MARCH, 1958

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS
FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S
Fishing Citation

"for that BIG ONE that DIDN’T get away"

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly, spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

Application for a Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation must be made within 10 days of the date fish was caught. Application must be made on the prescribed form as shown on this page. (Requests for additional forms should be addressed to: Florida Wildlife, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.)

Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

The receipt of any and all photographs pertaining to the registered catch, including the applicant and the fish, will be appreciated by the editor for use in Florida Wildlife Magazine.

Florida Wildlife Fishing Citations are available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the following fresh-water game fish of the prescribed size requirements:

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

8 pounds or larger

2 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

4 pounds or larger

2 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

1 1/2 pounds or larger

1 pound or larger

SHELLCRACKER

2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

1 pound or larger

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Date:_______________________

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the signed date listed below:

Name ______________________

Address ______________________

Species of Fish: __________________________ Weight: __________ Length: __________

Type of Tackle, Bait Used: __________________________

Where Caught: __________________________ Date: __________

Catch Witnessed by: __________________________ Date: __________

Registered, Weighed by: __________________________

(Signature of Applicant)

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MARCH, 1958
Dear Sir,
Enclosed you will find a snapshot and registration information on a 15 pound, 135 inch striped bass that was caught on a light spinning outfit with six pound test line.

P. J. Potter
San Francisco, Calif.

IMPROVEMENT

Contemporary
I have often said that each issue of FLORIDA BEST wildlife receives better but the last two issues have been the best ever. Not only does the cover catch the finest that ever had it but the reading matter was of great interest to the sportmen of our large family.

Ralph Sellers
Tampa, Fla.

THE COVER

By Wallace Hughes

The kingfisher is no shy and retiring wallflower of the bird world. The rabbiting flight, the rapid rolling tail, the spectacular headlong plunge into the water, the characteristic conspicuous perch, and the bright coloration make this woodpecker hunter a conspicuous feature in Florida’s outdoor scene.

The species is a common resident throughout the state. A variety of small fishes comprise the kingfishers’ diet. Sticklebacks, sculpins, killifish, menhaden, small shad, crawfish, frogs, and insects are all important items in the diet. As with most other birds, the kingfisher enjoys the year round protection of both state and federal law.

It was caught in the brackish water west of the Escambia Bridge. I have been advised by several sportmen friends that this data might be of interest since strippers are often found in the rivers of Northwest Florida.

Endolph Lloyd
Pensacola, Fla.

LATIN NAMES

Dear Sir,
Enclosed is a renewal of my subscription to your fine magazine.

As usual I read the science columns of your February issue with a great deal of interest. However, I noticed an all too common mistake of giving Latin credit for words that are really of Greek origin.

Philopatry comes from the Greek, not the Latin, word of “philo” — loving (or friend) and “patris” — father.

Louis A. Gattano
Gainesville, Florida.

We agree with you, Mr. Gattano, on your remarks regarding an “all too common mistake.” We believe however, that the term “Latin name” as used in informal nomenclature indicates to most people the specific name, regardless of actual or true origin.

ESCAMBIA STRIPER

From March 29 through April 6 the Northeast Florida Region (Third District) will be open to the hunting of turkey gobblers only. The Region includes the Counties of Clay, Columbia, Escambia, Franklin, Godwin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Wakulla.

Two of the Commission’s Wildlife Management Areas will be open during the special season — the 118,800 acre Gaskin Area and the 85,000 acre Blackwater Area. Other Commission management areas in the Region will remain closed during this special hunt.

Hunting will be permitted every day from March 29 through April 6, during the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon only. The daily bag limit will be two gobblers; the season’s bag limit, three gobblers; provided that turkeys killed during the regular 1957-58 hunting season will apply to the season’s bag limit. As a Public Hunting Area Permit, in addition to regular license requirements, is necessary for any person entering the two management areas open during this special hunt.

MARCH, 1958

SCENES such as this one of a group of Junior Conservationists at Lake Eaton serve as a reminder that the summer camp season is not too far in the future. Eight weeks of camping have been scheduled for this year.

NEW APPLICATION FORMS have been printed and will be mailed sometime around March or April. If you do not receive an application through the mail, please write and ask for one. The address is: Denver Ste. Claire, 285 West Adams Street, Ocala. Remember, also, to send in your application as soon as possible after you receive it, to ensure a reservation. We only have room for a limited number of campers each week.

The Girl Scouts have contracted the Youth Conservation Camp again this summer, and will have a two-week camping period at the beginning of the summer. This will be the second Wildlife Camp held at the Young Conservation Camp. Their dates are June 8-21.
I bought my present fishing boat, consisting of a 14½-ft. Fiberglas outboard motor as the basic ingredient. This outfit was fully discussed in the April issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE in an article entitled, ‘Revolt Afloat.’ Since that time, a lot of water has gone beneath this hull, and I find that the seating past my ears at a steady 25 miles an hour clip. We made the run without a hitch.

I've learned to wax my outboard motor when I wax my car and to wash the whole fishing outfit down with a hose when I bring it home. I find that throwing the spark plugs away in favor of new ones every six months pays off.

My Gator Boat Trailer still be-haves beautifully, but I have replaced the original, small diameter, vine rope with a nylon rope of much greater diameter, that completely fills the winch spool. This makes loading the boat much, much easier. The full spool increases the leverage ratio just enough to take the strain out of the job.

As I said before, passage of your boat disturbs the water both on and below the surface. While a fast planing boat may not throw a big wake, the high speed motor really kicks up a disturbance below the surface, and it usually, plays havoc with the fishing in the immediate area. Especially is this true in the shallow water so favored by Florida sports fishermen. Many outboard drivers seem to think there are only two speeds possible—fast and slower. They forget they can throttle the engine back far enough to go really slow. At two or three miles an hour, your boat's passage will cause the minimum of disturbance both on top and below the water. It's a speed I seldom see used. I can recommend it to all. Its extra cushions are an additional safety factor, but they, also, seat you higher in the boat to ease the bumps.

By CHUCK SCHILLING

It has now been a year since Easy riding and well balanced as my boat is, I find that the sitting gets pretty tiresome in really rough going. Last spring, I made a run out to the Content Keys from Marathon, a distance of some 20 miles or so of open water. A blow developed at midday, and I was forced to make the long run back into the teeth of a nasty chop and with the wind singing past my ears at a steady 25 miles an hour clip. It was rough going. We made the run without incident or danger and without getting washed, but our tails were a little tender the next day.

I thought of and discarded as impractical a hundred ideas for easing the bottom in such rough going. When I finally found the solution, I kicked myself for not finding it sooner. I bought four of the new, canvas covered, kapok filled seat cushions that have kapok inners divided into sealed, vinyl plastic compartments. These individual, watertight sections keep the pillows from getting flat and hard. Sitting on two of these cushions makes all the difference in the world in the ease of the ride in rough going. I can't recommend it too highly.

My fishing boat is a two man deal, so I need only four cushions, but I find these double cushions have many extra benefits beyond smoothing out the bumps. Of course, the extra cushions are an additional safety factor, but they, also, seat you higher in the boat to ease the legs by making the seats nearer chair height. Boat seats too low will really cramp your legs.

Another thing I've learned concerns the outboard propeller. Fishing as I do in very shallow water much of the time, I found that bunched and bent propeller blades were the rule rather than the exception. Running an aluminum propeller on an oyster bed can reduce its size drastically in no time at all. I solved this problem by installing a bronze wheel of the same size and pitch, keeping the standard, aluminum wheel to carry as a spare. Of course, the bronze prop is not fool proof, but it has the advantage of being much tougher and resisting bending to a much greater degree. I think the heavier prop also gives me a few more r p m's.

I've learned to wax my outboard motor when I wax my car and to wash the whole fishing outfit down with a hose when I bring it home. I find that throwing the spark plugs away in favor of new ones every six months pays off.

My Gator Boat Trailer still be-haves beautifully, but I have re-placed the original, small diameter, vine rope with a nylon rope of much greater diameter, that completely fills the winch spool. This makes loading the boat much, much easier. The full spool increases the gear ratio just enough to take the strain out of the job.

The moral of this story is, "Don't look down on moonfish."
To shooters who get the sense of hunting pleasure from listening to the stirring chorus of an approaching pack of deer hounds on chase, or from slowly walking up behind a bird dog on point, the hunting season seems suddenly short. For them, a long anticipated hunting season seems to fly by.

Florida Wildlife's Gun Editor belongs to this group, but fully realizes that game chased and shot at continuously by more than 141,000 licensed hunters during open season deserves a long recovery period. For him, closed season months are filled with careful field testing and evaluation of newly developed gun models and related accessories, overhauling of old equipment and days of practical practice hunting of crows and small game animals listed as varmints by the Game Commission. . . . Then, with sudden realization of its nearness and an associated last minute rush to get ready, the hunting season again is only a matter of days!

Next season's nitwits will sport a variety of new equipment. Dave Bushnell, the binocular and telescopic rifle sight maker, is announcing a new ScopeChief model sight that gives the riflemens instant choice of either conventional crosshair reticule or one combining a bold, blunt post and crosshairs. Winchester is marketing a new type, low priced .22 caliber rifle, its Model 55, that is ideally suited for individual and group training of junior marksmen. Remington is bidding for your firearms purchases by offering a combat gun in Remington .270 slide-action .22 caliber rifle, and a brand new big-game rifle model bolt-action in calibers .280 Remington, .30-06 Springfield and .270 Winchester.

Column space being necessarily limited, only the first named will be reviewed in Muzzle Flashes this month. Meanwhile, extensive field testing continues on the others.

Bushnell ScopeChief Sight

A few years ago there was nationwide hubbubing about the merits of an optical-type shotgun sight that was supposed to solve all the aiming problems of gunshunters. After testing a sample of the product, Florida Wildlife's Gun Editor, refused to climb aboard thewagonwagon of the salesmen. Bushnell, the manufacturer, has mounted and tested the new SpeedChief scope on the Savage 99, Winchester, the Flat Top at the intersection of the permanent crosshairs. No further adjustments are needed as the superimposed post reticle takes the same zero and alignment as the primary crosshair. In field testing the new Bushnell scope on large caliber hunting rifles, F.W.'s Gun Editor found the selective reticule feature positive and permanent in respect to accurate alignment over a change in elevation and change-back count of 1,000 deliberate reticle movements. Once adjusted to a particular rifle, the instrument remained zeroed-in.

In the new Bushnell COMMAND POST model ScopeChief sight the rifleman has a tapered post reticle right at his fingertips. By simply flipping a small lever conveniently located near the sight's windage adjustment, a bold post reticle snaps into perfect alignment with the flat top at the intersection of the permanent crosshairs. No further adjustments are needed as the superimposed post reticle takes the same zero and alignment as the primary crosshair. In field testing the new Bushnell scope on large caliber hunting rifles, F.W.'s Gun Editor found the selective reticule feature positive and permanent in respect to accurate alignment over a change in elevation and change-back count of 1,000 deliberate reticle movements. Once adjusted to a particular rifle, the instrument remained zeroed-in.

This is remarkable performance when one considers that the crosshairs in a COMMAND POST scope make only .0007 inches wide, yet, when flipped in place, the optional post reticle must bisect the vertical crosshair and, at the same time, align perfectly with the horizontal crosshair. If you are mathematically inclined, you can verify that the represented working tolerances for achieving true alignment is plus or minus .00035 inches — not much more than the diameter of a spider web.

Besides achieving precise alignment and positive locking of reticles, Bushnell has sealed the protective post reticule in a special moisture-proof cell. In addition, viewing lenses have been made moisture and fog-proof.

The COMMAND POST will be available in all of Bushnell's 1958 ScopeChief models — from 24X to 10X — at $10 above the standard prices of $39.50 to $69.50. As with other Bushnell products, the COMMAND POST rifle scope can be tried on a trial purchase basis and is backed by a 90 day service guarantee.

Florida Wildlife's Gun Editor has mounted and tested the new scope sight on the Savage 99, Winchester 70, Remington 721 and 760, the Marlin 336 and 455 and the J. C. Higgins 51 big game rifle models, as well as several of the more popular .22 caliber models.

Study of the accompanying illustrations will make for a better understanding of the new scope's working principle and basic features. In time, rival products are sure to develop a somewhat similar selective reticle feature, or manufacture under Bushnell's basic patent.
PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

MARCH 16-22, 1958

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

National Wildlife Week was first proclaimed by President Roosevelt in 1938. It has been sponsored annually since by the National Wildlife Federation and the state groups that belong to the Federation. Purpose of the Week is to focus public attention on the importance of our natural resources and on the broad and pressing problems of conservation. Past Wildlife Week observances have emphasized the following conservation themes: 1952—Save the Key Deer; 1953—Save the Prairie Chicken; 1954—Clean Waters for All America; 1955—Save America’s Wetlands; 1956—Save Endangered Wildlife; and 1957—Make a Place for Wildlife.

1. Make it your business to learn about the public lands, their uses and many values. Find out what public lands are near your home and within your state. Determine which of these uses are provided by them:

- Timber
- Minerals
- Water—for homes, industries, irrigation, and electric power production
- Grazing for livestock
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Camping
- Nature study and photography
- Scenery

2. Start educational campaigns in your community. Interest leaders in the protection and careful management of the public lands. Tell civic organizations—service groups and conservation groups, women’s clubs, garden clubs, Lions, Rotary, churchmen—what must be done.

3. Develop public relations in your area. Teach them that these many benefits do not come from areas where soil erosion and wasteful practices have taken their toll.

4. Tell the people who are using the public lands—the farmers, lumbermen, mining concerns, hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts that their “privilege of use” does not entitle them to abuse. Let these people know that no user can be permitted to destroy or permanently impair the soil, water, minerals, plant, scenic and wildlife resources of these areas.

5. Public ownership of land pre-dates our nation. The federal government has always been the largest landowner in the country. Public ownership of land is part of the American economy and tradition. After the Revolution some of the states gave their large tracts of land to the new government. It made the Louisiana Purchase of France. It cleared title to the Pacific Northwest, by treaty with England. After the Mexican War, the U. S. obtained California and the Pacific Southwest. Thus from about 1786 until 1852 the U. S. accumulated large land areas. The deposition period lasted from about 1860 to 1934, when a law to regulate grazing and called the Taylor Grazing Act was passed. Settlers and other citizens and corporations bought or homesteaded land. Railroads and states acquired it. The federal government has always been the largest landowner in the country. Public ownership of land is part of the American economy and tradition. Public ownership of land is part of the American economy and tradition.

6. Support the efforts of private conservation organizations. With your help they can defend wildlife and recreational resources against attack from people who seek selfish ends or political gain.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1958

YOUR LAND AND MINE

By MARION CLAWSON

Dr. Clawson, a land-use economist, is chief, Division of Land Use and Management, Resources for the Future, Inc. His past experience includes five years as director of the Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Department of the Interior, and two years as economic advisor to the Israeli Government. He is co-author with Burnell Hold of The Federal Lands: Their Use and Management (Johos Hopkins Press, 1957). A Resources for the Future research project resulted in the book, which contains a great deal more detail and statistics on land, its use, revenue and management than this pamphlet.

PUBLICATION OF LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

by Congress. Various proposals to turn public domain or National Forest lands to state or private ownership have been debated by widespread opposition. In 1931 a commission appointed by President Hoover proposed to grant the lands, afterreserving the mineral rights, to any state choosing to take them. Bills to do this never got out of committee. Again in 1947 Congress debated legislation to sell public grazing lands to livestock men. This also died as a result of violent opposition from many quarters. As recent as 1953 bills were introduced to provide different legal authorization for grazing, especially on National Forests. They failed because many feared them as a first step toward actual land transfer. Thus during the past 30 years the American people have made it fairly clear that they won’t consent to major disposals of federal land. Nor are they enthusiastic about buying more. So here’s the real question: How shall we manage and use what land we now have?

THE MAJOR KINDS OF FEDERAL LANDS

National Forests provide timber, watershed protection, grazing and wildlife. They are open to mineral development and recreation, including hunting and fishing. In some national forests near big cities recreation is now the principal public use.

(Continued on Next Page)
The Rest of the Public Domain

185 Million Acres

After the national forests, national parks and other areas reserved for special purposes have been taken out, the lands, left of Uncle Sam's original holdings are known as the public domain. These lands, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, provide grazing and wildlife habitat, minerals, timber, watershed and recreation. Within them 50 grazing districts, totaling 138 million acres, have been organized under the Taylor Grazing Act for the regulation of livestock uses and protection of the range. Outside the grazing districts are some 33 million acres, mostly desert but including a lot of tag ends of the original federal estate. The unreserved public domain lands are still open to disposal under homesteading, mining, and other laws, if classified as suitable for those purposes.

Military Reservations

25 Million Acres

Military reservations serve primarily as training areas for our defense forces. The Defense Department controls the military reservations.

MISCELLANY

Numerous miscellaneous types of federal land exist. These include land used by the Atomic Energy Commission and Tennessee Valley Authority.

Indians, not the government own the Indian reservations, which account for about 2 per cent of the nation's land area. But they are managed by the government, and held in trust for the Indians, and have many of the attributes, physical and policy-wise, of federal lands.

The Geological Survey (Department of Interior) supervises mineral leasing on all above types of land where leasing is permitted.

Each type of federal land has its special use, laws, history and management system. Yet major similarities exist among all types.

ALASKA AND OTHER TERRITORIES

In addition to these areas in the states, there are in Alaska two national forests (21 million acres), a national park and four national monuments (7 million acres), 14 wildlife refuges (8 million acres), several military reservations (4 million acres), and 322 million acres of public domain. In Hawaii there is a national park and two wildlife refuges; in Puerto Rico, a national forest, a wildlife refuge, and a national historic site; and in the Virgin Islands, a national park.

WHERE ARE THE FEDERAL LANDS?

As the map shows, the federal lands cover nearly all of the United States, although each state contains some. The federal government owns or manages 54 per cent of the land in the 11 western states. Eighty-four per cent of Nevada is Federal, and it's no coincidence that Nevada is the most arid state. History records that level, fertile, well-watered lands went first into private ownership. The idea of permanent federal ownership arose after most lands in the eastern half of the country were privately owned. Much of the federal land in these regions was purchased from private owners.

The federal government owns 456 million acres, 21 per cent of the country's total land area.

This equals two states in Texas, or four California, or all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

or Great Britain, Ireland, France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark.

By any standard, the federal government owns a lot of land.

Almost every federal trust includes some private land. This ranges from 3 per cent (National park system) to 37 per cent (grazing districts). So federal lands are not as concentrated as the map indicates.

Secondly, many small tracts, of federal land lie outside these major units. They cannot be shown on a small map.

The complex pattern of land ownership, with public and private lands intermingling, often creates severe difficulties for the federal land managers and users.

WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL LANDS LIKE?

First, let's say what the federal lands — with limited exceptions — are not.

They usually don't include urban property (except post offices and other federal buildings).

But if it's forest, mountains, desert, range or swamp, the federal government may hold title.

Forests cover 40 per cent of the federal land. Unlike many more accessible private forests, which probably have been cut at least once and aren't always restocked, federal forests still yield much virgin timber.

"Desert" is a relative term. In the Mohave desert of California and in western Arizona and southern Nevada temperature is so high and rainfall so low that little vegetation grows. Miller deserts, such as in parts of Nevada, California, and the Cascade-Sierra Mountains, permits some grazing. Some mountains and plains areas afford excellent grazing.

Wildlife Refuges

10 Million Acres

Wildlife refuges provide hospitable habitat for valued wildlife species, especially migratory waterfowl, in places and during seasons most urgently needed. They are open to recreation use including fishing and, in parts of some areas, carefully regulated hunting.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (Department of Interior) manages the 427 wildlife refuges. Some of these areas insure survival of endangered species like the whooping crane and trumpeter swan. The system of waterfowl refuges is used in safeguarding breeding stocks of wild ducks and geese from nesting regions to wintering grounds.

Oil development on the public lands extends to the outer continental shelf. The volume of oil and gas output from the public lands is increasing at the rate of about 10 percent each year.

(Continued From Proceeding Page)

Forest managers emphasize multiple use. This is the use of the same or closely intermingled areas for two or more purposes on a carefully planned basis so as to obtain the most or best of each.

The Forest Service (Department of Agriculture) manages the 147 national forests within the states.

National Parks

17 Million Acres

National parks and national monuments were established to preserve outstanding scenic and natural areas or historic treasures. They provide recreation chiefly, including camping, hiking, nature study, fishing and other outdoor activities. Commercial forestry, mining and grazing are forbidden. With very few exceptions hunting is prohibited.

The National Park Service (Department of Interior) manages the 247 wildlife refuges and national parks and national monuments. Each type of federal land has its special use, laws, history and management system. Yet major similarities exist among all types.

The National Forests are managed principally for their production of timber, game, water, wildlife and recreation. Timber is cropped either by block or selectively at intervals.

Swamps serve as homes or resting places for migratory fowl. Some swamps are found even in dry regions of the West.

Some high mountains and remote areas are "wilderness." These provide natural conditions, relatively roadless and untouched by man.

USE OF FEDERAL LANDS

Federal lands serve a variety of purposes and multiplies of people. Except for military lands they serve private or individual purposes. It is in this combination of public ownership and personal or private use, available to everyone, that the American people endorse.

RECREATION

In 1956 there were at least 230 million recreational visits to federal land; of these, 53 million were to national forests, 55 million to the national park system, 8 million to the wildlife refuges, 71 million to reservoirs built by the Corps of Engineers, 48 million to the TVA reservoirs, and millions to other areas.

These were visits, with each person counted each time he entered a federal area for recreation. No one knows how many individuals visited. Our guess is there were at least 35 million different persons, perhaps many more.

Recreational use of federal lands grows steadily, at a rate of about 10 per cent a year. This means doubling every 8 years.

In speaking of recreation in this booklet, we use the term in the sense that includes hunting and fishing, camping, hiking, mountain climbing, picnicking, boating, swimming, skiing, nature study, photography and other forms of outdoor sport and relaxation.

TIMBER HARVEST

Federal lands yield 20 per cent of all saw timber cut in the U. S. Commercial loggers and sawmill operators...
In 1956 there were at least 230 million recreational visits to federal land. Recreational use of federal lands grows steadily at a rate of about 10 per cent a year. This means doubling every 8 years.

WATERSHED
Watershed management of federal lands involves many persons indirectly. Half the stream flow of the West originates from national forests, which provides municipal water source for 1,800 cities and towns, not to mention hydroelectric power, irrigation and other uses. Growing utilization of water supplies increases the importances of watershed management.

IT'S A BIG BUSINESS
The primary purpose of federal land management is conservation and wise use of resources, so as to contribute most to the national well-being. Yet these lands bring in large revenues. Large sums must be spent for their management and improvements.

The increase in revenues has been from roughly $25 million annually during World War II to $325 million (if the oil-rich submerged areas are included, $380 million). If they are not.

Expenditures rose much less rapidly. Consequently in 1951 total land revenues exceeded total expenditures for the first time.

Federal lands are big business, in the American big business sense.

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS
Management of 460 million acres of land, collection of $350 million and expenditures of $280 million annually involve major problems. Some problems are more complicated simply because federal lands are public business.

One major problem is protection of the resources against damage. Take fire prevention and suppression. The number of fires increases with use. Ninety per cent of all fires are man-caused. But the area burned has declined materially, thanks to efficient fire prevention and control.

The federal lands must be protected as much as possible against erosion. Control over methods of timber harvest and grazing are important. Timber stands must be protected against diseases and insects, as much as possible.

Permits for all, the federal lands must be protected from you and me, the users.

We scatter our paper and cans far and wide. We cut our initials in every conspicuous spot. We throw litters in streams and garbage on federal lands.

And the federal land user must often be protected from himself. There are always pilgrims who get lost, climb up a cliff they can’t climb down, or try to make a pet out of some wild animal.

Under mineral leasing laws, conservation of federal lands from abuse and waste is not enough. Its productive potential must be developed.

In forested areas this means construction of access roads. They facilitate timber harvest and the control of fires, disease and insects. Improperly rested forests may need planting or thinning.

Recreational use requires provision of minimum facilities. Often much more than the minimum is needed if an area is to reach its recreational and educational potential.

Grazing lands sometimes require resowing. Wildlife lands may need improvements of various kinds to provide favorable living conditions for fish and game. The natural qualities of wild lands should not lightly be destroyed or modified. But intelligent application of man's knowledge makes these lands more productive for the purpose desired.

There is a basis for preference on most federal lands. Timber production, grazing, recreation, watershed management, mineral development and other uses may be interwoven in a carefully planned manner.

But even where multiple use is the goal, some choice must often be made as to which use is most important.

The best forest management for wood production is the best recreation management. But sometimes the complete development of one use must be sacrificed to obtain a moderate degree of the other. And sometimes one use is so important that others must be eliminated.

In national parks, for instance, grazing, hunting, mineral development and logging are forbidden.

In national forests, the wilderness areas have sharply restricted uses, in order to preserve their qualities for persons who seek recreation and solitude in untrammeled wild country without roads or mechanized travel.

Choice between uses poses difficult decisions. In no case is the choice between uses based upon the highest price that someone is willing to pay. Even after the basic use or uses of land has been decided, the choice between individual applicants who want to use the land or buy its products is commonly made on some basis other than highest price. However, most timber sales and some mineral lease sales are competitive.

Objective laws and regulations guide the federal land manager. He nevertheless exercises considerable discretion and authority.

Since management of federal lands is public business it is exposed to all the pressures of individuals and groups interested in the use of these lands. Congress, as well as the federal departments, at all levels, feel these pressures. The various interest groups are now making three suggestions:

(Continued From Preceding Page)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

The production of warm water fishes is hatcheries operated by the Fish & Wildlife Service makes an important contribution to the sport that all can enjoy. The number of sports fishermen climbs higher season after season.

Mar. 1958

March,
A close-up look at the crappie, one of the most popular of all Florida panfish.

Above: During the spawning season, live crappies can be found feeding on minnows.

Right: A cast over the tell-tale depression is a sure bet for action.

**STRATEGY FOR SPRING CRAPPIE**

Fishing enthusiasts can clean up during the spawning season.

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

A **male crappie** zealously guarding its spawning nest is a pugnacious sentinel. It will attack anything that strays too close to its hallowed land, may it be a black bass twice its size or a small artificial fishing fly. Consequently, a bait tossed in the general vicinity of the nest normally will result in a healthy strike.

Spring is the heyday for artificial purists when it comes to crappie fishing. This is the one period of the year when small crappie can be taken from various female crappie that might have notions of capturing a quick and easy meal.

**guarding of the young when the parent crappie is in a truculent mood.**

The crappie isn't known as a scrapper. One bites half-heartedly, and once hooked gives one spirited yank, then gives up meekly. During the spawning season it is at its best, though, striking with a bit more zest and fighting a little harder and longer. Even at that, it isn't much to brag about.

To perform at its best, a crappie should be taken on ultra-light tackle. A delicate fly-fishing rig, similar to the one used in the northern states for trout fishing, is ideal. I prefer a rod of 3½ to 4½ feet long, weighing in the neighborhood of 3½ to 4 ounces. This rod will take either a C level line or an HCH double-taper, and will cast a light fly superbly.

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The natural sounds were there but it seemed that industrial sounds, could be detected the faint purr of a momentary lull in the projected crescendo of assembled military brass and politicians rolled the hugging river traffic. Now and again, perhaps during dignitaries acclaimed the dawn of a new economic era for the Chattahoochee River Valley.

A YEAR AGO THIS MONTH the completion of the engineering achievement that is the Woodruff dam in the Apalachicola River was signified by the throwing of a switch. Loud was the drum beating as various Army Engineer project, there were others who had eyes on different horizons. A 37,500 acre lake bordered by 213 miles of shoreline offers some tremendous recreational possibilities. And make no mistake, recreation is big business in Florida as well as elsewhere throughout the country. As an example, during the year 1955, hunters and fishermen in the United States put into circulation $2,850,979,000 in pursuit of their sport. Add to this the expenditures of boaters, water skiers, campers, and others who seek their recreation out-of-doors and it is readily apparent that big money is involved.

In addition to the public recreation aspect of the Engineer's project, the creation of Lake Seminole's picturesque shoreline brought a gleam to the eyes of real estate developers. A lakeside home seems to be the goal or the ideal of many people. With the prospects of turning a robust profit on the sale of waterfront lots, some ex-landowners and would-be developers began exerting pressure in what they hoped were the right quarters. A nasty little scuffle was waged over the final disposition to such agencies for the use of all or any portion of a reservoir area for any public purpose, when the Secretary of the Army may grant leases in Federal reservoir areas for development to non-profit organizations at reduced or nominal considerations in recognition of the public service to be rendered in utilizing the leased premises.

The wording of the Act specifies Federal, state or local governmental agencies shall be given preference in allotting the lands. It further states that licenses or leases may be granted without monetary consideration to such agencies for the use of all or any portion of a reservoir area for any public purpose, when the Secretary of the Army determines such action to be in the public interest.

Any intelligent person who could see beyond his own pocket book would naturally assume that the "public interest" in the lake shore property would receive top priority. In the early phases of the construction project, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service ayed with the idea of establishing a Federal wildlife refuge on the shore of the soon-to-be-born Lake Seminole. The idea was pushed aside in favor of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's plan for a comprehensive waterfowl management development on the 7,006 acres allotted to the organization.

During the summer of 1955, Public Law 506 went into effect with the approving signature of President Eisenhower. Under this legislation the Army Engineers, through the Secretary of the Army, received authorization to dispose of any lands around Lake Seminole "not required for public purposes." Former land owners were to receive priority in repurchase of the land.

With the possibility of reaping some terrific profits from the sale of subdivided lands, certain private interests started seeking out and applying the heat to persons strategically situated. The covetous glances were directed, remember, at public lands—your land purchased from former landowners at a generous price.

The public is allowed to retain a token slice of the rich plum its money produced on the Apalachicola.

The clanging, smoky bustle of the prospective NEW ECONOMIC ERA all but drowned out the faint, "But there should be hunting and fishing and boating and swimming and other recreational opportunities galore." Yeah, sure, but this is something BIG, boy, something BIG. And THE BIG MAN turned back to his vociferous contemplation of the grime, smoke, and noisy turmoil of the future industrial landscape.

But even as the drums were beat over the 9-foot navigational channel, the hydro-electric output and the flood control values of the 46 million dollar plus Army Engineer project, there were others who had eyes on different horizons.
A single accurate rifle shot dropped this Florida buck almost in its tracks. Behind the shot was a history of much practice during the summer months.

**Spring Months**

**CAST**

**Long Shadows**

Causes of missed game by hunters may be simple or complex. Here are a dozen reasons why you might be failing behind in the game kill column.

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

A single accurate rifle shot dropped this Florida buck almost in its tracks. Behind the shot was a history of much practice during the summer months.

Although Florida hunters—bowmen, upland gunners, waterfowlers, deer hunters and small game shooters—the hunting season just closed was conceded to be a good year. A lot of game was killed. During this past season, 727 deer had been checked out of the Ocala National Forest area alone, and higher annual total game kills were also the rule in other popular Florida hunting areas. But there was much game that was missed entirely or, unfortunately for both conservation and hunters, crippled enough to initially escape but later die. If you divide the state's 1957-58 game harvest by the total number of licensed hunters seeking it, the per capita kill figures astonishingly low. Quite obviously, there was far more shooting than hitting. Many shooters didn't kill anything at all, despite large expenditures for good equipment, transportation, licenses and other requisites.

Failure to score afield during a long anticipated hunting season, marked by one or more good chances, is comparable to the case of the deer hunter fatally shot by another hunter.

The man on the receiving end of the careless hunter's bullet had not led a particularly exemplary life and was, therefore, pleasantly surprised to suddenly find himself in the middle of a beautiful forest filled with big buck deer. Twelve-pointeras were commonplace.

Hearing a sound behind him, he turned to find Satan standing at his elbow, holding a beautifully hand decorated, scope sighted Weatherby rifle and numerous boxes of ammunition. "These are for you", said the Red One. "I know you like to hunt."

"You mean to say that fine rifle is mine and that I can shoot one of those magnificent deer?", the dead man asked.

"That's right—and you can shoot all you want; there are no game laws in effect here. I'll drop by later to see how you're making out."

"Thanks . . . thanks a lot!", the man managed to say, totally overwhelmed by his reception into a strange realm.

Alone, he carefully examined the fine gun and its matching ammunition, admiring every detail. Finally, he loaded his weapon and started stalking a big buck possessing an unusually large rack of antlers. Closing to within 100 yards, he took careful aim and fired. With the shot, the buck ran off into the woods apparently untouched.

Undaunted, the hunter selected another target and made another, closer stalk. Again, the result was the same. This missing of easy shots, despite frequent sight adjustments and careful stalking often at point blank range, continued. The hunter couldn't hit a single deer.

"How are you making out?", Satan asked upon his return to the scene.

"I can't hit a thing, no matter how careful my stalk, my aim, hold and trigger squeeze," the discouraged hunter complained.

"Yeah, I know", Satan said. "I forgot to tell you that none of your bullets will ever hit their targets . . . You see, that's the 'el' of it?"

Judging by the number of missed shots this and every hunting season at comparable fine game trophies, many Florida hunters are being punished because their time. Seemingly, they simply cannot hit anything, given the opportunity!

Fred Coates, cattle rancher and hunter, owner of a large tract of land open to big game hunting, says he once watched a big buck successfully run the gauntlet of six rifle-armed hunters who fired and missed a total of at least 20 shots before the deer crossed a ridge. On the other side, more hunters took up the interrupted fusillade of gunfire but without the deer showing any sign of being hit before he passed out of sight. Coates claims he has counted as many as 60 shots by hunters on his property, with only one or two animals to show for all the shooting!

In his opinion, only one out of every 20 Florida hunters can be correctly classed as an expert shot; about one out of 20 a reasonably good shot, and not more than one out of 5 even a fair shot.

Hunter Dick Wolter missed so many birds the first part of the season and was asked why so many times that he had a set of pocket-size cards printed up with ready-made excuses . . . "Caught arm on bush" . . . "Stepped in a hole" . . . "Lighting pipe when bird came over" . . . "Sun too low (or too high)" . . . "Twinge of bursitis" . . . "Hat slipped down over my eyes" . . . "My jacket was too loose (or too tight)" . . . "Boots hurt" . . . Evidently, missing repeatedly and returning trip after trip with an empty game bag doesn't worry Wolter. Bring the conversation around to his lack of success and he will take out a card and check for you the reason for his last hunting failure.

But most shooters can't take their failures that lightly. As one well known shooter admitted, "It's a disheartening experience to sweat out the long summer months in eager anticipation of good Fall gunning only to blow your chances because of being out of practice. I must confess that I haven't practiced because I once was regarded as an expert shot. I've lived on my reputation too long. Now I must get back in practice again or continue to muff chances afield.

(Continued on Next Page)
10. Failure to bring head and aiming eye down into the gun's normal sight-line level, and to take full advantage of the steadying influence of face-supporting gun comb.

11. Unfamiliarity with game species being hunted—either inability to readily identify game upon instant sighting, or lack of knowledge of the characteristic behavior of the species. This holds true of deer hunting as well as duck, quail and dove shooting.

12. Lack of practice—contrary to belief, expert marksmen are made, not born, with that ability. Their physical coordination may contribute to their good shooting, but it's practice that develops the ultimate degree of skill. Many shooters fire their hunting weapons only occasionally; consequently, a short hunting season may often end before the individual gets the feel of his gun and starts hitting consistently.

Competent gunsmith, oculist, tailor, shooting coach, gun editor and sporting goods dealer, individually or collectively, can usually help habitual missers of game solve problems 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10, but solving numbers 4, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 depends largely on personal practice and experience, preferably acquired between hunting seasons through fun-filled hours of practice shooting at legal varmints and inanimate targets. Such practice should be supplemented by gunless stalking and observation of wild game species. The hunter who knows his gun and his game has the odds more equally balanced when hunting season opens. The hunter who knows his gun and his game has the odds more equally balanced when hunting season opens.

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In a very short time we caught and released 15 bronzebacks. Such is the fishing in small Florida streams like

MOONSHINE CREEK

By CHUCK SCHILLING

right, both sides running dead after two and a half or three miles. Very few ever find Moonshine Creek. I have never met anyone on it and have never run a motor on it.

The other day was a typical Moonshine Creek excursion. My wife and I had been fishing big Tarpon Bay down river, catching jacks and ladyfish on light tackle until our arms grew tired. Looking for a change of pace, we headed for Moonshine Creek. We slowed the motor half a mile from the creek's mouth, hoping to get a look at Luluabelle, a huge alligator who usually suns herself on an open spot of the bank near the creek's mouth. This was no exception. Luluabelle was there, and she put on her customary show of hitting the water like a ton of bricks when we got too close.

Turning into the creek's mouth, we cut the motor, tilted the prop out of the water, and broke out the oars. (We take oars. We take casting and rowing, each of these little streams cannot be discovered by someone who usually suspects his own fishing ability.)

We were using spinning gear with 6-lb. mono and Spin-n-Di-Dee Plug. Casting these small, top water lures ahead of the boat, combing the pockets on both sides of the creek, is an absorbing task. The pace in this fishing is very slow. The plug wants to move just fast enough to make the reverse spinners turn over slowly, no more.

What is more spectacular or soul satisfying than having a bass smash a surface plug on mirror still water? This day, the bass were really cooperating. About every other one would leave the water in clean leap to hit the plug from above, mouth open and in overdrive. For my money, this is fishing at its best. We caught and released 15 fish, keeping three for the freezer.

Coming back down the creek, we put up the rods, content to row along slowly, enjoying the scenery and watching a pair of bald eagles wheel and soar in nervous spirals overhead, as they occasionally screamed their protest at our intrusion of their domain. Once again out of the creek and back in the slew, I tried a few casts at the pockets along a mile or so of sawgrass shore line. I picked up several small bass before getting a strike, the like of which no bass was ever guilty. Only snook can hit a surface plug with such wild abandon.

I could think of nothing but my carelessness at not having tied in a heavier mono leader when I left the small water of the creek. The end was all but inevitable.

This was a snook of 12 to 15 pounds. After several mad rushes—during which I held my rod high as possible overhead, keeping the line out of the water—the snook made a turning leap, clamping the line under one gill in the process. That was it! We ran again out of the creek and back in the slew, I tried several quick casts at the pockets along a mile or so of sawgrass shore line. I picked up several small bass before getting a strike, the like of which no bass was ever guilty. Only snook can hit a surface plug with such wild abandon.

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Our favorite creek is just one of hundreds of similar small creeks that exist in my home neighborhood. The State of Florida must have literally thousands of such little known waterways lying unsung and unused but waiting to cast their spell.

Even the names of these creeks are loaded with history. Some of the finest fish I've ever taken have come from a tight turn of Halfway Creek back in the days before Everglades City found its new progress, provided one of my best remembered fishing thrills. A big bass—and by big, I mean better than 15 pounds—once almost gave me heart failure in a stretch of small water on Juniper Creek. I didn't have a chance, but I've never forgotten it.

My own Moonshine Creek has produced many bass better than 10 pounds and many bream better than 25.

Moonshine Creek in the unfilled beauty of its natural surroundings.

Moonshine Creek in the undisturbed beauty of its natural surroundings.

Small water does not necessarily mean small fish. John Mary shores off a fairly respectable spinning tackle catch, a snook that yielded an unexpected thrill on the small water.

A couple of Moonshine Creek beauties. The joy I found along the creek long ago and have used over since as a water container, a far cry from its original purpose no doubt.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1958
Boy, this is swell. Nuthin' to do but just set and soak up this good ol' Florida sunshine!

Uh-oh! Seem to have somethin' on my chest after all. Imagination? No, there it is again.

Hey you! Watch it. Move along. Get oll there! Just how sneaky can a bug get?

Uh-oh! A bug! And it's the bitin' kind at that. Get your fangs outta me, you vile varmint.

Good riddance. Glad he's gone. Uh, back again. Now what is he up to? Where's he goin'?

Ugh! A bug! And it's the bitin' kind at that. Get your fangs outta me, you vile varmint.

He's gone. Thank goodness. Now, what was I doin'? Oh, I'm so upset! That bird-brain ruined my whole day!

Oh well, say-la-vee, whatever will be, will be! Guess I'll go pick on this ol' crab!

**BIRD AND A BUG**

By WALLACE HUGHES

The bird featured in this picture series is a Ruddy Turnstone, Arenaria interpres morinella, a Robin-size shorebird of the Sandpiper and Plover family of birds. The Turnstone is a friendly species, frequenting the piers and jetties of the Florida coastline in close association with the human fisherfolk usually encountered at such places. It gets it's name from the habit of turning over seashells, stones and driftwood of the beaches, while searching for food. On the piers it readily eats leftovers of bait, fish, crabs, etc. tossed aside by the fishermen.

The Turnstone, sometime called "Calico-back", nests in the Arctic regions of Alaska and Greenland and winters along the coasts of the southern states, and south to South America. In Florida it is classed as a common migrant and winter resident on all coasts. Some individuals remain here during the summer but apparently do not nest. The bird in the pictures is in winter plumage. Spring specimens are clad in a piebald attire of reddish-brown, black, and white feathers, with orange feet and legs.
An imported reddish-black pest is playing havoc with wildlife throughout the Southeast. It is estimated that as much as 15% of local quail populations have been destroyed by the imported fire ant.

By JOEL WHEELER
Agriculture Research Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

THE FIRE ANT

Few insects in the Southeast have as bad a reputation as the imported fire ant. Among other charges, it stands accused as a destroyer of wildlife—particularly ground-nesting birds, and especially bobwhite quail.

There is testimony aplenty that in areas where the imported fire ant has gained a strong hold, it inflicts losses on this game bird so popular to Florida hunters. Although some reports on wildlife and livestock losses to the fire ant may have been exaggerated, extreme young of animals and birds certainly have been killed by this pest.

This is the same annoying and destructive insect under attack in a Federal-State eradication program on more than 20 million acres in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Georgia. Isolated infestations exist or have been eradicated in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

Fire ant infestations in Florida are heaviest in Santa Rosa, Escambia, Okaloosa, and Walton counties. They also have gained firm footholds in at least ten other counties—Hokley, Hillsborough, Baker, Bay, Duval, Jackson, Leon, Nassau, St. Johns, and Washington. Fire ant damage in these counties is centered on agricultural crops, pastures, lawns, and parks, but there as elsewhere where it has entrenched itself, it is harmful to man, bird, and beast.

An indication of why sportsmen have reason to be concerned about the small, reddish-black, mound-building fire ant is voiced in an article in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's 1952 Yearbook of Agriculture. It has this to say about quail losses:

"In the course of intensive life-history and management studies of the bobwhite in Georgia, Herbert Stoddard recorded in a year a 15-percent loss of quail to this insect. This occurred in spite of an intensive ant-control program involving fumigating with sodium cyanide all ant colonies within a 50-foot radius of the nest. The ground dove formerly existed in large numbers in Leon County, Fla. Today, one is rarely seen. but fire ants are plentiful."

Another witness can be called to testify on the fire ant as an enemy of birds—this time from its native South America. J. H. Carniero Ribeiro, in AGRONOMIA, published in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, describes fire ant damage to orange trees, then says: "In addition to these damages, I have also had the opportunity to see a nest of the bird 'bico de lacre' Estrilda cinerea, the young of which were dazed by these ants."

"It is one of the most pitiful forms of destruction encountered in the study, for helpless bobwhites are literally eaten alive by swarms of ants," Stoddard writes. "Chicks have been removed from eggs alive, and still squirming; with most of the flesh eaten off on one side of the face and along the vertebrate." He goes on to say that ants also are attracted to eggs that become cracked in any way and swarm into them, overwhelming the bird in charge and causing the nest to be abandoned.

In the same book, Dr. Stoddard declared: "The loss caused by ants is very serious, for the eggs are destroyed just at the time that the chicks are ready to start out in life, when the parent birds, with 40 or more days of the best part of the season invested in the nest, are not in physical condition to resume laying."

M. D. Bellomy, writing in the April 1955 issue of "Frontiers," a Magazine of Natural History, points out the fire ant's fondness for bobwhites, then reports: "The effect of imported fire ants on other ground-nesting birds is still under investigation. However, certain ground-nesters have diminished in areas of heavy infestation. The ground dove formerly existed in large numbers in Leon County, Fla. Today, one is rarely seen, but fire ants are plentiful."

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It is apparent from these and other reports that the imported fire ant is a real menace to the bobwhite and other ground-nesting birds.

But the big battle waged by the fire ant is with man himself. The picture is an age-old one. Since before the dawn of civilization insects have been relentless competitors for nearly all our food, feed, and fiber, and have wanted to occupy places chosen by man.

The imported fire ant is a good example of a relentless attacker. The well-known naturalist, Edwin Way Teale, writing in USDA's 1952 Yearbook, says: "A hundred years ago, when Henry W. Bates was collecting in the Amazon basin, he encountered villages that had been deserted because of the invasion of fire ants. These small insects have stings like red-hot needles."

Teale is describing the same ant that slipped into this country from South America some 40 years ago. It first was noticed around the bay front of Mobile, Ala. It traveled to nearby fields, then to other parts of the South—slowly at first, then more rapidly. By 1949, it had moved east to Florida and west to Mississippi. During recent years it has spread with alarming speed. Congress this year gave USDA the go-ahead to join interested States in fighting this pest. The imported fire ant is an unwanted invader.

Here's why.

Its vicious bite and sting, which gives it its name and bad reputation, is painful to humans, and sometimes fatal to small wildlife and domestic animals. Its appetite for seeds, plants, and trees makes it destructive to many agricultural crops.

(Continued on Page 40)
When the dry Spring months roll around, watch for woodland fires. The slightest bit of smoke or flame is cause for

**SIGNAL ONE**

_**By ELMER HORN**_.

_Florida Forestry Service_

Fire protection for timberland in Florida is provided by a state organization, the Florida Forest Service. What the forest service’s fire protection units provide is men to watch for fires and to get to them in a hurry and put them out when they’re spotted. A comparison of the fire records on land which the fire-fighters do watch over with that on land which is not protected shows the value of protection. About one out of every two unprotected forest acres burn over in a year’s time. In 1957, only one in 245 (two hundred and forty-five) protected forest acres burned over.

Let’s look in on Forest Ranger Herman Reichert to see how the fire-fighters operate on the usual kind of fire they handle.

First, we see Reichert at the telephone, listening. This is what he hears: “We’ve got a signal one down in the south part of the county.”

Reichert could have told you almost before he put the receiver to his ear that that’s about what the message would be. When your job is fighting “signal ones” (radio talk for “fires”), nine times out of ten, a ‘phone call means “Go!”

The man that called him was up in a fire watch tower. Likely, he saw the smoke no more than a minute before. And the fire probably got started no more than fifteen minutes before that. It doesn’t take long to get the show on the road when a county has a forest fire fighting unit.

Although speed is of utmost importance in fighting fires, the fire-fighters believe in making haste slowly until they’ve fully got their bearings. That’s why our next picture shows Forest Ranger Reichert cooling his heels in the radio man’s office, obviously waiting for something. The radio man—usually called a dispatcher—is carrying on a conversation with somebody. Absently, he toys with the free end of a string stretched across the face of a wall map. The dispatcher asks a question, then listens, then fixes the free end of the string decisively.

Immediately, Forest Ranger Reichert is on his feet. He takes a look at the map, brief but intent, and out the door he goes.

Let’s take a look at that map, too. We see that the dispatcher’s string crosses another string just like it. The second string comes from a different point on the map. Checking, we find out that the point of origin of each string is labeled Forest Service Fire Tower. The strings represent lines of sight from the two towers to the fire. Where they cross is where the fire is.

When they crossed, Reichert was ready to roll, for now he knew where he was going.

The trip to the fire is not likely to be very eventful for an experienced fire-fighter like Reichert. He knows the country about like you know your town, and he’s not likely to make a wrong turn. He won’t do much fumbling around to get into the fire either. With a directness that is truly amazing to somebody not familiar with it, the experienced forest fire fighter progresses from highway to graded road to unimproved road to road shadow to trackless terrain at the scene of the fire.

(Of course, Reichert will admit if you prod him a little bit that one time he was five miles down a dirt road when he ran into a burned-out bridge and had to re-trace every step of the way!) “Well, let’s see,” says Reichert as he pulls up at the scene of the fire. And that is exactly what he’ll do, since his task now is to size up the situation. He’ll make a mental note of the extent of the fire front, its direction of movement, probable course in the immediate future, speed of the wind, ponds or roads that can be used to help stop the fire, how dry the underbrush is and how much of it there is.

The preliminary sizing up is usually not a time-consuming job for an experienced fire-fighter. But it is a situation where haste may really mean waste, so Reichert does a thorough job of studying his fire. As in most cases, Reichert and his assistant forest ranger have arrived on the scene while the fire is still small. The semi-circle of flames is perhaps two hundred yards across. This means they’ll probably be able to use the quick-killing technique—hit the head hedge just a bit on the direct attack. First, he’ll scrape out a blockade of two or three parallel lines a few yards in advance of the fire as a safety line. Then

(Continued on Page 36)
DON'T SINK THE CAR

By CHARLES WATERMAN

A good many automobiles have been disappearing lately, leaving only a few bubbles and an oil slick to mark their points of departure.

Arriving at a beautifully constructed boat launching site the other morning, my fishing partner and I found a morose individual staring out at an empty boat that floated rather unnaturally 50 feet out.

"That's my boat," he remarked. "The car and trailer are down under it somewhere."

Most of those ramps are pretty steep—understandably so because the more gentle the slope the more space needed and the more construction work involved—and the harder it is to float a boat off a trailer.

Nevertheless, even the steeper ramps are satisfactory if care is used, the driver stays prepared for emergencies and the brakes are in good shape. On many cars, the emergency brake is merely a token deterrent to backward travel.

Some of the most modern of the ramps have permanently installed wheel chocks attached by chains but many launchers don't use them.

The chancey moment usually comes when the driver kills his engine with the boat and trailer in the water. Killing an engine is easy under such circumstances. You try to ease forward gently to prevent jerking things and your car won't take the heavy pull. The engine stalls and if you're a mite slow in switching from accelerator to brake pedal, you end up a couple of feet back in the water. Just a couple of mistakes from there it's time to call the tow truck and, now and then, a diver.

Anyone who hauls a trailer and boat should have his emergency brake checked frequently. It should really hold. If his boat is heavy and the ramp steep, it may be wise to back in sidewise, jackknifing the trailer into the water while the car points up the ramp at a slant. Better traction that way.

A good system is to use a front bumper hitch for the actual launching operations. This has the advantage of keeping the rear wheels far from the water and enables the driver to keep a better eye on the proceedings. However, there is a disadvantage if the boat and trailer are heavy. The disadvantage is that there isn't much weight on the rear wheels with the car nosed down steeply and they are more apt to slip than when below the car's major weight. I use the bumper hitch for most launching.

Ramp construction is quite a problem. If water level were constant, it would be possible to build a gradual slope down to just past the water's edge and then have it break down more sharply to enable launchers to get their boats into deep water quickly while their ears stayed on the gentle slope. However, fluctuation of water level makes this impractical in many cases and the builders have to make the ramp a compromise between the rather steep drop off needed for "float off" launching and the gentle slope that is ideal for auto operation.

I notice that most launchers with tilt trailers try to get their trailer wheels back into the water nearly hub deep. Those without tilt arrangements usually let them go back until the boat floats off. Before using the latter system, it's a good idea to learn just what kind of a bottom you're launching over. There is often a little washout at the foot of a launching ramp where hard surface top-ups and the natural bottom begins.

With trailers having small wheels, you can get "stuck" in this notch between the bottom and the foot of the ramp. You probably won't get stuck badly but the momentary tightening as you pull the trailer out is likely to kill your engine if you're unprepared and, as we said before, a stalled engine on a ramp requires prompt attention to the brake.

I sincerely believe there is more trouble on well-engineered launching ramps than on back country

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with your money. A deluge of bills from state representatives and senators made every effort to pressure Congress into conveying the federal reservoir perimeter lands back into private hands. In plain black and white, certain private interests were making a bald attempt to reap personal gain from rocketing land values, a situation resulting from the construction of this reservoir at public expense.

Under the original terms of the Army Engineer Corps license to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the 7,273 acre tract of land and water was the Commission's to manage for public hunting at face value, had started the extent required to create what had promised of being one of the top-notch waterfowl management areas in the southeast.

In mid-September 1955, the Secretary of the Army, with the authority given him under Public Law 90-306, suddenly decided to authorize the Engineers to transfer the 7,273 acres contained in the Commission's budding waterfowl area back into private ownership.

The action of the Secretary of the Army engendered an outraged howl from conservation organizations, notably the National Wildlife Federation and the Wildlife Management Institute. Already soured and distrustful because of numerous previous ill-advised abuses of the public trust the Federation labeled this particular odious situation as the "latest example of the Army Engineer's contempt for wildlife values."

With what many have come to regard as typical of governmental operations, the military Engineers staged a buck passing and red tape party that resulted in the usual way—a completely stalemated situation.

The Game Commission was left holding the bag, with money and time already invested in planning and preliminary development work.

The pressure of public opinion soon began to make itself felt. Under that nudging, Congressman Bob Sikes introduced, on May 14, 1956, a Congressional bill regarding the disputed lands. It was proposed that, as long as the property was under the administration of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, it remain in the public ownership.

The reaction to this development was aptly described by nationally known outdoor writer Cleveland Van Dresser in a recent article published in the December 1956 issue of AMERICAN FORESTS. Van Dresser wrote, "When this bill hit Congress, an almighty howl went up from private landowners, or to be more exact, expectant private landowners. A whole tribe of Howells, six in all, who owned tracts of land varying from 10 to 10,000 acres, protested violently against the bill. They, and others, saw immense profits go down the drain if they were denied the privilege of buying property along the shore of Woodruff Reservoir."

Sikes' Bill made it through both houses and, during the final days of the 84th Congress, the President made it official by his signature. There it stands at the present writing, a symbol of a conservation victory for Florida's outdoorsmen. It has been a trying scrap on a field where votes and political pressures were laced liberally with red tape and screened by the cloak of official silence and buck passing. The victory was not unearned for by the time the revisions and readjustments were complete the public had been nosed out of an additional 2,246 acres. But at that, Florida's outdoorsmen-citizens have come off better than those in some other Federal impoundment areas. The 5,627 acre Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area with its wooded ponds and lakes, its timbered ridges, and grassy uplands stands as a monument to the victory of public interest over the loud and greedy minority.

**MOONSHINE CREEK (Continued from Page 25)**

A 10-lb. snook or bass, for instance, is a big fish in any water. On big water, they command respect and admiration, but these same fish in the confines of a narrow creek seem big as the Loch Ness Monster and twice as menacing. One way or another, small creeks are fun for fishing.

Killdeer, Charadrius vociferus

The loud kill-dee call of this bird is one of the most characteristic of natural sounds about heavily grazed meadows, plowed fields and pond edges. The two breast bands and the orange-brown tinge on the lower back, rump and upper tail coverts are good sight identification features.

They move about in loose flocks and often are seen in association with other shore birds. Killdeer, or killdee as they are commonly known, are essentially birds of the inland sections and are not often encountered directly along the seashore.

**KILLDEER**

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER**

As is the case with many of the other shore birds, the contrast between the winter and the summer plumage of the black-bellied plover is great. The adult in breeding plumage is black on the underparts, with white head and sides of the neck. The back is mottled grayish. In winter plumage the underparts are streaked with light gray.

This plover is characterized a wary bird. It is stockily built and its large head and erect carriage are quite distinctive.

Although it is relatively common throughout the state during the winter months, it is not usually seen in any sizeable concentration. A few non-breeding black-bellies remain in the state the year around but most of them travel to the Arctic coast for the summer nesting activities.

Most commonly seen about the tidal flats along both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, they may be encountered now and again about fresh water marshes.

**SEMPIMALATED PLOVER**

The Semipalated plover, Charadrius semipalmatus, is relatively common in Florida during the winter months the resident population is augmented by birds moving south from more northerly locations.

The 3 or 4 eggs are deposited in a shallow depression in the ground. The nest hollow is sometimes sparsely lined with grass or shell fragments but commonly lacks a lining of any kind. The heavily spotted shells blend in remarkably well with the surroundings.

Beetles, grasshoppers and other insects are essentials of the killdeer's diet.

**KILLDEER**

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER**

**SEMPIMALATED PLOVER**

**Continued on Next Page**
and expected of a typical plover, they are found inland as well as along the coasts although in Florida the tidal sections are most likely to be chosen.

A few semipalmated plover remain in the state the year around but they are more properly classed as a common migrant and winter resident.

The single complete chest band, the short two-colored bill and the bright orange-yellow legs are identification marks of the species. During the winter the chest band is much lighter than during the summer months. The bills of the young birds are solid black in color.

Wilson's Plover, Charadrius wilsonia. The Wilson's plover is a year around resident of the state. These birds are seen most often along the sea beaches and only occasionally are they reported from inland.

A slight depression in the sand, perhaps with a lining of bits of shell, serves as the nest. Three eggs usually comprise a clutch although four may be deposited.

Identification points to note include the relatively heavy black bill, the white head backing and the dusky-pinkish colored legs.

A variety of small seashore creatures are essentials of the diet with small crabs, shrimp, insects and mollusks making up the bulk. Wintering pipers plover move about in the typical manner of the plovers, running forward a few steps then stopping abruptly. They are often seen picking about the wet sands at the waters edge. Marine worms, insects and various small crustaceans are the chief foods.

Piping Plover, Charadrius melodus. The pale grey and white coloration of the piping plover blends in remarkably well with the sandy plumage which is the chosen habitat of this species. The orange-yellow legs and the pale colors of the plumage are good identification marks.

While feeding piping plover move about in the typical manner of the pipers. In the duck wings, opened, the tail of the bird remains seen low, parallel to the water surface, and the legs are tucked although four may be deposited.

The mean score of taking the dying fire apart in each of the three ways available to the fire-fighter. With the flap, the ranger strips the air away from a fire, with the rake he takes away burnable material, and with water he cools off the burn.

But even this formidable array of death-dealers is inadequate unless they are used with uncommon thoroughness. But fires are great about playing dead; then there spring to life to snatch a weary fire-fighter from his bed.

But the years have made Ranger Reichert wise. The single complete chest band, the short two-colored bill and the bright orange-yellow legs are identification marks.

If possible try to avoid the use of any weight with your fly. A sinker cuts distance and makes casting more difficult. In fly fishing you are casting the line, not the bait, and on an extra-light rig, added weight will hamper the natural action of the rod.

When retrieving keep the rod tip low. A sinker will clash on the surface of the water. When picking up the fish will cautiously trail the bait before striking it a second time.

During spring it will be the minnow fishermen who will be loading their stringers with crappie. But during the early-spring spawning period, it is time for artificial enthusiasts to howl. By moving continually, searching out spawning areas with imitation flies, a fisherman can catch many top-flight crappie fishing.

And on a plant fly rod, the chunky little scrapers are wonders of fun to catch too.
CONSERVATION EDUCATION Scholarships Goal of Florida Wildlife Federation

University scholarships in the field of conservation education and information are an objective of the Florida Wildlife Federation, according to Dr. H. R. Wilber, president, who has conducted a series of conferences with Florida faculties.

"It is our belief that education of the public is the first requisite of an efficient conservation program," Wilber said. "Although education and information make up a major part of the work of our state agencies, it is difficult to secure young personnel with the unique requirements necessary for spreading the conservation story. In the past, education personnel have come from divergent fields of conservation endeavor and although they have done a fine job, we can get a head start by having been trained specifically for this task."

In initiating the move, the federation president interested members of the faculties at University of Florida, Gainesville and at Florida State University, Tallahassee. An examination of the catalogs and course offerings of the two schools revealed that the necessary courses are already available on their curricula. It is contended that the divergent fields could produce an individual ready to step into information and education jobs.

The desired objectives can best be reached by giving the student background in sciences related to conservation, the pen is sword, and in his subject but also in methods of disseminating such information," Wilber said. "For example, he will need a little knowledge of law as applied to fish and game regulations; he should be able to make public appearances as a speaker and should be capable of planning and writing scripts for television and radio. His background should include, zoology, botany and entomology and the interpretation of graphs and statistics is essential in the conservation story. Bookkeeping and accounting in modest doses will help him in the interpretation of budgets and management of the various agencies.

"Although this sounds like a tough combination, it can be achieved through courses and the product of such a program should fill a need not only in Florida but in other states as well. Junior faculty members might be worked into such programs with favorable response. He then visited Gainesville and conferred with Dean M. A. Brooker of the college of agriculture and with Dr. C. M. Kaufman, director of the school of forestry. At Tallahassee, he discussed the matter with Dean E. S. Campbell of the school of journalism. In each case, other faculty members were called in for consultation.

A series of future meetings is being planned.

"In conservation, the pen is mightier than the sword," Wilber commented. "Enforcement is essential but virtually impossible if the public is uneducated."

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
MARCH, 1958

Regional awards were as follows. In cases where a student winner has been selected, his name will not be listed in that division.

Adult Guidance of Junior Conservation Effort:
Second region, Allen Powell, principal of Shady Grove School; third region, Kenneth Stoutmeyer, Panama City; fourth region, Dade Thorton, Miami; fifth region, Gene Gallant, Ocala.

Foresters:
First region, Ben Hill Griffen, Aven Park; second region, Mrs. Roger Waybright, Jacksonville; fourth region, Erine Lyons, Stuart News; Stuart; fifth region, Mrs. W. D. Brunner, Tuttusville.

Game and Fresh Water Fish:
First region, Bobby Hicks, Tampa Tribune, Tampa; third region C. L. Baggett, Milton; fourth region, Bill Piper, Bonita Springs; fifth region, Erle Watson, New Smyrna Beach.

Salt Water Conservation:
First region, Mrs. Winifred Lott, St. Petersburg; second region, Robert Maytag, Ponte Vedra Beach; third region, Branch Eberndal, Bonita Springs; fourth region, Robert Baer, Jensen Beach.

Soil Conservation:
Second region, David Maxwell, Lake City; third region, Box T. Yates, Chipley; fourth region, Brack C. Cantrell, Ft. Lauderdale; fifth region, William A. Hunt, Clermont.

Outdoor Writers:
First region, Milton Plumb, Tampa; second region, Paul Mains, Jacksonville; third region, Mike Darley, Panama City; fifth region, Don McAllister, Orlando.

Club Public Relations:
First region, Mrs. Burton Bigelow, St. Petersburg; second region, Kenneth Bowers, Fort Lauderdale; third region, Hugh Blackburn, War­ington; fourth region, Sam Higgins, Ft. Lauderdale.

Other region's state awards were as follows:
Mrs. Marie Puckett of St. Peters­burg, adult guidance of junior con­ervation effort. Mrs. Puckett, who has a long record in junior conservation effort, stimulated the organization of junior clubs and is an active member of the St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club, which has long been a leader in this field.

Dr. Henry Becker of the geology department of Florida State Univer­sity, foresters award. Dr. Becker's educational work in soil and forestry conservation was sup­lemented by an active interest in the salt water conservation program.

Mrs. Robert L. Fairing of Gaines­ville, game and fresh water fish award. Her work has been largely with the garden clubs of the state and she has served as chairman of the conservation committee for that group. One of her outstanding ef­forts was in the operation of a summer­workshop program for the edu­cation of teachers in conservation effort. This is a perennial program and available statewide.

Gary Bennett of Cocoa, salt water conservation. A constant worker in salt water conservation education Bennett is a writer and conducts a very successful weekly newspaper column with the cooperation of the various conservation boards of the state. Bennett feels that tampering with the salinity of inshore waters would be detrimental to fish populations.

Lyle C. Dickman of Ruskin, soil conservation. Experienced in soil and water conservation practices, Dickman was given in his time for the education of others in these processes and contributed much valuable educational literature along those lines.

Allen Corson of the Miami Herald, outdoor writing. As fishing ed­i­tor of the Miami Herald, Corson has contin­ually stressed conservation, has been active in securing better relationships between commercial and sports fishermen and has accom­plished conservation education by encouraging the release of gamefish while serving as director of fishing contests. He has ardently supported conservation efforts. This is a perennial program.

Other governor's state awards were as follows:
Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Tallahas­see, for the Apopka shad poisoning project. This was in the operation of a state-aided conservation project.

Mrs. R. H. Flowers, St. Petersburg, exceptional service to the Apopka shad poisoning project.

Dr. B. S. Taylor, Lake County, for his work in the Orlando basin and that a coordination of the rele­vant fields could produce an individual ready to step into information and education jobs.

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When bedded into drilling some of their most productive fishing methods and fishing tips, Florida expert fishermen invariably include some mention of fishing attempts at different depths. They know that fish are constantly seeking food and/or avoiding dangers, depending on any of several influencing factors.

The experts know that, when out fishing, it pays to experiment with baits working at different levels. The more successful—especially among those who trial their sport out with either surface baits or very shallow sub-surface working artifacts, gradually fishing deeper in quest of clues.

To get baits down to desired levels without offsetting their natural ability, a common practice to pinch small split shot sinkers on either lines or leaders, depending on the type of fishing being done. But applying the small lead, pinch-on sinkers to lines and leaders is an art —you have to apply just enough pressure to the line to cause it tightly without at the same time damaging the line or leader. Most anglers use their teeth for the job, but the least, is a bit hard on one's teeth.

But attaching the lead weights is easy, neat and safe if you do the job with ease of South Bend Bait Company's new Shot-Master tools. A new line of split shot sinkers and the tool work together much like the working principles of the Gowing pin.

Durably and rugged, yet light in weight, the Shot-Master is the result of high strength alloys, and is furnished with three quickly interchangeable sizes of Bobbing discs, each containing a supply of popular sizes split shot, with each sinker temporarily held in place by a pin. To apply a split shot sinker of desired size to a line or leader is a matter of seconds.

Handles of the practical tool are also coated with plastic for added gripping quality.

The Shot-Master weighs less than an ordinary pair of pliers, slips handle into fishing jacket pocket, is small, and on a glassy board and fairway makes it handy for stream fishing. In addition to attaching sinkers, the tool will also quickly remove split shot sinkers from lines and leaders, having a built-in feature for that particular purpose.

The Shot-Master comes with three Red-Stock bridge convention have black and white with 7 split shot sinkers. Additional colored-coding cartridges are 15 each.

The Factory (Carried on Page 29)

It's high, hard-crusted mound infested by grasshoppers and crops and full utilization of pastures. Most fire ants are about a foot high and a couple of feet across the base and contain some 25,000 ants. More than 100 pounds per acre are not uncommon in heavily infested areas.

If you've ever been stung by an imported fire ant you know that for a little creature it packs a big wallop. Even a slight touch to one-fourth of an inch long. When it attacks, it sinks its jaws into the flesh, then drives its stinger through the skin and injects an irritating fluid into the wound itself. While hanging on, it may sting another half-dozen spots around the wound. The bite and sting of just one fire ant usually is not severe, but many ants are attacking before it is realized what is present.

Last summer a child at Jackson- ville was found to have a temperature of 106 degrees, and the attending physician reported this was caused by fire ant bites. The Plant Board inspector was called into the area to make inspections and while there he identified specimens of fire ants.

The first ant sting normally brings a brief, stabbing pain, followed by a small reddening sore that lasts 3 to 10 days. However, it can cause a more serious reaction that may last for months. Persons who are unusually sensitive to fire ant venom may, when stung, suffer chest pains, nausea, and even vomiting into a coma. The stinging of bees, wasps, and hornets can cause the same violent effects on some.

"Don't Sink the Car" (Continued from Page 32)

Don't sink the car when you are about to get careless. Nearly everyone investigates a seldom or never used launching area.

As a rule, the fisherman's outfit is a rough-and-tumble than the joy-rider's but, on the other hand, he's more apt to launch in out-of-the-way spots. In either case, wet feet may save a wet car. I see a lot of cars beached in poor water and I've looked around before splashing their boats.

Out of 123 members of the party to know what each is going to do during a launching operation. Nothing is worse than depending on someone to do a job right the first time. Even if a 1-man launching may be a little more work but it's safer if other members of the party aren't familiar with the procedure.

When the ramp is steep and short, the guy who directs a backing driver should stay on the job. It is discouraging to come slogging down a tricky slope only to see your director engaged in testing the water for someone to look around while you guess wildly whether you're on the ramp or not.
JR. CONSERVATIONIST
(Continued from Page 5)
Conservation Clubs to organize Junior Rifle Teams. They would then become affiliated with the National Rifle Association.

Safety Program
This program is to be initiated in the state for all groups, both adult and youth. Assistance from the National Rifle Association is to be given to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Mr. Fred Sturgies, Coordinator of our St. Sportman's Club Program, will develop the program for adults while I will work with our youth in the state. Plans are in the making to have Junior Rifle Team shoots for honors and in competition at our rifle range at the Youth Conservation Camp. This could become an annual event each year. Regional championships could be played off from county shoots. Five regional teams could compete for State Championship. Transfers of tabs on completed projects and points earned?

Club News
PALMIRA WILDLIFE CLUB — At the present time, the newly formed Palmita Jr. Wildlife Club is one of the most active in the state. They are now making plans to organize a Junior Rifle Club within their organization.

HALIFAX JR. HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB — This Conservation Club is very active. Their advisors and sponsoring unit, the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club, are doing a fine job with the junior club.

STUART JR. CONSERVATION CLUB — According to the most recent Secretary's Club Report from Robert Routa, fourteen members of the club attended a camping trip which was enjoyed by all. They are busy making plans for a fish fry.

PAHOEHE WILDLIFE CLUB — We have just received a money order from Mr. W. A. Reynolds, who is Advisor for the Pa hohe Jr. Wildlife Club, in the amount of $9.25 which is the 1958 League dues for 37 members. We might add here that this club is the first in the state to pay their 1958 dues, and the first to receive 1958 Junior Conservation League membership cards.

As of January 1, 1958, League dues of $2.50 per member fell due. If your club has not sent in its dues, have your secretary mail a check or money order to the League.

Tag Day
During March, Wildlife Week will be proclaimed, and with it many of the clubs will be tagging people on the last day of the week. Money received from this project, after all expenses are deducted, is shared by the League and the Clubs. Information and standard procedure fortag day will be sent to all clubs wishing to participate.

The League uses its share of money from the Project "Pouch the Young Opossum," to make improvements at the Junior Camp.

Old enough to leave the Pouch. The Young Opossums "Tag"—They Stay in the Pouch for about 3 months after birth, then leave the pouch for a little over 3 months then are on their own.
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