This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the: William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.
HURTS HIS EYES

Dear Sir:

I purchased a copy of your publication recently at the Florida Orange Festival and enjoyed articles like the following very much: "The Man Who Grows His Own Wildlife," "More Deer for Florida," "Take A Tip from Robinhood," and "Sticks and Stones."

Give us more articles by Bill Snyder. I always find them extremely enlightening.

I have one fault to find however. Inasmuch as my reading is done at night, the glare from the electric light is bad on the pages of the magazine. I believe if a satin finish were used it would eliminate the glare and would be more economical as well.

I enclose a dollar for a year's subscription.

R. S. DEPUTY
Winter Haven

OUR FACE IS RED

Dear Sir:

Will you inform some of your contributors that "spice of life" is incorrect? The word is "spice," singular or plural. Such mistakes make one question the reliability and authority of authors who write on matters that presumably require a smattering of scientific training or background of biological education.

ELSHEBAHNE J. DOWLING
Gainesville

(Would it be impolite to plead guilty, but believe it or not we know better.—Ed.)

YACHT CLUB MEMBERS

Dear Sir:

I have been sending your magazine to my friend Percy K. Johnson, rear commodore of the Filipino Yacht Club, Gerrittsen Beach, New York. He writes and tells me that members of this club are enjoying the interesting articles very much.

HENRI PLANQUETTE
Lakeland.

STICKS AND STONES

DEPT.

HURTS HIS EYES

Florida WILDLIFE

VOL. 3, NO. 10
MARCH, 1950

For the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,
of Our Game and Fish

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

In This Issue

Report on Waterfowl

by E. B. Chamberlain

Are Bobwhite Cafeterias the Answer?

by O. Earl Frye

A Sportsman Looks at Fishing Surveys

by Fred W. Jones

They Live to Fight Again!

by Nicholas Curtis

Florida's Chartered Economy

by C. H. Coulter

DEPARTMENTS

STICKS AND STONES

2 FEDERATION NOTES

CLUBS

14 THEY'RE BITING HERE

COMMISSIONERS

L. G. MORRIS, Chairman

Cecil M. Webb, First District

Miller Joiner, Second District

D. C. Jones, Fourth District

M. C. Lewis, Fifth District

COMMISSIONERS

Merrillville

Tampa

Jacksonville

Naples

Orlando

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Coleman Newman

Director

O. Earl Frye

Chief Wildlife Biologist

William W. Weeks

Director, Information-Education

John F. DeQuine

Chief Fisheries Biologist

William W. Weeks, Editor

C. H. Anderson

Associate Editor

Picture Editor

Report on Waterfowl

By E. B. CHAMBERLAIN

More ducks, less ducks; better shooting, worse shooting; season too early or too late—the variety of opinions on the 49-50 waterfowl season to be heard in various parts of the State is truly impressive. At first the picture seems completely chaotic, but by studying the data gathered all over the State from the time when the first migrating blue-winged teal came in, it should be possible to understand the waterfowl season a little better. The numbers and kinds of birds present, the numbers killed and crippled lost, the number of hunting trips taken during the season by the "average" hunter, and the number of hours hunted are among the kinds of information that have been carefully gathered and recorded. These should help in removing generality from any discussion of the 49-50 waterfowl season.

Consider first the matter of waterfowl abundance. Most of the information on this is derived from a series of aerial surveys of five important sample areas—Lake Okeechobee and its marshes, the Kissimmee and upper St. John's valleys, Merritt's Island, and the upper Indian River. These flights were made in late October, mid-November, mid-December, early January, and early February. Flows each time in the same manner over the same areas by the same personnel, they are invaluable in determining trends in population, migration movements, and relative abundance of the various species. These monthly surveys do not give figures on the State-wide population, but by revealing conditions on those im-

portant sample areas they indicate quite well what conditions may be encountered elsewhere. Actually, a monthly census over the whole State would be most desirable, but limited personal and equipment prevent it. Consequently, only one complete census is taken each year, the mid-winter inventory conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is generally taken just after the close of the shooting season and requires large scale air and ground coverage.

Aside from the regular monthly aerial surveys, more or less continual work is done on the ground, by boat and afloat, and an aerial transect survey is made in the early fall specifically to determine the abundance of the Florida duck. This transect survey also picks up the early part of the blue-winged teal migration.

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Division of Information and Education, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy, $0.50; subscription rate, $2.00. Subscriptions outside Florida. Copyright, 1950, by the State of Florida, endorced by the State of Florida, endorced by the State of Florida. Florida Wildlife cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage of name. Permission is granted for non-commercial reproduction of editorial content is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given. Copy of reprints would be appreciated. Entered as Second Class Matter March 2, 1917, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla. Under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.
Okeechobee until mid-December moved up the valley as flooded fields and pastures around the lake became dry. The upper part of the valley especially was made attractive by favorable water levels and by less hunting pressure than around Lake Okeechobee. The November peak in the other areas was doubtless due largely to the presence of flocks of newly arrived migrants and birds which stopped at these important areas prior to the regular winter dispersal.

On the basis of total waterfowl, then, it would seem that the dates of the 48-50 shooting seasons were fairly satisfactory, and surely not too early. In most cases, had the season been pushed back by ten days or two weeks there would have been less birds to hunt. Yet, that very complaint, "the season's too early," is the one most frequently heard.

But let a little figure. I refer to total waterfowl, ducks and coots combined. Suppose those peaks and the shape of those curves are due to large numbers of coots. Those who hunt ducks but not coots may wonder how the peak numbers of ducks fitted in with the shooting dates. Figure 2 answers this question. Here the upper graph refers to ducks, the lower to coots. Again it can be seen that four of the five areas—all save one—had their greatest number of birds in November. Indeed, the curves for total waterfowl and for ducks on each area are quite similar. It seems that the dates of the past shooting season should have been reasonable agreeable.

Now, considering just the coots, three areas reached their peak in November, one in December, and one in January. Therefore, as with the ducks and total waterfowl, even if the season had been later there would really not have been any more birds to hunt.

For the Indian River sculpin were almost the same in all areas. When any numbers, the few ring-necks being much less common. Sculpin were abundant and well-distributed but did not reach the numbers found in the other areas.

THROUGH the better central lakes and to those popular hunting spots in Leon and Jefferson Counties the ring-necks were by far the most common species. White-fronts were most frequently found were sculpin, wood duck, and pintail. On the four Florida islands on which birds were divided among the seasons, the lake seems to have been relatively constant through the winter. In northwest Florida ring-necks and sculpin were again the commonest species but wood duck were more abundant than in November. The rest of the population this year was sufficient to provide a thorough assortment of other species. In this part of the State there seemed to be some what fewer birds than last year, due probably to a poor mast crop and lower water levels.

On the west coast of the peninsula, particularly in the northern half, there were large areas of fallow land which were not hunted. Ring-necks were second. Large flocks of red-heads, which mainly remained present throughout the season, were the first place species. In many spots along this Gulf coast, however, the season may have been poorer than last year. Dry weather caused unfavorable water level conditions in many of the woods and marsh edges, and birds stayed in open water or out in the marsh creeks and sloughs where they were less accessible.

On the whole, there was an increase in the waterfowl over the State this year, as depicted in Figure 3. As this graph shows, the average numbers last year, had been second and blue-wings were down to third. December's increase was due largely to a big rise in pintails, ring-necks dropping to second and blue-wings to third. Here a late season would have had fewer birds of no more prized species than did the present time.

Merritt's Island also had relatively few birds at the time of the October count. But by mid-December the weather had turned colder and when the waterfowl flew in they were much more numerous than before. The sheltered cove on the north side of the island was a favorite location for the birds to roost in. The birds roosted in large numbers in this area during the winter months.

The information on kill—such things as the average daily and season kill, cripples lost, and hours hunted per day, average number of days birds were killed per season, the numbers and kind of birds bagged, and the numbers of birds taken—was compiled from field interviews conducted all over the State through the season. These revealed that during the 48-50 hunting season the average daily bag of ducks throughout the State was 2.65 birds. This is quite a reasonable figure. It exceeds last year's average daily bag on nearby Mobile delta as well as that of several other States, and is about equal to the figures for North Carolina's famed Currick Sound. The average daily bag of was 2.14 bird, and of geese 0.67 bird. The "average" gunner hunted 6.3 times during the season for a season bag of 18.6 ducks, 113.5 ducks, and 4 geese. Aside from this lake-borne kill there was a considerable and deplorable loss of unreported birds. This varied between 20 and 25 birds for every 100 in the bag. That adds up to a terrific amount of waste, and does not count birds killed but which continued in flight, likely to die. It's a pity that retrievers are used so very little.

The ring-necked duck was the most commonly taken species, comprising 37.8% of the total bag of ducks. Pintails were second with 15.7% and sculpin third with 11.9%. Four other species made up the remaining 44.8%. Very important in this latter group was the Florida duck. This species, in fact, contributed to the State waterfowl production.
Are BOBWHITE CAFFERIAS the Answer?

By O. EARL FRYE

The game commission's new artificial feeding system may not be a cure-all for our quail problem, but it has shown some amazing results.

The bobwhite has long been Florida's number one game bird. Artificial feeding may help him bring him to his former glory.

I a m the automatic quail feeder the answer to the quail production problem in Florida? Experiments conducted over the past two years by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and interested private individuals seem to indicate that it may be.

Quail production is probably the number one headache of all southeastern game departments. Not that quail are difficult to produce. The difficulty lies in producing enough quail to satisfy quail hunters at a cost the average hunter can afford to pay. The plantations around Tallahassee, for example, where quail production methods have been developed for the past 25 years, are now producing quail in abundance, but at a cost that is prohibitive to most hunters. The game manager of one of these plantations estimates that each bird killed on the plantation costs $15.

Quail are produced on these plantations principally through the intensive use of crude agriculture, control burning, and food planting. Unfortunately, these quail management techniques do not fit into present day forestry and agriculture practices. Thus, we find in too many cases that most hunters are forced to depend for their quail hunting on the few birds that persist in spite of man's widespread destruction of quail habitat.

That is needed is a quail production method that will not appreciably interfere with the principal economic use of the land and at the same time will produce quail that will be in reach of the average hunter's pocketbook.

No one claims that the feeder system is a magic panacea for all quail production problems. The feeder system is merely another game management tool, and like any such instrument, whether it be food planting, control burning, game law enforcement, or another of several useful techniques, it must be used judiciously. One cannot expect to merely scatter a number of feeders about over his land to produce an immediate bountiful quail harvest. Locations of the feeders must be carefully selected so they will be sufficiently close to cover to be utilized by quail, quail must be baited to them and food must be kept in them at all times.

The feeders will remedy only one situation—a shortage of quail food. If a shortage of cover is keeping the quail population down then the feeders will be of no value. This fact points to the likelihood that the feeders offer the greatest promise in the cattle lands of South Florida. Here the frequent palmetto patches produce excellent refuge cover, the ground vegetation under the influence of burning and grazing is of a density that is ideal for quail, but food production is low largely because of poor soil and excessively heavy grazing. There are also other places in the state where this combination of good refuge cover, suitable vegetation, and inadequate food is found. Why shouldn't the automatic feeding system with its year-round supply of easily available, quality food remedy this situation?

There are a number of reasons that the feeder system might not work.

Perhaps the concentration of birds around the feeders will increase their vulnerability to predators. Poor weather conditions, particularly during the breeding season, will continue to affect birds that are fed. The feeders will, of course, not feed birds against the disastrous hurricanes that sometimes destroy a large percentage of the South Florida quail crop, but they will help to keep those birds that survive the hurricanes another step away from the danger due to high water.

Added to these obvious possible difficulties may be certain little-known factors governing quail populations. For example, the quail is a gregarious bird and the feeding methods used in the feeder for a large part of their subsistence throughout the summer.

In September most of the birds deserted the feeders. In fact, one of the young birds, found on July 10, 1948, was run over by a car on November 12, 1948, approximately one mile from the feeder. This desertion apparently occurred as a result of the fall abundance of natural food. Quail used the feeders only spasmodically until January, when natural food again became scarce. On February 24, 1949, 22 mature quail were again trapped at the spot. In the 1949 breeding season, however, very few young birds were trapped in the neighborhood, in spite of the fact that mature pairs used the feeders throughout the spring and summer. This poor quail reproduction is believed to be due to excessively dry weather in the spring and the fact that the quail population in Charlotte and Pasco County is dependent largely upon the use of the spring brush cover as contrasted to the situation further north where a larger percentage of the birds are able to rest successfully in the warm summers. This condition is borne out by the excellent reproduction of quail on our feeding areas in Pasco County and the generally good quail population in the 1950 season in all parts of the state except the low flatwoods of extreme South Florida.

When told of the first year's results to the quail feeders, Commissioner Cecil M. Webb of Tampa became sufficiently interested in the possibility of using feeders to conduct an experiment at his own expense on 5,000 acres of land in Pasco County. Feeders were distributed and 26 pairs of birds were released on the area in the spring of 1949. Quail soon began to use these feeders and were observed using them throughout the summer.

On September 27, 1949, commission biologist and wildlife officers systematically examined the area, with approximately 20 birds per 100 acres were found to give a population of one bird for every 20 acres—roughly five times the density that could normally be expected on land of this sort. Two days later a second inspection of the contents of each of their filled-crop consisted of grain from the feeders.

In an attempt to discover to what extent the feeder had influenced the quail population, a similar 400 acres area without feeders was censused by the same two dogs on the following day. Only one quail was found on this tract of land, but hunting conditions were not as favorable as they had been in the preceding day. Nevertheless, there was no doubt in the minds of any of the observers that there were more quail on the feeder area, Webb says that more than 500.
A Sportsman Looks at Fishing Surveys

By FRED W. JONES

One of the state’s best-known sportsmen and outdoor editors speaks his piece on a controversial subject

It is only because I have seen, garfish, catfish, mudfish, and other rough fish species multiply by the thousands un molested while hundreds of sport fishermen killed the game species right and left. It is only because I have seen, that crowding of the game species resulted in their being stunted until their eyes outgrew their bodies three times over. It is only because I have seen, that without these surveys, as well as other sports and commercial fishermen have entirely erroneous ideas sometimes as to the actual needs and conditions of certain waters.

Much has been written about the surveys in the outdoor columns of the state. Some were for and some against, but out of all the things that have been said and written, one fact is outstanding—the sportmen and writers who are opposed to the surveys are the ones who have never seen a haul made.

They are the ones who take someone else’s word for what goes on, and who think that 20 or 30 years of experience at sports fishing qualifies them as “experts.”

The boys that have actually been out with the crew and have watched them at work, and have seen the results of their hauls in waters with which they were familiar, are unanimously in favor of their continuation.

My respect for the biologists and their nets grew slowly. As I said, I was opposed to commercial seining and fought to make it illegal. It took some doing to convince me that even limited seining of certain species was for my benefit.

I had read about the surveys and had talked with DeQuine many times. Then I had an idea for creating a permanent “Kids Lake” of Lake Wire in downtown Lakeland. The lake was full of weeds (Alalea) and utterly worthless for fishing. Some old timers told me that the lake had once been one of the best in town, but that it was now “fished out.” Others claimed that there were plenty of “grandpa” bass within its 25 acres but that the bream were all of the “little old sand perch” species.

They claimed that these “sand perch” would never grow to more than two or three ounces in weight. Many of the long time residents wanted to restock the lake. All kinds of suggestions and theories were offered. In fact, so many and all different, that I decided to call on DeQuine and his boys.

They arrived in due time and again pulled what I considered a ridiculous stunt. To get a “population count” of the species in the lake they used a little old minnow seine not more than 10 feet in length! They worked around the shore with this tiny net for an hour or so, without doing, or catching a thing as far as I could see. Or at least, they didn’t catch anything that amounted to anything, just a few little minnows.

However, at the end of that time, DeQuine told me genuinely that the lake was overstocked with bream and perch, that it was probably quite heavily stocked with large bream, but that there was no reproduction of bass going on. He said that there would be few, if any, rough fish (cats, gars, mudfish, etc.).

Of course, I immediately demanded to know how he could tell what was there, and wasn’t, in a lake when he didn’t catch anything except those few minnows. Again he sat down and patiently explained, and again he convinced me.

Together, we went before the city commissioners and explained the condition of the lake with the program of correction that DeQuine had outlined. They okayed the plan and it was carried out.

The funny part of it all was that the “experienced” residents who had told us just what was wrong with the lake could hardly believe what they saw with their own eyes when the lake was finally cleaned out.

Many were the gripes from these old residents when the work was first outlined and started. Now, however, after they have had a chance to see the results, they point with pride to the fact that the once utterly worthless lake is receiving national publicity as a model towards which many other areas are working.

They later, we had the boys in with the big nets. This time to work lakes Parker, Boney and Hollingsworth.

Here again we had three lakes within the city limits in which the old residents had sport-fished for more years than DeQuine has hairs on his head. Here again we were told all kinds of things out of which emerged only one thing for sure—that each had his own idea, and none of them were alike.

Lake Parker, they said, was fished out. Likewise with Lake Boney. Lake Hollingsworth contained only a few fish, they said, but many of these were the small which the Haynes had released in the lake a couple of years ago.

Now, we mentioned those minnows especially because 99 out of 100 of the fishermen and residents around the lake insisted that they had not only survived but that they were fat and many. They insisted that minnow leaping was a common sight of an evening on the lake.

Anyway, the crews went to work. Not a single fish or minnow—any sign of one was found in Hollingsworth. All of which just goes to show that a man cannot tell what’s in a lake just by watching the surface and fishing with a hook and line. The fish the folks were jumping were stick shad, of which some 10,000 pounds were taken in one haul of the net, and which were the primary cause for the lack of game species in the lake.

“Fished out” Lake Boney produced hundreds of bass which tipped the biologists’ scales at more than eight pounds each. There were dozen weighing more than 12 pounds each. Speckled perch and bream were taken in huge quantities and all species were fat and in excellent condition.

As a result of the survey, Lake Boney is once again a heavily fished lake and hardly a week passes in which someone does not call the “Boney” from its waters. Specks and bream are again being taken in quantities.

The reason for this stepped-up production is purely psychological. No drastic changes were made. In fact (Continued on Page 16)

(Continued on Page 16)
They Live To Fight Again!

Off Palm Beach deep-sea anglers are catching more and more tail-dancing sailfish, because they've learned a sailfish returned to the water lives to fight again!

Just a few years ago a small group of West Palm Beach anglers dreamed up plans for the future conservation of sailfish—one of the fightingest, gamest attractions to the Palm Beach area. Not satisfied to leave their plan in the drawing-board stage—they put it into action. It proved as contagious as the message and as successful as a magnificent advertisement.

Today, the plan should be carefully studied by all fishing groups who go in for sailfishing.

Roughly, the plan puts fishing contests, into reverse gear. Instead of offering prizes for the greatest number of fish hooked, it calls for awarding the contest winners the sailfish that the angler returning his catch to the water unharmed and uninjured. Doubtlessly this plan will develop a shortage of mounted specimens on sportmen’s walls—one of the other side it is a formula that will result in bringing game fish back again to fight another day.

The singularly distinctive campaign in practical conservation was first waged intensely on the world-famous sailfish grounds off the Palm Beaches. The unusual campaign, originally launched two years ago, has been sharply accelerated through a revamped, stepped-up program activated in January 1949. Today, it is rolling in high gear.

The success of the plan in the Palm Beach area is assured. The program now seems slated to spread rapidly to other sailfish grounds along the coast. Eventually, it is likely to spread to the tropic-fishing clan with equal success.

The project is being sponsored by the Sailfish Conservation Club, Inc., a non-profit organization formed by a group of prominent sportsmen. The name of the organization, from the inception of the program gradually broadened, now covers an extended area, recently was shortened simply to the Sailfish Conservation Club, Inc.

In the hundreds of fishing contests conducted all across the country, it is customary for those anglers entering the heaviest fish to collect the contest prizes. The obvious deduction of course is that every angler must lay his catch—a very dead fish—on the scales before he can possibly pocket an award. Under those circumstances, the tendency naturally is to lay every single sizeable fish he catches on those scales.

The unusual angle of the Sailfish Conservation Club program is that this conventional procedure is quite reversed. To qualify for a Sailfish Conservation Club trophy, the angler in full view of all anglers, urging them to fly sailfish release flags, a triangular red flag, rather than the conventional white flag denoting sailfish which have been hooked.

The conservation program went into operation coincident with the start of the 1949 Annual Silver Sailfish Derby of the Palm Beaches. Institutions to a big kick-off dinner at the Sailfish Club of Florida were issued to the captains and mates of all charter boats along with the owners and captains of all private boats in the area. The affair attracted 200 boatmen interested in sailfishing.

The individual trophies awarded range from release suits at high grade, pocket-type shark-gill cutters inscribed with a miniature tagging sailfish and the name of the organization imprinted in color. More than 50 of these trophies have already been awarded. The angling sportsmanship certificate carries a reproduction of an outstanding oil painting done by William Godby Lawrence, depicting a frisky, high-jumping sailfish in action.

For an angler to earn a trophy and certificate, the boatmen need only certify on the postal application form, supplied by the club, that the angler fought the sailfish in conformity with the International Game Fish Association rules, and that the mate aboard properly released the fish when the angler brought it alongside the boat. Anglers are limited to one award a year.

The actual release of the sailfish may be effected by optional methods by NICHOLAS CURTIS

instead must have his conquered—but still-lively sailfish as his—free to fight again. As a result, during the last year alone, more than 500 individual anglers were awarded one of the highly-granted trophies for the organization.

After feeding their way for a year or so, carefully analyzing the fishing situation in the Palm Beaches waters, the executive committee made its big move in January 1949. A hard-hitting campaign urging increased sailfish releases, to perpetuate sailfishing in the area at its high level during the years to come, was launched in grand style. Key points in the ambitious program included:

1. An individual, engraved trophy awarded every angler releasing a sailfish when trolling Gulf Stream waters on any fishing boat sailing from the area.

2. A special certificate of angling sportsmanship attaching each angler’s sailfish release.

3. Colorful placards, directing attention to the Sailfish Conservation Club program, prominently displayed aboard all fishing craft in the area.

4. Pamphlets, contained in a pocket-pack on the placard, detailing the long-range benefits accruing from increased sailfish releases, rather than boating the spectacular game fish.

5. A large sign erected at the inlet, in hundreds of fishing contests conducted all across the country, it is customary for those anglers entering the heaviest fish to collect the contest prizes. The obvious deduction of course is that every angler must lay his catch—a very dead fish—on the scales before he can possibly pocket an award. Under those circumstances, the tendency naturally is to lay every single sizeable fish he catches on those scales.

The unusual angle of the Sailfish Conservation Club program is that this conventional procedure is quite reversed. To qualify for a Sailfish Conservation Club trophy, the angler

Welcome to America’s great home of the Sailfish / HELP MAINTAIN THIS FINEST OF SPORTS-RELEASE ALL SAILFISH NOT TO BE MOUNTED / FLY THE RED RELEASE FLAG PROUDLY—IT’S A SIGN OF REAL SPORTSMANSHIP!
Releasing a salmon by snipping the leader wire close to the hook, carefully holding the sail away from the boat to prevent injury to the fish.

The success of the program are: John Rybovich, Jr., president; C. F. Johnson, vice-president; Herbert Bedford, treasurer; and B. Davis Crowningshield, chairman of the executive board. Lansdell "Bounce" Anderson is the livewire secretary of the organization. Today this group of earnest sportsmen who have fought to promote something novel and effective in conservation feel their efforts were not in vain. This year's Silver Sailfish Derby was one of the most successful in years. The sails were bigger and more numerous, which the conservationists feel is a direct result of last season's release program. Next year they feel sure sailfishing off the Palm Beaches will be even better, because of the thousands hooked this year most will live to fight again!

BOWHITES CAFETERIAS

(Continued from Page 7)

birds were listed on the experimental areas during the past hunting season that approximately the same number of birds was left for breeding stock.

L. C. Edwards, Jr., of Dade City, Florida, also helped in the feeder possibilities in the spring of 1949 and feed 1125 feeders on a 9,000 acre portion of a 29,000 acre tract. In a letter dated February 13, 1950, Mr. Edwards states that in the spring of 1949 he 'distributed 260 quail over the entire 29,000 acres, but that in the fall he had an abundance of birds only on the 5,000 acre feeder tract. States that there were over 1,000 birds killed on this tract and that there is approximately an equal number of birds left on the area for breeding stock.

Just what are these feeders? How do they work? What are they supposed to do? To begin with, feeders are to be operated only under a special permit issued by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. This permit must show that feeders are to be used specifically for the propagation of quail and that their use for baiting down, wild turkeys, or for any other purpose will render the permittee liable for prosecution for violation of laws pertaining to baiting down.

The galvanized metal feeders now in use are the result of two years of experimentation and are the most satisfactory yet developed. One of the biggest disadvantages experienced with feeders is the difficulty of keeping food dry during periods of wet weather. Hard, driving rains blew up under the shelter, tops were blown off the feeders, and in some cases they leaked so that water got into the food and spoiled it. The advantages of the feeder now in use is that it is completely waterproof, will hold enough grain to last two or three weeks, is comparatively simple to construct, and should last for a number of years.

Of particular importance is the capacity of feeders to hold enough food to last for a considerable period. Since one of the largest items in the operation of the feeders will lie in keeping them supplied with food. One mass of poultry look after several hundred feeders if he has to visit them only once every two or three weeks.

Where feeders are to be used in pastures with cattle or hogs it will be necessary to place a fence around them. A square or triangular fenced enclosure about 6 feet on a side will do. If the enclosure is made of hog wire it will not only prevent hogs from molesting the feeders but will also serve to protect feeding quail against hawks.

Other sand-setting birds and rats will use the feeders and will sometimes become a nuisance. But as one investigator pointed out, "Why should I mind feeding a few rats and blackbirds as long as I can raise quail?"

Before setting up the feeders quail should be baited to respective feeder sites should be baited. This serves to expedite the finding of the bird by all the quail in the feeder area.

This beauty would be a prize to bring from any deep-see trip, but off he goes to battle some other fisherman tomorrow.

FlORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1950

FACTS ON THE NEW FEEDER

Materials Needed

One 6 gallon (approximately) galvanized garbage can with lid. Sufficient galvanized metal for feeder apron. Sufficient % inch mesh hardware cloth with even feeding trough openings.

Feeder Construction

1. Three 9 inch horizontal cuts are evenly spaced around the bottom of the can 1 1/2 inches above the ground.

2. The sides of the can above these cuts are then turned inward 1 1/2 inches as evenly as possible to form the feeding trough. Care must be taken to bend this metal is sufficiently far to enable quail to get at the food and to permit food to fill up the feeding trough but not so enough to allow the food to spill out on the ground.

3. The feeders can be painted but painting is not necessary.
FARMERS NEEDED

Now that Florida's mild weather has prepared our farmers to go out and start their planting season, and is taking to the lakes and streams for recreation, many of our sportsmen are turning their attention to a surplus of stock to afford better hunting satisfaction next fall.

Naturally, all of those sportsmen are members of a conservation club. Many of them reside in small towns and rural sections where no club has yet been organized. Many of them are farmers, citrus growers, cattlemen, and retired businessmen. Without doubt, all of them share in our love for the outdoors and recognize the many recreational advantages Florida has to offer.

Recent information concerning the need for food planting and cover for wildlife-sent by the State Game Commission and sent throughout the state by the Federation-has received grave interest from county agents in most sections of Florida. Many of them have written concerning their plans for spring planting to aid in the survival of our young game through the coming hot summer months. Their interest is typical of the average farmer who realizes the great benefit game birds are in protecting their crops from insect infestation.

I am attempting to make our farmers realize that I feel our Florida farmers are the friends of wildlife who can best aid the state in their effort. If they could enjoy a larger surplus of game to harvest, they could plant more of their land. They could plant more of their land to aid in the cultivation of their own crops from insect infestation. They could plant for the benefit of our wildlife program.

Today presents an opportunity for all of us to get together. It is up to all our club leaders to make the acquaintance of their county agent—the very fellow who is doing a swell job for the propagation of wildlife. Cultivate the acquaintance of your county agent, the very fellow who is doing a swell job for the promotion of wildlife. Your club can do a tremendous job in helping your county improve his present acreage. It will be all to the good.

Above all, offer them membership in your club. If some of the planters reside too far away from your next meeting, ask the county agent to supply them with the names of the farmers and growers who are cooperating in planting food and cover for game. Then, waste no time in getting them to your next meeting. If more than one county agent is doing the same work, ask him to supply the names of the farmers and growers who are cooperating in planting food and cover for game. Then, waste no time in getting them to your next meeting.

A hawk soaring high in the air has that unusual sight that it can detect a mouse moving through the grass.
the only change made at all was that a few hundred pounds of rough fish were removed. The difference is that the anglers once again have faith in the lake. They see the fish with their own eyes and now they know they are there! So they try for them—and catch them!

Lake Parker, however, was the real eye opener. This body of water was completely supposed to contain nothing but gars and muds. However, our figures kept for the entire time of the survey show that more than 30,000 pounds of speckled perch and bream were taken in the net and returned unharmed to the water in seven weeks. Some 60,000 pounds of catfish were taken and sold, a catch that put nearly $5,000 in the pockets of local residents, and an income that would have been totally lacking if a net hadn’t been used.

No gars and mudds to speak of were taken during the entire operation in spite of the conviction of the “experienced fishermen.” The only species of rough fish that were taken in addition to the catfish were the gizzard shad. Thousands of pounds of this species were removed from the lake.

As a result of this survey there are now several hundred anglers in the lake to be found and around the lake. At one time recently more than 400 people were fishing from the city dock alone. And their strings of speckled perch and bream run big.

The commercial trot line fishermen who gritted about the seining on the grounds that it would stamp out their industry brought their families to death, now admit that their weekly take in pounds is higher than it has been for years previously. And they voluntarily state that the fish average higher in weight individually than they did before the seining.

There have been changes in the fishing as a result of the seining surveys as we have stated, but the greatest difference in the area as a result of the work is in the attitudes and theories of the old residents. Today they no longer offer a thousand and one different stories about each lake.

Ask twenty of them in a row today about a lake and the fish that are in it and you’ll get the same answer from each. Not only will the answer be the same, but they’ll also quote you exact facts and figures. For, no longer do they base their opinions on guesses, today they know.

They were invited out to see for themselves, and they went—and they saw.

They also learned. During the first part of the seining it was quite common, in fact almost a daily occurrence to have a man walk up, look into a boat full of fish and exclaim, “My God! You all ought to be shot. Look at all the speckled perch you’ve killed!”

Of course, the “speckles” were actually shad, a species that ninety-nine per cent of the “experienced” fishermen had never even seen!

Some writers have complained about the game fish killed during such surveys. In Lake Parker where more than 100,000 pounds of fish of all species were taken in six weeks, we saw not more than three pounds of game fish killed. Not one single complaint was received on this score during the entire operation!

Today, the sports fishermen of this area who have seen the fisheries surveys in action with their own eyes are convinced.

Today they say, “We want to KNOW. We’re through with guessing. We want surveys!”

**REPORT ON WATERFOWL**

There is a very good reason for this great increase in speckled perch and bream in Lake Parker. The government stepped in and did something no one has ever done before, they removed the outlaws and the residents and the water was clear enough to drop their lines near them. Bass, speckled perch, and bluegills in particular are hungrily roaming the inlets, outlets, rocky reefs, grassy points, and coves in search of food and, incidentally, anglers’ bait.

Fishing early and late, sportmen using a Lucky 13 or a 2000 are doing into some very large bass. Worms are being used successfully for all the species of brews, and minnows have been produced the speckles.

**LAKE IAMONIA**

Jack B. Moncrief, of Thomasville, Ga., has the evidence proving that bass fishing is tops these days on Lake Iamonia near Tallahassee.

On a recent trip to Iamonia, Moncrief caught his limit of big mouth bass in record time. Five of them tipped the scales of 40½ pounds which is a lot of meat in any language. Moncrief was using a Pflueger Supreme reel and a Creek Chub “2000” when he connected. Fishing is best between 9 a.m. in the morning and 1 o’clock in the afternoon.

**LAKE IOLA**

There are no complaints about bass fishing on Lake Iola, near Dade City, these days. Many anglers have been hitting the jackpot with either a pikie minnow plug or a Johnson spoon with pork rind. You’re likely to do business in a big way anytime during fishing hours.

**SOUTH FORTY CANAL**

Bass are biting like sixty in the South Forty Canal in Brevard county. Johnson spoons and 20 lb. line are the wiggling. The angler to go is Bernice Hall, of Titus, Ga., recently connected with the limit while using a 2000. Speckled perch are keeping things interesting for the anglers visiting Lake Washington, Lake Doodle and live minnows tantalize the specks along the southeast side of the lake. Fish early mornings for bass and from noon until 4 o’clock for perch.

**LAKE TARPOON**

Improved fishing conditions are attracting many anglers to Lake Tarpon in Pinellas county these days. The north end of the lake has been giving the best results for bass, bream, and shad.

Plenty of fishermen have missed a heart beat or two when they connected with bass trolling with a Johnson spoon. For still fishing use shiners for bass, worms for shad and shad for tarpon.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**LAKE IAMONIA**

All the large lakes and streams throughout Lake County are teeming with fresh water fish just laying for Florida fishermen. Fish are big enough to drop their lines near them. Bass, speckled perch, and bluegills in particular are hungrily roaming the inlets, outlets, rocky reefs, grassy points, and coves in search of food and, incidentally, anglers’ bait.

Fishing early and late, sportmen using a Lucky 13 or a 2000 are doing into some very large bass. Worms are being used successfully for all the species of brews, and minnows have been produced the speckles.

**FLORIDA RIVER**

Crickets and earthworms are the targets of choice for anglers fishing the creeks and ditches that are lighting up like a Christmas tree with the anglers on the Florida River in Liberty County. Numerous fish in water anglers have bought with limits of twenty with twenty in fishing early in the morning.

**WALTON COUNTY**

If it breaks on bass we offer Walton County anglers the best place to head for. Lake Redfish and Fish Lake are complete with Baufunks springs are producing a bumper crop of scattering game fish and now is harvesting time. The shadcrackers, redbreasts, and sunfish are going for earth and Catowas tons in a big way while big bass is making hay with the lunker. Early in the morning and late in the evening is the favored period of those who are on the happy side.

**ST. MARKS RIVER**

North Florida anglers and Tallahassee white-collars alike have been finding bass opalescence on the St. Marks River between Newport and Natural Bridge near Tallahassee this month. Underwater plugs, storing the Hawaiian Wiggle, have been getting the best results, and the fisherman who gets up and out there early has been the lucky one.
Naples Man Named To Game Commission Succeeding Corbett

D. C. Jones, Naples, was appointed Fourth District game commissioner by Gov. Fuller Warren on Feb. 3. He succeeds J. W. Carbett, of Fort Pierce, whose term expired Jan. 5. 1950.

Commissioner Jones, 60, a retired Kentucky circuit judge, is a native of Louisiana. He began visiting in Florida in 1924 and retired to Naples a number of years ago. The new commissioner served two terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives and one in the Kentucky Senate before being elected circuit judge in that state in 1939.

Corbett was first appointed to the Commission by Gov. Spessard Holland. He was reappointed by Gov. Fuller and retired as a judge, 1950.

Half-million Bucks Is Estimated Expenditure Of Marion Sportsmen

Hunters and fishermen spent at least a half-million dollars in Marion County during the 1949-50 season according to an estimate made by County Judge D. B. Smith

Judge Smith reported on licenses sold through his office, that for each of the two seasons more than $50,000 was spent in the county for hunting and fishing licenses and for Ocala National Forest permits.

"I estimate that this amount spent for licenses and permits represents about 10 per cent of the total expenditure for sport," the judge said. "I think this is a very conservative estimate too."

During the 1949-50 season the county judge's office sold 3,753 hunting licenses totaling $13,160.50, while the Forest Service issued 1,732 fishing licenses for a total cost of $16,969. This makes a combined total of $50,130.50 for licenses in Jan and fishing in Florida while I'm on tour over the United States this summer.

Florida Wardens Nab Over 2,000 Violators In 12-Month Period

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission made 2,097 arrests for game and fish law violations last year, according to Director Coleman Newman.

Courts throughout the state convicted 112 of those arrested, an acquittal 108. Only 123 cases are pending.

Newman said fishing without a license was the most prevalent single offense, with 891 anglers caught trying to evade the two-dollar fee. Hunters were more license conscious, with only 62 arrested for not having them. Other frequent violations included fishing with a net longer than the legal limit of fish and game, hunting out of season, and illegal netting of fish.

Palm County led the list of arrests with 124. Then came Hillsborough 90, Dade 84, Lake 78, and Duval and Nassau 76 each. St. Lucie was the only county of the 67 that had no arrests for game and fish law violations.

Two hundred and thirteen arrests were made for minor traffic violations during the past season. Newman said 127 of these were protested in state courts and the remainder turned over to the proper Fish and Wildlife Service for disposition in federal court.

Solly, Of Fan Fame, Joins Florida Wildlife Reader

Solly Rand, the lady who popularized the fishing art of "sollying," was awarded to keep in close touch with wildlife (outdoor variety) in Florida during the next year. Looking at pert as a 1950's estimate, La Rand made a surprise visit to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's wildlife exhibit at the recent Florida Citrus Exposition. Winter Haven, to get a first-hand view of the bird, fish and animal displays.

Before Miss Rand left the exhibit a large crowd of excited spectators watched her sign the dedication book of a member of FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S growing list of subscribers.

"I'm a small magazine," Sally declared, "and I certainly want to keep in touch with hunting and fishing in Florida while I'm on tour over the United States this summer.

A FIN MICKEY, YET

"If you went to clip, spins, or tag game fish, put them to sleep," is the recent suggestion being given by several state fish and game departments.

When 19 grams of ethyl carbamate, known as urethane, is diluted to each gallon of water, it acts as a harmless "Mickey Finn." Experimenters have found that fish which are anaesthetized are easier to handle—no struggle, no wriggle.

The solution is also used to slow down fish activity during transportation from hatchery. When they are placed in clean water, they quickly snap back to life with no ill effects.

Mighty bass for mighty fishermen are found in Okeechobee County's Lake Kissimmee. (From left to right:) Leon Denton, Canton Gulf, and Harbert Benedict pass with a 300-rod catch landed by Dr. H. J. Stone, George Crawford, and Bill Fossea. The fish catching trio hail from Oakland, Ky.

A FIN MICKEY, YET

"If you went to clip, spins, or tag game fish, put them to sleep," is the recent suggestion being given by several state fish and game departments.

When 19 grams of ethyl carbamate, known as urethane, is diluted to each gallon of water, it acts as a harmless "Mickey Finn." Experimenters have found that fish which are anaesthetized are easier to handle—no struggle, no wriggle.

The solution is also used to slow down fish activity during transportation from hatchery. When they are placed in clean water, they quickly snap back to life with no ill effects.

Mighty bass for mighty fishermen are found in Okeechobee County's Lake Kissimmee. (From left to right:) Leon Denton, Canton Gulf, and Harbert Benedict pass with a 300-rod catch landed by Dr. H. J. Stone, George Crawford, and Bill Fossea. The fish catching trio hail from Oakland, Ky.

Clubmen Ready to Open Kids' Fishing Paradise

CLEARWATER—A two-year old dream of providing a fishing paradise for youngsters is about to come true for members of the Pinellas County Conservation Club. After two years of preparation, the members now will be able to open "Gruf Lake" to kids fishermen in this area.

Originally, the club members leased the lake from Pinellas County commissioners and then set out to turn it into a free fishing heaven for the kids. Following the recommendation of State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission biologists, the lake was completely drained out and then restocked with healthy bass and bass in proper balance. Recent tests disclosed that many of the fish now average around three pounds and biologists predict that the lake soon will be ready to fish upon to the youngsters.

Recently, club members met with the county commissioners in an inspection trip to the county fish hatchery. At a later official meeting the members voted to take steps leading to closer cooperation between all Pinellas County government officials, the county commissioners, and biologists in the future operations of the fish hatchery. Recommendations were made that the hatchery grounds be provided with barbecue pits, picnic tables, and added recreational facilities.

CLUBMAN READY TO OPEN KIDS' FISHING PARADISE

CLEARWATER—A two-year old dream of providing a fishing paradise for youngsters is about to come true for members of the Pinellas County Conservation Club. After two years of preparation, the members now will be able to open "Gruf Lake" to kids fishermen in this area.

Originally, the club members leased the lake from Pinellas County commissioners and then set out to turn it into a free fishing heaven for the kids. Following the recommendation of State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission biologists, the lake was completely drained out and then restocked with healthy bass and bass in proper balance. Recent tests disclosed that many of the fish now average around three pounds and biologists predict that the lake soon will be ready to fish upon to the youngsters.

Recently, club members met with the county commissioners in an inspection trip to the county fish hatchery. At a later official meeting the members voted to take steps leading to closer cooperation between all Pinellas County government officials, the county commissioners, and biologists in the future operations of the fish hatchery. Recommendations were made that the hatchery grounds be provided with barbecue pits, picnic tables, and added recreational facilities.

CLUBMAN READY TO OPEN KIDS' FISHING PARADISE

CLEARWATER—A two-year old dream of providing a fishing paradise for youngsters is about to come true for members of the Pinellas County Conservation Club. After two years of preparation, the members now will be able to open "Gruf Lake" to kids fishermen in this area.

Originally, the club members leased the lake from Pinellas County commissioners and then set out to turn it into a free fishing heaven for the kids. Following the recommendation of State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission biologists, the lake was completely drained out and then restocked with healthy bass and bass in proper balance. Recent tests disclosed that many of the fish now average around three pounds and biologists predict that the lake soon will be ready to fish upon to the youngsters.

Recently, club members met with the county commissioners in an inspection trip to the county fish hatchery. At a later official meeting the members voted to take steps leading to closer cooperation between all Pinellas County government officials, the county commissioners, and biologists in the future operations of the fish hatchery. Recommendations were made that the hatchery grounds be provided with barbecue pits, picnic tables, and added recreational facilities.

MIGHTY BASS FOR MIGHTY FISHERMEN ARE FOUND IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY'S LAKE KISSIMMEE. (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:) LEON DENTON, CANTON GULF, AND HARBERT BENEDICT PASS WITH A 300-ROD CATCH LANDED BY DR. H. J. STONE, GEOE CRAWFORD, AND BILL FOSSEA. THE FISH CATCHING TRIO HAIL FROM OAKLAND, KY.
FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1950

H. E. Gallagher, of Tallahassee, with a 131/2-pound black bass taken near the capital city.

Commission Moves to Install New Type "Quail Cafeterias"

Plans to set up 100 quail feeding stations throughout the state on an experimental basis were approved by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Committee during a meeting last month.

The feeders are being used in a program to increase Florida's quail population. Dr. C. E. Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Florida, told his fellow members that he had been testing the feeders on his own farm for some time with some degree of success.

Quail hunting in Florida has been on the downgrade during the past two years. Attempts at releasing pre-aged quail, and importing birds from outside the state have brought only indifferent results.

The new program will provide for feeding the birds, thus keeping them healthy enough to resist disease, avoid predators, and maintain a healthy diet. Laying quail will be one of the main ingredients in their feed.

The feeders, designed by G. Earl Foye, the Commission's chief wildlife biologist, cost approximately $5 each. It is estimated it will cost about $10 each to keep supplied with quail food.

The Commission plans to start a campaign to urge sportsmen's clubs and other organizations to sponsor future feeding programs in their areas.

The Commission revised its hunting regulations so that permits can be issued to the feeders without violating the rules against hunting fields for birds.

Writers Predict An End To Free Hunting

Florida sportsmen don't stand alone in their fight against unprofitable hunting grounds. The same situation evidently is faced by hunters in many other states.

Ohio is the most recent state to voice fear that free hunting eventually will be found to be the only way to provide profitable hunting grounds. The situation evidently is faced by hunters in many other states.

In a recent poll conducted by the Ohio Conservation Bureau, Louise L. Lowery, the state's wildlife officer, asked the question: "If you had the choice, which would you prefer?" To which the respondents overwhelmingly said "the government should fix up the state's parks and give us the use of them for free."
Florida's Charred Economy

A GUEST EDITORIAL

By C. H. COULTER
State Forester

Florida's tourist visitors seem to find the state's fine year-around climate and recreational possibilities tempting. But at all of the hotels where we have had exhibits this year those tourists who have stopped to talk to our foresters and rangers are amazed that the people of Florida are burning the forest intentionally and carelessly, apparently without regard to the damage done to the timber, wildlife and the land itself.

We are embarrassed by these questions from the tourist who seems to feel that only in a backward state would two or three million acres be burned every year by wildfires. The tourist is astonished to learn that 70 percent of these fires are started intentionally for a variety of purposes and 27 percent carelessly.

The tourist isn't particularly worried about whether we make money from our fires — he's more interested in the view along the highway and in not having that view covered by the heavy smoke of burning woodlands. However, the tourist does have a strong feeling about preventing the forest fires. Back home, he has seen soil erosion and stream pollution which have come from removal of the forest cover. He knows, too, that wildfires are directly affecting the amount of game he finds in the woods and the number of fish he catches in the brooks and streams that flow through the timberlands.

We're proud of our state and refrain from telling the tourist that Florida's timber industry at one time was about as important a source of income as any it had. We don't tell them, unless asked, that out-of-controlled wildfires coupled with short-sighted cutting practices almost completely wiped out that valuable industry. Had the state not had some other valuable resources which sustained it — they grew, our visitors might be talking about "Florida's Charred Economy."

While the wildfire problem is a long way from being solved, progress in the last 20 years in that direction and a fortunate southward trek of the boll weevil and the cotton borer into the south have given Florida foresters a shot in the arm. Now a $175,000,000 annual income producer, the forest products business reaches into virtually every corner of the state and touches most of its people through their pocketbooks or their recreational life.

County by county, organized forest fire protection units are spreading over the state. By summer, over half of our forested land will be protected and I am sure more will be added by year's end. As progressive as that expansion is, it is distressing to realize that the existence of a protection unit doesn't necessarily prevent fires. All our most effective fire-fighting crews can do is put out the fires quickly and hold down the area burned and damage done.

This points back to the percentages on the causes of the wildfires: 97 percent intentionally or carelessly started by you or some other Floridaian. Regardless of your business or the way in which you seek your recreation, this促进icious burning of our forests is somehow hurting you. It means money out of your pocket in taxes. It means scarce game and fish for you. It can mean an endangered water supply. This list is endless.

My plea for cooperation is simple. It is our national forest fire prevention slogan. REMEMBER—ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WOODS FIRES!