1951
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May
Have you ever sat by candlelight and listened to the mighty voice of the hurricane? Have you ever felt your home twist and shudder during a great storm? Have you wondered what happens to wildlife at a time like this? Here are the facts as told by a hurricane forecaster.

Areas. The chances are even less, one in 50 years, for the Jacksonville area. The northwest coast of Florida, from Cedar Keys to Pensacola, is exposed to storms that develop in the western Caribbean as well as those in the Gulf of Mexico, and the chances there rise to one in 10 years.

The tropical hurricane is probably one of the greatest factors that contribute to the destruction of our game, and possibly, to a lesser degree, our fish life. This violent storm, with its destructive high winds and attendant torrential rains, roars out of the tropical areas and occasionally crosses or passes very near the Florida peninsula. The high winds cause untold damage to property and vegetation, and the latter supports our wildlife to a very great extent.

The heavy hurricane rains are welcome during periods of little rainfall. On the other hand, they may cause considerable damage, as was the case in 1947, when the lower east coast of Florida was visited by two hurricanes only three weeks apart, pouring thousands of tons of rain on an already saturated earth. The result was flood conditions that caused considerable property, crop, and grove damage, as well as the loss of countless thousands of game animals and fish due to the high waters and its after effects.

Wild and tame animals alike may be directly or indirectly killed by tropical hurricanes.

ORIGINATION

Hurricanes that affect Florida originate in three locations, one of which is the south Atlantic Ocean between Africa and the island group extending from Puerto Rico to Trinidad. In this area between the northeast and the southeast trade winds will be found a band of very light, moisture-laden, winds called the doldrums. This band of light winds moves north and south, approximately between latitudes 5 and 20, with the advance and retreat of the trade winds, and is a favorable location for the formation of hurricanes. Storms usually develop in this area during the middle months of the hurricane season, from mid-July until about October first. Conditions are most favorable for development in the Gulf of Mexico early in the season, especially the months of June and July, and again from mid-September until mid-October. Storms also develop in the western Caribbean Sea in June and July, but the most favorable time, however, is during the months of October and November.

CAUSES

Several theories have been advanced as to the cause and maintenance of hurricanes. One theory is that tropical cyclones begin as waves along the intertropical front, the boundary between the trade winds and the equatorial doldrums. When hurricane flags, like those shown flying over Brooksides City Post Office, are up, it is a signal for all to be on guard. Those who work outdoors, like Wildlife Officer Joe Crews, must be ready for instantaneous action.
harricade of 1936, which passed through the Florida Keys, is a good example of a rather small but extremely violent storm. This hurricane had a calm center that was nine to 10 miles in diameter. No readings of the highest wind near the center were obtained; however, authoritative estimates based on the pressure distribution and the lowest barometer reading of 26.55 inches near the center, give winds of 150 to probably in excess of 200 m.p.h. The barometer reading of 26.55 inches is a record low sea level reading for the western hemisphere. This hurricane produced a storm wave estimated at 15 to 20 feet above mean low water. A train, dispatched to the Keys to evacuate natives and an encampment of World War I veterans, was swept from its tracks, with the exception of the engine and the tender. Loss of life in the Keys, mostly by drowning, was between 400 and 500.

A hurricane that formed in the western Caribbean Sea moved northward across central Cuba and passed inland over Miami on the night of October 17-18, 1950. The eye of this storm was only about five miles in diameter, and gave brief pressure of 28.20 inches at Miami. Winds, estimated at 150 m.p.h., were experienced in a narrow band in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale area. This storm moved up the peninsula, and gave hurricane to near-hurricane force winds as far north as Jacksonville, and considerable damage resulted in the entire eastern portion of the state.

GREAT HURRICANES

According to hurricane expert Grady Norton, Supervising Forecaster and Official in Charge at the Weather Bureau Hurricane Office at Miami, only 10 hurricanes that have reached the Florida coast during the past 70 years can be classed as "great," taking into consideration both size and intensity. The "great" hurricanes were (Continued on Page 22)

TYPOGRAPHY

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ing anything except a few small tracks in the mud of the road, we could agree as to their apparent rarity and even wonder that these miniature deer survived at all. Fires had swept through the slash pine (Pinus caribbea) not too long before, leaving a floor of bare, badly eroded track and wide areas of blackened trunks. There were adjacent ridges of tropical hotton-wood (Corchorus crespus) that were free of fire damage, as were the adjacent fringes of black and red mangroves, but at first glance it seemed a poor environment. At several places on the road there were eloquent little heaps of empty shotgun shells, some of them or not even weathered.

During the next few years, an effort was made by the National Audubon Society to prevent the shooting of the deer through the cooperation of landowners and state authorities. Educational work was undertaken in Key West. A bill was passed by the State Legislature giving temporary protection, and it was later replaced by a Game Commission regulation. Then came World War II, and our concern for the deer, along with many other projects of a similar nature, was put aside. Only today, a dozen years after the first interest in their precarious, are definite steps being taken to learn

more of these unusual animals and to preserve them and their habitat.

What does the Key Deer look like, and what are these little animals doing in this isolated and seemingly unfavorable environment? Many people have asked these questions.

The Key Deer (Odocoileus virginianus claviceps) is the smallest of the several races of white-tailed deer. There are some who believe that it is insufficiently different to be placed in a separate category as a distinct species, but this is a problem for the systematists and is only of academic interest to the conservationist. The fact that it is unlike our other native deer on so many counts, and that its complete destruction would mean the extinction of a unique and irreplaceable form, is more than enough to enlist our sympathy and our strong interest in its survival.

In general appearance the Key Deer looks like a diminutive white-tail, except that its proportions never approach the magnificent, as in large bucks of the Michigan or Peninsula races. It is a deer-like animal. The largest bucks, which have been reported to reach a maximum weight of 55 pounds, with an average of something under 50 pounds, are built along miniature and almost elfish lines. They are about the stature of a big dog. Their pocket size, in fact, is their greatest appeal. That such a small and delicate little creatures should be cruelly and needlessly killed, sometimes with a hand ax as they bra velat a temio to ec paeth hounds by a wannin mgis enough to a tir the most disinterested citizen, is a sin. By comparison, the 300-pound white-tail bucks of the northern forests are not only giants fully six times as large as the biggest Key Deer, but one feels that they are stronger, more capable animals, better able to take care of themselves. The little deer are proportionately smaller, and one individual that had been killed by a car on the Overseas Highway on Big Pine Key weighed only 35 pounds, which is probably close to average for adult females. I helped Jack Watson, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, skin this specimen, and she was an old deer with brown-stained, well-worn teeth. She had an over-all length of only 28 inches and measured 26 inches high at the shoulder.

There are several possible explanations as to how these pygmy deer happen to occur in this isolated spot. The most convincing is that they that they went there with the original

(Continued on Page 18)
You Can't Starve in the Woods

By DR. RAYMOND F. BELLAMY
Florida State University

There's something fascinating in the thought of getting away from stores and cultivated fields and gathering our food directly from nature's own supply. There is a bit of the savage in each of us— which is a complimentary rather than a derogatory statement—and to some of us the age-old "Call of the Wild" is especially clear and commanding. Softened and tamed as we are by the sheltered life of modern urban conditions, we still have recurrent longings to walk out into the big woods and hunt for something to eat.

This sentiment was quickened and stimulated during the early years of this century when a Boston artist, made despondent by poor health, deliberately took off all his clothes and disdained to carry along even a pocket knife or a match, walked into the Maine wilderness to live or die, as the case might be. When he returned to civilization some weeks later, dressed in a deer skin, and 40 pounds heavier than when he left, life was far sweeter and more worth while to him.

This experience drove a lot of people almost frantic; thousands of them longed to do the same thing, and quite a few really attempted it. Some of them were successful, and we read about them, but we did not hear about the much larger number who had to give up and acknowledge failure. Some of them got into trouble over game laws, killing fish or game out of season and claiming that it was necessary to prevent starvation! One of these men demonstrated that it is possible to live off of nature in Florida, but he was well equipped with fishing tackle and other products of civilization.

This interest of many people in uncultivated foods calls for an article about the wild plant food of Florida. I shall have to limit my discussion here to the Northern portion of the state. Many of the plants of South Florida are strange and unknown to me. I wouldn't know a sourgrass from a sweettop, and I might starve to death surrounded by plenty.

If I were lost in the woods, and had to spend some length of time away from civilization, like the original Cobe Tate who gave his name to Tate's Hell, I would depend largely on animal food. My first source of supply would be frogs. Frogs are plentiful and can be killed with sticks—at least a few of them can—and they can be eaten raw. Turtles, snakes, tadpoles, crayfish, clams, and many other creatures would supply nutritious food. If one were in the coastal section, it should be easy to live on crabs, oysters, demax, and the many things which swim, crawl, glide, creep, and fly in and near the water.

The most abundant and most easily secured forms of vegetable foods are the leafy plants, or greens. There are a great many leafy plants in Florida which may be eaten raw, but most of

(Continued on Page 25)

Stalks of common purple-flowered thistles (above) are edible, as are leaves of the elderberry (below) which may be poisonous.

Leaves and tendrils of many wild grapevines have pleasant acid taste; others are bitter.

Sorrel looks and tastes like asparagus, but has a better taste when either raw or cooked.

Florida Wildlife

May, 1951

Plant Photos By
KENNETH A. WAGNER
Florida State University

Peneywort has long, underground stem which has a flavor similar to carrots or celery.
If we want a dog to find, point, and retrieve quail, we would be foolish to get a quail, for instance. No doubt one of the various quail breeds could be taught to find, point and retrieve birds—but it wouldn’t be natural. We would really have a difficult training job to do. But if we are wise enough to select a good-blooded pointer or setter, it will be natural for the dog to do all these three things. We might have to help him along a bit while he is getting the idea, but that should be all that is necessary. However, we should go even further than this in selecting the candidates to be trained. We should take into consideration the variety and strength of points on the two breeds before. setters, for instance, have a tendency to overheat due to their long, heavy coat. They are ideally suited for colder climates. It is no accident that most of the bird dogs used in this state are pointers. Their short coat is better suited to the warm climate.

I really believe that MORE than half the battle is won by obtaining the right breed and type of dog in the beginning. There are so many things that hinge on this point, that perhaps I can best illustrate my meaning by taking a case at an example.

I have trained my own bird dogs and hounds. I do not, by any means, profess to be a trainer, but my dogs have suited me; and, after all, the dog that suits its owner can be considered a well-trained dog. Let’s take a couple of cases. Case 1: Let’s assume that you want to hunt quail in the method most often used by the professionals in Florida. The first thing, as I said, is to obtain the right breed and type of dog.

By Phil Francis

FLY FISHING FOR TARPON

Recently, while fly fishing for bass along the shoreline of Lake Okecacooee’s rim canal, I was able to see a schools of the browns backs so much that I began to wonder whether I hadn’t underestimated them in a couple of stories I’d written. A s-h black bass took the bug and really put on a show for a while and, as I landed him, I saw another fish break water near a fallen tree. I tossed the popper over to the spot, and trolled for the expected strike of another one. I fished the bug slightly, there was a splattering explosion, and then a dazzling silver fish about two feet long, to the water in a slithering leap which carried him 10 or 12 feet across the surface. He hit the water with a splash and bounded into another jump straight up to the air to a height of four feet, with gill covers rattling like castanets as his body twisted and shook free as he hit his tail. My popping bug landed in my lap, and the fish was gone. But what did I care? That fish gave me more action in a few seconds than the combined efforts of several bass had produced all afternoon. That fish was a tarpom—a true king of the flats, a true flatfish one of the truly great gamefishes of the world.

In the young and reckless stage of his life, the tarpom may take anything that comes within reach. He has everything fliers look for in a fish, and he has this “everything” in the supelative degree. He is smart and wary, and he’s far from being a chump or a sucker for a crudely presented fly. He is caipious, and when his mind calls for a certain size and pattern of fly fished in some particular manner, he is not going to refuse it. He will be fished by other methods until his mood changes. Luckily, his mood, more often than not, is one of willingness to hit nearly any fly if it is fished neatly and gently. The young tarpom is the only fish I know that will consistently strike an artificial fly in preference to any other bait or lure. And he has more gamey qualities than any other single species of fly-fishing fish in the world.

Baby tarpom, from two to 20 pounds in weight, love to feed on tid-bit. Juvenile scup, pogie-size minnows, delicate grass shrimp, crunchy little mangrove crabs, and other aquatic hore, dace, have an insatiable appetite. Their taste buds can seldom resist. Wiry streamer flies, small cork-bobs, and lightly-tipped bucktails represent these favored foods of the tarpom, and will draw strikes when all other types of lures fail. Blackback streamers in yellow, white, blue, and grey are good. Blackback bucktails in yellow or white topped with some dark color, tied on long shank hooks, are excellent. Most effective surface lure are the weighted feathered minnow and pegeg bug types, preferably in muted rather than solid colors. Small spinners, fly-rod spoons, and lures, are productive at times, but are generally less effective than surface bugs and streamers.

For the average fly-fisher that is fishing for bass from three to 10 pounds in weight, I find it necessary not available to use flies that are too large, and too heavy. No 2. Many tarpom fly-fishers use flies that are large to take full advantage of the baby tarpom’s weakness for tiny minnows. Now, I am not saying that these big flies will take tarpom, for they certainly will, but small flies will tempt many fish that pass up the big ones. At the same time, a baby tarpom will seldom hit a large fly. We have learned that small flies will take tarpom. The argument that small flies will not stand up to baby tarpom fishing is ridiculous. The strain exerted by a light leader and fly rod is certainly not sufficient to fold up any streamer or bug hook of respectable quality. As a matter of fact, small hooks hold tarpom better than large ones, simply because a small hook is easier to set in the tarpom’s non-fleshy mouth. At any rate, I like my flies on sizes No. 3, 4, and 6 hook, because it enables me to cover up my surface bugs in sizes No. 2 and 4.

The fly rod, for tarpom fishing, may be any rod and any tippet to own, it is not a special, show-off job just made for fly fishing. Actually, any good fly rod, if fished for tarpom if you recognize its limitations. If your rod is light, for instance, you lose all your fishing activities to small casts where the fish are not large. If your rod does not bend under strain, your tippet is too small, water casts, croak better still always, have it equipped with weighted steel heads, are unnecessary. If you (Continued on Page 27)
From the viewpoint of the naturalist, Florida occupies a unique position among all of the States of the Union. Since it is a long, narrow peninsula projecting southward into tropical climes, with a surface dotted with thousands of lakes, ponds, marshes, tidal lagoons, and salt-water coastlines, Florida is a natural mecca for hundreds of species of birds. For migratory birds, it is an attractive lane of travel, and for non-migratory birds, it is an ideal home at all seasons of the year.

Presented here is a random selection of photographs of a few of the more than 400 species of birds that may be found in the state. Some of these, like the roseate spoonbill, the great white heron, and the glossy ibis, are rare, while others, like the pelicans and water turkeys, are common. The swans and flamingoes, of course, are not found in the wild state.
KEY DEER  (Continued from Page 8)

Sauna of the postglacial period, perhaps as normal-sized deer, evolving to their present size and character in that in situ environment. During the Pleistocene period, the melting ice sheet of the several interglacial stages raised the water level of the oceans, bays, and gulfs. It is believed that during that last or Wisconsin interglacial stage, the so-called Pamlico Sea covered southern Florida up to about the present 25-foot contour. This means that all of southern Florida as we know it was under water as far up the peninsula as the Calusaahatchee basin.

During the last or Wisconsin glacial period, which followed, there was a drastic lowering of water levels, perhaps to as much as 20 feet or more below present levels. As a result, there was a long passage of time during which the Florida mainland of today was joined to the entire string of keys by a land bridge. Florida Bay was a deep inland, tracèred with irregular estuaries. Deer passed easily from the mainland to the almost limitless area of the keys. As the water level gradually returned to the present shore line, deer and other animals were probably cut off and eventually isolated. There are marked differences between the Upper and Lower Keys. Of the former—the keys closest to the mainland—there are now only extremely small populations of the deer. The present heights of land, and the present extent of the islands, are more or less the same at the present time. The limestone formations of these keys are unique, as is the general type of vegetation, which resembles the African scrub.

The flora of the Upper Keys is chiefly Bahamian, while that of the lower group has much in common with the mainland in the pinelands around Homestead and Florida City, although West Indian and particularly Cuban plants are not uncommon. Once the sea shut off escape routes from these two regions, each developed its own peculiar characteristics. Deer trapped on the Lower Keys were cut off at Bahia Honda Channel and by the wide stretch of open water lying between the Bahia Honda group of keys and Knight Key, at the southwest extremity of the Upper Keys, Key Vaca, Long Key, and other more or less isolated islands in the upper group may have been shut off also, so that they too could have developed variant races of deer, as they did, to our knowledge, develop subspecific forms of the raccoon. However, there are no records.

Key Largo provided a suitable habitat, but there was probably a tendency for the deer on this key to mingle with white-tails from the near-by mainland, so that a variant may never have developed. In contrast, this is a few deer on Key Largo today that appear to be identical with the mainland race.

In the earliest times of man's occupancy, hunting pressure was apparently heavier on the Lower Keys than on the upper group. Hernando de Esca
te took Fortaleza, the Spanish youth who was cast away on the keys in 1545 and lived among the savage Calusa for seventeen years, spoke in his Memoires of "many deer" and mentioned the Indian settlement on the "islands of Cuchuga," which is interpreted as meaning the Lower Keys.

The botanist J. K. Small wrote, "On the lower Florida Keys, where game abounded, man left his mark... The upper Florida Keys did not offer a hunting-ground for the red man or much vegetation in the way of subsistence, so he passed them by... and the islands, now so pleasant, still remain to show his little interest in those islands."

There are a few kitchen middens on Key Largo and Plantation Key, but these have been merely casual camping places for Calusas on fishing expeditions. It is well known that the aborigines set fire to hamocks to facilitate their primitive means of hunting. In contrast, with the present height of land, on them only limited patches of hardwood hammock remain, most of the larger keys being covered with slash pine and palmetto. The isolation of the Upper and Lower Keys from the mainland and from each other is fairly apparent. The flora of the upper group is chiefly Bahamian, while that of the lower group has much in common with the mainland in the pinelands around Homestead and Florida City, although West Indian and particularly Cuban plants are not uncommon. Once the sea shut off escape routes from these two regions, each developed its own peculiar characteristics. Deer trapped on the Lower Keys were cut off at Bahia Honda Channel and by the wide stretch of open water lying between the Bahia Honda group of keys and Knight Key, at the southwest extremity of the Upper Keys, Key Vaca, Long Key, and other more or less isolated islands in the upper group may have been shut off also, so that they too could have developed variant races of deer, as they did, to our knowledge, develop subspecific forms of the raccoon. However, there are no records. Key Largo provided a suitable habitat, but there was probably a tendency for the deer on this key to mingle with white-tails from the near-by mainland, so that a variant...
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mal. Write your representatives in
Congress urging them to support
the Key Deer. Help save this van­
ing American! — END

**FISHING THEORIES**

A few species of fish respond to a
noisy surface plug, while others will
take an artificial fly only when it is
flustered with no drift or
drag. And some fish just want a gob
of food.

To the fisherman who can produce
fish that have no idea of fishing
conditions, these certain so-called fishing
theories are not theories at all, but are, to him,
well-established facts. He takes into
his stride the conditions that are
against good fishing, and will work
just so much harder to make a re­
butant fish bite. He is pleased when
he can catch a few under tough circum­
stances. His perseverance is favor­
able, according to his previous
experience, and he still has a tough
enough time making a catch, he starts to use
his head and tries to figure out where he has
snapped. And twice out of 10, he practically figures out the solution.
At least this is so in my expe­
cience.
In one continuous period of check­ing
Solunar Tables, for instance, there were made of the times that the
best fishing occurred. Fishing trips
were made without checking the
Solunar tables beforehand. At the end of the month, or when
convenient, the notes were taken out
and compared to the Solunar Tables.
Altogether, 1 was hooked on 115
fishing trips, and the results showed
that 8% of the fish were caught
during what is known as the Major
and Minor Solunar Periods. That was
an interesting percentage to me, and

**FOLLOW THE WILDLIFE**

No other hat is so well adapted to rugged use in
the great outdoors.

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IN THE CAPITAL CITY
U. S. R. Atlantic Blvd. at Park Avenue
The Center of Social Activity - Fine
and Saloon Fishing
Good Hunting

HUTCHINSON
Finest Bass Fishing in Florida
Way or write Camp Panasoffakee
Pensacola, Florida

WISHING STONE
Open in the Bar - 5 Days a Week Fishing for Free in the Bar
during the Day
MENUS
HOTELS AND MOTORS

By Miss Beth of Kansas - U. S. G.

BOLSUM
is good bread . . . makes Fried Fish taste better
Bolsum Bakery— Tampa, Fla.
HURRICANE
(Continued from Page 6)

as follows:
(1) August, 1880 – Palm Beach-Lake Okeechobee section.
(2) June, 1885 – Apalachicola-Tallahassee section.
(3) October, 1910 – Key West Florida section.

RECENT HURRICANE GAME KILLS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Estimated Mortality</th>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Flisheating Creek</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Southwest Florida</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Southwest Florida</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Gulf Hammock</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Gulf Hammock</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Hurricane FISH KILL IN LAKE OKEECHOBEE
(Figures from State Biological Survey)

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<th>Species</th>
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<th>Aug. 26, 1949</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>5,072 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>6,801 lbs.</td>
<td>2,805 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>1,254 lbs.</td>
<td>4,256 lbs.</td>
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<td>Catfish</td>
<td>35,815 lbs.</td>
<td>35,816 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girard Shad</td>
<td>5,818 lbs.</td>
<td>1,203,500 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Shiner</td>
<td>51 lbs.</td>
<td>51 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnows</td>
<td>2,456 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suckers</td>
<td>105,988 lbs.</td>
<td>1,378,592 lbs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Estimated wind velocities over Lake Okeechobee reached 65 m.p.h. in 1950, and 126 m.p.h. in 1949. Average high winds in lake at time of storms was 133 ft. In storm Arctic and Crafts had been defeated by the fact that shallow waters, and stream current, preventing fish from entering. Fresh Water Fish Commission. High kill of catfish and salmon was reported and fish were killed and thrown into the Lake. For the Florida Panhandle, the chief water level was 5 feet above Lake level. Low estimates place the 1928 kill at 2,000,000 lbs., and the 1944 kill at 500,000 lbs. In contrast, 1944 hurricane caused huge fish kill because Lake Okeechobee was at high water level.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

 Cyclone: An area of low atmospheric pressure, usually with a low center, and moving in a specific direction.

 Hurricane: A tropical cyclone with winds of more than 63 m.p.h., and a wide area of low pressure.

 TROPICAL CYCLONE: Relatively small, but violent storms of tropical latitudes known as "hurricanes" in the Western Hemisphere, "cyclones" in the Southern Hemisphere, and "tropical storms" in the Indian Ocean.

 TROPICAL CYCLONE: Relatively small, but violent storms of tropical latitudes known as "hurricanes" in the Western Hemisphere, "cyclones" in the Southern Hemisphere, and "tropical storms" in the Indian Ocean.
FISHING THEORIES
(Continued from Page 21)

was that during the two months the thermocline theory was tested, only one fish was caught below the thermocline. A handful of more wall-eye and smallmouth bass were caught in the upper part of the thermocline, near the temperature that each species of fish preferred.

During the Solorb Peril Periods, there were times when a smallmouth bass could be brought to the surface and struck at a plug. This was midday fishing, as we were only experimenting to check theories. The cool of the evening and early morning were disregarded since that is always a natural time for fish to prowl about anyway.

So far, you can see that this author really has profound respect for weather conditions, thermocline, and Solorb Periods. Call them theories, or what you wish, agree or disagree, but I’m afraid of not knowing any more about these subjects, and a small degree of interest to insight I’ve found, is what explains many a day of fishing for me. They have produced fish when one fisherman has been having a day of fishing, which is why the term in the local newspaper. They are “in the act” for keeps as far as this fisherman is concerned.

About 12 years ago, I wrote a piece for the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER, published by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, entitled, “30 Days Barometer Fishing.” It received some acclaim by fishermen. The article pertained to Rocky Mountain trout, and how they were affected, or reacted, to barometric changes. To be on the safe side, and have a fair idea of the subject, we have kept a daily barometer reading for 10 years. In fact, we didn’t do much but fish for 10 years. The only vacation we had from fishing was a change from place to place, or when in the hospital for physical repairs.

Have we changed our opinion on the barometer reading so much, or is it? If so, we can still see the truth, especially where fresh-water fish feed on or near the surface. Deep feeding fish, in fresh or salt water, do react differently at times. More about that later.

How does the barometer tie in to fishing? The barometer indicates weather changes, Man, beast, and bird fish all enjoy good weather, and man as a fish, we bask. All the so-called theories mentioned above are connected. For the fisherman, he can go by barometer experience, and knowledge of fish habitat are all essential, and should be considered in his fishing.

Here is a few general rules for fishing, as related to the barometer. Keep an eye and ear on the weather, and see if this information every particle of fishing knowledge that you possess.

Rapidly falling barometer: No fish.
Rapidly rising barometer: Fever.
Slowly falling barometer: Few fresh-water fish; many salt-water groupser, and the like, found at confluence with their usual habitat.
Slowly rising barometer, and nice weather: Many fish, both fresh and salt water.

Favorable barometer readings are:
Up, and up.
Rapidly falling barometer: Get for home, you’ve got dirty weather coming.
Rapidly rising barometer: Watch out for a northwest blow.

Slowly falling barometer: Know your boat and your ability to handle it. If the lake is big, do all you can. If the lake is small, do not waste your time. Do some other salt-water fish found in deeper water. Fresh-water fish, housewives to spines and soles, and the like, can almost tell what the barometer is doing by the delicate way they are biting.

Slowly rising barometer: Assemble all you know and go get ‘em. With the barometer above 30-00, you are assured of good weather and good fishing, if you have the necessary know-how.

Steady barometer, 30-00 and above: This is no barometer reading, which recurs every day from 6 to 10 a.m., and from 6 to 10 p.m. The corresponding low barometer readings are about 4.5 and 4.5 p.m.

Theories can’t catch fish, but, by golly, they sure do help.

"Don’t worry, they’ll find us . . . haven’t paid my income tax yet."

MAY, 1957

YOU CAN’T STARE
(Continued from Page 11)

them need cooking; some because the starch grains need to be broken up, and some because they are so tough.

During World War II, a set of government instructions said: "You can eat almost anything which grows around your camp." While this is relatively true, it must be acknowledged that even in Florida there are many exceptions; some fish plants are poisonous, and many are so hard and lacking in the elements of human food that they are of no value. It is important that we should know the really useful varieties.

In the first place, there are green growing plants which are not only edible, but quite palatable in the raw state. The first of these plants is usually called "bamboo" locally. All the species are edible, but the best is the well known vine which we use for Christmas decorations. Smilax is closely akin to asparagus, and when it comes up in the spring it sends up a long tender shoot which looks exactly like asparagus, and tastes like it, too, only it is much better, either raw or cooked. Sometimes two or three feet of these shoots are served, which is common in this class. This is the little plant with three lobed leaves, like "bambusa" or "sour-grass." The leaves have a very pleasing, mild acrid taste, and G. W. Carver, celebrated of Tuskegee, once described how they could be substituted for fish. Not only may it be eaten raw, but, cooked with other greens, it would add a desirable acid taste, much like the effect produced by pouring

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Miami, Fl. April 13, 1951

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varieties. All completely
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from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Write
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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MAY ISSUE, 1951

Total Paid Subscriptions
2,395 Copies

Total News Stand Sales
25

Total Unpaid Subscriptions: Exchange, etc.
50

Overage—Single Orders, File Copies, etc.
794

Total Press Run
2,750 Copies

(Figures from April 15, 1951)

LINES FOR FISHERMEN

(Continued from Page 15)

really want to go in for tarpon, or other salt-
water fish, use only one of the slow-action
rods. You'll find it a wonderful bass-rod
rood as well.

The tarpon fly rod is a study one, especially
when used in large bodies of water where
baby tarpon are prone to make long runs. It
should provide accommodation
for at least 100 yards of backing.

This must have a dependable drag and
must be able to withstand the onslaughts of
tarpon's water. It need not be expensive;
a number of moderately-priced fly reels
which will hold the bill are currently available.

For small fish in shallow water, however,
just about any fly reel will give satisfactory
service.

Your choice of a fly line for tarpon fishing
depends only on what you and your rod
like best. Anything reasonable about the
fluorocytes with your rod will be perfectly
satisfactory. I, personally, prefer a five GAF
nylon line. A four-checker is the main reason
I cast better with a torpedos-head line, GAF
fits my rod, and nylon is impervious to
salt water.

Until recently, cutthroat linelines were
considered the best back-lining lines, but
the newer smaller-diameter nylon surf or spud-
ing lines are far superior. They are easy
to spool, keep casting line, their small size
helps prevent overcrowing of the
rod spool, and their resistance to salt water
makes them thoroughly dependable.

The back-line should be at least 100 yards
long—and preferably 200 for big-water fish-
ing—and of 14 to 25 lb. test, depending
on the size of the rod and the strength of
the leader. The backing should be considerably
stronger than the leader tip for security
against loss of expensive fly lines to
growing fish.

Nylon is again in order for the fly leader,
which may be locked or tapered, to fit your
fly line. The fly end of the leader should be
of 6- to 12-pounds test, depending on the size
of the fly used, and the tarpon you expect
to hook. The light tip-top is fine for fish
weighing up to about five pounds, but lead-
ner terminating in tests of 10 or 12 pounds
are a must for larger tarpon. Hooked tarpon
have a way of chaffing liners on their
hard, bony lips, and fly weights or sinkers
 weighing enough to wear out 6 or 6½-weights
through large fish can be drastically cut short,
long leaders being much safer. Also, in certain
short spots. For best results, use a leader as
long as your rod or longer, if you can handle

MAY, 1951

FISCAL REPORT

GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
MARCH 31, 1951

Debit
Cash with State Treasurer
$182,174.75

Interest
206.00

Total
182,380.75

Credit

Disbursements
Salaries
$316,732.32
Expenses
$318,432.37

Accountant's Fee
$1,21.00

County Judges

Revenue
Sale of Licenses
Fishing
Hunting
Trapping
Commercial
Court Costs Collected
Sales of Magazine Advertisements
Sales of Magazine Subscriptions
Other Sources

$2,21,422.49

Hendry County Deer Fund
$1,21,422.49

$40,000

$240,000

$1,271,422.49

VACATION — FISH — RELAX

Paradise's finest fishing camp,
Modern, clean, cool, refreshing.
Waters of St. Lucie, Indian River,
Barnacle Boy, Ponce Inlet, etc.

HILFER'S COTTAGES
Ponce Inlet, Ponce Inlet

GREEN TAVERN
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome!
CRISTAL RIVER, FLA.

ONE OF THE FINEST FISHING PLACES IN THE WORLD
In the heart of the rich and famous
Spring and Summer

27
FRANK M. WILSON, Government recently landed a competitive rate — a 311-b. trip across, while fishing from the best "Little Sampson" on Escambia River near Pensacola. Taken on light tackle, with 20-, 25-, 30-, and 40-lb. test line, the major measured 37½ inches.

MRS. EVELYN LINES receives posthumous award of Citation for Meritorious Service on behalf of husband, Thomas M. Lines, Florida game agent representing the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who died in line of duty September 24, 1950. Presentation is being made by William T. Davis, Atlantic regional supervisor of law enforcement, on behalf of Secretary of Interior Oscar L. Chapman and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Colonel Newman, director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, looks on. Mrs. Lines is presently assisted by the Game Commission.

Talquin Plan Survey
Shows 3,350 Acres Hyacinths Destroyed

Tallahassee — Hyacinths on Lake Talquin are being sprayed again in the cleanup stage of "The Talquin Plan" (FLORIDA WILDLIFE, January, 1951), directors of the Talquin Hyacinth Eradication, Inc., reported recently.

With coming of warmer weather, some hyacinth returned to Lake Talquin. A survey showed an estimated 350 acres thinly scattered over the lake.

It was found that the program carried on last fall killed over 90 percent of the estimated 3,350 acres covered by hyacinths.

The directors decided that now is the time to begin the final mop-up. This operation will again be carried on by plane from the Talquin Airstrip near the Gadsden county side of Lake Talquin.

Florida Power corporation representatives met with the board and said that they also were beginning operation on the mop-up.

The corporation is constructing two boats especially equipped to spray hyacinths on a continuous program.

Plans will continue only a short time since only a small number of hyacinth remain. However, the power company boats will keep a continuous watch to keep the lake from becoming infected again, officials said.

Illegal Keepers of Protected Birds Face Prosecution

Miami—Eighty-two birds settled down in their new home at the Grand Canyon Zoo recently.

The officers said they will go to the United States attorney's office to prosecute the individuals from whom the birds were taken. About 13 persons were involved, they said.

Similar arrests were made last year, but the offenders were not prosecuted.

The two federal agents, working in plain clothes, spent a week in Key West. They were accompanied by Curtis Wade, district chief, and J. P. Hodges, assistant district chief, of the Florida Zoological Society and Fred Water Fish Commission.

Through the cooperation of local law enforcement agencies, the key was broken on hawks,Resolution, and the Florida Zoological Society, who helped in the operation.

The birds were painted buoys found in a pet shop.

"People who have seen them burned have been won over to our office," said Brodie, who relayed the complaints to the state and federal men.

Brookfield list other birds seized at commercial establishments here as Ward's betakos, black-crowned night herons, a long-tailed duck, tough and a number of black-billed ducks, rare in Eastern United States.

Eight double-yellow and white-winged were taken in the Keys.

The group brought from Key West included elliptical, indigo and painted buntings and mockingbirds.

Brodie said federal officers found evidence at Key West that some of the protected birds had been smuggled to Havana for sale as pets.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

GARDNER WILSON PASSES IN TAMPA ON MARCH 26, 1951

Gardner Wilson, 54, of Tampa, employee of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, died in Tampa General Hospital on March 26. Death resulted from a hemorrhage resulting from a heart condition.

Born in Scotland in 1897, Wilson, who was employed by Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc., for 27 years, joined the staff of the state-published FLORIDA WILDLIFE magazine as an advertising salesman on October 9, 1950.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Wilson, 1700 Hillside Drive, Tampa, and one daughter, Mrs. Patricia Bond, Fort Worth, Texas.

Funeral services were conducted at the Wilson-Sammon Co. Funeral Home and interment was at Greenwood Memorial Park, Tampa.

STICKS AND STONES

(Continued From Page 3)

COTTAGES

SHAKAMOS COOKS COTTAGES with cooking appliances, electric refrigerator, water heater, and hot tub and shower, inexpensive mattresses, boats, motors, and guides. Hernando, Fla., on Rd. 200 N.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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Your sunshine is wonderful (the same kind kind we have just across the line here in Georgia), but it wouldn't be half as much without that wonderful fishing as I have. I hope part of this dollar for our subscription will be used to preserve and perpetuate your fishery.

AL M. FEINBERG
Station WFAZ
Chattanooga, Ga.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

I am a commercial fisherman and enjoy WILDLIFE every month. I also have five sons, and they enjoy it too.

I would like to see you publish in your magazine how many pounds of catfish have been sold during the year.

M. M. METTS
Water Garden

AZALEA CITY

I have just completed reading a copy of your rugged publication, and find it to be the finest of its kind. It has given me attention, and is my request to receive it monthly. You would find a subscription to your magazine.

Definitions of Conservation

It would seem to this writer that there are many basic elements in conservation. Ask any outdoorsman, politician, rancher, or manufacturer, and you are quite sure to receive four vastly different definitions. The outdoorsman may feel that good conservation policies are all that is necessary to produce an abundance of fish and wildlife. To the politician, it may mean the support necessary to elect him over his opponents. To the rancher, it may mean the water supply to irrigate his pastures, or produce crops. And to the manufacturer, it may mean the growth of our forest to produce an ample supply of pulpwood or lumber for his factory.

All of these groups reap the rewards of conservation individually, but if it aids one group and has damaging effects on another, the real conservation movement is being defeated. Good conservation requires keen cooperation, and may be attained only when the members of all the groups conspire and consider each other's requirements.

Much has been written pro and con, and a solution which will benefit all of us is wholly possible. The results already attained, and those in the offing, are gratifying.

A question often asked by the average sportsman is most perplexing. "Just what is true conservation?" We are 100% behind it, but who knows what true conservation really is? We do know that conditions are continually improving, and we are also convinced that there is a reason for this. We know that the rewards of conservation have been successfully established and that the benefits will be for everyone.

Most of us have been brought face to face with the fact that certain natural resources are gone, or will be in a very short time. It is still apparent, however, that many of us fail to realize the enormous value of the many resources with which Florida has been blessed, and won't until the supply is gone, or nearly depleted. This writer seriously believes that flood control and water conservation are among the foremost factors confronting the present administration.

Florida is one of the best hunting and fishing regions in the country and, with the good work accomplished by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, there is every indication that it will continue to be so in the foreseeable future. The Commission has, against all odds and charges of "bungling and inefficiency" brought by persons of unknown capabilities and others of questionable status, made great strides and produced results second to none in this vast expanse of territory which has to be patrolled and managed. It has formulated a progressive long-range program for the future men who may be free from politics and able to stand on their own feet.

I do believe, however, that, if the game commissioners would temper their wrath, and "play together," it would greatly improve the coordination which is so necessary in all effective conservation. An outstanding example of development of wildlife propagation and management, against all barriers, during 1950 is plainly seen in the successful 1950-51 hunting season.

Yes, I do believe that our Game Commission can stand on its own feet in the future, as in the past, and eventually have its own day in the sun, as well as freedom from the annoying and pestiferous attacks which are natural in all worthwhile enterprises.

Will Johnson

Freelance Writer

Another in a series prepared by members of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association.
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