's hard to believe, they'll find more game, nationwide, than the first settlers did.

A good crop of game nowadays is no more an accident than is a bumper crop of wheat. In every state, wildlife biologists are working around the clock to "produce" more game for the gun, just as ranchers produce more Herefords for the market.

Most of these biologists are predicting a pretty good season this fall, but, of course, some game species are up and others are down.

We've selected the following 12 areas because they are outstanding areas year after year, or because spring surveys by biologists reveal there will be an abundance of huntable game there. These regions are not listed in order of excellence. They're simply among the happiest hunting grounds a sportsman can find.

## **Modoc County, California**

Much of California's premium hunting is in private control and unavailable to many hunters. In this northeastern county, though, an average sportsman doesn't have too much trouble finding ducks, which are numerous through most of the open season, and deer. This is just about the best deer area in a top deer state.

## **Gila Wilderness, Gila National Forest, New Mexico**

This is one of America's best "undiscovered" hunting areas. Besides elk, bears, lions, turkeys, and quail, this vast area actually contains too many deer. National Forest authorities wish more hunters would come to "harvest" them. An extremely beautiful, rugged, and roadless area, it's necessary to travel on horseback or by pack train. Many local ranchers welcome hunters and will rent horses. Pack-train outfitters with bear and lion dogs are available around Silver City. There's good fishing in the Wilderness, too.

## **Yazoo Delta, Mississippi**

This country is drab and ordinary looking, but it's full of game—turkeys, quail, doves, waterfowl, squirrels, racoon, and deer. All of this land is privately owned and much of it is posted, but a visitor doesn't have too much trouble getting permission to hunt either from a landowner or from a hunting-club member who leased the land.

## **South Carolina Lowlands**

No section of America has longer open seasons and more generous bag limits than these moss-draped coastal lowlands centered on the lower Santee drainage. Probably the best coon hunting in the world exists right here; no closed season and no legal limit. The deer season opened Aug. 15 and closes Jan. 1 with a limit of five bucks per hunter! No other state approaches it. In addition, there's top-notch quail, rabbit, dove, possum, bobcat, wild hog, and turkey hunting. Canada geese also have been established at the Santee-Cooper Reservoir.

## **Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, North Carolina**

These rugged, wooded regions contain deer, bears, Russian wild boars, and ruffed grouse in sufficient numbers to furnish fast sport, and 1960 should be a better-than-average year. Inside these forests are special wildlife management areas where state and Federal biologists have tried to multiply the populations of game—and successfully, too. Since some of this hunting requires a special permit, it's wise to contact the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh.

## **Northeast South Dakota**

Sportsmen will find good pheasant hunting in most pheasant ranges this fall, but the best of it will be in South Dakota, which nowadays is approaching its tremendous pheasant "crops" of pre-war days. Besides the abundance of birds, hunters find that farmers are friendly in this region, and many of them offer board, room, and good hunting territory at modest rates. Huron and Aberdeen are the centers of the best shooting. This might be one of 1960's best bets for waterfowling in the local potholes, too.

