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.
Dear Sir:

I was reading a recent copy of your publication, and was interested in the information on fly rod fishing as to what flies and lures to use to catch perch and bass.

Sincerely,

John H. Berger
Elkhart, Ind.

WANTS FLY INFORMATION

Dear Sir:

If possible, please give us more information on fly rod fishing as to what flies and lures to use to catch perch and bass.

Sincerely,

E. A. Mauldin

Tampa

I was not prepared on an article on fly fishing. Watch for it in a month or so.—ED.

HE LIKES IT TOO

Dear Sir:

Yours is certainly the finest publication of its kind I have ever seen. Keep up the good work.

St. C, F. Damereow

Vero Beach

GEARSHTFT GADGET

Dear Sir:

Regarding your article, "Outboard Revolution," issue of June, 1949, what happened?

Did V. C. Babcock, of DeLand, ever get to market the outboard gearshift gadget or so.—ED.

JOHN H. BERGER

Elkhart, Ind.

I thank you and through you my friends know when we hear from him.—ED.

LARRY E. NICHOLSON

St. Petersburg

We have written Mr. Babcock, but he hasn't advised us yet. We'll let you know when we hear from him.—ED.

Regarding your article, "Outboard Revolution," issue of June, 1949, what happened?

We have written Mr. Babcock, but he hasn't advised us yet. We'll let you know when we hear from him.—ED.

JOHN H. BERGER

Elkhart, Ind.

The Eyes of Conservation by Ben McLachlin

Mysterious Mourning Dove by Frank A. Winston

Kicker Caravan by Charles H. Anderson

Fishin' and Religion by C. Winn Upchurch

Fish that Never Bite by Howard Douglas

Mr. Chigger—The Outlaw by Gerald R. Hunter

The Eyes of Conservation by Ben McLachlin

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The chigger may be little but he's mighty and rates a reputation of being about the worst little stinker that is.

In fact, for downright devilment the chigger, or "red bug", is about the worst little stinker there is. Less than 1/125 of an inch long, he can make a 250-pound man speak the most vulgar of words; in numbers he can bring a man to his wits end. Victims of chiggers should not be cheated chiggers. They have never been known to hunt for prey to the creatures should have a friend say something appropriate from time to time.

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A Florida wildlife officer is really more than any of the Agency's game preservationists, candlestick makers, butchers, the baker, and the cake decorator. He is an expert on human relations. Thousands of individuals each year apply for jobs as Florida wildlife officers. All applications are carefully analyzed. To meet the minimum requirements for employment as a wildlife officer, one must be not less than 21 nor over 45 years of age. He must be in top physical condition and have a high school education (or equivalent). He must be a citizen of good standing in his community and his morals and integrity must be above reproach.

After analyzing all applications, those who meet the requirements are placed on an eligible list. Each person on the eligible list is carefully investigated and screened. Finally, those who meet all specifications are given a physical, written and oral examination. The ones making the highest scores are then approved for schooling. Each of these prospective officers is sent to the Wildlife Officers Training School at Williston. During this schooling period he is given thorough courses in fish management, game management, first aid, marksmanship, self defense, court room procedure, law, investigations, bird and animal trapping, public speaking, radio, techniques of law enforcement, and many other subjects. Those who successfully complete the course of instruction, are then commissioned as wildlife officers and assigned to field duty.

Thus begins an era in one's life that will prove to be the greatest "profession" on earth for the man who loves the outdoors and is willing to devote his life to the conservation of our greatest natural resource—wildlife.

One of the greatest improvements made in law enforcement in recent years was the acquisition of better equipment—two-way radios, airplanes, good vehicles, boats and motors. At the present time 60 per cent of the motor vehicles, boats, and aircraft are equipped with two-way radios. All officers now travel in commission-owned vehicles and boats. This system makes possible a saving of many man hours and much travel. The two-way radio has increased tremendously the efficiency of law enforcement activities. Perhaps a description of a recent operation in South Florida will illustrate the tremendous benefit of modern equipment and techniques.

The Investigation Department furnished information that a huge illegal fish seining operation was being carried on a large lake. This information further disclosed that the seining was being done at night by a crew of five men. Twenty officers were selected to handle this assignment. At a central point all of the officers met for planning and briefing. By the use of large maps of the area involved and with detailed descriptions supplied by the Investigation Department, plans were formulated and carried out as follows:

At a specified hour, under cover of darkness, all personnel moved into the area involved. Every road and "pig trail" was blocked by officers equipped with jeeps and two-way radios. Two speed boats and one air boat took up positions on the lake. An airplane began patrolling the waters.

At 10:45 P.M. the airplane pilot and observer spotted several dark objects on the water near a cove. After circling the area several times they
Mysteries of the Mourning Dove

By Frank A. Winston

(Compiled by: Florida Wildlife Commission)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

July, 1950

These hungry baby mourning doves are reminding their mother that it's mealtime.

If you meet a bobwhite quail up in his own backyard. On the other hand, if you mention the mourning dove, which is second only to quail in popularity as a small game bird, the response is likely to be merely a long silence. Fundamentally, most hunters don't know anything about the dove except that it makes for good shooting. For generations the dove has been taking as much punishment as any other single game bird, without any research whatsoever being carried on for its protection and perpetuation.

However, in this state as in all others over the nation, thoughtful sportsmen and sportsmen's groups are becoming increasingly concerned with methods for protecting and improving the hunting and fishing both for themselves and for their children. The disappearance of the passenger pigeon, the near-extinction of the buffalo, and many similar cases remain as ominous reminders of what can happen when unlimited shooting and habitat destruction continue unchecked. The concern of the sportsmen has reflected itself in the development of state wildlife commissions, and the setting up of the Pittman-Robertson Federal Act for the restoration of wildlife which provides funds and coordinates the activities of the state agencies.

During the past year in Florida, a considerable majority of wildlife violations recorded occurred over waterfowl and mourning doves, both migratory game birds. (The mourning dove is frequently known as the "Turtle Dove" in Florida). A great deal of publicity has been devoted in recent years to the decreasing of the waterfowl flocks, but what about the mourning dove? Is that fast flying, evasive feathered comet just as plentiful and unlimited as it ever was?

Whatever the answer may be, to the conscientious and thoughtful sportsman the need for scientifically collected knowledge about the mourning dove becomes extremely important. If the dove is in danger of becoming extinct, it should be known. If the bird is holding its own, then hunting of the dove should be so wisely regulated that it need never be threatened with extinction. True sportsmen have always cooperated willingly with hunting regulation they know to be necessary for the preservation of a particular species.

The migratory habits of the dove are a primary question; to what extent do some doves remain permanent residents of Florida, tending to move only within the state boundaries? Whatever the answer may be, to the out-of-state migratory flocks come? Where then do they go? The answers to these questions can be obtained only through intensive, large scale banding of thousands of doves, AND through the cooperation of sportsmen who RETURN THE BANDS to complete the records on the movements of the individual birds. Banding, no matter how thoroughly carried out, is useless unless band returns are made. Florida is maintaining between 20 and 30 banding stations set up over the state, some being kept in operation year round. Approximately 1,500 doves have been banded in the past nine months.

From the limited band return records already available, some sketchy theory of migratory habits can be drawn tentatively. It must be emphasized that all of the following statements are based on very limited evidence, and may prove totally erroneous as more band returns are compiled. Some doves seem to be year-round residents of Florida. Migratory flocks from the north seem to come over two fly-ways, one from Maine and the north-east coastal areas, the other from the midwest and Canada. Flocks from the two fly-ways seem to converge and pass thru northwest Florida on their way south during the early fall months (Sept., Oct.). Where they go is not known, although a few birds from such flocks have been recovered in the October dove shoot in Dade county. At the same time, however, there is some evidence that doves heading north also move into...
Picturesque waterlilies nodded their heads when the outboards roared their way across Lake Griffin.

Kicker Caravan

By CHARLES H. ANDERSON

Cruising down the river in the old days may have been a young rivai's dream of a lazy, summer Sunday afternoon complete with a strawberry blonde, a canoe, and a jug of lemonade. But, like many other things, times have changed. Last month the Jacksonville Outboard Boat Club staged its annual cruise down the lazy, shady Oklawaha river, through Lake Griffin, Haines Creek and into a night of festivities at the host club in Leesburg. But, unlike the river cruise in the song, this trip was not made by paddle and ukulele; the droning roar of high powered outboard motors set the tempo of the hundred mile run.

As the early dawn broke over the Oklawaha's cypress swamps near Eureka, orderly groups of boating enthusiasts began to arrive with their boats in tow. By eight o'clock, departure time, perhaps the largest gathering of small craft operators ever assembled for a holiday, had launched 57 boats of as many different designs with their respective jockeys eager to be at the throttle and away. The fleet was divided into three sections to take off at 15-minute intervals to ease the pressure on the available space at the fishing camps along the river that had previously been designated.

With the exception of the gala time shown by the Leesburg Boat Club and Chamber of Commerce, the highlight of the day on the river was the trip through the Oklawaha Locks. Located some 50 miles from the destination, the locks were entered from the lower or down-river side. For water conservation purposes the second group of boats were split so only two lifts had to be made to raise the boats the 14 feet to the water height through the upper ridge section of the state.

To make sure every member of the cruise would remember Leesburg as the world's watermelon center, two trucks loaded with iced melon were on hand early Sunday morning just before the boats prepared to depart. Stowed in the cooler parts of the boats the cold melons played the leading role for a real watermelon cutting party while waiting for the return trip through the locks.

Arriving back at Eureka late Sunday afternoon, club officials figured that the boats had averaged 22½ miles per hour on the trip. Club members figured that they had enjoyed one grand week end. Although most of them were sunburned and tired, they were counting on making next year's trip even bigger and better.

JULY, 1950

The flotilla was lifted 14 feet at the Oklawaha dam.

Leesburg provided cold melons for the homeward cruise.

Leesburg entertained royally. The fleet's largest—but outboard driven.
The Eastern diamondback rattler is easily recognized. The rattle on the end of its tail makes a soft, rounded sound the warning rattle; others may use it for luring prey. By day the diamondback often lies coiled in a grassy area, waiting for prey to pass within the snake's striking range. The reaction of the rattlesnake at such times is unpredictable. Some rattlesnakes, closely approached, may strike at the intruder; others may remain completely quiet, or else may glide for the safety of a nearby brush pile or gopher hole; some may lung in the air, striking at the intruder. Rattlesnakes are fierce predators; they may sometimes strike at the observer, even though they may be several feet away.

By ROSS ALLEN

And WILFRED T. NEILL

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JULY, 1950

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake is the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, found in Florida. By day the diamondback often lies coiled in a grassy area, waiting for prey to pass within the snake's striking range. The reaction of the rattlesnake at such times is unpredictable. Some rattlesnakes, closely approached, may strike at the intruder; others may remain completely quiet, or else may glide for the safety of a nearby brush pile or gopher hole; some may lung in the air, striking at the intruder. Rattlesnakes are fierce predators; they may sometimes strike at the observer, even though they may be several feet away.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JULY, 1950

THE EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

LARGEST of America's poisonous snakes is the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, found in Florida. By day the diamondback often lies coiled in a grassy area, waiting for prey to pass within the snake's striking range. The reaction of the rattlesnake at such times is unpredictable. Some rattlesnakes, closely approached, may strike at the intruder; others may remain completely quiet, or else may glide for the safety of a nearby brush pile or gopher hole; some may lung in the air, striking at the intruder. Rattlesnakes are fierce predators; they may sometimes strike at the observer, even though they may be several feet away.

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By ROSS ALLEN

And WILFRED T. NEILL

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JULY, 1950
tropical fish. Of course, it's going to cost you another 50 or 75 bucks to house the
a bit.
Nurseries in Tampa, "you don't have to save the hundred to get started in one of
the most interesting of indoor hobbies
living room fisheries started."
Greenberg, who has been in the exotic fish breeding business for some 20 years
says that it all started long before he came to Tampa. He recalled that from the
time he was a child in Chicago he was interested in colorful fishes. As a boy,
instead of saving and trading for the line of articles usually included in a young­
ster's stock of playthings, he was trading for unusual small fish for his homemade
aquarium. Before he was 10, Greenberg said, his mother was wondering where it
was going to end. Fish cluttered up the living room, bathroom and even the space
under the kitchen stove and table wasn't free of the tin cans that contained his
small fish. Of course none of these were of the rare or beautiful species that he
dreamed of pet hobby of his youth. However, people were looking for fish to eat in
those days, not fish to look at! Undaunted, Greenberg built his first small
aquarium, stocked it and in a short while the hobby had spread to the yard and
killed all before he came to Tampa. He recalled that from the
time he was a child in Chicago he was interested in colorful fishes. As a boy,
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Dear Sir:

I have re-read "They Live to Fight," appearing in your March issue, and conservation by refusing to enter any sailfish the length-limit on ocean fish would make to most of the findings of fish scientists to black bass! Ask him, too, why on earth any more sense than with black bass. Ask him or any informed person, if the sailfish in conservation much harm. It is 99, maybe can't fish out a lake, pond, or stream with 100 per cent utter nonsense. What are you learn Sir:

"They Live to Fight"

HERB MOSHER

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SOUTH FLORIDA NEGLECTED

Dear Sir:

I think FLORIDA WILDLIFE is the best fishing and hunting magazine there is. It may be small, but every page is packed with useful information. A world-wide, while information, not just a hodgepodge of advertisements. Also I would like to compliment you on your fine pictures.

There is only one fault I can find with your magazine. Why not more on South Florida? I think our canals and other fishing spots have been badly overlooked in your magazine.

BOY DAVIS,
Miami.

ROBIN ROODS

Dear Sir:

I recently read a January issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE and was very much interested in seeing this state make headway in wildlife management.

extreme care was used in reading the article on archery hunting, since a couple of my friends and I do a lot of archery hunting around Jensen Beach. We would like to see bow-and-arrow hunting take hold in this state. So if we can help in any way you may find the answer.—ED.)

JOHN R. GUYNN
Lake City

A READING FISHERMAN

Dear Sir:

In the March FLORIDA WILDLIFE is a note on the book "Salt Water Fishing" by Robert A. Dulle. Where can I purchase a copy?

WALTER C. WILLARD

Dear Sir:

I may obtain "Salt Water Fishing," direct from Henry Holt Co., 17 Park Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.—ED.

TEACHES CHILDREN

Dear Sir:

It is time that I took time out from the busy daily routine here to let you know that we consider your magazine a valuable reference in teaching nature and conserva- tion to the hundreds of children who come to us.

In conclusion the good work! FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine is "way up front" when you stack it up against anything else.

SHIRLEY R. HOWARD
Jacksonville Children's Museum.
EYES OF CONSERVATION

Continued from Page 5

ascertained that the objects were three boats, occupied by five men, and a line of seine corks could be seen extending into the lake. The airplane pilot immediately recognized the speed boats and air boat what he had observed and gave the officers blocking the road leading to the lake the same information and resumed his observation of the nesting activity. The speed boats made the speed boats immediately, at full speed, headed toward "the fish bootleggers." When the boats were approached, they began to speed away. However, the "bootleggers" apparently figured out what was happening. They deserted their seines and fish and headed across the lake, all their boats going in different directions. Doctors stated, our boats pursued one of the three "bootleggers'" boats. Our aircraft continued to patrol the lake and because of a moonlight night were able, fairly well, to observe the entire operation. Every time one of our boats lost track of the fleeing "bootleggers" the airplane radio would tell them where the bootleggers were heading. Bootlegger boat No. 1 was run down and captured midway in the lake. Bootlegger No. 2 was captured as it crossed the lake. Bootlegger No. 3 was caught just as it reached the shore. All seemed well on this operation with two things remaining. When the crew of officers pursuing the third "bootlegger" were closed in, and the speed boat straddled a log and knocked a hole in the bottom of the lake, the officers proceeded to do what they could through. With the "bootleggers" now apprehended, one of the most interesting small creek flowing into the lake. The crew of officers aboard the speed boat quickly radioed to the officers blocking the road leading to the creek that they had caught a "bootlegger" and that the officers found catching the speed boat straddled a log and knocked a hole in the bottom of the lake. The officers radioed the individuals who were found shaving the lake and were surprised to find themselves under arrest when they rounded a curve in the road a half mile from the lake. The net results of this exercise were: (1) 1,800 yards net, and 2,100 pounds of bream and crappie confiscated. The officers are on duty. It takes but a few minutes to deposit the contents of the car, including the illegal fish and equipment. The police then have a legal basis for searching the car.

The wildlife officer is sworn to uphold the law. Many times the officer is blamed for making an arrest for a violation of a law with which the public is not in agreement. There are good reasons why these laws are made. For example, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for several years have had a regulation that prohibits the hunting, shooting and killing of birds and game after one hour before sunset. To many waterfowl hunters this regulation seems to be one of the persecution type rather than a regulation to conserve animals. Furthermore, many violators are just as likely to be performers of the harmful type and the best that can be done to protect the game is to arrest and take them into custody. A given locality, where many viola­ tors are known to be going on, is mapped out. On every road leading out of the area at a given time, officers set up a road block. The approaching motorist will first see a large well­lighted sign which reads, "CAUTION — ALL TRAFFIC PLEASE STOP 300 Yards Ahead." The 300 yards down the road, where the officers are stationed, a second sign reads: "All Traffic Cease Further; New State of Florida that the removal of the car sag. Sometimes, water can be seen dripping from the ice fish. The fish and game officer is always on the lookout for illegal game. The ice fish is pulled over to the road shoulder and searched. Is this an illegal search? Under the law, officers are permitted to search a vehicle if "they have probable cause to believe there is any contraband or transporting illegal fish or game." We know that a large quantity of game fish are being bootlegged out of Florida, usually in automobiles. When you see the back end sagging, and water dripping, and smell fish, don't you think, "Well, maybe they have only enough money for one license, and no other fish in the car?"
and then onto the mainland, and that the state, first on the southern Keys, vital factor in the start of the migration of the doves. Early freezing weather usually brings early concentrations of doves to Florida. The availability of food is probably the determining factor in the length of stay of concentration within an area. Food may be farm crops such as corn, oats, peanuts, chufas or grain sorghums. Techniques of harvesting such crops also will make a difference in the amount left available for the doves. Natural foods which attract the doves are rag-weed, various grasses, and peanuts, chufas or grain sorghums. Techniques of harvesting such crops also will make a difference in the amount left available for the doves.

MYSTERIOUS DOVE

Approximate routes taken by 13 doves banded in Florida and retaken in other states, and the deprivations of predators are estimated to cause approximately a 60% nestling mortality rate.

Continuing study of nesting activity within the individual states is necessary, however, to determine the probable yearly "home-grown" dove population. The reports from Florida, plus reports from other states, plus the results of other census techniques are combined to yield estimates of probable dove populations within the country. By these means, trends in population can be identified, and a scientific basis provided for establishing the federal hunting regulations. Sportsmen will be familiar with the technique as it has been applied to waterfowl for many years.

Finally, investigation leads into the field during breeding season. Participating with the state dove biologist are also federal biologists and state wildlife officers. The objectives are several. Primarily, hunters' bags are examined, age and sex ratios of the kill are recorded to determine the composition of the flock. It is known that the young birds tend to flock together during breeding season, but have become mixed with young and adult after breeding season. The birds are examined and sexed, and information is obtained whether any are in breeding (hence nesting) condition. Destruction of breeding adults will result generally in the additional loss of the young. A result highly undesirable to both sportsmen and conservationists. The check on breeding birds also yields information on the extent of fall breeding.

This project has been designed to find sensitive, satisfactory answers for these and many other questions. Research equipment and dissatisfactory expressed by hunters over the regulation of the dove season. When sufficient evidence for the management of the dove is obtained, it will be published for the sportsman by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. After all the information has been obtained, it will provide better shooting for all while insuring the perpetuation of the species.

Approximate routes taken by 10 doves banded in other states and retaken in Florida.

MYSTERIOUS DOVE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
MAY 31, 1950

Debit

Cash with State Treasurer $ 312,785.01
Unpaid Check On Hand 6.00

Credit

Disbursements:
Salaries 554,103.74
Regular Expense 461,905.80
Special Expense 51,374.80

Accounts Receivable Dealt from County Judges 3.30

Receipts:
Sale of Licenses $ 516,313.50
Fishing 1,047.00
Hunting 12,313.87
Permits and Alot 30,664.60
Commercial 10,136.35
Federal Aid (Pittman-Robertson) 13,479.73
Court Costs Collected 495,075.00
Magazine Subscription Refunds 15,141.91
Other Sources 6,075.00

Unencumbered Balance, as of July 1, 1949 $1,348,072.93 $1,348,072.93

EYES OF CONSERVATION

(May 31, 1950)

This length restriction was a sound conservation measure inasmuch as a high percentage of the small fish, hooked and handled by the average sportsman, died from rough treatment and were lost to the fishermen.

Another regulation for which many sportsmen can see no reason is the one prohibiting the taking and killing of alligators. Many of them figure this regulation does not make sense. However, these sportsmen are not aware of the real value of the alligator to conservation.

Many areas within the state are severely hurt each year by dry weather causing a scarcity of drinking water supply. In these areas was provided by holes and caves that were inhabited by alligators whose activities caused the holes to be cleared out, thus allowing water seepage and collection. It has also been found that after the alligators have been killed or removed the holes or caves filled with debris and dirt and eventually dried up.

Eyes of conservation hope to see these 2,000 state officers to patrol all of Florida's tremendous number of lakes and streams and fields and forests. We only have 157 officers. Therefore, we must look to you, the people, who love and cherish the great outdoors and the sports that abound therein, to help prevent any of the plants in the gardens. Rather than see anyone try to take cuttings and run a chance of killing a plant we'd rather give them a whole plant.

Yes, the nine springs are stocked with the rare and beautiful fish from far away places but "NO FISHING, PLEASE!"

July 1950
Wildlife Officers Catch Prize Brun For Boys' School

Jefferson county recently lost a "bad actor" and the Boy's Industrial School, at Marianna, gained a new student. A chimpanzee named "Villain IV" has been admitted to the school zoo—although the efforts of two Third District wildlife officers.

Harry C. Chaplin and John H. Douglas went into action eight miles south of Washington, Md., in a bear killing cattle and hogs. Accompanied by Jefferson County Conservation Agent Jesse Lavette, they set one of the Game Commission's steel box traps after finding definite signs of a huge bear. The trap was baited generously with honey and 12 hours later the "grandpa" of all Jefferson county bears was safely un-trapped. He tipped the scales at slightly less than 300 pounds!

The full cooperation of Carroll County wildlife officers delivered a live bear to the Industrial School Zoo, where he was transferred to a zooey cage that is even equipped with a full size bath tub. Although the record bear is attracting widespread attention, he is receiving close competition from the zone's youngster. It's a three-week-old fawn that was presented unexpectedly by "Minnie," the school's favorite doe.

The zoo recently received by students at the school and the cages have been stocked by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissions.

COUNTING BIRDS

Florida real estate agents have combined hunting with tutoring the mail. They are now hugging along—with a pen.

As they carry the mail they are jotting down the numbers of songbirds they see and reporting their totals to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. In a sample cross-section census lasting five days, 242 Florida audubon sighted 7,745 birds.

Bass Tourney Entries

Average 8 Pounds

LEESBURG—When the Jarvie-sponsored 23rd annual fresh water bass tournament ended here recently, it not only went down in local history as a huge success—it was a record-breaker as well.

Records disclose that out of the 110 entries, 105 were for black bass totaling a weight of 868 pounds—an average weight per fish of approximately 8 pounds.

James Oversey, Canton Hill, was at the top of the totem pole when the tournament ended. He,14 pound, 2 ounce bass stumped first prize, a 5 horsepower Johnson outboard motor. Second prize, a tackle box, was awarded to Dr. H. C. Holland, of this city, for a 13-pound, 2 ounce entry. Third spot went to C. W. Henry, of Leesburg, with his entry of a 12 pound, 8 ounce bass. He was awarded a supply of fishing equipment.

Crackdown Ordered

On Negligent Permit Holders

Wildlife officers are prepared to "crack down" on holders of permits for operating cutfish wire traps in the St. Johns River if they fail to meet commission requirements.

Director Coleman Newman said reports had been received that traps were being operated with no identification tags, contrary to permit terms.

Identification tags bearing the owner's name must be secured to the trap, the float, or the stake," he said.

Villanova College Gets Villian IV, Florida Cat Fresh Out of Everglades

A Florida wildcat fresh out of the Everglades was guest of honor at the Villanova College convention.

He was Guest Villian IV, now resident in Villanova College by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Welcomed by 2,000 college students, the cat demonstrated a program clearly the president of the college and the head of the athletic association.

Bob Dahnke, Author and Newspaperman, Joins Press Staff

Bob Dahnke, of Ybor City, joined the offices of the Christian and Education of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission last month, Bill Snyder, director, announced recently.

A former newspaperman and free-lance writer, Dahnke has written numerous articles on fishing and Florida outdoor life in gen-

eral and is also author of the sale-fiction book "Salt Water Fishing," recently published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. He is presently engaged in writing a similar book on fresh water fishing in his spare time.

Dahnke is treasurer of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association, and is also a member of numerous Florida outdoor organizations.

He served in the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, seeing action in the Pacific. Coming to Florida in 1939, he was born in Minnesota in 1921, and raised in Illinois, and has traveled extensively about the United States, fishing as he went.

According to Dahnke, he now considers Florida his home, and has no desire to move.

Wildlife Officers Give Cats Bad Time

SANFORD—More than 24,000 cat fish, predatory and non-predatory, were recently removed from the St. Johns River near Bear Bluff and Mullet Lake Park by Florida wildlife officers.

Using a clean-up seine, they snared fish ranging in length from 10 inches to four and a half feet long, and weighing up to 40 pounds. In 1949 they Lifted 43,000 of these fish which reduce the number of bass and other game fish.

Officers participating in the work included: H. L. Loundsley, Wayne A. Clifford, Claude Clark, and W. W. Johns.

Wildlife Officers Get a Sneak Peek at the Philadelphia Zoo's Latest Addition

A guinea pig at the University of Pennsylvania college convocation.

The chimpanzees, appearing in the picture, are owned by S. W. Thomas, Wild Animal Ranch, St. Petersburg. The photo was taken by Charles H. Anderson, our picture editor.

The Cover Picture

The two cute chimpanzees, appearing in this month's front cover picture, seem to be mighty proud of their brand-new 1950-51 fresh water fishing license. Although their specially designed license is somewhat bigger than the official ones sold by county judges throughout the state—it is a reminder that the 1949-50 licenses expired June 30. The current issue went on sale June 15.

The chimpanzees, appearing in the picture, are owned by S. W. Thomas, Wild Animal Ranch, St. Petersburg.
There are many folks who never thought they'd see me here. However, here's my contribution to what I personally believe is a sound suggestion coming from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission of Florida. Charlie Anderson brought me the idea from Tallahassee and it's a darn good one, from many angles. According to Charlie, a brother member in the Florida Outdoor Writers Association, the Publicity Department of the Commission, now under the able leadership of Bill Snyder has offered to set aside a full page each month in the Florida Wildlife Magazine, for use of some Florida Outdoor Writer or Radio Commentator of outdoor subjects.

This particular article is in no wise sponsored by the Florida Outdoor Writers, as an organization but, the writer will recommend at the summer meeting of FOWA in Miami on July 1 and 2, that the group accept the proposal of the Commission and I trust that the entire organization will fall in line, by taking their places in the alternating process of publishing their individual contributions from month to month, in the agency's publication, the Florida Wildlife Magazine.

As I understand the proposal, this page is being offered to one member of FOWA each month, for that writer to place his thoughts on paper, for or against various matters concerning Florida's outdoors and its Wildlife Conservation. Each contributor is to be given a free hand to express his or her views on the vitally important subjects, allied to both writers and the Commission. And right here I would like to stress one point very clearly, we are not being given this page as a weapon with which to fight the Commission. It is possible and very probable that many worthwhile proposals shall come to the Commission from members of the Florida Outdoor Writers. Not many of such proposals should have to enter a period of "cooling off" before receiving attention. The boys and girls of FOWA would not be qualified to fill their present capacities if, they were not experienced in outdoor subjects and their manifestations. So, from those people should come, ideas, suggestions, proposals and recommendations which should help the Commission.

A resolution which was passed at the last meeting of FOWA, in Jacksonville was one which would ask the Commission to experiment with placing Striped Bass (salt water specie) in some specific fresh water lake in Florida, to find out if that great game fish would survive. This would be one way by which to protect two of America's greatest game fishes.

In closing may I say, "Fellows, let's accept this monthly page in Florida Wildlife Magazine, and do what we can to create a better understanding between all sportmen and the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission."

Paul Maine
President
Florida Outdoor Writers Assoc.

Forest fires and the trees they burn make a good subject for a sad song. It's time to stop and sing—even a dirge—about the useless squandering of a valuable resource by fire.

Every year, fires started by careless people burn millions of acres of growing timber. Yet, trees will grow again and again if protected and hallowed properly. And from these trees we get lumber, plywood, pulp and paper, and other manufactured products.

Fire is one of the forests' worst enemies. Protect our forests from fire and keep them growing. Keep America Green.