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DECEMBER, 1956

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

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DECEMBER, 1956
the best wildlife magazine in the country.
Edward L. Hall
Dallas, Texas.

GIANT AND NAVY

Gentlemen:

I am now stationed in Japan and will be for some time to come. I was not aware that my subscription had run out, due to my moving and other things. I am another ex-caver who plans to retire in the States in Florida in the next couple of years. I'll put my copy in the library here when I finish, so that others may read it.

M.Sgt. Butch Held
Hq. Sq., 45th Air Division
Apr. 20, 1956.
San Francisco, Calif.

BEETTER THAN TEXAS?! (DIII-580)

Dear Sir:

While visiting Florida this past summer, I bought some property from Three Rivers Estates Inc., at Ft. White, Fla.

Three Rivers Estates, Inc. furnished me with a year's free subscription to Florida Wildlife.

When this subscription runs out I will continue to mail checks for future subscription to your publication which I think is

M.Sgt. Dick McLaugh
Schenectady, N.Y.

CONSERVATION

Dear Sir:

I think Florida Wildlife Magazine is one of the best outdoor magazines on the market but I am wondering if you aren't ever doing the shooting, hunting and killing department.

I know that it is necessary that game be killed off to a degree that will equalize their living conditions but with hunting increasing so much it seems a little more conservation will be needed.

The best conservation practice I can think of is to close the illegal hunting going on. There are a lot of people hunting out of state and people regard for game laws or their neighbors.

J. C. White
Tampa, Fla.

BASS CITATION

Gentlemen:

Once again it gives me pleasure to submit an application for one of your Fishing Citations, this time for my bass. Capt. Erle Stoks of the Miami Air Defense Filter Center.

Mary A. Ganchi
Miami, Florida.

Articles about "What Is Conservation," and the long-range plans and management programs are scheduled for future issues of FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

BEGINNER

Dear Sir:

I am just learning to hunt and fish so we are ordering your wonderful magazine about the State Game and Fish Department.

I am a 10 year old boy and as my birthday is coming soon, I am sure this will be my best present.

Audrey Simons, Jr.
Little Venice, Fla.

PENSAOLA FAIR

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my check for a year's subscription to Florida Wildlife. I am enclosing a copy of your November issue at the Fair. It is dedicated to the Pensacola fair and was so impressed I want to become a regular subscriber.

L. E. Darlow
Pensacola, Florida.

The following pamphlets are available without charge from Information and Education, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida, and regional offices at Lake Okeechobee, Indian River, Okeechobee, Ocala and Lake City:

Reprints — Florida Wildlife Scrap-Areas

Florida's Wildlife Management Areas

Lake and Stream Survey (Leon and Wakulla Counties)

Way Down in the Suwannee River — Mammals

World Inside the Managed Forest — Poster

Conservation Committee Manual for Civic Groups

Manual for Organizing Senior Sportsmen's Clubs — Mammals

Florida's Fresh Water Fish and Fishing

DECEMBER, 1956

The Two-Way Street

No organization is any better than the people in it.

That is why the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is so interested in having qualified people on its payroll.

Any business — state or private — can easily hire engineers and planners to put up a beautiful organizational plan on paper. But no matter how good the plan looks on paper, sooner or later, someone has to put those plans into actual practice.

There is no way to get around the fact that human beings — employees — are the most important ingredient of any business-like operation. Every business rises and falls with the quality of the people involved. Improved employees always mean improved business.

That is why the Florida Game Commission places so much emphasis on improving the overall caliber of the employees.

It is imperative that the Commission continuously search for and hire the best-qualified employees on its payroll.

The problem is being done in a number of ways. As vacancies appear among the ranks of old employees, the Commission is making a deliberate effort to hire better-trained and educated new employees.

And the Commission has a long-range in-service training program in effect whereby the present employees are receiving improved training both on and off the job.

Since our wildlife officers are the Commission's front-men — the Commission feels with the general public — the Commission is interested in providing the best-trained and the best-educated of all wildlife officers and field personnel.

We need employees who recognize the weight of the problems of conservation, and are able to adapt themselves and apply what knowledge to benefit the local communities and people.

In general, I believe that the Commission feels that all of its employees must be well-educated, adequately trained, highly motivated and thoroughly competent. This applies not only to wildlife officers, but also to game wardens, park employees, education personnel, fiscal employees, office workers, and supervisory personnel.

I believe that the Commission must insist that all of its employees be well-trained and well-groomed all the time so as to present a neat appearance to the general public.

It is highly important that all of our employees do the job that they are being paid to do. I feel most emphatically, that each and every employee of the Commission — all members of the Commission — must be loyal to his rank or status in the Commission.

It is mandatory that all employees be loyal to each other and the Commission. Employees must uphold the Commission policy, regardless of their personal feelings in the matter.

It is not the duty of the employee to decide whether or not the administrative policy is correct. It is the employee's duty only to put the policy into effect.

Every employee should remember that the policy of the Commission is made by the employee himself, and passed on to him by the individual employee.

So far, we have talked about employees and their responsibilities to the employer — The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The second side — the employee also has certain responsibilities to his employer — The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The employee must come to work on time, and do his job properly.

In order to keep qualified personnel, the Game Commission must be willing to offer the pay scales when ever possible.

We must realize, however, that conservation work is a traditionally low-pay field of enterprise for the individual. It is impossible for this agency to meet the currently high-level wage scale pressures by being paid by private industry.

Therefore, we must seek other ways in which to attract and retain our employees for their efforts.
Florida Wildlife's
JUNIOR WILDLIFE
PHOTO CONTEST

RULES

2. Contestants must be between the ages of 8 and 18 inclusive.
3. The contest is open to all children regardless of where they live. However, all photos must be taken within the State of Florida.
4. All photos must be mailed first class mail to Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Florida, by midnight of December 31, 1956.
5. Contestants may submit as many photos as they desire.
6. Photos must be at least 4 inches by 5 inches in size and no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches.
7. The following information must be printed or typed on a piece of paper and posted 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.
8. All prize-winning photographs become the property of Florida Wildlife.
9. 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
GLADLING 8 1/2 PLATYL SPINNING LINE
ASSORTED FISHING TACKLE

FINNISHMAN'S HANDBOOKS
SUNSET FISHING LINES
LUCY seven TACKLE ASSORTMENTS
GLADLING SPINNING LINE
MINNION ROD HOLDER
ASSORTED PFLUEGER BAITS
CREEK CHUB BAITS
SPIN DILLY FISHING LURES
BRIDGE AND HAND LINES
ASSORTED BARRACUDA BAITS

PFLUEGER SKILKAST REEL
PFLUEGER PELICAN SPINNING REEL
PALCO MESS KITS
SOUTH BEND ROCK HOPPERS
PALCO CANTLENS
KEIDING BAIT BUCKETS

SQUACKY SQUIRREL CALLS
VAL-DO SPORTSMAN ASSORTMENT
CORTLAND FISHING LINE
FLOWERING FLODO LURES
KINGFISH TACKLE ASSORTMENTS
POLBELY LURES
SHELL-O-MATIC CARTRIDGE DISPENSER
CHASE TACKLE ASSORTMENT
CANE POLE TACKLE
LUCY 7 FISHING LEADERS

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.
The Falling Leaves

... will tell you that it is time for that extra special gift for your sportsmen friends.

Give a Christmas present that extends your GOOD WISHES through the entire year, a gift subscription to...

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

The Florida Magazine For ALL Sportmen

Here is a 12-in-1 gift that is perfect for your relatives, friends and business associates who like to hunt and fish in FLORIDA.

A hand-signed gift card will tell each friend that YOU have given him a whole year of arm-chair hunting and fishing in the Sunshine State.

You shop from home. Mail $2.00 for EACH ONE-YEAR subscription to:

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Tallahassee, Florida

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Address
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By CHUCK SCHILLING

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service has just completed a survey of the ecological value of hunting and fishing in the United States. In Florida, our fresh water sports fishing is valued at 129 million dollars annually. This figure closely follows the independent survey made by our own Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission last year. At that time, the commission, also, estimated the value of Florida's fresh water commercial fishing industry at 7 million dollars per year.

The results of this survey are of immense value to the sportmen and to all other people of Florida. On many occasions, when the interests of sports and commercial fishing have clashed, there have been only vague and uncertain ideas about the relative economic importance of the 2 groups. Now that we have these figures, let's remember them. According to the careful estimates of Croasby, S-D, Surveys, Inc. of New York, who made this survey for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Florida's fresh water sports fishing industry is worth 129 million dollars annually to the people of this state. Florida's fresh water commercial fishing industry is worth 7 million.

On the national level, the survey found hunters and fishermen spent approximately 3 billion dollars annually pursuing their sport. This vast sum is broken down to about two billion dollars spent by anglers in both fresh and salt water and one billion dollars spent by hunters. This is big business with a capital B. All the money spent on all other American sports, such as, baseball, football, basketball, bowling, skiing, etc., is only a drop in the bucket by comparison.

Hunting and fishing are, from an economic standpoint alone, of paramount importance to our nation; but the millions of Americans who spend this money and participate in these sports know the real value of hunting and fishing can't be counted on the cash register. HOW MUCH: On a much needed vacation from a demanding job, how would you price the beauty of a sunset turning a quiet lake from deepest blue to barnished gold? — how much the leap of a fighting fish against a background of white water? What figure would you put on the sound of honking geese coming down wind on a chill, fall morning? — and what price the memory of a boy with a really big fish — and his agonizing decision to let it go again?

Yes, we are grateful to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service for telling us how much we spend, but what is far more important to us is how much we get. Compared to this, the 3 billion dollars fades into insignificance.

WILDFIRE: We Floridians have much to be proud about. In a relatively few years, we've emerged from a chronic of ignorance concerning our natural resources and have embarked on a highway of enlightened thinking and planning concerning the wise use of these God given assets.

Our conservation agencies, in most part, follow patterns of modern approach and are founded on basic principles approved by our most modern schools of conservation. In water conservation, we have the South & Central Florida Flood Control Commission, which is working closely with the U. S. Army Engineers on a comprehensive plan to conserve and control our precious fresh water to insure full use of it on a sustained yield basis.

In our Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, we have a department of state government that could, and does, serve as a model on how best to manage and regulate our valuable wildlife resources and valuable outdoor recreational potentials. Our Florida Department of Conservation manages our salt water fisheries, both commercial and sports. This department has been improved enormously in the past few years and appears to be headed for even greater improvement in the near future. All up and down the conservation front, we move rapidly ahead — all except on our record of wildfire.

Only 3% of the nation's forests are in Florida, but Florida, to her shame, produces 28% of the nation's wildfire. Our record on wildfire is the poorest of any state. On this list, we are the very last. Year after year, we allow our woodlands to burn. We allow our green and beautiful state to turn into an inferno of flames that transforms these trees into a desolate and fire-blackened waste of sand, ravished by nature's most destructive element.

Fire destroys much more than meets the eye. The valuable timber

Continued on Page 11
YOU WILL FIND in this issue the Fifth Series Projects for our Junior Conservationists. Of these projects we now have a total of 125. These 125 projects have been approved if you were to start with number one and continue through the 125, you will find that you were more than enough to complete. The second anniversary of our Junior Conservation Project Merit System. We started in the December 1954 issue. Of course, there will be other new projects offered from time to time. Right at this moment we are preparing the sixth series projects and believe that these projects are accumulative and will help you to get those beautiful marks. The Junior Conservationist, Ranger, Forester, Conservationist, and Jr. Wildlife Officer.

If any of you have received a camp application for 1967, please send your parents send it to us now so that you can have a place for you at the summer camp approved by the many letters received, we believe that this summer will be the time to bring you an abundance of joy and happiness to your bright hopes. From all of us here the best.

Fifth Series Projects

F-105 S.I.G.A. Establishment of a cooperative public fishing area. We draw a picture of a project that a Montana farmer, an Oregon fisherman, an Idaho angler, etc., can use to improve the fishing in your neighborhood. The project needs to be quite simple and must be carried out with the help of others. The project should be completed within a reasonable time.

F-110 S.I.G.A. Aid the Fish and Wildlife Service in tagging salt water fish. This project can be completed quickly and does not require much handling and can be completed with the help of others. The paper includes a list of the steps to be taken in completing this project.

F-121 S.I. Bird lore. This project can be completed quickly and does not require much handling and can be completed with the help of others. The paper includes a list of the steps to be taken in completing this project.

THE HUNTER WORE A BADGE

BY GRAHAM OWEN

The slow chewing of the engine on the slope broke the silence of the waters of the Manatee River. The sun stood directly overhead, beating its hot rays down on the boat and the river and the vegetation. Bails of perspiration stood out on Jim Blanton's tan forehead as he stood on the stern and pushed the rudder back and forth avoiding the shallow water and the sand bars that drifted with the tide. He was thirsty from long, hot rest and water would come but he was afraid to quit until they were in the safe waters of the Gulf and headed toward the bay at Tampa.

Jim's fishing partner stood in the bow of the twenty-four foot slop, making motions with his hands to indicate the direction he wanted the boat to go. The boat was not without sufficient fish. This project is being done with cooperation of the Game Commission.

F-115 S.I.G.A. (a) Assist the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in cleaning out canals, removing weeds, trash, dead fish. This project will improve fishing (b) Assist the boat launch, trash, and the sand bars.

F-118 S.I.G.A. There are over 30,000 lakes, ponds, small lakes, many of which are not labeled. For each sign erected in a conspicuous place, near the water, or near a stream, distinguishing it by name, 100 points. Each sign must be certified by an authority.

F-117 G.A. Build and erect squirrel culverts for our Conservation. Build and occupied by a squirrel: 500 points.

F-118 G.A. Report to a wildlife officer, game technician, club secretary, etc., what you have done to improve the wildlife.

F-119 G.A. Furnish water tank or trough or other water facility in the neighborhood, writing a detailed report of each tank placed in suitable area, under supervision of a qualified person. Must be completed within a reasonable time.

F-120 S.I. Each oral or written report of a Club and League activities submitted to the newspaper.

F-121 S.I. For 1,000 word report on careers in conservation or pre-career training, must be done under the supervision of a qualified person. To be completed within a reasonable time.

Well, you just worry yourself about it. Cause there's more gone in three than I'll ever need and it does ever run out and there ain't no more, then I'll just stick to fishing.

Jim need the sleep out into the deep water and headed North. A light wind had sprung up and the salt air on his face dried his mouth. "Well, Bud," he said, "I'm gonna be out there looking this year, cause I don't aim to see people kill for the sport of killing and then leave the birds in the bushes.

The next month was September and Jim looked for the rains to wet the parched earth. But the rains didn't come. And October came and the woods were dry and dying.

One day in the middle of October Jim and Bradley made the trip back up the Manatee. They reached the slope at the mouth of Hanover Creek and with the new leaves covering the trees and the grass, the slope was alive with activity. The next month was September and Jim looked for the rains to wet the parched earth. But the rains didn't come. And October came and the woods were dry and dying.

Jim reached over to look for the rains to wet the parched earth. But the rains didn't come. And October came and the woods were dry and dying.

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The woods had an odor of leaves burning and on the pine that had died the Spanish moss still hung. "I don't see how it can be," Bud said. "One day out and we'll probably go out there and we'll find there was nothing." Jim agreed. "I'm gonna be watching that water, Bud," he said. "Well, Bud, when I find it, you better jump on it and get out of here.

Toward dusk Jim and Bradley picked a spot near the creek and made camp. darkness had set its clock over Gulf Hammock when Jim put out the fire and laid down on the ground. "Get an early start in the morning." Bud's face broke out in a grin.

The sun was just rising when Jim heard shots out on the water, there had been an up and up and peering over the underbrush in the direction of the voice. "What is it, Bud?" He didn't know what it was, and probably hunting can't do it any good in the Hammock. Why that place is crawling with game. Every year you and me see more game and Jim's gone from the sidewalks, waterfowl and relieves; 10 pigeons.

F-122 S.I.G.A. Prevent erosion on a nearby hill or beach by planting trees, filling gullies, contour plowing, etc.

(Continued on Page 21)

F-109 S.I. Seedling program. This project is being done with cooperation of the Game Commission.

(Continued on Page 21)
MYSTERY BASS OF THE CHIPOLA

Floyd Miller (left) and Pete Crittenden work over a section of the Chipola River below Marianna in hopes of collecting additional specimens of the “mystery” bass. -hh-

Edward “Pete” Crittenden (left), Lake and Stream Survey Project Leader, measures a three-pound “shoal” bass while Jim Barklaus, Assistant Leader, records the information for the official record. -hh-

Although in various structural characteristics the “shoal” bass resembles both the largemouth and the smallmouth it apparently has its own position in the family. The exact scientific relationship of this species to both and also the length of its body is yet to be determined. In general appearance it is another bass, with notable small scales. The maxilla between spiny and soft portions of the dorsal fin is shorter than the maxillary upper jaw bone: does not extend beyond the level of the back margin of the eye. -hh-

During the intervening years between that January day in 1950 and January 1966, local anglers continued blithely matching wits with the mystery fish as had the anglers of generations before them. To them, the fish was just a special breed, the shoal bass, and they appeared unaware of the scientific interest that had developed in the species.

There is no especially startling technique involved in catching a shoal bass; just plug a plug, spoon, or bait into the proper shoal water area and, if a fish happens to be in the mood, you have yourself a lively bout, punctuated by such aerial gymnastics as would shame the most athletic of largemouths.

Under the guidance of Floyd Miller, avid sportsman, fish camp operator, and wholesale meat distributor of Marianna, Pete and Jim hit the Chipola south of U.S. Highway 90. Foregoing the battery of scientific fish collecting gear they normally employ in their survey work, the biologists dug out tackle boxes and spinning outfits. Launching their boat at Peacock Bridge about ten miles below Marianna, and with high hopes backed by the confidence and assurance of Floyd Miller, they began to drift the fast moving, clear waters of the Chipola.

It was a red letter day for the fisheries men for by nightfall they had hoisted five prime specimens of a species which, although similar to the northern largemouth, had some strikingly different characteristics.

Both men were excited but they tried to control their enthusiasm realizing that their specimens might not actually represent the lost species. The collecting had been easy. After all, many attempts to obtain specimens of the shoal bass had met with failure. Perhaps they had not discovered the long sought fish after all.

The next day they were back on the river with the object of collecting more of the fish. They took five more that day. That was enough to serve the purpose. They loaded the fish into their station wagon and headed for Gainesville with the precious cargo.

At the University of Florida’s Department of Biology, Dr. Coleman Goin and Dr. John Kilby were enthusiastic over the biological treasure, for they confirmed the fact that the Lake and Stream Survey men, with the invaluable aid of expert angler Floyd Miller, had actually brought back into the scientific limelight, the long lost shoal bass of the Chipola.

Dr. Reeve M. Bailey of the University of Michigan had long been interested in bass, and particularly in the mysterious Chipola Bass, therefore it was decided that he should have the honor of presenting this fish with its scientific name and recording the first complete description of the new species. Because of his personal interest and work on the basses of North America, Dr. Bailey is known among fishermen, fish management technicians, and scientists as the "Dean of Bassmen".

Aside from the scientific significance of the rediscovery of the shoal bass, there has been opened to Florida anglers the alluring opportunity to fish for a species which those in the know describe as the scrap- piest member of a hard fighting clan. •

At the University of Florida’s Department of Biology, fisheries auth- entics Coleman Goin and John Kilby confirm the rediscovery of the long lost shoal bass of the Chipola. —Photo by Jim Floyd.

DECEMBER, 1956

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
FLORA AND FAUNA IN CHRISTMAS LEGENDS

J. CASEY

There is an old belief that if a whisper-poor-will's call is heard between Christmas and New Year that rainfall will be heavy and the crops are assured.

Long ago in Ireland the wren was hunted and slain during the festival of Holly and bright ribbons were attached to its body, which was carried from house to house by "Wren-boys," who sang and received dimes for their efforts.

The explanation for this strange act goes back to the custom of a Saint Martin's Day march. The Dames were resting and many were asleep. Creeping up quietly the Irish were almost upon their foe. Suddenly, a wren, quivering with fear, flitted into the cranberry. The noise awakened the drummer, who in turn aroused the entire camp. As a result the Irish, driven off in defeat, blamed the spider and his wren, and their saint, for it is "Abu Saad," meaning "the father of goodness." This name was bestowed because the saint eats insects and destroys evil by stepping over waves, dows in truffles, then upon creatures, half-jumping from one to another, with his tail, for it is "Abu Saad," meaning "the father of goodness." This name was bestowed because the saint eats insects and destroys evil by stepping over waves, dows in truffles, then upon creatures, half-jumping from one to another, with his tail.

In this country the wren is a favorite bird at Christmastime. At all times it was a favorite with the ancient Romans, and was considered sacred. One cannot even molest a sacred rose. Rome was saved by the cackling of sacred geese. To strike at one was to attract the favor of the gods. It was also considered a sign of good fortune.

In all Scandinavian countries it was customary to give the wild birds a Christmas tree, consisting of a sheaf of wheat surmounted by a wreath of green. The bird was then fed and the event was commemorated by carrying a golden goose in procession to the capital each year.

In this country the goose is a favorite bird at Christmas. At all times it was a favorite with the ancient Romans, and was considered sacred. One cannot even molest a sacred rose. Rome was saved by the cackling of sacred geese. To strike at one was to attract the favor of the gods. It was also considered a sign of good fortune.

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SKY FULL OF HONKERS

Located in Wakulla County, about 26 miles south of Tallahassee, the St. Marks Wildlife Management Area constitutes not only the smallest of the 30 management areas under the jurisdiction of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, it is also the only such area devoted entirely to waterfowl.

The public hunting site involved, less than 3,000 acres of salt marsh that is broken here and there with isolated pine islands, is a part of the 67,000-acre St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge which fronts on the Gulf of Mexico and which is under the control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Hunters are admitted to St. Marks upon payment of a special $3.00 per day shooting permit, and no hunter is allowed more than two days of such shooting during any one season. In addition, no more than 50 such permits are issued per shooting day, and these in turn are dispensed on a "first come, first served" basis.

The day that the writer and his companions shown in the accompanying pictures went goose hunting at St. Marks happened to be one of the coldest in Florida's history — in the low 20's. For a "Southerner" from the south end of the state, this bone-numbing temperature proved much too low for comfort, particularly, since my hunting companions revealed themselves to be firm believers in "getting an early start" and we were waiting in line before the checking-in station of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at 4 a.m.!

The geese were present in great numbers and could be heard "talking" long before the first gray smear of light brightened the eastern horizon. The great gobbikng chorus rose regularly in volume, until it fell away again on the bitter breath of the wind. It proved an exciting to the writer, who hadn't heard Canada calling in years, such numbers since his boyhood, that when the honkers did begin to fly he promptly shot several dozen pictures of the magnificent spectacle . . . only to discover later that it had still been far too early in the morning to properly expose the film. Films and shot, however, did beg the limit that day.
The North American continent, at the time of its discovery and early settlement, had a waterfowl population which was one of its many wonders. Since the earth’s surface ever supported such vast numbers of so many different species, and the situation persisted different ducks and geese, and this persisted for periods of living men. Long after the close of the colonial period on the Atlantic coast, hunting seasons were established. When the advancing tide of settlement reached into the north central states and provinces, the final years of the nineteenth century, radical changes began. From that time on, deterioration of North American waterfowl habitat has been constantly increasing. Literally millions of acres of former nesting ground have been drained and put to the plow. Sound drainage, agriculture and irrigation have steadily reduced the available resting and wintering grounds.

The progressive decline in waterfowl numbers which followed these changes in the use of land led eventually to remedial steps. Spring shooting and market hunting were abolished in the second decade of the new century, and ten years later the Federal government undertook the detailed regulation of migratory waterfowl for the purpose of adjusting annual harvest to direct proportions of annual production. The tools of this regulation have been a Federal tax in the form of a duck stamp, restrictions on shooting seasons and hours, limit on daily bags, and the prohibition of baiting and live decoys. In keeping with the stated purpose, most of these restrictions have been used with such effect, that for example, running waterfowl populations have remained at the low point of the early 1900’s, where disastrous droughts added their toll to the more basic factor of changing land use.

Today, continental waterfowl populations have maintained a measure of balance with the habitat which now remains for their use, and a relaxation of the stringent hunting restrictions alone can not be expected. Yet drainage continues, industrialization further encroaches on the lives of the ranks of waterfowl, and adjacent states continue to swell, enlarging the need for the soundest of management practices to perpetuate the game.

The very future of duck hunting depends upon a more effective partnership between regulatory agencies and the bird itself. A stringent hunting restriction alone can not be relied upon to achieve the most sound of management practices, nor does it require the understanding of the birds and the need for the knowledge of their environment. The agencies, Federal and State, are charged by treaty and law with the wise husbandry of the wildfowl, and it is up to them to ensure that the future of duck hunting is maintained, and that their efforts are not in vain.

The general arrangement of light and dark areas in the plumage, for nearly every species, has its own distinctive pattern. With practice, the eye can be trained to pick out this pattern at a glance, and within a short time recognition becomes automatic. The illustrations which follow make use of this principle of "pattern recognition" in the two or more flying birds of each species.

The following publications contain information for the hunter interested in the additional facts of natural history, distribution and more descriptive data:
Kortright, "Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America"

Some knowledge of waterfowl distribution, annual abundance, or the approximate source and destination of the ducks and geese he hunts, will often help the waterfowler understand why certain restrictive regulations are enacted at one time, and later modified to some degree. For both administrative and biological purposes of waterfowl management the United States is divided into four flyways—the Pacific, the Central, the Mississippi, and the Atlantic. Each flyway has its own population of waterfowl, subject to different conditions and pressures than are the populations of other flyways, and therefore is administered as a separate unit. In general this is a sound premise, but it must not be construed too rigidly. Since the flyway principle is in part an administrative device, it is important principally in fall and winter when most North American waterfowl are within the United States. At these seasons considerable overlap in the boundaries of the flyways, and as the wintering populations begin to move northward in the spring, many of them disperse throughout the breeding grounds of Canada which are not a direct extension of the flyway where they wintered. This is especially true of the Atlantic Flyway.

Methods have been developed experimentally over the years to the point where their systematic application will supply the information which is necessary to intelligent management. Production surveys involve the distribution of nesting populations and their success in raising young and raising the number of birds. The banding of waterfowl, carefully apportioned to various species and size, and extended with specific information on the travels of individual birds, on mortality, or on some phases of hunting pressure. Periodic censuses in and about marshes serve to detect in general, in a rough way, the proportional distribution of different species and to determine their rate of movement. Hunting bag checks, carried out in the fall during the shooting season, complement fall counts with data on the volume of hunting at given locations. Finally, the annual winter count indicates the distribution and related size of populations remaining after the shooting season is over. In combination, these methods are steadily increasing our knowledge of North American waterfowl and in particular are providing the data of a running inventory which is the first requirement for intelligent management of the resource.

The Atlantic Waterfowl Council is the clearing house for coordinate planning in the Atlantic Flyway. It is a delegate organization, including in its membership representatives from all the fish and game departments of all states in the Flyway, from the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Federal Government, from all national agencies, public and private, which are concerned with waterfowl research or management. The Atlantic Waterfowl Council provides for an effective interchange of information among its member agencies, assists in the coordination of research and management programs, and encourages the states in the Flyway to increase their contributions to management. These programs are made possible by regular meetings for the open discussion of Flyway problems.

In early 1953, the Council and the Fish and Wildlife Service announced the "Atlantic Waterfowl Program" which outlined desirable objectives and suggested methods and priorities for their achievement. In succeeding years state game departments patterned their activities around the Flyway program.

Extending the cooperative idea, the Council, in conjunction with regional organizations from the other flyways to form the National Waterfowl Council, which annually participates in the formulation of policy and problems and regulations. From their inception, the flyway councils have been encouraged to work closely together, sharing their experiences and results of their work among their member agencies until now they stand as the symbol of a common determination to work together in harmony for the perpetuation of the resource.

As an individual reader of this article, you have a part to play in the partnership between agencies and waterfowlers. It may be small and may take various forms, depending upon the circumstances. Perhaps, having in sent in one or two waterfowl bands in the past and now having smaller numbers of birds, you find that to you, finding your "skyscaper" and 100 your "sky shooter" in a marsh is to force on the harness all around him to attempt the most secure of shooting, or to raise the hunting range. Hold your fires and keep your guns at a distance of forty and fifty yards until the kid of the incoming duck is seen distinct until the feet of the flying duck is visible. For the hunting range. Hold your fires and keep your guns at a distance of forty and fifty yards until the feet of the incoming duck is seen distinct until the feet of the flying duck is visible. For the hunting range. Hold your fires and keep your guns at a distance of forty and fifty yards until the feet of the incoming duck is seen distinct until the feet of the flying duck is visible.

Above all, remember that the future of waterfowl hunting is partly in your hands, and that your good sportsmanship is just as necessary to the welfare of the Atlantic Waterfowl as are the activities of your local management agencies as their activities are to you.
Actually it would have been better if I had kept my mouth shut but at the time the whole idea sounded more like junk than a jilted ridiculous. "You can shoot ducks, and geese, and coots, and scoters over decoys, and maybe even your phony snipe will turn the trick as you claim, but brother, if you think you can lure in a flock of doves."

My erstwhile gunning partner didn't even trouble to look up from the plywood silhouette he was cutting out on the bandsaw in his home workshop. "We've been husting around the hunting country together for quite a spell now and I'll have to admit you've come up with an idea or two but, hunter boy, this time it looks like you have flipped your lid," I continued.

That did it. Dee—Ivan DeMott that is—neighbor and hunting partner, reached into a hip pocket for his wallet, extracted a ten cent and plunked it down on the work bench. "You have ten bucks where your big mouth is, of course," he stated calmly. What was there to say? "Of course," I answered as nonchalantly as possible, though admittedly his self assured attitude was somewhat unnerving.

"You used these things before," I asked, indicating the pile of plywood dove cutouts stacked on the bench. "Nope," he admitted, "but that ten says they will do the job. Come on, put up your money or pull in your horns." Dee took both bills and stuffed them in a baking powder can that had been the recipient of many another hunting and fishing bet "pot." He replaced the can which held a line of battered and retired duck blocks stored on a high shelf along one wall of the shop. Dee went back to work with the sawdust after handing me a packet of sandpaper and instructions to do a good smooth-up job on the dove "shadows." When the sawing and sanding jobs were completed, we took on the task of attaching legs to the decoys. A six-inch strip of half-inch white pine bradded to the cutouts would serve for ground decoys, we decided. Dee had an idea for rigging some tree decoys and, after a raid on the laundry room, returned with a handful of spring type clothes pins. These we took apart, bradded one of the wooden pieces to the bottom of each of several of the plywood doves and reassembled the pins. We gave the birds a ground coat of light gray paint and put them aside to dry. Another evening session of paint dabbing and the phonies were ready for the big trial, with ten dollars riding on either success or failure of the silhouettes.

A little before eleven o'clock on the morning of the opening day of the dove season, with guns, shells, decoys, and camouflage suits loaded in the car, we pulled out of Dee's driveway. Ten or twelve miles south of town was a stretch of abandoned farm land. Here weedy fields were intermixed with patches of scrub oak and pine timber. It was good dove country, one section in particular, "the sand blow," seemed to be especially attractive to the mourners. Maybe, as local opinion held it, this sparsely vegetated strip of sand held some sort of mineral attractive to the birds. But whatever it was, if there were any doves in the country at all, it was almost a sure thing that we would find them around the blow.

There was still a period of about ten minutes to wait before legal shooting time as we planted the last of the decoy spread in the sandy ground. Even while we were standing around in plain sight waiting for the hands of our watches to give the go ahead signal, a flock of ten or twelve doves came barreling in over the field, swung in toward the set as if to look things over, then, spotting the pair of us, veered off and landed in the bare branches of a pine snag a few hundred yards away. I had the uncomfortable feeling that my ten bucks was flying with them.

Promptly at the stroke of noon, a flurry of gunfire broke out in widely scattered locations surrounding the blow. At least we knew the doves would be on the move; a perfect opportunity to test out the drawing power of the plywood shadows. The first hit of action was not long in coming. A trio of sharp-tailed avian

(Continued on Page 41)

Striking in over the set, a jdt propelled mourner makes a tough target for the best of wing shots. —m-

The decoys are much larger than normal size, a fact which seems to add to their drawing power. A strip of wood bradded to the decoy makes a good "leg" for stake out decoys. —bb-

THE TEN DOLLAR DOVES

By DON MANNING

Florida WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1956

21
The Christmas Rite
WEAPONS IN THE WILDWOODS

By ERIC WAHLEEN

These two people are deer hunters. Like many thousands of others they have ventured into the wilderness with the desire to get a deer between the sights of those rifles. They aim to bring one down, provided unforeseen events don't spoil their efforts. The ten commandments of gun safety? Of course they know all about them. Their very air of determination implies that they intend to live up to the rules of safety every moment they are in the woods. But then, the excitement of the chase and all—perhaps they will forget a commandment or two. We shall see...

That hallowed air of good intentions may dissolve into a ring of rifle smoke at any moment now.

(Above) Loaded for action, the deer hunters know there's only one way to sneak up on their quarry. Get down wind of the critter and blast away.

In their scramble to get near the deer they don't overlook the possibility that the rustling in the brush may have been another hunter—or do they forget the cardinal rule of gun safety—"Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded weapon." Isn't it lucky they didn't shoot just to see what would happen. It might have made the other hunter mad.

Strange—isn't it?—how much a red hat can look like a pair of antlers? "Be sure of the identity of your target before you pull the trigger." 

Hunters can't be forever stalking their quarry. Sometimes they will have to pause and take a look around, just to see what there is to see. A good time to remember—"Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot."

Chances are the deer will pause at a stream for a drink—you might as well do the same, but remember—Never shoot at the surface of the water or at a flat, horizontal tree. The bullet may ricochet and hurt someone.

"Leaving your gun unattended unless you unload it first" may be disastrous. Suppose somebody wandered by and found it. They would be tempted to fire a round or two just to see if it worked—and perhaps dispute your claim of ownership, saying that he had found it.

(Below) Speaking of cooperation between you and your rifle—
you like your rifle and your rifle likes you. Let's not argue over who is the boss when you stumble over an obstacle. "Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble."

"Below: The end result of following the ten commandments of gun safety and the trail of a deer at the same time may terminate in considerable grief and tears on the deer hunters by the end of the day—but they're still alive!!"
DIVING DUCK CHARACTERISTICS

*Aduanas*

DIVE COMPLETELY UNDER WATER TO SECURE FEED

LEGS SET NEAR REAR OF BODY

SPECULUM GENERALL DULL LACKS RIDGEANCE

USUALLY SWIM WITH BILL HELD CLOSE TO WATER

HIND TOE LOBED, FOOT LARGE

ON TAKE OFF PATTER ALONG SURFACE FOR SOME DISTANCE

IDENTIFICATION OF DUCKS AND GEESE in the field, and particularly on the wing, as waterfowl are usually seen over decoys, is easier than appears at first try. The trick is to note, in addition to shape and approximate size, the general arrangement of light and dark areas in the plumage, for nearly every species has its own distinctive pattern. The illustrations which follow make use of this principle of "pattern recognition" in the two or more flying birds at the top of each section.

This is the second of a two part series on the identification of Florida waterfowl and is reprinted through the courtesy of the Vermont Fish & Game Commission and The Atlantic Flyway Council. The illustrations are from scratchboards by Alan R. Munro.

A limited number of the 56-page Florida Waterfowl Identification Guide booklets are available free of charge upon request to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.
Remote reaches of the Audubon and the Leon-Wakulla Management Areas will be patrolled this season by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Wildlife Officers on horseback. Some sections of the two northwest Florida management areas are inaccessible except on foot or horseback.

Photo by Jim Floyd

Jack R. Fullbright, West Palm Beach archer, passes with a 6-pointer, 110-pound buck he dropped with a single broadhead arrow at 35 yards. Fullbright's buck was the first deer taken during the recent special bow hunt season at Eglin Field in northwest Florida's Okaloosa County.

Photo by Jim Floyd

Jake Johnson, Tallahassee angler, displays a specimen of the large "loaf" shoal bass of the Chipola River. The species was recently rediscovered by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission technicians. (See "Mystery Bass of the Chipola" in this issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE."

Photo by Jim Reed
This Season, Score With a Scope

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

U

nordinarily, luck plays a considerable role in Flor-

ida deer hunting. A skilled woodsman may be a
took hunter or a skilled woodsman, but he may
be a skilled woodsman, with the ability to

pick the best shot, yet make many
trips before putting a deer tag on a kill. . . As
the night has been revealed by the
moonlight, the deer is its characteris-

tic, you have

time. But there

is another big factor involved.

You must always verify your buck before you
can kill it. If you haven’t had any deer hunting luck
lately, it may be that you have simply failed to see
deer to shoot—not because of their absence from the
area hunted, but because you failed to spot smart
buck...
The gadwall is a species of nearly world-wide distribution, with Australia and South America being the only two major areas where it does not occur. Much more numerous in the western and central portions of the United States, it is nevertheless a fairly common winter resident of Florida, essentially in the northern third of the state westward.

The gadwall is something of an exception among the dabbling or surface feeding ducks in that it can, and when necessary does, dive for its food although it usually feeds in the more typical manner of the group that is, dabbling in the shallows. Except during the summer months, the gadwall's food is almost entirely vegetable in origin. They often feed in fields of barley, corn, wheat, and buckwheat and may sometimes be found feeding on acorns in the woodlands.

The adult male has a brownish head and neck, marked with small dusky streaks. The bill is bluish black. Back, sides and flanks are dusky with fine vermiculations of buffy or whitish. The scapulars are narrow and pointed, dusky with cinnamon orange margins. The feet are bright orange yellow with blackish webs. The speculum is white to light gray with a broad black central section.

The adult female's back, chest and sides are brown with transverse bars of buff and broadly margined with the same color. The breast is white, belly whitish, often with dusky streaks. The feet are dull yellow.

Baldpate—Marcella americana.

The baldpate is strictly a bird of the New World, breeding in the northwestern half of the continent and wintering essentially in the coastal states and Mexico. The common name of the species is derived from the white or "bald" crown of the male. Baldpates are nervous, active birds, quick to take alarm at the approach of potential danger. They are often found in close association with cannuvas and other diving ducks, and for a practical reason.

Fond of wild celery and other aquatic plants, the baldpate is handicapped by its lack of adeptness in diving. On the other hand, cannuvas, redheads, coots, and other birds also have similar preferences for similar fare regularly dive for the submerged delicacies. The baldpate waits for the divers to return to the surface whereupon they attempt to snatch away the food brought up from the depths. This trait has earned for them the name poacher.

Because of their swift and erratic flight and the willingness with which they respond to decoys, the baldpate is popular with the country's waterfowl gunners.

The white crown and flanks and the conspicuous white wing coverts are the " trademarks" of the male baldpate. The female has a rather pinkish-brown body and grayish head with darker flecking.

Pintail—Anas acuta.

The pintail is one of the most widely known of American waterfowl. The male especially is a strikingly handsome bird with long, slender white neck contrasting with the brown head. The greatly elongated middle tail feathers give the species its common name. The mottled brown plumaged female resembles the mallard hen but the dark blue-gray bill and feet, the pointed wings, and the margin of white bordering the rear edge of the brownish iris is of assistance in identifying the specimen as a pintail.

(Continued from Page 8.)
EXCEPT IN THE FAR NORTH and in certain sections of the West, where traps and ranger paddlers find handguns practical to everyday duties, few respected members of organized communities—bank messengers, payroll guards, building and school officials—that make the carrying of a protective weapon advisable. Hence, no series of handgun texts would be complete without at least a skeleton review of defense weapons.

While a rifle or a shotgun can be relied on to serve as a defense weapon, one of that designation usually means a pistol of some kind, usually a revolver of large caliber. The smaller weapon is more easily concealed, and can be put into action faster, as a rule, than a rifle or shotgun. Then, too, there is some psychological effect that a pistol gives to one's sense of security that is not enjoyed to the same extent where rifles and shotguns are used for defense. This is because the pistol is mostly used at close range and often under restricted space conditions, where a longer weapon would be awkward to handle. Again, there is a psychological effect when a man draws a handgun—somatic, a throw-back to Frontier days when pistols were considered necessary items of male attire.

This firearms editor hopes you will never have to shoot another person—and the odds are that you never will—but believes that the recent Florida holdup which saw that authority and moral support which availability of a good handgun gives the homeowner faced with robbery or similar circumstances.

However, it is a serious mistake to acquire—as many homeowners do—such a weapon and then put it away loaded, with the friendly terms with it and without any qualification regarding serious use and potential dangers. Special pains should be taken in both home defense and storage where there are youngsters in the home. For home defense, and for those who need a defense handgun occupation, there are a number of good handguns on the market. The Colt Cobra, Detective Special and Marshal models and the Smith & Wesson Combat Masterpiece, Terrier, Centennial, Chief and Military & Police models are all good and enjoy popularity. Most are available in a choice of either 32 or 38 caliber, with one or two being made in a caliber only.

Among the older models such defense guns as Smith & Wesson 38 Special, Colt Officer's model and the Iver-Johnson hammerless in 38 calibers have long been popular among police officers, businessmen and homemakers.

For personal use as a handgun for defense purposes, it is well to remember that, no matter how much shockimg power a weapon may possess, it is the bullet that hits that counts. Should you be caught in the wrong end of a roaring hand gun, may the good Lord grant that we may be shot at with a large caliber gun in the hands of someone not able to handle it expertly than with a .22 in the hands of a person unfamiliar with his weapon and capable of using it to his personal advantage. The .22 may be a gun that you can hit with than a .38, but there is no substitute. For this reason, it is perhaps best to invest in a sporting or target style of lower place of business, and use between times let it serve as a silent guardian of home and property. In your world, there is a weapon and permit it lie idle in a bureau drawer year after year.

This is true of these handguns as part of their jobs, the short barrel guns, such as the Colt Cober and Detective Special and the Smith & Wesson Chief and Terror models, are as deadly at close range as machine guns and they are a lot easier to carry.

HUNTER WORE A BAGGY TROUSERS, talking about each man carried at least eight turkeys on his back. They stumbled into the camp site and saw that the fellows were still at it.

"Hallo there, men," one of them said. "My name's Sam. This third one, and I'm partners with the others. We've got the job, the last three-o'clock waiting for these birds.

Jim looked at the big man standing in front of him. "You men gonna use all those birds," he asked. "No, but we're already dead," said the "Naw. But won't those old coopers back in town be surprised when I bring these to the kooker, claimed they couldn't hit the broad side of a barn."

"I guess you shoot right here on the spot," Jim said through clenched teeth.

"Now wait a minute, fella," Sam said, "I shot these birds in fair sport."

"You ain't shot nothing in fair sport," Jim yelled. "This is just why the State just voted in those laws making a bag limit, because of the way you and the others do."
TALES BY AUNT BESS, "ROAMING WITH RODDIE" by Marsha Lavonda. Published by Brigadoon Publisher, 1511 W. Central Ave., Orlando, Florida, 119 pages. Price $2.45.

Written for the younger generation, "the sportmen of tomorrow," Roaming With Roddie introduces its readers to a collection of intimate knowledge about the wildlife of Florida's fields, woods and waters. The book, written by a woman who should prove appealing to youngsters of grade school age.

Florida's Seminole Indians by Wilfred T. Nell. Published by Ross Allen's Reptile Institute, Silver Springs, Fla. 91 pages, 35 illustrations.

Here is a fact filled documentary about Florida's famous Seminole Indians from the days of their first migrations to Florida in the early 1700's until their last day life deep in the Everglades. The book is divided into eight sections covering the fascinating history of the Seminoles, their way of living, their role in American life, their customs, dress and ceremonies.

Although originally an agriculture people, the Seminoles are probably best known as able warriors and fighting strategists. Circumstances kept them in a constant conflict and their campaigns have been highlighted from Florida to the Mexican Border.

Florida's Seminole Indians is a modern and comprehensive account of Florida's Early Americans, their history, their fight for survival and their place in today's civilization.

Bake covered in a moderate oven for about 30 minutes or until potatoes spear fairly when done. Uncover and brown for a few minutes before serving.

And then we take a look at German-Baked Fish. Here we have:

GERMAN-BAKED FISH

Like baking pan or roaster with foil, bringing up sides in boat-fashion, being careful that all seams are tightly covered. Lay a few strips of good bacon on the bottom of the roaster, and some thinly-sliced white onion. Sprinkle with a crushed bay leaf. Place the 127 flaks of any kind of fish such as snapper, whiting, etc., on bacon, but not until you have coated it with a dressing of margarine and flour rubbed together. Season well with salt and pepper, top with a few more strips of bacon and a bit more onion. Just before putting in oven, sprinkle with bread or cracker crumbs. Fasten edges of foil together, and bake fish for 45 to 50 minutes in 375° oven, opening opening foil to add 10 minutes to allow crumbs to brown.

A word of warning from this cook ______ fish is a strong-flavored fish, soak in vinegar-water for about a half-hour, then drain and cut up.
SUCCESSFUL hunters of Florida deer, based on other native large game species are career marksmen. Their basic requirements: efficient camouflage clothing and equipment, and good bullet weight.

Opening Day of each hunting season they methodically sight-in their weapons on the shooting range to make sure that guns take full advantage of the close-in shooting situations to which they will be exposed.

The shooter makes a midseason adjustment in his rifle's sight settings and then Develops his own. This is the best method of possible change of tension in the spring and fall months.

The careful rifleman realizes that it is necessary—it is to be used of five different weights of bullet and for the purchase of a twenty-five inch barrel for precision shooting, and for the second time, testing bullets. The first barrel is for the short distance, and the long one for the long range. The new Twister type gives positive protection, and it will withstand the tests and conditions, and the protection they provide.

It is not necessary to wear boots in combination with the Arctiva-manufactured leggings. Instead, it is a pair of lightweight, low-cut shoes can be worn with the leggings.

Made in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes, with special requirements, and in a choice of smooth or embossed finishes, the Twister leggings are so light and comfortable that they can be worn all day without cutting or chafing.

Flint and Bullet took a sample pair of the leggings to a nearby golf course and left them there so that they could experience the feel of the leggings in a real-world setting.

For use by other than bird hunters, Flint and Bullet have a complete line of shooting clothes and all are made in the chemical solution. Aluminum Block. Twister leggings are made in light, medium and heavy gauged garnet to treat aluminum out of a lifeboat.

Twister aluminum leggings can be ordered to last and will never fold, and one can order a pair of leggings. Our advertising material shows these leggings in use.

A sudden vault, the dove took off, its wings spreading its characteristic whistling of hard pumping feathers. The shot from my 12-bore did little injury, and the speed of the dove was not affected.

A few minutes later, a flight of fifteen or twenty whistles flung widely across the sky, and the doves were seen their way. As the flake neared a distant pine grove, the doves suddenly flared. One of the doves seemed to be hanging still momentarily, then to drop downward, to be flung immediately by another of the flock. By the time the flake of thirty or more came up, the rest of the flock had swerved back in our direction. On the next trip they stayed right on the next flake of the flock was in range and dropping altitude, evidently getting ready to land directly in front of the blind.

I poked the barrel of the pump gun ahead of one of the fleet-winged targets and eased off the shot. The load of 8's shock loosen a flurry of feathers and the bird started down in a long slant. Another shot chop ped a hole through the air somewhere to the rear of the cripple, the third caught him squarely and he went down for keeps. Dee picked up two clean kills and finally ran down another dove that he had wing tipped.

Before the season was two hours old, we had both filled our quota for the day. I had 8 doves, Dee had his plus a ten dollar bet that he would more than fill the shotgun shells he had fired. There was no doubt about it now, that he had fired to cover and by circumstances, are an aid to dove shooting. Thinking about it later, I wondered why they never discovered the fact. Surely, anyone who has done any dove hunting at all has seen the birds swing in a flock of others of their kind, either on the ground or in a tree.
score with a scope
(Continued from Page 2)

Cartridge case ejection. Some shoot-
ers find it difficult to accustom them-
selves to a scope so mounted.

Kurt Bellah, a Texas gun editor, has simply and efficiently licked the long-standing problem of mounting
a telescopic sight more naturally on the
Wichita H9. He uses a Weaver side-mount base, but mounts it on
the right-hand side of the rifle's rec-
ciever instead of following the furn-
ished instructions. This gives a mounting that enables the user to
have both easy eye alignment of
scope and optional use of iron sights.

On rifle models like the Mauser
1918 and the Springfield 1903, two
dependable and powerful bolt-actions
for the Florida deer hunter, it may
be necessary to have a gunsmith alter bolt handles if low mounting of
the scope is desired.

Once a scope is positioned and
mounted, everything about it should
be tight—base mounting screws,
tube holding brackets, adjusted-for-
focus eyepiece and dust cover caps.
Otherwise, the scope will give erratic
performance from shot to shot, even
if no major mishap like losing a
component part or having the scope
come off the rifle does not result.

For a permanent and tight installa-
tion of scope sight bases and at-
taching screws, clean screw holes
and base contact area with cigarette
lighter fluid and set bases and their
screws after they have been coated
with either a mixture of bichloride
and glycerin or Plombond cement. Either
is superior to shellac.

Tighten steel mounts and screw combinations with plenty of con-
trolled screwdriver pressure to get
them as tight as possible. But where mounts are shaped from dural alloy,
be satisfied with moderate tighten-
ing; otherwise, you may strip screw
threads.

To be a fully effective sighting in-
strument, the scope sight must be
ground parallax—the apparent move-
ment of the scope's reticule as the
aiming eye is moved around the
field of view. Technically, parallax means
that the reticule is not in the plane of
focus of the scope's object lens,
and that your aim will not be correct
until the condition is remedied.

To remove parallax from a hunt-
ing scope, place the rifle and mount-
ed scope upright on a bench rest or
similar support, rifle steady and un-
moving. Loosen the small screws
holding the adjustment turrets just
a wee bit and then use a screwdriver handle to gently tap the turrets
forward or backward, as required, until
no parallax is present. This condi-
tion is achieved when there is no
longer any apparent movement of
the reticule as the aiming eye is
shifted. Removal of existing parallax
can be a time-consuming job in some
instances, but it must be done. Care-
fully following the instructions fur-
nished by the scope's maker will
make the job easier.

On the average, a mounted scope
will add only about three-quarters
of a pound to the weight of a
deer rifle.

This season, score with a scope!
•

Junior Conservationist
(Continued from Page 19)

For each trip completed under su-
pervision by an authorized agent with
complete written report: 1000
points. Plant soil banks and similar
areas to prevent erosion and to help
heal scars on landscape. This must
be supervised by agricultural agent,
with complete written report. For
each soil bank or similar area planted:
100 points.

F-123 S.I. Show motion pictures
on forest or range land and conser-
vation problems and techniques to
school or adult group in community.
For each motion picture shown: 300
points.

F-124 S.I. G.A. For each member
on an Editorial Staff of a League or
Club initiating a publication or bul-
letin, for each original article writ-
ten and appearing in the issue: 25
points.

F-123 S.I. Participating in the ritu-
als services for installation and ini-
tiation of officers and, or, members,
for each member on ritual team: 100
points.

F-56A G.A. (56) Camp Site: Over-
night camping trip. For each camp-
out that lasts more than three days:
5000 points. This activity limited to
once a year. Extra activity points
can be accumulated on trip not to
exceed: 2500 points.

F-56A S.I. (93) Prepare a simple
soil erosion demonstration for use in
schools, club meetings and service
clubs. For each demonstration ex-
thibited, a possible: 200 points.
•

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