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FISH WILDLIFE

Vol. 5, No. 4

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In this Issue

Keep 'em Alive by John Dillin 4
Leon County by Jack Shoemaker 6
Billion Dollar Baby by Fred W. Jones 8
Playboys of the Swamplands by Bob Dohne 12
A Black Rascal by Annie Laurie O'Keary 14
A Magazine is Born by Tony Stevens 20

Departments

STICKS AND STONES DOGS AND HUNTING 18
EDITORIAL LINES FOR FISHERMEN 19
KNOW YOUR REPTILES FLORIDA'S OUTDOORS SPEAKS 38

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With Pleasure

It is with pleasure that I forward this subscription to Florida Wildlife, for I believe this to be one of the finest investments that the sportsman could make. We in New Jersey have a like service rendered by our Fish and Game Commission for the very nominal sum of $1.00. Then this medium, the sportsmen are acquainted with activities of clubs, county and state organizations, as well as being aware of what has been accomplished in the past, with what is being done on current programs, and what projects are being set up for future consideration. Then the news and information distributed by your magazine, the sportsmen have an opportunity for closer cooperation with the fish and game agencies, as well as having united action on fish and game legislation. You are untinging aly in promotion of various phases of sportsman's activities... plus the education of those who hunt and fish to be True Sportsmen.

May your personal happiness be balanced with good health and inspiration to carry on the work in order that our younger generation may enjoy the outdoors as have we "old sportsmen."

EDWIN L. LEAVCRAFT
Secretary, Board of Directors
New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Steamboat Man

A friend of mine sent me a copy of your magazine and I think it is great. I am a native of your Calhoun County, but I have been in Missouri for 22 years. I am a Steamboat captain on the Missouri River for the Corps of Engineers. I plan to retire in five years, and I am going back to Florida to remain the rest of my time. I enjoyed reading about Mr. Joe Altino in your magazine (October, 1950). I think he is a wonderful man, and have known him all my life.

CAPT. W. E. SUMMERLIN
Lexus, Mo.

The Cove

A wildlife argument. This remarkable, unposed picture was snapped by Wildlife Officer Joe Johnson, of Miami, on one of his patrol trips.
Hooking a shark is one thing and unhooking him another. It must be done carefully not to further injure the specimen—or to lose a hand.

"Keep 'Em Alive!"

By John Dillin

EVEN HAVE that question in your mind whether that fish survived that you had caught and then released?

Chances are that it did, whether it be a fresh or salt water species.

A study of a few of the activities of the Collecting Department of Marine Studios at Marineland will help convince you. It is this department that has the responsibility of delivering specimens alive to the oceanarium. The complications and hazards of catching and transporting fish for a living exhibition, and Marineland's success in doing so, give confidence that our finny tribe members are a mighty hardy clan.

Probably some of the most interesting specimens to be caught on hook and line and transported to Marineland are the sharks. Giant trot lines are used with a heavy chain leader, a huge hook and almost any kind of bait.

Since sharks have no true bone structure, they cannot be removed from the water which holds their insides in equilibrium. It is necessary to tow them on the hook into the side of what might be described as a giant well. The well actually is a 33-foot barge which has air tanks at each end to permit its water depths to be inscribed or raised according to requirements. Four-inch portholes along the sides allow fresh sea water to circulate constantly in the well. The sharks are floated into the barge and the dangerous task of removing the hook is performed.

It is then a race between life and death. The barge is towed by a 20-foot sea skiff powered with a 145 h.p. engine. Since one of the best shark fishing grounds is in Malanaz Bay directly off St. Augustine, a large barge with its load of sharks is towed to Marineland which is about 20 miles water distance.

The specimens are transferred in a giant box filled with fresh sea water, raised by crane and lowered into a truck which takes it to the oceanarium. It is then hoisted by crane again and lowered into the flume which connects the giant circular and rectangular tanks of Marine Studios. Because the shark has put up a terrific struggle to free itself when hooked, it is still in a shocked and exhausted condition. The next step is for a diver to enter the flume and "walk" the shark in chest-high water.

This simulates swimming, forcing the water through the shark's gills. In other words, it is a type of artificial respiration.

When the shark gains sufficient strength, it is transferred to the circular or rectangular tank. From there on, the shark is on its own.

This is but one of the dozens of examples of the problems of bringing fish back alive for display at this unique attraction.

There are interesting stories about many specimens. For example, when deep sea fish such as the black drum or red snapper are caught and raised to the surface they gasp in the swim bladder expand tremendously because of the decrease in pressure. It is necessary, therefore, to insert a needle into the swim bladder and allow some of the gas to escape. The puncture heals in a short time and the fish is now equipped to live in the 12 to 18 feet of water in the Marineland oceanarium.

Most of the small fish such as sea trout, grunts, school channel bass and other such varieties are caught and maintained more easily. These are usually taken with hook and line and placed in a live well immediately upon being caught. They are later placed in large tubs for transfer to the tanks.

Those which are caught in South Florida, including the Keys, present a different problem. When Marine Studios was first opened in 1938, it was necessary to receive a shipment of fish from South Florida once each week because of the high mortality rate of these more tropical species. Since the oceanarium is the first of its kind, the Collecting and Scientific Departments had no knowledge or experience in maintaining healthy fish.

This has been gained over the years and now, remarkably enough, it is necessary for the Collecting Department to make only four trips to South Florida each year.

While as many as 1,000 specimens may be brought back on one trip, some trips have been made with only one or two fatalities. One of the secrets of the department's success has been the rapidity with which the fish are brought from the Keys to Marineland. Speed is achieved by employing a large semi-trailer containing several tanks of fresh sea water. This water is aerated constantly and changed twice during the 400-mile trip.

Upon arrival in Marineland, the new specimens are allowed to become acquainted with their strange environment until healthy and wise (Continued on Page 24)
The majority in the three classifications who return time and time again to Lake Talquin, Lamonia and Jacobson, the county's three biggest, never were disappointed. Some are residents of nearby towns and cities. But the biggest majority in these three classifications are sportsmen, particularly bass fishermen, who return year after year. There is no day when bass are not in the nearby rivers, lake and ponds which make Leon County a veritable paradise for America's anglers. There are monster bass in Leon County's waterways that even the largest hook and strongest line wouldn't turn around.

There are monster bass in Leon County's waterways that even the largest hook and strongest line wouldn't turn around.

The season for the best bass fishing is from April until summer and we were right in the midst of it. Off we went to a certain section of the lake that had "lots of bass" according to Doug. Sure enough, we got our own. After fishing over a sandy bottom, adjusting our floats for a 15-foot depth, and using earthworms and cabbage for bait, we soon filled our stringers.

After docking the boat, we visited various camps on the lake inquiring about business and fishing in general. Both, we found, were good. One of the operators told us that he had rented more boats since April of this year than in all of 1949 and 1950. The reason for this, he added, was the hyacinth eradication program which had met with great success on Talquin. Another boasted that "Leon's sport fishing is a magnet attraction to visitors from scores of Florida counties and many other states."

This we already knew for we noticed scores of out-of-state cars and a hundred or so boats on the lake. We noticed particularly numerous fly-rod anglers. Their creels, bulging with fish, told of their prowess adjusting more than any statements. We learned from talking with them that any fly resembling the black and green of a catatwa worm was just a mite short of dynamite.

Soon, we neared our limit and decided to call it quits. Upon returning to Tallahassee, we made plans to fish Lake Talquin with cane poles the following day to try for a mess of bass.

Bass fishing is best from April to June, but large numbers are caught at all times. The same can be said for breem and their experts out for bass fishing 11 best from April to June, but large numbers are caught at all times. The same can be said for breem and their experts out for bass fishing in the entire length of the Ochlockonee River. Bass do not leave their home for their meals are found on their very doorstep. At this time of year, a bright spoon, with or without pork rind, and with or without bright-colored lures, makes the angler bring home the limit almost every time.

A couple recently caught 48 crappies in the Ochlockonee in live and dead minnows in less than two hours for a string weighing 45 pounds, and a woman caught a 4½-pound drumfish there last fall. These are all examples of good fishing conditions. From Georgia down to Talquin, the river is a series of sand bars and deep holes. The natives are quick to admit that the holes are highlights of excellent angling with good catches being recorded practically every day. One of the best stretches of the Ochlockonee is between the old Quincy Highway and the new Quincy Highway. Many anglers have landed their boats at the old road and traveled down to the new road, fishing all the while with amazing luck.

Florida has the reputation of being one of the best places in the country for fishing enthusiasts, and its 11,400 acres of water hold thousands and thousands of bass, breem, shiners, channelperch, stumpknockers and others. Once a fish is found, they start biting constantly. It is estimated that hundreds of acres of the lake have never been fished, so the future seems bright for those following the string on Talquin.

Bass fishing is best from April to June, but large numbers are caught there all year long. The time can be used for bass; and they make experts out for bass fishing in the entire length of the Ochlockonee River. Bass do not leave their home for their meals are found on their very doorstep. At this time of year, a bright spoon, with or without pork rind, and with or without bright-colored lures, makes the angler bring home the limit almost every time.

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(Continued on Page 28)
ART CARHART'S article in last month's issue of this magazine concerning the size of the business undertaken in the U. S. each year by hunting and fishing was amazing to many folks as was proven by the letters and comments received by the Editor. But it is even more astonishing to consider the same subject as it relates to our own state.

Would you, for instance, believe that the total loss of all our hunting and fishing in this state would mean a financial setback to every man, woman and child of approximately $335.00 each year?

As amazing and unbelievable as this figure is, my research has established it as being as accurate as it is possible to come in a case like this, and shows that it is ultra-conservative for anything.

Carhart's figures would indicate that the end of all fishing and hunting in the U. S. would mean the loss of about $62 each year for every person in the country. Can I then, justify my figure which would indicate that the sports are five times as valuable to Floridians as is the national average?

A little arithmetic will probably already have shown you that the individual Florida loss, according to my figures, would indicate that our annual loss on hunting and fishing is roughly one-tenth of the total for the whole country. Again, you might ask if I can justify that. You might go further and say that those figures would indicate that hunting and fishing is not only our largest business, but also nearly 30 per cent of our total income! Can I justify that?

In brief, you may say, "Carhart made some astonishing statements, but he went on to prove them fairly effectively. However, now you come along and claim one-tenth of the total national business for Florida and say that it is five times more important and valuable to us than it is to the average American! That's just too much!"

But let's take a look at the figures. We'll use the same system that Carhart used, and some of his figures, for we concede that he has done a lot of research and has been conservative all the way through. We want to point out that we are going to be conservative too, ultra-conservative in fact.

We are, for instance, going to accept Carhart's figure of $400 for the average annual expenditure of a hunter or a fisherman. We admit that it is low, but we're going to stay low, remember! We are, however, going to back up that figure a bit though for the benefit of any possible doubting Thomases.

Back when I first started talking this stuff, I was addressing a group of some 150 business men in the City of Winter Haven. When I said "$400 per year average," one man jumped to his feet and protested the figure. He said that he thought he was an average fisherman and hunter and he didn't spend nearly that amount. So we asked him to start listing his equipment and his trips for the past year.

He suddenly sat down again before he had even finished listing the equipment after he suddenly realized that he had spent more than $400 for fishing tackle alone.

We asked him to continue though, so that we might establish a figure in his case. He refused on the grounds that if he did, the figure would surely be so high that he would have to stop part at least, of his activities and would no longer enjoy what he did do!

Then there is the case of my own brother who is an average Joe. He is married, has five children and is a machinist, first-class. That means he has about an average income. On Saturdays and Sundays he and his wife are pretty apt to be found fishing somewhere. Sometimes they take along some or all of their youngsters.

Now, he also protested that $400 figure. He pointed out that he most certainly couldn't afford such an expenditure. So again, I did a little checking.

I found that he had spent in one sport store alone, for fishing tackle alone, more than $100 in the past year. His bill for boat rental and bait runs, he now concede, into a very respectable figure. Then there is the mileage on his car, cabin rentals and so on ad infinitum. In fact, he now concedes that $400 is a very conservative figure.

Some years ago I did a story for this magazine on the importance of the sport of fox hunting in Florida. During that research I found that there were at least 15,000 hunting dogs in this state. Since there are roughly 100,000 licensed hunters, this meant that the average hunter owned a dog and a half. Our Commission biologist, W. Scott Overton, in his Annual Report, Wildlife Inventory, Harvest, and Economic Survey, shows 1.41 dogs per hunter. Therefore, we can point out that the average hunter must spend about $187.50 on dogs alone. This figure is based on the original cost, divided into the number of a year's dogs lives, the annual feed cost, vet costs, housing and fencing, and so on. Any hunter will concede that the average cost of keeping and maintaining a dog for a year will hit at least $125.

All this has been in support of the (Continued on Page 56)
CORPORATIONS issue frequent reports to their stockholders, setting forth their progress, contemplated plans for improvement—and, most important, the actual prospect for future dividends.

As director of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, I feel that our organization comes under the classification of a corporation. It is not our consciences that must consider the "board of directors," and I am the corporation's administrator. With this thought in mind, then, the purpose of this report is to explain the purposes of training and fishing licenses, automatically become the stockholder's personal classification plan. A base pay has been established for all types of employees. For instance, janitors and laborers start at $125 monthly, clerks, truck drivers and messengers start at $125 monthly. Graph operators, typewriters, operators, $175, wildlife officers, $225, division heads, $350, and departmental heads, $500. All additional employees receive a yearly 14-day vacation, cumulative for four years. Additional work is allowed 30 days annually sick leave, for four years. Other employees are limited to four years, but must either be in a hospital or under a physician's care to obtain it.

The days of giving a personal a vote with our corporation simply because they know somebody who knows something about people who can vote are past. A personal section has been organized where all applicants are carefully screened and evaluated before being eligible for employment. In addition, they must pass the requirements of a physical examination before being accepted.

Until a short time ago, our airplane pilots worked under the supervision of district chief officers. In many instances the chiefs were unfamiliar with aviation problems and it became necessary to appoint a state-wide aviation officer to overcome this difficulty. He performs the duties of his position to the best of his ability. However, today, five planes are performing the same function for wildlife officers that many observation planes do for the field artillery. A pilot, cruising at 100 miles an hour, can sample a mile-wide area on either side of his plane. During an eight-hour flight he covers 800 miles and observes ground activities over a 1,500 square mile area which constitutes more than a million acres of land and water. Thus, five planes patrol 5,000,000 acres a day, and during one week can cover every inch of the state. One plane, used exclusively for hibernacul control, is equipped for spraying any fresh waters open to public fishing, and can be used free of charge by organizations supplying the necessary material for hibernacul eradication.

In the near future we plan to inaugurate throughout the state, weekly radio programs airing our conservation problems. Our state will not be competitive; we want to show the high schools, and also to educate youth concerning the future of their waterfronts.

Many of my colleagues are far from original—I learned portions of them while serving in the army and combined the various parts to form a complete entity. I feel certain that our corporation will soon begin paying dividends—dividends of higher respect for game and fish laws—ingenuity in fishing—and above all, complete harmony between the "stockholders" and their corporation, the State Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission.
Playboys of the Swamplands

BY BILL AND LES PIP

AS TOLD TO BOB DHANE

The largest male otter that we ever weighed was a 25-lb. specimen. The females probably do not exceed about 15 pounds in weight. The adult Florida otter may reach 51 inches in length, slightly larger than most northeastern otters. The oldest Florida otter in captivity that we know of was captured by us in 1944, and is still in excellent health.

In order to keep our otters successfully, we have found it best to provide them with a constant supply of clean running water in which to swim, a dry surface on which to rest in shade and sunshine, and a dry, cave-like hole in which to sleep at night. We also provide them each evening with dry gunny sacks, which the otters immediately drag into their caves to use as their beds.

We feed our specimens four times a day, incidentally, on a diet of fresh horsemeat, fish, turtle meat, crayfish and new frogs. Some of our Florida fishermen have recently been making claims that all otters should be destroyed because they “eat all of our gamefish.” As is often true in cases where food is in short supply, inaccurate statements are made because of a lack of understanding of the true nature of the animal involved.

Personally, we have spent many years studying the habits of otters, both in the wild state and in captivity. We have found that their principal, and favorite, food is crayfish, which they catch in the water or dig out of the mud by rooting like hogs. In their search for such food, they are not afraid to root into and under anything that might hide something edible.

Next in the list of food preferences for the otter are both frogs and snakes (including the cottonmouth water moccasins), which are comparatively slow and easy to catch. When feeding on snakes, otters will quite often skin the snake neatly back from the neck before eating it.

Another important item on the otters’ dinner table are the turtle, both the snapping and soft-shelled varieties. At first thought, you might wonder how a wild otter could catch, kill and eat a turtle, but here is what happens. The otter first attacks the turtle in the water, and then, after a furious battle, drags it out onto shore where he turns it over on its back.

Not the much shorter muzzle of the otter, left, as compared with the long-nosed raccoon, blends into the otter’s streamlined contour.

The flattened head of the otter, top, as compared with the long-aquatic raccoon, blends into the otter’s streamlined contour.

The turtle, of course, immediately tries to put its head out and back for leverage on the ground in order to flip over on its stomach. At this split second, the otter flashes in and, with one bite, severs the turtle’s throat and then proceeds to dine at ease.

This turtle-eating is an important part of an otter’s diet, as we have counted as many as 20 dead soft-shelled turtles along one short stretch of roadside canal bank that we knew, from long observation, was frequented only by one female otter and her two kits.

Finally, to complete the list of food which wild otters eat, we have found that they will also kill and eat small, young alligators, salamanders, and various species of fish, both garfish and other undesirable types as well as gamefish.

Now otters, like any other wild animals, are solely dependent upon their source of food. When, over a long period of time, their natural food dwindles, the otters begin to starve out until the number of wild otters is again in balance with their food supply, just as other wild animals do.

When we apply this rule of balance to our Florida otters, we find that the abundance of otters increases greatly during long rainy periods, when the swamplands are covered with water and food. In other words, when we have a lot of crayfish, frogs, turtles and fish, we have a lot of otters. But, on the other hand, when we have a severe dry period in Florida, such as we have had during the last several years, we find that the crayfish, frogs and even the mud into the mud where the otter cannot reach them, that the frogs move away or die out, that the turtles become fewer, and that the fish also disappear as the swamp water disappears. When this happens, it is only natural that the otters begin to starve and eventually their death as their food supply becomes poorer and poorer.

We saw many otters starve to death last year in South Florida because of the exceptionally dry weather. As the distance between waterwells increased, the otters had to travel farther and farther in search of an almost non-existent supply of food, until, finally, they grew thinner and thinner, becoming very weak in the hind-quarters, and, at last, dying.

Now some people will immediately protest that there were more otters present along the Tamiami Trail, running east and west across the Everglades region, than ever before. This is true, but it is true for a different reason than many people suppose. The fact that so many otters could be seen along the Trail did not mean that the supply of Florida otters was increasing tremendously, but it meant, instead, that the swamplands of the Everglades were slowly drying up, and the otters were forced to come out to the Trailside canals in search of water and food, where many were killed by speeding cars and others suffered from starvation.

If and when the Everglades region fills with water again, the otters will naturally move back into the secluded sections of the swamp, where they prefer to be, as the supplies of their natural food increase. When that happens, very few will be seen along the highways.
A BLACK Rascal

I acquired Snowball by theft, so he was hardly a model of virtue; and gone.

However, unlike Poe's famous bird, he didn't croak "Never more." He had a one-word vocabulary. "Hello." He'd say, and the word became either a pleasant salutation or a curse, depending upon where he placed the accent. He had, in addition, an uncanonic human laugh, a particularly pleasant laugh—rippling and merry—and he rounded out his vocal repertoire with chicken language; copying to perfection the low, chuckling song of the hen as she trotted concealingly toward her nest, full of the satisfied knowledge that she will shortly produce an egg. But Snowball's masterpiece was the reproduction of the hen's cackling boast after she had accomplished her wondrous feat.

He acquired his proficiency in fowl language (excuse pun) for purely original purposes. Since eggs were his favorite food, and seldom freely offered, he stole them. Indeed, he was an all-round thief; a thief of the first water, and as clever as they come at deception and chicanery. But he was also invariably charming. He could charm you completely and steal the very words out of your mouth simply. And do it with such ingratiating slickness and insinuation that you'll forgive him—temporarily at least, or until he breaks out with another smile and a better job of thievery. He was a true kleptomaniac, for he stole not only what was eatable—his eyes never left the dinner table—but every little thing on the table, he seemed to think everything he could lift in hand or claw. If he could have thought of it, he would, likely, have stolen that.

And the things he stole, oh, how he could call them a gourmet. He was a glutton of the worst sort. He ate anything living or dead, as well as several things that were neither—hardly eatable for instance.

Why a lead pencil should be as car-
viable to a raven is one for the orni-

tologists to speculate about. But he
would exercise the ingenuity and
dexterity of a Raffles in depriving

Once the prize was his, he'd fly to
the nearest tree limb or fence post, clap
the pencil firmly under both claws,
peck off the wood in chunks and sliv-
ers and gobble up the slender ward of
graphite with gustatory rapture and
delight. But could you feel him
with an invisible hand? When you
wouldn't. Once, in an experi-
ental mood, I handed him an invisible pencil. He took it, cawing his thanks,
flew to the nearest tree and started
eating. Shortly thereafter, he dropped
the pencil like a hot brick, jumped
up and down with a great
flapping of wings and let out a
stream of sound that was unmistak-
ably profanity of the most extreme
vivacity. After that, he carefully
looked every gift-pencil in the mouth,
as it were. I don't know whether it was
tory for no reason a hawk.

Behind the chicken-run was a bar-
re where tin cans and other unus-


A BLACK Rascal

by

Annie Laurie O'Kearney

treasure: Several coins, a silver thimble, two keys, bottle caps that had long since lost their shininess, paper clips, a pearl-handled pen knife—

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

September, 1951

reason for this apparent non-strike.

Annie Laurie O'Kearney
THE LISTINGS BELOW ARE INDICATED BY CORRESPONDING NUMBERS ON THE ABOVE MAP

1. WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE F. D. Box 639, Inverness, Fla. Cabins, kitchen, boat, motors and guides.
2. GUESS'S END CAMP S. E. Box 261, Inverness, Fla. Housekeeping cabins, kitchen, motors, boat and guides.
4. WISCONSIN MOUTH CAMP AND CABINS F. O. Box 300, Inverness, Fla. 10 cabins in eleven units. Quiet, water front, housekeeping cabins, kitchen, motor, boat, canoe, fishing, miles south of Inverness on U.S. 41.
5. GREN'S MOONSHINE CAMP Floral City, Fla. Small cabins, 16x20, in convenient lake view location. Fishing, boating, 16x40, in convenient lake view location. Fishing, boating, miles south of Inverness on U.S. 41.
6. GREN'S FISHING LODGE Floral City, Fla. Small cabins, 16x20, in convenient lake view location. Fishing, boating, miles south of Inverness on U.S. 41.
7. BIRD'S BOAT BASS Floral City, Fla. Small cabins, 16x20, in convenient lake view location. Fishing, boating, miles south of Inverness on U.S. 41.

THE TSALA APOPKA CHAIN OF LAKES AND THE WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER.

This chain of lakes, fed by the Withlacoochee River, is approximately 23 miles long and 7 to 9 miles wide. It is one of the few remaining wilderness frontiers left in America.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER, 1951
By PHIL FRANCIS

Though you might think that the use of floating, bug-type lures is one of the later developments in the art of fishing, it is a matter of record that the Seminole Indians used deer hair bags for bass here as early as 1700. You can be sure that the Indians had no torpedo-head fly line, glass rod, or automatic reel such as for bug fishing, but their deer hair bags caught bass nevertheless.

Today, bass bugs have reached a lofty state of development and are produced in a great number of styles to cover a variety of fly-feeding needs. The basic bug may be an imitation mouse, free, wet, minnow, or fly; or it may be an outlandish bug which makes no pretense at imitating anything. It may be made of deer hair, rubber, cork, bucktail, wood, or plastic. Defined broadly, a bass bug is any surface lure designed to be used with a fly rod.

The nicest thing about bass bugs is their stimulating presentation. They attract fish readily on numerous occasions when cutting lures and sunk flies fail to produce. There is something about a high-floating, natural-looking bug that bass find hard to resist, particularly when a fly is thrown right in their face. Bass bugs are no doubt most effective in brushy situations where the flies are much slower for maximum results on bass. A prove of at least several seconds should be allowed between presentations. A well-cast bug is an attractive fish to catch for the bass. If he jumps, be sure that you don't strike, a judicious lead is likely to scare him away. While bass will often hit a rapidly worked popper, they may well take a slow-moving bug more often. It is practically impossible to fish a popper too slowly.

Another popular type of hard-bodied bug is the feathered minnow. If you had to limit yourself to just one fly rod rig, say for bass fishing it would be a blue and white feathered minnow tied on a size 2 or 4 hook. Feathered minnows are supposed to imitate minnows, as the name implies. It is practically impossible for any action to be imparted to the feathered minnow; darting,

trudging, skittering along the surface, or sinking to the bottom, the darting action which is accomplished by short, fast rod twirls. The bug looks good, or let your partner try to catch the bass action, but you will not catch the bass on these actions. Experiment. With the popper, a slow retrieve usually works best with the feathered minnow, but this is a wild guess. A feathered minnow is sometimes well-received. In any event, a variety of actions can be tried rapidly without danger of winning the fish. Bass bugs are much like poppers, in so far as bass bugs are thrown and fly rods are used with both bugs. Most bugs are for the top water. It is the toss, tip, or cast which is necessary in bugs. Bass bugs are essentially for catching bass.

There is little question that a spinner is a flattening action but away and the best for winged bugs. They should be fished slowly and worked over mud flats. A soft or bug does not have much distance in the water, after falling in. It struggles and flutters, but doesn't sink very much. This is the action you should strive for when fishing a winged bug. Winged bugs are especially good for surface fishing late in the evening, when insects are flying and the water is smooth.

This is not a complete list of bugs but the type .there is not a long list. Nevertheless, bugs will cover a wide variety of situations encountered in bass fishing, and there are few bugs that bugs will not cover, because the tail fins and other mechanisms are all good, but they are not necessary to success in Florida waters.

If you've never tried bass bug fishing, give it a whirl sometime. In hard bodies, bass bugs are much better than the plain hard bodies and retail price of most costing less, fly rods. Bass bugs force the fish to take a sporting way to catch bass.
In the next step, three Linotype operators at the Rose Printing Company started the task of setting the type. They include Claude Howe, Joe Smith, and Albert Long.

Placing the type and pictures in forms for the presses is a big task. Here, Editor Snyder looks on while Charles Sullenberger, Plant Superintendent Oscar H. Hofstetter, and Charles Messer complete the job.

Now the forms are being run through three big presses. Jack Williams, press room foreman, scrutinizes off the press. Charles Lassiter is setting the two-color press shown.

The finished pages then are folded in machines operated by Marchetta King and Gene Mitchell.

Each magazine must be stick-held together in this machine by Irene Love and Cora Lee Meadows.

Then the Gertz Commission’s mailing crew tackles the job of addressing and packing 26,500 magazines for the postoffice.

It’s the first of the month and Mr. Average Reader scans his copy of FLORIDA WILDLIFE with the kids kneeling over his shoulders and the family dog taking a look too.
LEON COUNTY

(Continued from Page 7)

Lake Jackson with almost 6,000 acres, and Lake Janomia with an acreage of more than 5,000, form the other two formidable waterways. It's not unusual to see a hundred boats out on these lakes, on any day of the season from early spring until late summer. There are about eight camps on Jackson that do a thriving business, for the lake is shallow in many places and rental boats are needed to get to the deep holes where fishing is best.

In Jackson, bass fishing is tops at most any time of the day, while panfishing is good in the evening or early morning. One of the more frequent bream are really supplying the dinners for many anglers lately, and pole fishing with earthworms, bennett worms, and crappie crickets has accounted for bream weighing up to 1½ pounds and even bigger. His wife, who fish there, declare that it holds many monster bream are found there. "There are bass in there that even the largest hook and line wouldn't turn around.

Along the St. Marks River, at the mouth of the county, we arrived near Chaires early one morning, and followed the river down stream. We found that it was a series of sinks and rises until it sinks at Natural Bridge. Here the river rises again for the last time. Up to this point, the fishing was none too good, but from there on until the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico, it was really the business.

We discovered that our best bet, since the water was so clear, was to cast a sinking line above the fish and let the current slowly carry it to them. When they hit, they usually snagged themselves and we had them! Talk about fighting black bass, these were really good. For their small size, as many of them were, they fought viciously against the barb in their mouth, and some of them moved swiftly into the deeper water where they wrapped the line around a rock. This we could watch as we played them in the clear water.

Overlooking many sections of the rivers, tulip trees and bream congregate under the trees when the maple worms start falling. Shellfish and crappie make up the rest of the underwater sport fish population in the river with some of them being the sinks before the river actually rises for the last time. When the river rises, there are a series of sand piles filled with big fish that have never even seen a hook for fishing, and are rarely fished.

Southwest of Tallahassee, there is a chain of nine lakes. We were told that when the water is high all of these lakes can be reached by traveling from one lake to another. In low water, several of them can be traveled by boat: Lake Bradford and Lake Israel, Lake Thomas and Lake Apalachee.

In the south end of the county, lands owned by the St. Joe Paper Company which are unfenced, are opened to hunting and have an ample supply of game. Years ago, turkey and quail hunting here was good but lately, due to the pine plantations, has proved to be poor habitat for those birds. A few deer have been seen here, and in areas where there

ONE MATCH
ONE FOREST!

A MILLION MATCHES can be made from one tree.

A MILLION TREES can be burned by a forest fire started with one match in careless hands. It takes years to grow the trees a forest fire burns in one hour. Be alert.

KEEP AMERICA GREEN!

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"HEADQUARTERS" FOR "HIGHLANDER FISHING CLUB" MAINES CITY, FLORIDA

LEON COUNTY VACATION ASSOC. 1406 May Ave.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

(Continued on Page 32) SEPTEMBER, 1951
Today’s dreams are tomorrow’s realities.

Re better friends with your Banker.

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Capital City National Bank
Industrial Bank of Tallahassee
— Lewis State Bank
— Tallahassee State Bank & Trust Co.

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It’s attracting in-state and out-of-state attention.

IT’S NEW — IT’S OPEN!
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On the Gulf of Mexico — 45 Minutes from Tallahassee — Modern pavilion all the way.

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BOATS "AT IT'S BEST!"

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January 1st through December 31st

Wakulla, FLORIDA

Dogs and Hunting

(Continued from Page 18)

sons will obtain their licenses from the county judges by showing their permits of proof of age, at no cost.

That, I think, should answer Mr. Kinard’s questions. He observes, “I think the Commission is spending our money for no good.” That requires an answer, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Kinard writes that he killed his two deer last year and hopes to do the same this year.

We can state flatly that if the commission had not spent the sportsmen’s money as they have for the past few years, on such things as tagging systems and other conservation measures, neither Mr. Kinard nor any other hunter could even kill one deer, much less two, as he claims have been doing gone, Brother!

Now can we see where any legitimate hunter can bicker over a system that takes nothing away from any legal hunter but does impose a limit on the game bag. For the legal hunter, the tagging system does nothing except give him a better chance of bagging his share of the game.

This guy was hurt by the tagging system, in my opinion, is the game bag.

—FRED W. JONES

BLACK RASCAL

(Continued from Page 151)

cackle triumphantly, Snowball cackled with her. So true were her tones that it was impossible to tell who had laid the egg and who was only emptily boasting. Then the cackling soon beyond my own belief—and her business, he’d look carefully around in all directions. If any of the family were to give me any sober word he'd stay on the roof striving nothing, or an innocent hello to us. But if the coast seemed clear, he’d dart quickly into the nest box, open the lid on this beak and fly off to some hidden spot for the feast.

The number of eggs he ate was almost beyond my own belief—and I did the counting and watching. What to do? How to cure him? I tried everything. He couldn’t lift it, but he pecked the spot, the spot, tasted, spat and spattered mightily, then caved disdainfully and flew back to the nest box to wait for another egg—a good one.

I half-emptied an egg, seasoned it liberally with cayenne pepper and sealed it with paraffin. Snowball seemed curious and apt. But he kept right on stealing eggs.

I found several snake eggs of a non-poisonous variety and "planted" them in one of the brigand’s favorite hen's nests. He found the tough, leathery shell a mile hard to cope with, but he purely loved the baby snakes. He chucked with delight as he tore at them with beak and claw. I looked on awe-eyed as they wriggled down that amazing gullet; the last one still dangling from the half-open beak as he flew off to watch a pair of robins building a nest—anticipating robin egg tidbits, no doubt.

At last I conceived what I thought was a foolproof plan; a fiendish scheme which might sing his whiskers but would, I hoped, leave him a far wiser and better bird. Surely he could sacrifice a few whiskers if it meant more eggs on the breakfast table.

So I set a body-crop. On the ground in front of the hen-house door, I placed a perfectly good egg. Around the egg I slipped a neat little circle of gunpowder, trailed it a few feet beyond the corner of the nest box, a better chance of bagging his share of the game.

This guy was hurt by the tagging system, in my opinion, is the game bag.

—FRED W. JONES
LEON COUNTY (Continued from Page 23)
are peanut and corn fields, the dove is at its best. Incidentally, the sand paths in these same unfenced lands are open to anglers all year around.

Last year, with the exception of squirrels, Leon County had more game than in recent years. Particularly good was the duck and goose hunting on Lakes lamonia, Jackson and Munson. Lake lamonia is, without a doubt, one of the best duck hunting grounds in the state. Every hunting season this area is loaded with hundreds of thousands of ducks. Members of the shotgun clan have also had remarkable success in bagging ducks on Lake Munson.

It was reported last year that good bag of ducks, mallards, teal and ringnecks were taken from all of these lakes, as well as Canadian and Blue geese. It has only been in recent years that geese started coming to Leon County in great numbers and it is predicted that eventually Leon County will be one of the acknowledged top goose hunting areas in the state.

Perhaps the best hunting place of all is the Appalachian National Forest, 12,735 acres of which is in Leon County. More than 105,600 acres of this is in the main forest, while 17,307 acres belong to private individuals. There is only one game refuge in the entire area, Summerville Pasture of 35,000 acres which is closed to hunting. The 70,000 other acres in the forest and that private property which is not posted is open to hunters.

Forest authorities say that the most abundant game in this section of Leon County is rabbit and raccoon, while the following game is found in goodly numbers throughout the entire forest: quail, squirrel, duck, turkey and deer. Occasionally a few goose flacks have been seen in and around the sand ponds in this area.

Several Wildlife Officers in the same area have reported that the wildlife is increasing here, and the overflow from the Summerville Pasture breeding grounds has served well in the basic development of wildlife resources. The other breeding Ground in Leon County is the Tallahassee Municipal golf course, where no hunting is allowed.

The Suwannee River along with another duck ground area for hunters in the various swamps and lakes in the river run, with mallards, wood ducks and occasionally geese reported killed in the confines of the river.

Other open areas include the unfenced lands around the chain of Bratford Lakes which are good for duck, squirrel, turkey, a few deer and some quail. There are also small spots around Lake Talquin, where covers of quail, flocks of turkey and herds of deer have been seen this summer. The section around the twin lakes of Silver and Cypress should be a good turkey hunting domain this fall.

A plot of land, formerly known as the Hodges place, between Lake Jackson and the Ocklockonee River is another open area with probably more quail than in any other section of the county. There are also turkey and deer in this section which is a thousand acre tract.

Dove shoots around Woodville seem to be the best sport for the hunting clan in southeast Leon. Usually the landowners hold the shoots once a week during the hunting season. Groups of six to ten persons start out about 3 p.m. late in the season and often the limit is reached before the cease-fire time set by law. Large peanut and corn farms are like the real factor in dove returning to this area year after year.

The trip throughout Leon County proved several things. I found that Leon County has good hunting facilities and the game to back these opportunities up. But the most significant disclosure of the journey was the undeniable verification of Leon's great fishing. Our little group landed some big ones and we saw bigger ones, and the natives asserted that there were still bigger ones—bigger even than the 16½ pound秀丽 ($300) caught by the colored woman. They dared us, though, to try and land them. That's when we left, I thought I'd leave that for you experts who know the sport a lot better than I do. —END

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HOMOSASSA SPRINGS, FLORIDA
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Open 24 Hours—7 Days a Week
One of the finest eating places. In the heart of the good hunting and fishing area.

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It is a "Full Service" Boat Comfort Center, sales, repairs and servicing, and rental service, and has complete parts, engine overhauls, and full fleet service.

"Why are you, now that you mention it, that you've been planning on staying out here all night?"

SEPTMBE Ref 1951

TWINLIGHT FISH CAMP
P. O. Box 233
LAKE JEN, FLORIDA
Camp located at the dam on road # 448 on Apopka Canal

BOATS MOTORS LIVE BAIT
TAVARES, FLORIDA
On Beautiful Lake Harris
BOATS MOTOR TACKLE BAIT
SHORT ORDERS AND REFRESHMENTS

"Captains of the Gulf Stream" 1951

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It is a "Full Service" Boat Comfort Center, sales, repairs and servicing, and rental service, and has complete parts, engine overhauls, and full fleet service.

"Why are you, now that you mention it, that you've been planning on staying out here all night?"

SEPTMBE Ref 1951
spend most of their day in, feeding, swimming and playing. When pos-
sible, they always sleep dry at night, retir-
ing to dens near the water. Their
dens are occasionally in hollow logs,
such as beaver, or in tunnels of dead
vegetation which has fallen into and
around cypress knees. In other locali-
ties, they have been known to burrow
into alligator caves, or dig their own
dens by tunnelling into a bank, digg-
ing upward from near the water's edge
so that their beds will always be dry.

The den itself is usually lined with
dry, dead vegetation, such as leaves,
ferns or fire flags. In the absence of
such dead material, otters will often
cut suitable vegetation themselves,
chewing it neatly off near the ground
level, and then dragging it into the den
to make their beds.

Before an otter retires to the den, incidentally, he will often rub himself
dry by wallowing in vegetation. An-
other curious habit is that when an
otters has an itch he will scratch himself like a dog, using a hind foot
or biting into the fur.

Female and male otters very seldom
live or travel together, except during
the mating season. So far as we have
been able to discover, only the wild
males live together in a herd, usually
three to five animals in a group,
slepting in a common cave and feeding
together. Like many bachelor abodes,
a herd of males will live near a squar-
ble or baffle area. Like a series of
sleeping and screaming that arises from
the cave may be
plainly heard some distance away.

After mating, the female otter travels
alone until she finds an iso-
lated pond or stream where there is
a good supply of water and food. She
then dens in and eventually bears her
litter, usually giving birth to three
devils the first year, and four therea-
fter. Although mother otters in the
wild may often be seen with only
one or two kittens, it seems evident
to us that the remainder of the litter

PLAYBOYS

(Continued from Page 31)

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LAWN MOWERS & REPAIR SERVICE.

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Pictured, the Stetson Texan 3X Beaver, $15.00

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many State Wildlife Officers. The 3X gives you 60% Better content, a tightly felted,
hard wearing, serviceable hat.

ADAMS HATTERS

620 TAMPA STREET

TAMPA, FLORIDA

(Continued on Page 37)

THE FLAMINGO COCKTAIL LOUNGE & RESTAURANT

Mad Men of 35 Marathon Florida

STUART, SEAWAY, KEY LIME PIE,
MIXED CABS, RET. & COLD WATER

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facilities, Ice, Shrimp, Fish, Bait, Rentals, etc. In our
fish market all fish are cleaned and gutted. Fish sell low. Try us and you'll come back.

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For quality Fishing Goods by Reed's HARDWARE, and for your Bag Limit Guns and Pheasant Conservation.

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Cages - Feed - Seed - Supplies

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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PARS - 5 acres and modern home.

In one of Florida's finest fishing lakes. Best land for citrus or truck farming.

Write P. O. Box 331, Flora City, Fl.

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BRAND'S COFFEE'S, with cooking facilities. Lake Tarpon, Good fishing, baking and bait. Box 366, Tarpon Springs. Phone 6743.

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POND SALE - Pratfowl, Pheasants. Wild Ducks. Wild Geese and Swans. 80 varieties
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WANTED TO BUY

WANTED: Female Irish Setter pup of recently registered stock. P. O. Box 555, Sebring, Florida.

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There were others who hunted but who were exempted from purchasing a license. Therefore, there obviously were more than 100,000 persons who actually hunted. However, as we said, we are going to be ultra conservative, so we won’t count any of these who were unlicensed.

Multiply $400 by 100,000 hunters and we get an annual expenditure for hunting of $40,000,000.

There were roughly 280,000 fresh water fishing licenses sold last year, but in this case we cannot overlook the unlicensed folk for so many are exempted in this state. Under present laws, children under 15, persons over 65, and all persons who fish in their home counties with cane poles, are exempted.

The “cane pole” provision alone has been estimated to exempt more than half the actual number of freshwater fishermen.

So, if we discount all the elderly folks and all the kids entirely, and count only a number of cane pole fishermen, we can figure 560,000 fresh water fishermen. Multiply this number by the $400,000,000 and you get $224,000,000 for the state.

Simple addition then gives us an income from fresh water fishing and hunting of $264,000,000 per year.

And we might stop right here to point out one item that we discovered while doing the research for this article. Since we have discounted figures all along the way here, it is likely that the income from Florida hunting and fresh water fishing is actually well in excess of $500,000,000 per year. If we take this figure, and compare it with the receipts of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, we find that the protection, management, perpetuations, etc., all the administration of these sports go on at least a per cent of the total annual revenue derived from them.

In other words, to carry on the management of these sports we spend less than one two-hundredth of the income.

But of course, fresh water fishing and hunting are only the smaller part of the business of running a fish and game agency. For every dollar we spend on management and protection, we have to spend on the real income from sports fishing.

Since we have no salt water licensing in this state, the only way that we can do is to estimate. But on the basis of hundreds of questions asked, thousands of miles travelled, checking with the State and local chambers of commerce, and other research by this writer, and information furnished by other sources, we have arrived at some pretty reliable figures.

There can be no doubt whatever but what at least a half a million Floridians go fishing in our salt water with some regularity. Likewise there can be no doubt but what we have at least 500,000 and a half visitors who fish at one time or another.

In this case, since more than half the fishermen on fresh water are from other states there can be no doubt but that the average expenditure that can be traced back to fishing and/or hunting is at least the $400 per year.

Thus we can add to our previous figure of $264,000,000, two million more fishermen times the $400, or another $800,000,000!

This gives us a total of more than one billion dollars a year spent for fishing and hunting in Florida!

Divide this sum by the total population of the state and you get the round figure of $335 per person per year that we mentioned at the beginning.

The total of course, also gives us the ten percent of the total for the country according to Carhart that we mentioned earlier.

For further support of the above figures, we refer you to the national manufacturers of fishing tackle. Find out for yourself how much of their products are being used in the state. The answer will surprise you.

Check with the State Chamber of Commerce and you’ll find that the second most-asked question at the information booth at the state line is about where and how to fish. No other resource draws as many people to this state as do our waters in game with the exception of our climate.

However, climate without recreation isn’t enough. No informed person will doubt that our tourist business would be cut in half if we suddenly lost all our fish and game. All in all, fishing and hunting is undoubtedly a big business in the United States.

But if you want to see where they are really big business just take a look at Florida! We’ve surely got a Billion Dollar Baby!

FISCAL REPORT
GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
JULY 31, 1951

Debit
Credit

Cash with State Treasurer. $116,869.05
Disbursements:
Salaries. 61,460.39
Regular Expense. 12,691.90
Capital Outlay Expense. 19,735.60
County Judges Account. 2,648.54
General Adjustment. 129.00

Receipts:
Sales of Licenses. 33,118.25
Fishing. 8,298.00
County Court Collected. 1,558.38
Previous Years License Collected. 3,045.50
Putnam-Robertson.
State of Magazine. 32,024.89
State of Magazine Subscriptions. 368.00
State of Magazine Single Copies. 5,833.00
Other Sources. 376.82
Canceled Warrants. 201.61

Hendry County Deer Fund. 4,975.00
Dixie County Deer Fund. 106,382.18

Uncollected Balance. $202,808.28

"Dear, I’ll bet you’ll never guess what I bought home today and put in the bathtub.

September, 1951

Florida Wildlife
Don't overlook the marsh hen! Although not as popular as quail, dove, and turkey, the marsh hen is a first rate game bird, and you’re really missing a bet if you haven't been getting your share of marsh hens hunting.

Most of Florida’s marsh hen hunting is done in Nassau, Duval, and St. Johns Counties, through the marsh hens, or clapper rail, occurs around the whole state coastline. Strictly a marsh bird, you’ll only find it in salt and brackish areas. Therefore it offers such good protection and the bird is so resistant to flames that it can usually be hunted with any real success only during high tides. That’s reason the most of the hunting is done in the three northeastern counties on Florida’s east coast. In that area, normal high tides between mid-September and mid-November practically cover the marshes. The careful hunter will have to notice wind as well as tide, however, since a northerner may pile up the tides to give an extra day or so of shooting while strong southeast winds may knock out an expected shoot by preventing high waters. In other parts of the state, marsh hens shooting is on a rather hap hazard basis, since the necessary high tides generally come only with storms.

Marsh hens hang generally done from a bush, pushed, pul ed, or padded through the marsh at high tide. Generally two men hunt together, so that one shoots while the other handles the dog. The system is to go from one chump of marsh extending above the water to the next and shoot the bird as it Mongolia. Both dead and matted marsh vegetation usually carry birds too, so that these should not be bypassed. Marsh hens hang generally done from a bush, pushed, pul ed, or padded through the marsh at high tide. Generally two men hunt together, so that one shoots while the other handles the dog. The system is to go from one chump of marsh extending above the water to the next and shoot the bird as it Montana. Both dead and matted marsh vegetation usually carry birds too, so that these should not be bypassed.

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