The Junior Wildlife Photo Contest ends at midnight December 31, 1956.

Contestants must be between the ages of 8 and 18 inclusive.

The contest is open to all children regardless of where they live. However, all photos must be taken within the State of Florida.

All photos must be mailed first class mail to Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Florida, by midnight of December 31, 1956.

Contestants may submit as many photos as they desire.

Photos must be at least 4 inches by 5 inches in size and no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches.

The following information must be printed or typed on a piece of paper and pasted on the back of each photograph: (Do not write on photos.) (a) Name of camera used (b) type of film used (c) exposure used (d) location where picture was taken (e) your name, address, and age. This information must appear on the back of every photograph submitted.

All prize winning photographs become the property of Florida Wildlife.

No photographs will be returned unless self addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed with entry.

Seven Divisions

First and second place prizes will be awarded the best photographs submitted for each of the following divisions:

BIRDS • ANIMALS • FISH • PLANTS
HUNTING • SCENICS • FISHING

Grand Prize

For the photo judged most outstanding of the contest, regardless of division, a grand prize consisting of the following will be awarded:

CENTAURE RIVER SPINNING REEL
PHANTOM TUBULAR SPINNING ROD
GLADDING 8# PLATYL SPINNING LINE
ASSORTED FISHING TACKLE

Florida Wildlife's
JUNIOR WILDLIFE
PHOTO CONTEST

HUNDREDS OF PRIZES

PFLUEGER PELICAN SPINNING REEL
PFLUEGER SKILKAST REEL
PFLUEGER PHANTOM TUBULAR SPINNING ROD
GLADDING 8# SPINNING LINE
ASSORTED FISHING TACKLE
ASSORTED PORTER BAITS
MET-L-FLY SPOONS
PFLUEGER SCANFISH SPOONS
ASSORTED BUNDE LURES
ASSORTED BARRACUDA BAITS
ASSORTED PORTER BAITS
GLADDING 8# SPINNING LINE
FISHERMAN'S HANDBOOKS
SUNSET FISHING LINES
FISHERMAN'S HANDBOOKS
PALCO CANTEENS
SOUTH BEND ROCK HOPPERS
SUNSET FISHING LINES
FISHERMAN'S HANDBOOKS
PALCO CANTEENS
SOUTH BEND ROCK HOPPERS
GEOFISHING LINES
FISHERMAN'S HANDBOOKS
PALCO CANTEENS
SOUTH BEND ROCK HOPPERS

EVERY CONTESTANT A WINNER

Every contestant will receive a useful item of fishing tackle whether or not their photo is selected for a division prize.

TURM-SPORT COOKING STOVE
MANNING SHRIMP LURES
GETZEM FISH BAIT ODORS
SQUACKY SQUIRREL CALLS
ORCHARD EXTENDO FISHING ROD
VAL-DO SPORTSMAN ASSORTMENT
CORTLAND FISHING LINE
FLOWERING FLORED LURES
KINGFISH TACKLE ASSORTMENTS
POTBELLY LURES
SHELL-O-MATIC CARTRIDGE DISPENSER
CHASE TACKLE ASSORTMENT
CANE POLE TACKLE
LUCKY 7 FISHING LEADERS

OCTOBER, 1956
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Dedicated to the Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game and Fish

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

VOLUME 10, NO. 5
OCTOBER, 1956

Published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

Entered as 2nd class matter, under the Act of March 3, 1879, at Tallahassee, Florida, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1911.

Mourners in Silver

Muller Madness

Gamo Laws — 1956-57 Hunting Season

Sun-Tanned Bruns

Don’t Boe Shootin’

Accent on Archery

Gallinule or Coot?

December 10, 1956

STRIKES & BACKLASHES

SPORTSMAN’S BOOK SHELF

JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

MUZZLE FLASHES

FISHING

HEAD-JUM DONE

Florida Birdlife

TESTS & TRLS

COMMISSIONERS

PAUL HOLLAND, Chairman
Panama City

TALLAHASSEE

GEORGE RODMAN
Lake City

GRAHAM GRANGER
Eustis

DR. J. W. COOPER
Homestead

WILDLIFE OFFICERS

DON O’BRIEN
Orlando

J. J. WESTON
Jasper

CECIL S. REED
Coral Beach

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

By GEORGE CROWLEY

DOGS MATE Fought at the sides of their masters in times of war or served them in other capacities at the battle front from earliest days. Some of the greatest military leaders never ventured into a military campaign without their favorite pet.

Alexander the Great, during his march of conquest through Asia was saved by his ferocious pet, Pericles, who awakened as a would-be assassin poised a dagger above the heart of a great leader. Pericles lunged for the murderer and dragged him down, but the poison point pricked the loyal dog and he died instead of his master.

Both as personal guards and as soldiers under orders, dogs have proved their courage, and usefulness in battle. The Gauls bred large strong animals especially intended for war. They wore a kind of armor, with spikes and curved knives, jointed and light enough to permit free movement, but heavy enough to protect the bodies.

The invention of gunpowder modified the dog’s usefulness as a battle soldier, but other capacities came to the fore. During the American Revolution, the recruiting of soldiers with their dogs was encouraged, and during the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, the Russians were enthusiastic about ambulance dogs.

In World War I, hundreds of dogs were trained by the English to be messengers at the front or for guard duty and Red Cross service. The French used sled dogs to haul ammunition and supplies in high mountain fighting. The Italians had a dog named St. Bernards in teams to drag machine gun carriages.

The eager of war dogs reached a new high during World War II. Thousands of trained animals were used on both sides of the conflict. The Germans trained approximately 200,000 dogs for war. The Russians mobilized some 50,000 animals. When the United States entered the conflict thousands of dogs were mobilized and trained, most of them donated by patriotic owners. They were employed on coast guard, scouting, messengers, sked and pack work. The remarkable record of these loyal animals set themselves for themselves during their war service leaves no doubt of their indispensable value in time of war.


We were fishing in Lake Martin when the largemouth took a spinning sized Dalton Special.

A. S. WARNER
Miami Shores, Fla.

Gentlemen:

In your August number of Florida Wildlife we read with interest the article by Margo Hundof. It was so well written and interesting we hope you will have many more stories in the near future. All the family read it with much enthusiasm and want more of the same.

We were also interested in other articles which held our attention, among them Ghosts in the Oaks, The Animal Sink, and particularly You Are the Wolf. This latter should be followed up by an exposure of the colorful engineers and trappers of our game stock. We need much stiffer laws with no loopholes.

Margery W. Buckley
Clemont, Florida

Dear Sir:

I have been a subscriber to your fine magazine for the past few months and enjoy it immensely. However, varmint hunting is one subject I don’t recall ever being covered.

At present I am serving aboard an aircraft carrier in the Far East, but plan to return to Florida upon arrival in California.

I am a big varmint hunter and would like to see “cut in” on the varmint hunting possibilities of central Florida, say Lake County. I have a 322 Remington and am in the process of purchasing an 80 scope. Now that varmint hunting is more on the average hunter’s menu I’m sure there are many other hunters like myself that would like this info.

Philip M. Richardson
5112 FPG, San Francisco, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is an additional subscription application and a check for $2.00 for your magazine.

I have been a subscriber for a year and wish to get my subscription for a year, and to get a copy of Florida Wildlife and find it very interesting. I am enclosing a check to cover my subscription for a year, and to get twelve different back issues (any twelve your stock may provide).

I never realized that there exists a good hunting potential in your state until this trip. I hope that some day I can plan a hunting trip in Florida.

C. A. LARSON
Hokiville, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I recently returned from about two weeks in southern Florida, which I must say that I enjoyed very much. It was essentially a business trip, although I did manage to get in some sight-fishing.

I write quite a bit on outdoor life, particularly hunting and fishing. I bought a copy of Florida Wildlife and found it very interesting. I am enclosing a check to cover my subscription for a year, and to get twelve different back issues (any twelve your stock may provide).

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Our whole family is waiting for that hunting season special in November but please don’t forget that Florida is still best known for its fishing. We would like to see more fishing stories by Ernest Lyons and Chuck Schilling.

Ray Croffin
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Gentlemen:

What happened to the Meet Your Commission articles that used to be in Florida Wildlife? We enjoyed reading about our Wildlife Officers and was sorry to see it stoped.

E. Kraus

Gentlemen:

In your August number of Florida Wildlife appeared a splendid article — The Wilderness Gang by Margo Hundof. It was so well written and interesting we hope you will have many more stories in the near future. All the family read it with much enthusiasm and want more of the same.

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C. A. LARSON
Hokiville, L. I., N. Y.
JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

By DENVER ST. CLAIRE

W HEN YOU READ THIS, summer vacations will be a thing of the past. All of you will be on your way toward completing your first semester of school. I know that who attended the Camp and participated in the panel discussion and open discussion groups on the various subjects offered this year at Camp will have many things to talk about when it comes to wildlife and conservation.

All of the staff believes, too, that those of you who took our tests and received one of our game emblems will be either wearing them or carrying them in your pockets.

While I am talking about these tests and passing grades, I would like to remind you that a letter has been completed which will be sent to your parents telling them of the grade you received while at Camp. Inclusion of the grade will let them know the completion of the test and passing grades. You will have many things to talk about when it comes to wildlife and conservation.

Just last week, lighting in five of the cabins was completed. Perhaps by the time next summer rolls around, all five cabins will be wired too.

DEDICATION OF OUR FLAG AND FLAG POLE during the camp period was a very special event. The flag pole was presented by the Camp Committee on behalf of the Moose Lodge, and the flag was presented by Mr. John Martin for the W. O. W.

The local Jaycees here in Ocala dedicated a 12-foot aluminum boat to the Camp during the last week of camp. It’s a start fellows; all we need now is a way of getting there. Just think that next year will be the start and the word you can have the boating you need is here to stay.

Speaking about bass, did you know that the top burner was a five pounder. It proved that there are some nice size sulphur water used at Camp. One of the biggest criticisms was lighting in the cabins. The other criticism, in the majority, was the sulphur water used at Camp. Some thing can be done about lighting, but I assure you that our sulphur water is here to stay.

The Ocalo Jaycees donated a 12-foot aluminum boat to the Junior Conservation Camp this summer. Jaycee members launch the craft as a dock full of young campers look on.

The Committee appointed by President Mike Davis are listed here:

COMMITTERS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT MIKE DAVIS ARE LISTED HERE:

AWARDS: David Laird, Ocala; Chairman; Jerry Hill, Ocala; John Stoner, Ocala

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Phil Alexander, Miami; Chairman; Henry Imhauser, Miami; Dickie Clark, Miami

SPECIAL EVENTS: Carlie Couch, Panama City, Chairman; Betty Guy Cooper, Panama City, Secretary; Carlie Coast, Panama City, Treasurer

The Board also recommended the following:

That a Conservation School be conducted in each qualified club each month to stimulate further learning in the field of Conservation. The purpose of these schools is to broaden the member’s knowledge of general Conservation, Out-Of-Doors and Wildlife.

That Tag Day be a state-wide project for all qualified Conservation Clubs to raise money for themselves and the League. The Tag Day will be held during Wild Life Week.

That the word Junior be dropped and the word Youth be henceforth used in referring to the League. The Agenda for the next meeting includes:

Reading of the minutes of the first meeting.

Preparation for Tag Day.

Conservation of Clubs.

Securing Boats for Camp.

Additional Improvements for Camp.

Committee reports.

Report on solicitations.

Membership in the American Camping Association.

Use of the Camp by other Youth Agencies.

Other important business. Selection of the next meeting place.

BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESSFUL WORK IN CONSERVATION.
I've been catching black bass and was peering into the depths of the foggiest notion about the natural world around him and, particularly, as it pertains to fish. I was visiting Homosassa Springs and was peering into the depths of "Nature's Fish Bowl," in company with about 20 other tourists. Underwater view. Plain sight of the the water, and we watched the bass and gobbles up these One man kept pointing to the large mullet in the school and explaining, "Oh, boy, look at the big bass!" No one could believe him, so I asked, "Are you sure they're bass?" He glared at me. "Of course, I'm sure. I've been catching black bass since I was a kid." Turning to the others, he said, "How about it, folks? Are they bass or not?" All agreed the schools of the school eating mullet were, indeed, black bass. This fish weighed 11-lb., therefore, we can assume they were "fish" weighing 9-oz. spotted sea trout. I thought the trout is a big fish. I was right. The spring attendant, standing overhead, tossed handfuls of bread let. The spring attendant, standing over the trout. The results are entitled, "Guide for Hire," and produced and designed by Gladys and Ed Fortner of Mount Dora, Florida. The book depicts the part of Florida known as the Central Highlands, its charming springs, its well-armed fishing guides now being published around the state. This writer considers back to his home town paper this town still gets their beauty, big fish and fishing guides. Published by a Chamber of Commerce, extolling the fishing opportunities of their area. Fishing guides are well-liked by the tourists. They make handy reference books and are full of valuable information. These popular fishing guides are, ordinarily, furnished free. The Stuart News at Stuart, Florida, has published an Annual Free Fishing Guide for more than 30 years, and this guide is a prototype for the many similar guides now being published around the state. So, the excited angler who tells of losing a huge fish, much larger than is probable, is not conscientiously stretching the truth but is guilty only of poor judgment. WEIGHT GUESSED: Number of GuesSES:

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Fishing with the characteristic shrill, squeaky whistle of the dark grayish wing coverts showed one of the gray, streamlined shadows rocketing toward the safety of a distant part of the field. Before the hunter could swing his pumpgun on the other two birds, they had gained the refuge extended by the transparent but effective armor of distance. Dave pushed through the tangle of waist high hogweed weeds and the tattered stalks remaining from the summer's corn crop. Without undue difficulty he located the downed bird and held it in his hand while he paused to admire the pastel gray and buff plumage of the pointed-tailed speedster, the first game of the afternoon. The feathers of the dove's neck gleamed with a purplish metallic overwash. It was a mature bird, Dave knew, for the dark grayish wing coverts showed none of the whitish edging characteristic of birds of the year. A small metal band clamped around one of the bird's legs caught the hunter's attention. There was printing of some sort on the silverly bracelet. Dave hunters will be rendering a service to themselves if they will report the data, locations of kill, and the tag number of every banded bird they take. Such information is vital in formulating a sound management plan. "Oh-!"
(Continued from preceding page) twisted the band between his fingers and drew it closer for more critical inspection. "Notty F. & Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.", the legend read. There was also a serial number stamped into the metal.

At home that evening, after a successful afternoon in the open field, Dave dug out a piece of writing paper and an envelope. A few minutes later he read over what he had written. "Gentlemen: On October 11, 1955, I killed a banded dove while hunting 3 miles northwest of Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida. The band taken from this bird is enclosed." He signed his name to the letter. Previously he had opened and flattened the band carefully so as not to damage the serial number. Now he stuck it to the letter with a short strip of cellulose tape. He folded the paper and mailed it in an envelope addressed to the Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

On his way down town later in the evening, Dave took a moment to run in to the post office to drop the letter in the outgoing mail slot. He felt good about it; and, in a way, he felt a bit various, for though he was vaguely aware that the wildlife biologists had been doing some dove banding here and there around the country, he did not exactly understand what, if anything, it might mean to him as a hunter. He did know the wildlife men were anxious to receive as many of the bird bands as possible from hunters. There had been an article in the state wildlife magazine to that effect and, of course, there had been something in the newspaper about the importance of reporting banded birds.

Some time later, Dave received an official looking envelope along with the mail. It contained an acknowledgment of the receipt of the dove band and kill information in the mail, with the thanks of the Fish & Wildlife Service for his cooperation in reporting the banded bird. From the letter Dave learned that his dove had been trapped, marked, and released by a Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission biologist at Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida on October 9, 1955. The bird had fallen to Dave's gun two days after having been banded and in a spot some 150 to 160 miles in a straight line, over water from the trap site.

Just as a single, irregularly shaped piece of a jig saw puzzle appears to be without meaning so a single dove band report such as Dave's is without great significance when considered by itself. It is after many pieces of the puzzle have been fitted together into a unit that a picture begins to form from the jumble of unrelated parts. So it is when dove band reports have been received from many hunters in many localities that there begins to emerge a definite pattern. In such a manner that wildlife specialists gain an insight into certain phases of the multi-faceted problems which beset their search for the basic facts required to properly manage a species.

With an estimated nation-wide harvest of fifteen million mourning doves each year, there is no disputing the important position the swift flying species occupies as a game bird. Despite this fact, it was not until comparatively recent times that more than sporadic efforts were devoted to learning the details of the mourning bird's life history.

In 1948, in recognition of the need for such detailed information as the basis for more realistic management of this important segment of the country's wildlife resources, the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners advanced a joint resolution recommending a coordinated regional study of the dove. As a result, the machinery for a joint southeastern project was established. The research branches of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Management Institute, the Federal Aid section of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the appropriate departments of the various state game management agencies cooperated on the project.

Because of its geographical position, Florida is one of the major wintering areas for doves in the Southeast. With great expanses of water surrounding much of the state, movement of doves is restricted almost completely within state boundaries. This made it possible to tackle much of the problem of migration and behavior as a self-contained unit, not dependent upon extremely close coordination with neighboring states.

Live trapping and banding has formed the basis for much of Florida's mourning dove research activity. During the fall of 1956, many of the doves live trapped by project personnel were dyed a bright orange-yellow. With considerable publicity given the "flying oranges", a good deal of attention was focused on the dove research program. Not only did the color-marking stimulate public interest with resultant higher rate of band recovery but also it more than doubled the number of reports concerning dove movements by making it more possible to identify the fowls.
View of St. Lucie lock and dam looking upstream toward Lake Okeechobee; because of low water levels in the lake there has been no discharge of water through the spillway, as is pictured in the photo above, since October 1954.

MULLET MADNESS

By GORDON E. HALL
Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

The presence of mullet in Lake Okeechobee has been realized for many years, as has the fact that during the fall and early December, and daily boat lockages are found dead and dying in and around the lock.

The majority of dead fish were large roe mullet, ranging up to six pounds and averaging about three pounds. State biologists Gene Wallace and Ed Chamberlain and Fish and Wildlife Service biologists Dick Macomber and Art Marshall, all of whom were on the scene shortly after the kill, agreed that the ultimate cause was believed to be responsible for the large numbers of mullet found dead and dying in and around the lock.

Reasons for the fish-kill are not too difficult to explain, since it involved the mass movement of fish from the lake in a short period of time and the depletion of oxygen in the water by their enormous concentration behind and in the lock chambers. Requiring more explanation are the underlying reasons for the apparently large increase in mullet population in Lake Okeechobee. It could not be definitely established whether a buildup in population has really occurred in recent years or whether earlier observations were either incomplete or inaccurate and the fish moved out of the lake on their spawning runs in a different manner relative to the lock.

Old-time commercial fishermen around Stuart and Salerno related that there have always been large numbers of mullet in the spring of 1955. An extensive study with haul seines of the fish populations of Lake Okeechobee by the Florida Game and Fish Commission resulted in the collection of only 720 pounds of mullet in a total of 243,000 fish, a total of 1.1 million pounds in 1956. The taking of mullet by commercial methods has not been permitted in the lake for many years and so are unavailable which would show a very large mullet fishery ever existed there. Take of commercial harvest of mullet during the greater part of the year when they are in the lake, the presence of fewer predatory species in the lake, and the large nursery and feeding grounds available, all combine to provide relative protection and to encourage the development of a large population in the lake.

Because of the recent dry years and gradual lowering of the lake level, no discharge of water through the spillway for lake control has been made since October, 1954. Under such conditions tidal action will bring salt water as far upstream as St. Lucie Dam. If mullet were seeking fresh water in St. Lucie Canal, it would have been necessary for them to go above the dam and in the estuary. It has already been noted that the 1955 upstream migration was much greater than in previous years. However, even with the information that a large population of mullet probably resides Lake Okeechobee during much of the year, we must look for still other reasons for the extraordinary downstream run and resulting kill in 1955.

In years prior to 1955, discharge through the spillway during the fall season may have aided the downstream movement and spread it out so that a large buildup at one time did not occur. Further movement of the fish would then be responsible for the numbers of mullet at times for initiating a spawning migration. The lock-tenders have observed that cold, northwest winds and rain often occur in late fall and winter are often followed by an increase in the numbers of mullet moving downstream through the lock. Changes in the weather conditions around Lake Okeechobee during the few days preceding the fish-kill on December 12, were as follows: winds reached 11 to 13 miles of rain followed the east lake shore; winds switched from SSE to NW and increased in velocity, air temperature dropped 21 degrees on December 10 and water temperature decreased 9 degrees to a low of 62. The combination of these changes is considered enough to have caused fish spawning condition to start their migration. Whatever the reason, there is little doubt that a mass exodus of mullet from Lake Okeechobee occurred at the ocean occurred at this time, and the mass movement apparently reached the lock during the night of Dec. 12. Although locking service at St. Lucie lock is available to boats daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with additional lockings at 6 a.m. and 7 and 10 p.m.

December 24—Jan. 2—Daily boat lockings from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with additional lockings at 6 a.m. and 7 and 10 p.m.

January 3—20—Daily boat lockings with deflections at intervals not greater than 4 hours. Some lockages at the upper and lower gates each 10 minutes to 30 minutes to allow fish to go down 6:19 feet below to enter the opening. The mullet moving near the surface appeared reluctant to enter these small, swift openings. Continual lockages with the upper and lower gates partly open, at 10 minutes to 30 minutes to allow fish to enter and leave the lock chamber proved to be the best and safest method for assisting fish downstream. This following schedule of lockages, instituted after December 11, continued for the remainder of the spawning run:

December 13-23—24 hour operations with lockings at intervals not greater than 3 hours.

Dec. 24—Jan. 2—Daily boat lockings from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with additional lockings at 6 a.m. and 7 and 10 p.m.

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(Continued on Page 41)
QUAIL

Thanksgiving (November limit.

fore Thanksgiving (November through February 1.

ties of Dade, Broward, Monroe, and through February 1.

mitted every day.

November 9 through January 1.

Saturday, and Sunday are closed.

hunting from November 9 through January 1.

January 1.

Domestic quail (lump.

ties of Dade, Broward, Monroe, and through February 1.

through February 1. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

1st District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

2nd District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

3rd District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

4th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. Excerpt Counties of Dale, Brevard, Monroe, and that part of Palm Beach County south of State Road 80 which will be open to quail hunting from November 9 through January 1.

Hunting permitted every day.

5th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

6th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. Excerpt Counties of Dale, Brevard, Collier, Monroe, and that part of Palm Beach County south of State Road 80 will which be open to quail hunting from November 9 through January 1. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County closed to hunting of Key deer.

7th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

8th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

Deer with one or more 5-inch antlers.

Daily bag limit, 1 season bag limit.

1st District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13 except that part of Lee and Hendry Counties south of State Road 80 which will be open to deer hunting from November 9 through January 1. Hunting permitted every day.

Closed to deer hunting during the 1956-57 season—Counties of Hendee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto, Polk (south of State Road 60) and Hillsborough (south of State Road 52).

9th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13; 1st 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

10th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13; 1st 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

Daily bag limit, 2 season bag limit.

1st District: Open to turkey hunting Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1 except that part of Lee and Hendry Counties south of State Road 80 which will be open to turkey hunting from November 9 through January 1; AND the Counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto where there will be a special season from November 20 through November 25; and from December 25 through December 28 with a daily and season bag limit of 1 bird.

Turkeys taken during this special season must be tagged with special tag to be issued by Counties Judges in the four counties concerned and from County Judges in adjacent counties.

Hunting is permitted every day.

11th District: Hunting of turkeys either of sex from the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

The Counties of Hernando, Pinellas, Polk (south of State Road 60) and Hillsborough (south of State Road 52) will be closed to turkey hunting during the 1956-57 season.

2nd District: Open to hunting of turkeys of either sex from the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

Exempt the Counties of Alachua, Bradford, Union, that portion of Baker, Nassau, and Columbia south of U.S. 90 from Jacksonville to Lake City and that part of Columbia and Suwannee south and east of State Road 247 from Lake City to the Suwannee River.

SPECIAL SEASON—Gilchrist and Clay Counties open to deer hunting from November 9 through December 9; First 6 days open, Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed thereafter.


4th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) to January 13, except counties of Dale, Brevard, Collier, Monroe, and that part of Palm Beach County south of State Road 80 which will be open to deer hunting from November 9 through January 1. Hunting permitted every day.

5th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13. First 6 days open. December 25 through January 1 open, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed at all other times.

6th District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through January 13. Hunting permitted every day. Counties of Alachua, Bradford, Union, that portion of Baker, Nassau, and Columbia south of U.S. 90 from Jacksonville to Lake City and that part of Columbia and Suwannee south and east of State Road 247 from Lake City to the Suwannee River which will be closed to turkey hunting and for special gobbler season.

SPECIAL SEASON. Clay County open to turkey hunting (November 20) through December 9. First 6 days open. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed thereafter.

Gobbler season. The entire 2nd District except Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Game Management Areas. Hunting will be 1/2 hour after sunset on March 30 through April 8: hunting only during the 1st half hour after sunrise to 12:00 Noon.

3rd District: Open to the hunting of turkeys of either sex from the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

SPECIAL Gobbler season. The entire 2nd District except Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Game Management Areas. Hunting will be 1/2 hour after sunset on March 30 through April 8: hunting only during the 1st half hour after sunrise to 12:00 Noon.

All shows are inclusive hunting permitted every day.

* Only 1 wood duck permitted in day's bag; 2 in possession. Only 1 hooded merganser permitted in day's bag and 6 in possession. One half hour before sunrise to sunset except DEER which may be taken only from 12 Noon until sunset.

SQUIRREL

Daily bag limit, 10 gray (cat) squirrels, 2 fox squirrels. No season bag limit.

1st District: Open Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 20) through February 1. Excerpt that part of Collier and Hendry Counties south of State Road 80 where the open season will be from November 9 through January 1.
IN COUNTY in the Apalachicola early morning, bear hunters edition of many National Parks, curse of the range hog swamps, the black bear is one of the most thoroughly cursed and discussed of our North American big game mammals. In some states he is classed as a predator, to be killed on sight; in others his sporting qualities are so highly regarded that he is protected. Whatever an individual's stand on the question of defined closed seasons by state, there are comparatively few real bear hounds in Florida. Each October the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has made certain that there are at least encouraging frequency and the resultant bear kill is sizeable. Other periods are not so good. During the 1954 season, for example, near-drought conditions not only reduced north Florida's usually abundant mast production but also made for next to impossible trailing conditions for the hounds. Last season conditions were much better services lower bear kill. Regardless of the conditions prevailing during any particular season, at least a hunter or two manages to have himself in the right spot at the right time. The result—a bear skin rug for the lucky nimrod and encouragement for the other members of the party who feel that next time fickle fate may nod her head in their direction. 

Sun Tanned Bruins

E STEEMED TROPHY of the big game hunter, diabolical raider of the apparel's bee yard, prime attraction of many National Parks, curse of the range hog owner, clown of the backwoods, or demon of the swamps, the black bear is one of the most thoroughly cursed and discussed of our North American big game mammals. In some states he is classed as a predator, to be killed on sight; in others his sporting qualities are so highly regarded that he is protected. Whatever an individual's stand on the blackie, one cannot help but admire the capacity displayed by the cunning bruin in attaining his objective, be it food, escape, pleasure, or sheer devilment.

To the average out-of-stater, the word Florida is synonymous with sunshine, oranges, bathing beauties, and should he be pseudotarily minded, fish. Granted, our deepest deep south state is simply blessed with all of these attractions and more. Perhaps less known, even to the most avid but regionally-biased big game hunter is the fact that the Palmetto Country hosts a sizeable population of black bears in her thousands of acres of back country.

Within recent years the wily bruin has enjoyed the official status of a game animal in Florida with consequent protection of defined closed seasons and regulations governing hunting of the species.

Since the bear season runs concurrently with the open season on most other resident game, and considering the fact that deer hunters and bear hunters manage to get in each other's hair with annoying regularity, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has made certain concessions to the bear hunters. Each season for the past several years, the Commission, with the cooperation of the U. S. Forest Service, has held special, controlled, "pre-season" bear hunts, during the month of October. There are plenty of prospective bruin slayers eager to participate in the hunts, and the $50.00 special party license fee, prorated among the 17 to 20 hunters allowed each party presents nothing significant in the way of an obstacle. The joker in the deck is the fact that there are comparatively few real bear hounds in the country. Considering the three days in one week hunt allotted each permit holding party, and the difficulties of bear hunting during the regular general hunting season when the woods are invaded by droves of aspiring nimrods in search of lesser game, there is little wonder that few men go to the trouble and expense of maintaining a pack of bear dogs. Those that do usually have it made, naturally being asked to participate in each hunt.

During some seasons when weather and feed con...
Fought's home is typically Florida with its spacious, shady porches and is nestled in the rolling sand hills with competition—shooting. Fellow members who love fine old weapons and admire the skill and good sportsmanship that goes to get together almost every year. Tales and tips and to keep their shooting eye sharp. Club members spend a portion of their annual budget on new weapons to add to their collections. The rifles used by club members are actually the weapons which were used 100 years ago or better. Some of the gun lock bears the names of such famous old gunsmiths as "John Golcher" of Pennsylvania Revolutionary War fame. The size of the pumpkin balls thrown by these rifles is in the size of a man's hand over those of the "Plains" rifles—some of which have killed many a timber tiger. The Rebels are the oldest incorporated muzzle-loading club in Florida and the only other full-time club interested in becoming part of the club. The only thing you've just shot before, you ram in a damp patch to be sure that there are no embers from the previous round. Next comes a patch of muslin or some quick-burning cloth. This is stretched over the muzzle and the ball is placed on top of it. The combination of the ball and cloth are just a little bigger than the bore, so it is tapped or "started" with a mallet or block of wood. It's a tough job even for a big, beefy man to hold a 15 or maybe even a 20-pound musket or rifle still long enough to sight in on that tiny bulls-eye. Some shooter can sit a 15 or maybe even a 20-pound musket or rifle still long enough to sight in on that tiny bulls-eye. Does this sound like a little cheating? Just try it yourself some time—and see how big that 5-inch ball looks at 50 yards.

You're trying to puncture a mark which is about the size of a man's hand on those 50 yards—and with an old-fashioned ball, not the slim streamlined modern rifle projectile. The weapons used by club members are actually the weapons which were used 100 years ago or better. Some of the gun lock bears the names of such famous old gunsmiths as "John Golcher" of Pennsylvania Revolutionary War fame. The size of the pumpkin balls thrown by these rifles and muskets ranges from .31 calibre to .50 calibre. The long, slim Kentucky rifles lie on the shooting tables side by side with the heavier, more businesslike "Plains" rifles—some of which have killed many a buffalo and elk and maybe even an "injure" or two. The Kentucky rifles usually steal the show. Many club members spend a portion of their annual vacations prowling through the mountain and hill country, looking for new weapons to add to their collections. The design of the Kentucky rifles has nothing to do with the Bluegrass State, but goes back to the gunsmiths of old Germany. These Germans emigrated to Pennsylvania and became today's Pennsylvania Dutch. It was these Dutchmen who made the rifles carried into the plains country by early pioneers and the names of such firearms. Car s wind out of the long sandy driveway all day long. Long sleek Cadillacs and battered "flimmers." You're trying to puncture a mark which is about the size of a man's hand over those 50 yards—and with an old-fashioned ball, not the slim streamlined modern rifle projectile. The weapons used by club members are actually the weapons which were used 100 years ago or better. Some of the gun lock bears the names of such famous old gunsmiths as "John Golcher" of Pennsylvania Revolutionary War fame. The size of the pumpkin balls thrown by these rifles and muskets ranges from .31 calibre to .50 calibre. The long, slim Kentucky rifles lie on the shooting tables side by side with the heavier, more businesslike "Plains" rifles—some of which have killed many a buffalo and elk and maybe even an "injure" or two. The Kentucky rifles usually steal the show. Many club members spend a portion of their annual vacations prowling through the mountain and hill country, looking for new weapons to add to their collections. The design of the Kentucky rifles has nothing to do with the Bluegrass State, but goes back to the gunsmiths of old Germany. These Germans emigrated to Pennsylvania and became today's Pennsylvania Dutch. It was these Dutchmen who made the rifles carried into the plains country by early pioneers and the names of such firearms. Car s wind out of the long sandy driveway all day long. Long sleek Cadillacs and battered "flimmers." Members have the use of a complete workshop adjacent to the range. Equipment includes a rifle bench (used to re-fire the grooves of old barrels or even to turn out new ones), lathes and power tools. There's even a small forge for heating the lead and tin mixtures that go into the old-fashioned bullet moulds. This forces the cloth-covered ball to engage in the spiral rifling of the barrel. When the ball comes back out of the barrel, the grooves will give it greater accuracy and precision. But the roundness of the ball must not be marred by cutting action of the grooves. So, it is the patch that twists with the grooves, throwing out an unmarrred ball. Once the ball is started, it is rammmed home against the powder. The patch will also prevent powder leakage and will stop the ball from rolling out of the barrel if the muzzle is turned toward the ground.

Now the hammer is cocked. If the rifle is a percussion-type, a small explosive cap is fitted over a nipple at the muzzle end of the barrel and an opening leading to the powder chamber. The hammer falls on the cap or on flint and a spark is sent down to open the powder chamber and driving out the ball. Just imagine how the old timers carried out all these operations sometimes on the dead run and pursued a pack of howling Indians.

Now and then, men would become so engrossed in the routine of loading under pressure they would reload them again and again—forgetting to fire in between loadings. Weapons found on the battlefield of Gettysburg had as many as 19 charges crammed in on top of each other.

The pistols used by the club members are loaded much the same way as the rifles. Handguns used include some of the early cap-and-ball revolvers used in the Civil War and by western gunfighters.

Sundays at the Dunedin club range have much the flavor of old country camp meetings. Cars wind in and out of the long sandy driveway all day long. Long sleek Cadillac and battered "flimmers." Members have the use of a complete workshop adjacent to the range. Equipment includes a rifle bench (used to re-fire the grooves of old barrels or even to turn out new ones), lathes and power tools. There's even a small forge for heating the lead and tin mixtures that go into the old-fashioned bullet moulds.

The Rebels are the oldest incorporated muzzle-loading club in Florida and the only other full-time club of its kind is in the Miami area. The Dunedin group has an opening leading to the powder chamber. The hammer falls on the cap or on flint and a spark is sent down to open the powder chamber and driving out the ball. Just imagine how the old timers carried out all these operations sometimes on the dead run and pursued a pack of howling Indians.

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Once a gun-hunter tries the longbow and makes a big-game kill with it, he will never again be satisfied to hunt with a ponderous hunting weapon, archers say.

Accent On Archery

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

Longbow during the special archery seasons they could better understand both sides of the bow-hunting issue. Once a gun-hunter makes a big-game kill with a longbow, he will never again hunt with a gun, the more enthusiastic bowmen claimed.

To kill the larger species of American game bows must rate above the lawn-toy class in quality and possess sufficient power to drive broadhead arrows with deadly effect. Until this year, Florida archers could not hunt with any bow pulling less than forty pounds when fully drawn. By their own seeking, the rule has been changed from a minimum poundage pull to recognized ability of a bow to cast a one ounce arrow a minimum of 150 yards. In essence, the change represents a decrease, rather than an increase, in minimum bow-pull limits. Even a thirty-five pound pull working recurve bow will cast a one ounce arrow beyond the set minimum yardage and has sufficient power at average Florida hunting ranges to drive a broadhead arrow entirely through a deer.

A properly designed and very sharp hunting arrow needs very little forward velocity to deeply penetrate flesh, a fact easily proven by hand dropping a razor sharp broadhead arrow a distance of ten feet on cabs of hard laundry soap of approximately the same density and resistance as flesh.

Also by volunteer group proposal, Florida archers this year received the nod of approval of the Game Commission in outlawing crossbows for hunting. However, some bowmen still hold to personal opinions that legalizing of crossbows, as a changeover to that weapon by unsuccessful and discouraged longbowmen might well reawaken interest in bow hunting and also attract newcomers to the sport. Some advocates who were unable to attend the Tampa conclave of sportsmen and Game Commission officials want to see the crossbow case reopened next year.

One wants the privilege of all year bow-fishing for Florida's fresh water species, other more practical afield than a shoulder quiver, especially for beginners. There is a knack to walking through thick woods and crawling under brush while wearing a shoulder quiver full of arrows that stick up above your head, and an equally necessary knack to extracting arrows noiselessly.

A bow-attached quiver houses three broadhead arrows and is connected to the bow handle by a bolt that threads into a permanently recessed mounting lug.

Fred Bear, the noted big-game bowman, recognizing the faults of both shoulder style and hip-worn quivers, has designed a center-back quiver that hangs straight down the bowman's back allowing arrows to be drawn from the bottom, and a row of bristles around the top of the quiver keeps the arrows from sliding off. Another improvement over conventional quivers is the Howard rubber carrying rack that stacks arrows.

Each hunting season more women join the ranks of Florida bowhunters and find the Ocala National Forest and Eglin Field hunting areas ideal for range practice and for sale striking of game.

October, 1956
FLORIDA WILDLIFE
with their cutting edges apart so that they do not rattle or feather rustle as the archer walks or reaches for a feathered shaft.

Knowledge of wind direction is extremely important to the hunting archer, not only in respect to a successful stalk but in making the shot. Judging wind direction is not always easy to do; to help make wind judgment reasonably accurate, many archers tie a very fine, colored silk thread about six inches long to the top of their bows. Studying the action of the sensitive thread enables them to quickly ascertain wind direction and changing air currents.

Unlike the rifleman, the deer hunting bowman can give his weapon a radical cant as he makes a shot without an undesirable effect on accuracy. In fact, being able to cant his bow gives the archer a number of advantages peculiar to his weapon: Since an aimed arrow’s anchor point is on one side of the archer’s face, the arrow will not be in his direct line of vision if the head is held stiffly erect. To overcome this, the bowman tilts his head until the drawn arrow is directly beneath his aiming eye, and cant the bow about 15 degrees to keep the bow and bowstring centered in line with his head. A canted bow aiming stance also gives the hunting archer a better view of his game, being aiming eye and arrow into better alignment on and is a great advantage in brush country.

On missed firings, the deer hunter has learned that stalked deer often hear the twang of the bow-string and are startled into flight before follow-up shots can be made. On advice of nationally recognized experts, most of the state’s bowmen now use brush buttons and heavier arrows to deaden the twang of the bow.

Various hunting seasons’ experiments have shown that if you double the weight of an arrow you get about 15/64 compared to 9/32 inch diameter for the most cedar shafts. Bladed broadheads are popular arrowhead weights for deer, panther and wild hogs. Bagging a rabbit or shooting at movement in bank brush which may be drifted through primitive country, stopping at noted game watering spots to take carefully selected land upon by the greater majority of bowmen, for reasons of safety — the possibility of a boat-drifting bowman excitable bowmen should attempt to make their game kills by stream drifting, hunting safety advocates say.

This year, veteran hunters are urging beginners to try small game hunting before attempting to take deer, panther and wild hogs. Bagging a rabbit or squaring with a longbow can be as thrilling as seeking larger, but seldom shot, game.

Mike Nauer, columnist for the Covington (Ky.) Times-Spectator, believes that archery will be the salvation of public big-game hunting in densely populated states. He claims that some day the risk of life and limb will be too great to let armies of gun-hunters have free reign during hunting season. Maybe so, but the Kentucky writer makes no distinction between the danger of a possible bullet between one’s ribs and an arrow. Given a Hobson’s choice, most hunters would probably prefer to be hit with a bullet. Doctors describe arrow wounds in vital areas as almost impossible to treat.

Whatever hunting success Florida bowmen may have this year, or in future seasons, it is unlikely that Florida Wildlife October, 1956
HOMEMADE MINIATURES
For The Sportsman's Study

By GEORGE X. SAND

SPORTSMEN ARE sentimentalists.

Long after the final hunt is over, after the last flight of beating wings has disappeared into the sunset and the guns have been oiled and put away for another season, they are wont to gather together and recount with glowing faces experiences that are reminiscent of field and marsh.

How fitting, therefore, for the hunter to have in his den some item that will help keep alive the memory of such pleasant experiences.

The truth of this was brought to my attention one evening when I chanced to drop in for a visit with a favorite old-timer of long acquaintance who has swung his gun barrels along the flight paths of many game birds for many years. Immediately, my glance was drawn to a fine pair of miniature mallards on his mantel. "Who, me? I never carved any life." Jeb chuckled modestly at my praise for his carving ability. "I'd you a present of 'em," he said, "only I know you'll enjoy it more if you make a pair of your own." "Who, me? I never carved any thing in my life." "High time you started then. C'mon, I'll show you how it's done." Whatever skepticism I felt soon disappeared as I accepted a small block of wood and followed the old man's simple directions for carving it.

Any soft, easily worked wood can be used. Outside-cut cedar or white pine is excellent.

Make the bodies first. On a solid rectangular block approximately 5 x 2½ x 2 inches outline with pencil the desired horizontal contour, making sure that the grain of the wood runs fore and aft (refer to picture "A").

If you do not wish to use patterns based upon your own experience with wildfowl, or already existing full-size decoys, you can easily reproduce on a sheet of 8½ x 11 inch graph paper the contour illustrations shown in the text, using these in turn to cut out thin cardboard patterns.

Next, cut out the bodies on a small bandsaw (preferably) or by hand. Draw a line crosswise on the top of the body approximately 1.38 inch back from the front. Then draw through this line to a depth of one-half inch, turn the block sideways and saw back from the front to meet this saw cut at the same depth. In so doing you have provided the flat platform which will serve as a seat for the head (to be carved later).

Now make use of the second or profile body pattern reproduced from the scale sketch. Mark with it on the block the approximate vertical contour which will be observed.

Use a saw or hatchet to cut away as much wood as possible outside the vertical lines just drawn on the block.

So far you have accomplished the first three operations shown (left to right) in picture "B").

You can now proceed to carve the body, using a sharp pocketknife (or whittling tool, if you prefer). The knife should have a fairly narrow blade. Slope the back downward evenly, front and rear; the under-derose upward, also front and rear. Leave a faintly approximately one-quarter inch thick at the rear (to be trimmed and sanded later).

In carving thus attempt to remove the same amount from each side, both top and bottom. Squinting along the plane of the body in both directions at frequent intervals will help you to do this. Beyond that you will need no further instructions; body designs will invariably differ with different carvers.

Sounds too easy? It is easy.

The head is cut from a 2½ x 1½ x 1¼ inch block of the same wood, following the penciled outline of the head pattern (which latter can be reproduced from the contour shown on the graph illustration in the text, should you wish).

For the head cutting operation a bandsaw or a small hand scroll saw is practically a must. Here again you should see to it that the plane of the head (i.e., the bill) runs in the same direction as the grain of the wood.

Take the 1¼ inch wide head blocks so cut out and draw on them parallel pencil lines, carrying these back from the tip of the bill to the base of the neck. The first line is drawn down the center. The others are placed outward and parallel to the first at approximately one-quarter inch intervals. These three penciled lines provide a means of orienting the carving process which is to follow.

Drop a final line down the side of the head from a point corresponding to the upper extremity of the bill. Then saw down this line on each side of the head (i.e., saw inward) to a depth that will permit intersecting with cuts to follow made backward from the tip of the bill along the two outer penciled lines (refer to picture "C"). Thus you have removed excess wood from the bill and left it approximately one-half inch wide in preparation for the actual carving.

Next, using the lines on head and neck for reference, bevel the head on each side. Leave the cheeks rounded beneath the eye indentations, and narrow the head gradually forward to meet the bill. The neck is also trimmed beneath the cheeks (see far right, picture "C").

After the body and head are finished and sanded smooth the head is fastened to its flat platform by means of waterproof glue and a ¼ inch finishing nail that is driven diagonally downward through it at the back. Trim off any excess wood at the junction to provide an unbroken neckline and give a final sanding.

The finished product: fitting decorations for any sportsman's mantel.

(Continued on Page 25)

Template is drawn on graph paper so that desired size and proportions are obtained.

After final trimming and sanding, you are ready for the painting. Here is great opportunity for artist of design.
OCTOBER ARCHERY HUNTS
Ocala and Eglin Management Areas

ARCHERY HUNT RULES

1. Guns, pistols, or other firearms will not be permitted on the hunt area.
2. Bows must be capable of casting a 1 oz. arrow a minimum of 150 yds. Arrows shall have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades of not less than 14 nor more than 1½ inches width.
3. No person shall have with him in any vehicle a bow which is in the strung position or shall load or shoot a bow from any automobile or other vehicle, moving or stationary.
4. Game showing evidence of having been shot with a firearm shall be considered illegal game.
5. Legal game can be transported only during the special archery season and for a period of three days immediately following the latest open archery season.
6. No person shall have in his possession or under his control any type of poisoned arrow or any arrow with explosive tip.
7. No dogs allowed on the hunt area during the special archery season.
8. Any rule or regulation that governs the operation of hunts on the Ocala or Eglin Wildlife Management Area and is not in conflict with the preceding special archery hunt rules shall be in effect on the special archery hunts.

OCALA ARCHERY HUNT

Hunt Area: Beginning at Davenport Landing and proceeding west and south to Eureka Bridge, the boundary is the Ocklawaha River; proceeding east from Eureka Bridge, the boundary is Forest Road 19 (State Road 316) to its intersection with Forest Road 65; proceeding north from this intersection, the boundary follows Forest Road 65 to the intersection of the River Road; thence northwest on the River Road to Davenport Landing.

Open Season: October 12 to October 21, hunting permitted every day.

Legal Game: All legal game, except that no hunter can take more than two of any combination of deer, bear and panther. Game taken on this hunt will be considered part of the hunter's annual bag and the deer and turkey must be tagged as provided in State Regulations.

Permit: A special archery permit costing $5.00 will be required in addition to regular license requirements. Sale of this permit will be handled by the Hunt Supervisor at Hunt Headquarters and by the County Judge of Marion County.

Special Hunt Rules: Hunters must check in and out of checking stations located at Hunt Headquarters at junction of Forest Roads 18 and 19 (State Road 316). Hunters

(Continued on Page 42)
Most of Florida's forest acreage is under-stocked. To bring the forest resource up to potential, we need organized protection against fires where it does not exist. Better cutting practices, especially by small landowners. More seedlings and more people interested in planting. Timber stand improvement through silvicultural practices like poisoning of undesirable trees. Wider application of other forest management practices. Less waste at the mill and in the woods.

Florida's Woods Look Like They Do Mainly Because of Fire.

The most effective means of reducing damage from fire is organized protection. Does your county have it?

The following do not yet have countywide organized protection:
- Bradford
- Brevard
- Charlotte
- Citrus
- Collier
- DeSoto
- Dixie
- Flagler
- Glades
- Hendry
- Hernando
- Highlands
- Lafayette
- Martin
- Monroe
- Okaloahe
- Osceola
- Palm Beach
- Pasco
- Polk
- Putnam
- St. Lucie
- Sumter
- Suwannee

OCTOBER, 1956
Ben Walker is tougher than a liter knot and about the same color with a seamed, weatherbeaten finger. He has been fishin' editor for a big sporting magazine for years before retiring. He also has an obsession with trout, but he's been技术 about it seemed to be the way the birds would settle off the bank's neck and started a rumor the city was going to buy it for a WAPA project, which naturally never materialized.

It sounds like an old coon with the colic every time anyone mentioned it. "Blast Matilda Swenson can't fritter away a bit of that clear warble from the pasture, and before long she looked like a tourist feeding pigeons in a park. Just let me start their way and they'd disappear faster than Mexican imports. It's a cinch we've got a big job of restocking ahead, and maybe they're the answer."

Lac paused, and Ben began to slide further and further down in his seat until he was practically lying down trying to get out of sight. It was plain to see Lac figured on calling him up on the speaker's platform to help smooth the idea out, and generally if Ben gets out three words and a grunt per meeting he's being longwinded.

"Mr. Thomasson's show wave ridges from a storm the night before. He also has a coln imperturbability that singles him out from city folks plain as a Jonathan apple in a case of eggs. You wouldn't think any saving pasture for even Florida's dynamite-packing she is one of the few I ever heard of."

Now Ben wasn't much for hunting at this time, although he didn't allow any shooting during legal hunting, and out of gratitude Foggy Baxter said Matilda is a name along with bar savings and loan bank, big like most Swennes with a small wart on her nose, and all shrewd business-saver getting their way."

I don't actually think Ben is a confirmed woman hater for he and my Mom get along real well, but she is one of the few I ever heard him speak to civilly."

"Ladies and Gentlemen," he said, "there will be no open season on quail this year!"

For a moment there was one of those stunned pin-dropping silences you always hear about, but seldom encounter. Then all hell broke loose.

"It seems to me," she rapped, "you've failed to con sider a very important point. Isn't it true such a dis ease could have been introduced from an outside source? In fact, considering the miraculous immunity of Mr. Walker's quail, isn't it very possible they are the carriers of this virus and the infective agent for our native stock?"

I shot a quick glance at Ben, and he was red as Georgia clay with a strangled look he'd maybe see some by mistake. Before Lac could open his mouth Ben was throwing a gnarled finger in Miss Swenson's direction.

"Now here, Matilda!" he shouted, "My birds been here too long for that. You just got your back up because I wouldn't sell you huntin' rights, so don't startin' rumors again!"

Matilda forgot her banker's dignity. "Hunting rights!" she screeched. "You old goat, I wouldn't let my dogs set paid on your sand heap, if you paid me for the privilege. Much less go there myself!"

"It's a good thing," Ben hollered back, "they couldn't find anything even on my place if they had followed their noses more carefully."

It's funny about people, how when they get into an argument it seems to be glued onto something entirely different, and then forget what started the original hassle in the first place. That's just what happened. You see, there had been quite a bit of bickering in our town over the judge's decision at the Field Trials, and folks had kind of taken sides, and (Continued on Next Page)
what happened next just Ben and Matilda’s private battle in public domain, so to speak.

Jim Hardesty saw a chance to dig Matilda a bit and chimed, “Ben’s right!”” he shouted, “Especially that Samson dawg.”

“Yeah,” Ben said, stung out of any sense at all, “may be more game’n he kin.”

“You’re a fool, Ben Walkor,” Matilda said, “Put up, or shut up.”

Boy, did it get quiet. The whole crowd just sat there without breathing and watching and waiting. Suddenly Ben knew he was in a deep pocket. He squeezed a little and looked up at Lac as much as to say you sonava got me into this. I can’t get out, but Lac just stood there with his mouth open trying to figure where things had gotten away from him. A couple of Samson rooters in the back started to chuckle and Matilda sniffling conceivably toward Ben as she started to sit down. That stung him worse than anything so far.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**FLORIDA FISHING LICENSES**

Exempt—Residents 65 years of age and over; children under 15.

Cost includes County Judge’s fees.

Service men, stationed in Florida, and the residents of Florida insofar as licenses to hunt and fish are concerned.

**FISHING**

Series A—Resident State, Fresh Water.

Series B—Non-Resident State, Fresh Water.

Series C—Non-Resident, 14-day Continuous Fishing, Fresh Water.

Series D—Non-Resident, 5-day Continuous Fishing, Fresh Water.

License Required to take fresh water fish.

License required of residents to fish outside of the entire county in which they reside regardless of method used.

The deer is the most adaptable, most widely distributed, most heavily hunted, best loved, and most misunderstood of the large game animals, this continent. To most North Americans, the average deer means deer. At least one of the three species of deer is found in every state, province of Canada, and every country in North and South America. As Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson points out in the Foreword, the deer can make its home in suburban woodlots with the sight and sound of roaring traffic and bustling human activity, and can increase its numbers in the face of the most adverse circumstances. And the deer will even live in the city.

The deer is the most adaptable, most completely understood and most widely distributed of all the American wildlife species and their management. This volume was prepared under the editorship of Dr. Walter P. Taylor, former Leader of the Florida Conservation Series for the Wildlife Management Institute's series of books on specific North American wildlife species and their management. This series has been revised and re-edited in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation's Committee on Conservation Education, and the recent trends in deer population management and hunting in North America.

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W HEN the history-making Colt "Frontier" model handgun was in its heyday of practical usefulness, transportation of guns and ammunition offered no problems. Users merely suspended their weapons in hip or shoulder holsters and carried their ammunition supply in belt loops or pockets.

To do that today, what with localized interpretations often given existing firearms laws, would be to invite challenge and possible trouble from overly zealous guardians of the law. Florida's Law 790.19, titled "Improper Exhibition of Dangerous Weapons," is sometimes given a "Improperly" interpretation often given by the lawmakers who wrote and enacted the law. Such a safe, remote handling of firearms would be to invite challenge and possibly trouble.

To do that today, what with local laws, what with the full program of modern pistol ranges than the oldtimer's light load was in its heyday of practical use—were faced with the problem of single-unit transportation of all needed equipment to firing ranges, and safe, compact equipment storage during periods of use.

Highly popular are luggage-type carrying cases that permit handgun shooters to transport their handguns and related items—one or more pistols, a spotting scope, ammunition and all needed accessories—as a single, compact unit. (How this preference, common to tournament competitors all over the United States, conflicts with Florida Law 790.01—Carrying Concealed Weapons—is a question that Muzzle FLASHES will not attempt to answer. Where reader interest creates something in the nature of an issue to be decided, interpretors are respectfully referred to friend Frank Daniel, Secretary of the National Rifle Association.)

Also, today's shooter usually takes far more equipment to practice ranges than the oldtimer's light load. He also likes all box hardware items, as well as the scope mounting bracket, to be bolted in place instead of fastened with screws. If an otherwise quality box does not have its hardware bolt-fastened, it will be an easy matter to realign holding screws and substitute bolts backed inside with washers.

Few sporting goods stores regularly stock handgun carrying cases. Illustrated literature can be had from the following manufacturers, and their products compared for maximum dollar value:

- The Custom Gunshop, 33 Herning Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.
- Beckelhymers Shooting Supplies, 313 Salinas Avenue, Laredo, Texas.
- Pachmayr Gun Works, 1229 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 15, California.
- Wisler Western Arms, 205 Second Street, Cranford, New Jersey 07016, Social Security Number 33-36-32, Wisconsin.
- The Custom Gunshop's models stand handgun horizontally, has swivel trays.

The fun of buying an item of sporting equipment is contacting known sources of availability and then inspecting and carefully comparing the features of each product before making the actual purchase. The editor of Muzzle FLASHES does not want to rob you of that pleasure. But he does have definite personal preferences in interest to hardware and construction.

His preferences include: compact, piano-type hinges; metal reinforcement of corners and other points of wear and strain; strong and comfortable carrying handle; quality solid brass or nickel-plated brass, rustless hardware; drizzler-style ways that stay in place when pulled almost out, and construction and workmanship that obviously rate top-quality classification.

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MOURNERS IN SILVER
(Continued from Page 11)

of marked birds during the closed hunting period between the two halves of the split season. Sight records of dyed birds confirmed and further defined routes and rates of southward movement during the fall migration. After the initial flurry where observers were highly selective in confirming sightings, there began to be a repetition of information already established. Because the technique added little totally new information, this time-consuming aspect of the dove study was discontinued, although the results were deemed worthwhile on the short time basis upon which it was conducted.

The banding of doves continues for while the work has yielded much significant information, there still remains blank spots in various aspects of the natural history of this important game bird. The return of bands by hunters continues to add weight to conclusions thus far formulated and to aid in drawing into sharper focus facts upon which a sound management program must be based.

You can do your part by making certain you and your hunting companions report to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., the serial number, plus the location and date of kill of any banded dove you may bag during the season ahead. By so doing you will be helping the game technicians help you to better dove hunting in the season to come.
The open season for the taking of alligators runs from June 1 through October 31.

During the open season, alligators are trapped or shot only upon special permit issued by the Florida Fish and Game Commission. A special permit is required to take alligators.

The taking of alligators is prohibited in the following locations:
- Biscayne National Park, Miami-Dade County
- Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade and Broward Counties
- St. Lucie River, Indian River, and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties

Alligators may not be taken for any purpose in the following areas:
- Florida Keys
- Dry Tortugas
- Alligator Island

In the text and editorial selection as well. "Guide for Hire" can be purchased by sending your name and address to Box 67, Mount Dora, Florida. Take my word for this one—it's a "must!"

MAN POWER:
Jim Reed and I spent several days in the Ocala National Forest recent

MAN POWER:
Jim Reed and I spent several days in the Ocala National Forest recently, using my 16-ft. canoe, red, reel, and camera to get some material concerning Florida's springs. We stayed awhile at Silver Springs with our friend, Ricas Browning, and then moved on to Juniper Spring and Alexander Springs out in the forest.

Our junket convinced us of 2 things—you are automatically considered an "odd ball" if you use a boat without a motor; and if you are willing to brave the contempt of your fellow men to do it, the rewards are worth the effort.

Jim and I took the canoe down Juniper Creek from the springhead to Lake George 12 miles away. I've made the trip many times and I still think it's one of the most beautiful waterways in Florida. Here is one part of Florida at its natural best, relatively unspoiled and virtually untouched by the passing years. We used our canoe, Indian fashion, with only the drip of the paddles to break the silence of the big woods. There is a satisfaction in such travel impossible to achieve in a motor propelled boat. I am realism enough to know the outboard motor is here to stay, and I don't have it otherwise. But I can't help casting a nostalgic glance backward to my own youth.

I'm 42 and it seems like yesterday. I've tried to photograph jumping fish. The old days, outdoor equipment was very crude compared to present results but present results do not always reflect this difference. There is hardly an angler in the state who has not at some time or other tried to photograph jumping fish. This is a pleasant but usually futile occupation. Florida has the most amazing collections of jumping fish pictures I've ever seen. A book was published by "The Book of the Tarpon," by A. W. Dimock. This book is illustrated by 93 photographs taken by Julian Dimock, the author's brother. The book was pubished by the MacMillan Company in 1911.

The Dimock Brothers fished for tarpon using canoes on Florida's southwest gulf coast. Julian Dimock, the photographer, made his breathing-taking, aerial, tarpon shots with an 8" x 10" view camera that weighed 18 pounds. He used studio plates and had to put up a double walled tent on the beach each night to serve as a darkroom. Transporting and maintaining this equipment back in those early days must have been a problem of which we are only dimly aware.

Compare this 1911 equipment with the high-speed, high-precision processing available to the modern photographer. It's like comparing an hour glass to a quartz watch. Julian Dimock took jumping fish pictures that put to shame much of our modern work. Perhaps, as our equipment improves, we tend to depend more and more on the gadgets rather than our own initiative.

BACK TO NATURE:
The lure of the "Good Old Days" strikes a responsive chord in most of us. There has hardly been a time when I can remember that hasn't produced a "Back to Nature" movement of some sort. Nudist camps, physical culture fads, hiking clubs, diet programs are just a few. Each movement dies a sure death before the dust has settled, but the idea of a return to a time of nature, of an occupancy.

Jim Reed and I pondered some of the things we found. Let me end where we started. We did not get the thrill of a muscle tone. We agreed our forefathers didn't have it so bad after all, in the way of our modern conveniences, but we decided we wouldn't want to go back to a time when we couldn't swap places with them after all.

Alligators are wild animals and should be treated with respect. Do not feed or interfere with them.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS**

**PERFECT** for Florida outdoor sports—fishing, golfing, hunting, motoring and hiking—is the McGregor Drizzler jacket in bright yellow to give ample free-swinging movement for even after laundering or dry cleaning, and sun is high enough in the sky to warm your hands or tackle a tire change. An applied Dow Corning silicone finish makes the lightweight jacket highly water repellent in respect to sudden showers and similarly repellent to water borne stains—often after launching or dry cleaning, and the fine textured weave of the fabric makes it both tear resistant and wind resistant. On Florida’s colder days, a wool diamond sweater can be worn underneath until the sun is high enough in the sky to warm clothes.

Other features include a collar tab for added smartness and rain and wind protection, a button fastener that keeps the jacket down, a full length zipper that won’t catch, a zippered hidden arm pocket and continental push-up sleeves that remain in position when you push them up on your arms to wash your hands or tackle a fire change. Safety-minded hunters can effectively wear the bright yellow Drizzler jacket when shooting.

**KNOW how you walked while squirrel hunting on closing day? . . . sure of it?** Chances are you grossly over or underestimated the true distance you covered, a walked mile to quarter may be a mile and a quarter to another. Asked to convey at a designated assembly point after a weekend of hunting members of a party often mix-judge their return on the return route; where there is a nearby highway with num­bered poles it helps to keep a note of the sequence of pole numbers before entering the woods, so that when you again come out on the road you can quickly determine whether you walked, cut, or drove. Certain Florida woods roads and highways look alike in either direction of your running.

You’ll know exactly how far you walk after leaving car or camp if you carry a New Haven pedometer, a walk-likes device that measures the miles you walk as you walk. The instrument is calibrated so that it measures the number of miles and quarter miles you walk, up to 100 miles. However, you should not mix continuous recording, dial readings can be set back to zero for each separate distance to be computed.

**DOVES** are gregarious birds; they like to seek the companionship of their kind. During the dove season, it is uncommon not to see flocks numbering from ten to a hundred per roosting. They also like to perch on dead tree, and see flocks numbering from ten to a hundred per roosting.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**FEDERATION NOTES**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE Federation will be held at St. Lucie Beach Hotel, October 13 and 14. The General Session will convene at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 13.**

Many noted speakers from Florida and Washington, D. C. will be on hand, including National Wildlife Federation President Colonel (Ret) James R. Estep with the Wildlife Management Institute’s Executive Vice President, C. R. Gutermuth, and Ernest Mitts, Director of the Florida State Board of Conservation. Turner Wallis of the Florida Flood Control District will speak on their sportsmen-aid program.

It is expected that Governor Col­lins will attend the banquet and entertain­ment scheduled for 7:00 p.m. M. Saturday, as guest speaker.

The Southeastern Fishes­sociation again rejected a plea made through lockings every 2 or 3 hours on a 24-hour basis. During the week of December 21-28, the down­stream movement continued in smaller numbers except for a peri­odic buildup at some time during the day. After December 29, the number of fish moving downstream decreased rapidly, and the last ones moving toward the ocean were ob­served on January 11-18.

**RETURN RUN:** For a period of 8 days, January 11-18, no mullet were observed on the return run as they passed through the lock. On January 19, a large concentration of fish appeared below the lock, and the lockman considered it necessary to make a special lock to give the fish adequate time for the lock was the only large concentration re­ported among the returning fish. Through­out the remainder of February, the size of the returning run varied between small and medi­um. However, the emergency association with the spawning migration was evident, the evidence was apparent and the mullet were observed to move up­stream to the dam and mill around until an opportunity to go farther up was provided by a boat lockage.

Series A—Non-Resident, January 11-18 26.50

**MULLET MADNESS**

(Continued from Page 13)

13, was successful in passing hun­dreds of thousands of fish down­stream past the dam without further incident.

**EFFORTS of the Corps of Engineers in moving the fish in the period when the emergency action was over. They considered it necessary to obtain more information on the periods of fish migration through St. Lucie Lock in order that precau­tionsary measures could be taken to assure future safe passage of fish. Following the fish-filled period of migration at the lock were ordered to make con­tinuous observations throughout the remainder of the season and the return run as to relative numbers of fish and the concentration of fish above or below the lock, signs of fish in groups and individual fish, environmental conditions. Recorded observations of the 1956 movement through St. Lucie Lock and Dam after December 12 are as follows:

**Series A—Non-Resident, January 11-18, large numbers continued to come downstream and were passed**

through lockings every 2 or 3 hours on a 24-hour basis. During the week of December 21-28, the downstream movement continued in smaller numbers except for a periodic buildup at some time during the day. After December 29, the number of fish moving downstream decreased rapidly, and the last ones moving toward the ocean were observed on January 11-18.

**REPORT RUN:** For a period of 8 days, January 11-18, no mullet were observed on the return run as they passed through the lock. On January 19, a large concentration of fish appeared below the lock, and the lockman considered it necessary to make a special lock to give the fish adequate time for the lock was the only large concentration reported among the returning fish. Throughout the remainder of February, the size of the returning run varied between small and medium. However, the emergency association with the spawning migration was evident, the evidence was apparent and the mullet were observed to move upstream to the dam and mill around until an opportunity to go farther up was provided by a boat lockage. Small numbers of mullet continued to move upstream until May 1956 when daily observations were discontinued. From the data gathered during the 1956 return run, it was evident that normal daily lockings are sufficient to move upstream without difficulty. Therefore, through lockings every 2 or 3 hours on a 24-hour basis. During the week of December 21-28, the downstream movement continued in smaller numbers except for a periodic buildup at some time during the day. After December 29, the number of fish moving downstream decreased rapidly, and the last ones moving toward the ocean were observed on January 11-18.

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The need for a fish ladder by which mullet could be automatically passed downstream was investigated. However, it appeared that with a few additional precautions, the present lock would serve as an adequate fish ladder during the brief period of each year that it might be needed for such purpose. In view of the expected spawning migration period for mullet from November to mid-January each year, the following recommendations have been made for the operation of St. Lucie Lock for safe fish passage during that period:

(1) Beginning November 1, twice daily observations (a.m. and p.m.) of the numbers of fish above and moving through the lock;

(2) Beginning December 1, in addition to daily boat lockings, definite lockages at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.;

(3) Beginning December 10 until December 30 or later as needed, additional lockages at 10 a.m. and 6 a.m.;

(4) During peak movements of fish, lockages at intervals not greater than two hours;

(5) Special precautions to be taken in watching for buildups in concentration of fish above the dam for 1 to 3 days following abrupt changes in weather conditions.

(6) Any time large numbers of fish gasping at the water surface, not merely jumping, to be evidence for need of a lockage.

The above recommendations were directed specifically at operation of St. Lucie Lock. Although fish movements have apparently never created a problem at Moorehaven or Orlando locks, there is no assurance that it will not happen in the future. Therefore, daily observations of fish movement through these locks during November through January will likewise be made as an added precaution. When information pertaining to the extent and peaks of the spawning migrations by these structures is available for several years, more exact limits of the runs, and, in turn, the amount of additional lock operation necessary for safe fish passage, can be more closely predicted. Meanwhile, Colonel E. B. Kirkpatrick, Jacksonville District Engineer, extends an invitation to interested persons to see these locks being operated not only for boats, but also, at certain times, for fish.

HOMEMADE MINIATURES

(Continued from Page 25)

You are now ready for the painting. This is a pleasure and here the artistry of the designer will make itself felt more than ever.

The hen, the less colorful of the two mallards, is painted a mottled brown, both head and body. The mottled effect is easily achieved by first painting the body a tan or light brown, then, while the paint is still wet, dabbing in spots or "feathers" of darker brown paint. The bill is rust or dark orange. Wing spectrums are blue with white borders.

The drake has a light green bill, iridescent green head, white neck band, rusty brown breast, mottled brown back, dark green tail and white undersides. Wing spectrums are blue, trimmed with white.

If you are particular, small glass eyes can be purchased for installation in both heads. If not, paint them in, also (small yellow or orange rings).

The cost? A dozen of these miniatures completed by the author averaged less than 35 cents apiece—everything included.

After you have completed these mallard miniatures you will likely be inspired to try your hand at other types graceful pints and even long-necked Canada geese. For these you should be able to make your own carving contours (pat terns) either from personal inspection of such birds or as a result of a little pictorial research in your local library.

Try it—it's fun.

OCTOBER ARCHERY HUNTS

(Continued from Page 26) may check in beginning at 8:00 a.m., October 11 and must check out by 6:00 p.m., October 22.

EGLIN FIELD ARCHERY HUNT

(Hunt subject to emergency restrictions of USAF Officials.)

Hunt Area: As designated by USAF officials and lying within the area bounded on the south by U. S. 90 and St. Rd. 20, on the north by the Yellow River and U. S. 90, on the west by St. Rd. 87, and on the east by St. Rd. 83.

Open Season: October 27 to November 4, hunting permitted every day.

Legal Game: Wild hogs and all other legal game except turkey, bear, beaver, alligator, otter, and unprotected wildlife. Deer and wild hogs taken on this hunt will be considered part of the hunter's annual bag and must be tagged as provided in state regulations and with Air Force tag (APH 3272) before being removed from kill location.

Permit: A special Archery Hunt Permit costing $8.00 or a Composite* permit costing $5.00 will be required in addition to the regular license requirements. Sale of this permit will be handled by the Air Force through the Forestry Section at Jackson Guard Station, Niceville, Florida, on Florida Highway No. 85.

Checking Stations: Hunters must check in and out of the hunt area each day through Jackson Guard Station, Niceville, Florida.

* Includes regular hunting, archery, and fishing permits. •

Temperature in the caves at Florida Caverns, near Marianna, Fla., remains about 68 degrees, year round, winter or summer.
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NEXT MONTH Special Fall Hunting Issue

50 PAGES OF HUNTING AROUND THE SUNSHINE STATE