The Research Information Center of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
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-coating 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 the 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 to immediate families, who catch any of the following fresh-water game fish at the prescribed size requirements:

**SPECIES**

- Largemouth Bass
- Shellcracker
- Chain Pickerel
- Black Crappie
- Bluegill (Breast)
- Red Breast

**SIZE**

- 8 pounds or larger
- 2 pounds or larger
- 4 pounds or larger
- 2 pounds or larger
- 1½ pounds or larger
- 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 inscribed data listed below:

Name

Address

Species of Fish

Type of Tackle, Bait Used

Where Caught

Weight

Length

Date

Catch Witnessed by

Registered, Weighed by

(Signature of Applicant)

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla., Single copy, subscription rate $5.00 per year. Changes of address should be sent at least 20 days before expected date of change. The Fish and Wildlife Service assumes no responsibility for loss or damage of same. Permission to reprint any material in this publication will be granted to responsible firms upon application to the editor, signed by formal Class Matter No. 0, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

Copyright 1958, by Florida Game and Fish Commission
Dear Sir:

In your March 1958 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, I noticed "Around the Inlet," a picture of a white-winged dove. For your information, I bagged one of these about 4 miles south of Key West, Monroe County in October, 1957.

I am enjoying your magazine very much and look forward to each new issue.

Francis M. Watson
Maitama, Fla.

MIAmI FISHING

Dear Sir:

As a subscriber, I will appreciate it if you will be so good as to advise me of the most promising bass fishing areas in the general vicinity of Miami, Florida. I am planning to be down there during the latter half of February.

Walter A. Knott
Chicago, Illinois

• Actually, Miami is sitting on the edge of a terrific bass fishing area. The only trouble with it is, it is very inaccessible to the average fisherman. I am quoting, of course, of the Everglades. However, the Tamiami Trail coming from Miami to Naples has excellent fishing and offers both fresh and salt water game fish in its various and numerous lakes.

Lake Okeechobee is only a short drive east of Miami on Route 37, and I recom­ mend this place very highly. On the east coast, the north and south forks of the St. Lucie River near Stuart are world-famous, and they can be reached from Miami by an hour and a half drive via the new St. Lucie Parkway.

Don’t have that fresh water tackle completely for fresh water fish, waterfowl, beneficent tarpon, and suck fishing can be found in abundance, 1,175,000 (or about 67) million acres of marshes traverse these marshes. Prior to treatment the effects of Dieldrin on aquatic life.

LAKE APOPKA

Gentlemen:

I am not a "Cracker" by birth, but still have plenty of sand in those old shoes, that 1 enjoyed the first part of this article that I just recently received, the first article that I turned to happen to be "Fishing". I was very much shocked to learn of the new, strange fish that is coming out of Lake Apopka.

I sincerely trust that the wonderful Game and Fresh Water Fish of Florida is here now, and can be proud of, can be successful in retaining this grand old lake to the "Good Old Days" when bass were thought of as game and not as food. And I do not mean these little five pounders that I can catch all day.

FLORENCE WILDLIFE is certainly "tops" from cover to cover, and what an improvement over the past few years.

Geo. F. Stewart
Cincinnati, Ohio

FRESH WATER FISH

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the first part of your column on fish and wildlife of Florida in the April issue and was amazed to learn of the great variety of fish that can be caught here. The angler’s club list will be with me on future fishing trips and I intend to keep it with me to check off the various species of fish as I go along.

Your article on "Fishing" is a real treat.

Johnny Tyson
Ondala, Florida

SUPER INSECTICIDES—SPACE AGE POLLUTANTS

Reprinted from the SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE BULLETIN

A WHOLE NEW FAMILY of lethal insecticide sprays (chlorinated hydro-carbons) was developed during and since World War II. The public is already familiar with several. The most prominent is DDT. More than 9 million acres of the nation’s farmlands have followed the widespread use of this poison. An example was the repeated devastation of salmon and salmon foods by spraying DDT (for spruce budworm control) on the Missouri River in Montana between 1954 and 1955. The streams were used as spray pattern boundaries and received deadly doses.

Another example was the unfortunate slaughter in 1955 of trout and trout foods in the Yellowtooth National Park. By contrast some applications of DDT sprays for insect control elsewhere have served objective purposes (in safeguarding fish resources).

But DDT is mild compared to Dieldrin or Heptachlor. These drastic poisons are being spread in massive doses over areas to exceed 20 million acres in the deep South. Purpose is to try to eradicate the imported fire ant.

Important as the purpose is, it is not important enough to risk destroying priceless fish and other wild life in at least five states. Apparent lack of accuracy (of adequate research) and poor planning (disregard for other equally vital assets) seems responsible.

Plans of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are alarming. They call for application of two pounds of Dieldrin per acre of infested area in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and perhaps Tennessee, may become involved if the program is expanded. Dieldrin is perhaps 20 times more toxic to fish and wildlife than DDT. Therefore, two pounds of Dieldrin per acre represent a dosage possibly equal to 40 pounds per acre of DDT. Obviously, there will be vast destruction of fish, game, songbirds, beneficial insects, etc.

The catastrophic effects on aquatic life of Dieldrin may be appreciated from a report in THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT for January. It describes findings by entomologist Robert W. Harrington, Jr. and entomologist William L. Eiblingmayer, of the Department of Agriculture’s Health’s Research Laboratory (Vero Beach).

These biologists assessed the damage from Dieldrin pellets to fish and invertebrates in the ditches of salt marshes along the Indian River, Florida. They indicate the deadliness of Dieldrin to aquatic forms. An example is a 1953 article by W. Mathis and K. D. Quatman in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE on hydro-carbons as mosquito larvicides. Mathis and Quatman concluded that Dieldrin applied at rates of 1/4 to 3 pounds per acre is "deleterious" to fish and other aquatic organisms and "should never be applied in the above concentrations where these are of importance." (italics ours).

Run-off water from areas treated with Dieldrin may wash into salt marshes or other bodies of water and the biologists suggest that one possible further result might be a population explosion among the mosquitoes. Such an occurrence might cause living in some sections of Florida rather uncomfortable at the least.

Harrington and Beldingmayer report that Dieldrin pellets were air-dispersed at the rate of one pound per acre over some 2080 acres by county authorities in May, 1955. Purpose was to kill sand-fly larvae. This is the most extensive outdoor evaluation known to us of the effects of Dieldrin on aquatic life.

Annual spraying (less than 67) of ditches traverse these marshes. Prior to treatment they were heavily populated with fish life. The Dieldrin proved deadly. The biologists summarized their findings in part as follows:

The fish kill was substantially complete. The minimum immediate over-all kill throughout the marshes exclusive of the Indian River shore line was 20-20 tons of different species, or about 1,175,000,000, of at least 30 species.

Mollusks ... seemed to be unaffected by Dieldrin. Crustaceans were virtually exterminated throughout the marshes. The entire aquatic crab population was apparently destroyed.

The large game and food fishes surmounted the sound but the scarcest of living fishes in the marsh after two weeks and later suggests that much of the fish population commuting between the marsh and adjacent inshore shallows of the Indian River was affected.

Information available since the draft prepared the northward marches, but next day were dead themselves ... After two weeks no trace remained of the litter of dead fishes.

The general absence of dead and dying fishes and the scarcity of living fishes in the marsh after two weeks later suggests that much of the fish population commuting between the marsh and adjacent inshore shallows of the Indian River was affected.

Information available since the draft prepared by Department of Agriculture is complete. However, it indicates that the deadliness of Dieldrin to aquatic forms. An example is a 1953 article by W. Mathis and K. D. Quatman in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE on hydro-carbons as mosquito larvicides. Mathis and Quatman concluded that Dieldrin applied at rates of 1/4 to 3 pounds per acre is "deleterious" to fish and other aquatic organisms and "should never be applied in the above concentrations where these are of importance." (italics ours).

CURITIS 

(Continued on Page 38)

5
I have seen fishermen in outboard boats do things that were downright suicidal and, before the put-putt clan gets too offended, let me hasten to add that inboard skippers are sometimes just as guilty. For simplicity in this piece, however, let’s stick to outboard powered boats.

Sports fishermen have taken to the sea in small boats like ducks taking to a barnyard pond. The modern, dependable, outboard motor, and new designs and materials in small boats have made this mass movement to the deep almost inevitable. This is good. The only thing deplorable about it is the thing deplorable about it is the fact that the sea are simple enough—the danger is always there. The trouble lies in careless boatmen trying to ignore these things. It just won’t do, and the penalty of its being is death.

Every time you go to sea in your small boat, you are faced with three major possibilities for trouble and danger. Your boat can catch on fire, it can capsize or swamp, and it can have a power failure. If you are aware of these, you will be basically prepared for all three eventualities. Being prepared calls for a little extra planning of course, but that is not in itself dangerous.

I suppose fire is the least probable of the emergencies that might happen, but it is far from impossible. I had a motor catch on fire a couple years ago and, luckily, had a friend on board who immediately smothered the blazing motor with a square of canvas. Fire can happen, and the boat protection is a good fire extinguisher. Since my own experience, I prefer the C. O. Two unit that is especially good for gasoline blazes, although carbon tetrachloride is also, recommended. For those not wanting to carry such a big unit, there are small carbon tetrachloride extinguishers the size of a can of beans; but one way or the other, it’s smart to carry a fire extinguisher. Carry it where it’s handy and instantly available.

The drain plugs in the transom will fail you little good in rough water or if your engine is conked out. Many outboards carry no bailers at all. This is sheer madness. When all is said and done, the most efficient bailing device is a good bucket. It will put more water over the side than any other bailing device, with the possible exception of a high-powered ed pump. I, personally, like plastic buckets for this purpose, and I have two of them of 12-quart size. These have good, sturdy, plastic handles, and the softness of the material makes the buckets fit the contours of the boat far better than metal ones. It would take an awful lot of water to swamp any small boat that had two persons aboard wielding a pair of these buckets. My buckets have tight fitting lids that make them ideal for storing gear, lunch, or extra supplies. They are also water-tight, and if you will use your head by staying with it, you have no need for anything else.

I should capsize or swamp, will your boat float? I know the maker said it would, but have you tried it? I suggest you do so. Use a couple of concrete blocks to equal the weight of your motor and put them in the back of the boat in the normal, motor position. Then, in shallow water, fill her up. You may be surprised. If it doesn’t float, it could easily be a death trap for you on some future unhappy day. However, if your boat won’t float full of water, there are several things you can do to remedy the situation. Styrofoam under the floor boards or in blocks under the seats. These are all expensive things that can be done, but when your life may depend on them, they are not worth it. Air chambers under the transom and decks can, also, be a big help. Just fastening your gas can or cans down to the floorboards, even if they can’t float free will give you additional buoyancy. If none of these remedies keep your boat afloat when filled with water, get rid of it—it’s not for you.

I am amazed at the hundreds of boats that go offshore with no means of getting water over the side. The drain plugs in the transom will fail you little good in rough water or if your engine is conked out. Many outboards carry no bailers at all. This is sheer madness. When all is said and done, the most efficient bailing device is a good bucket. It will put more water over the side than any other bailing device, with the possible exception of a high-powered ed pump. I, personally, like plastic buckets for this purpose, and I have two of them of 12-quart size. These have good, sturdy, plastic handles, and the softness of the material makes the buckets fit the contours of the boat far better than metal ones. It would take an awful lot of water to swamp any small boat that had two persons aboard wielding a pair of these buckets. My buckets have tight fitting lids that make them ideal for storing gear, lunch, or extra supplies. They are also water-tight, and if you will use your head by staying with it, you have no need for anything else.

Those of us who take small boats to sea are, also, ferrying with being adrift without power. This danger is very real. Outboard motors today are just as dependable as automobile or marine engines, but accidents do happen, and if you ever find yourself in a swamped boat, remember to stay with it. Most lives are lost when people leave their boats for one reason or another. Use your energy in getting your craft afloat again. It can be done even under the most trying circumstances. Use your life preserver pillows to help buoy the boat and work hard with the buckets to bail it out. Tying the pillows to the boat will prevent them from floating away and, in the final analysis, your life may depend on having them.

Generally speaking, you can survive any bad weather you are likely to encounter, even if you are swamped, if you have a boat that will float and if you will use your head by staying with it.

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its quarterly meeting at the youth Conservation Camp, Lake Eaton, on March 9, 1958. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by John Collins of Stuart, President.

Members of the Official Board present were: Tom Mawhinity of Hialeah, President; Bill Byrd of Panama City, Vice President; Directors: Tommy Etheridge of Panama City, Earl DeBary of Ocala, Paul Rogers of St. Petersburg, and Sam Higgins, Jr. of Ft. Lauderdale. Also present were Denver Ste. Claire, Supervisor of Youth Conservation Education for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Mr. Sam Higgin's, Sr., of Ft. Lauderdale, Bill Byrd of Panama City, and a guest from Stuart. Members of the Official Board absent were: Tom Mawhinity of Hialeah, Treasurer; Bill Bays, newly appointed Secretary; and Rufus Blanton, Director from Shady Grove.

The Treasurer's Report was given. It was reported that the Junior Conservation Club League of District No. 4 to Junior Conservation Clubs throughout the state received their tags by mail. A total of 15,000 tags were distributed for the next Tag Day.

Due to no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Mr. Al King, owner of King's Fishing Camp in Ft. Lauderdale, has offered to donate five fishing boats to the Youth Conservation Camp. This will certainly help us a great deal with our fishing and boating program at camp this year and we are grateful to Mr. King for his donation.

We have also secured two boats from the Fish Management Division of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at the Leesburg Office. With the boats and any others that we obtain between now and the opening of camp, we will have the best boating and fishing program ever offered at the Youth Conservation Camp.

*******

CLUB NEWS

Allisupattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club - We understand from Lloyd Johnson, Secretary of that club, that they are planning a weekend campout at Fishbeating Creek. We also understand that Mr. Herb Maybey, Advisor for the club, has donated some power tools to the beginning of the season.

Junior Everglades Conservation Squadron of Hialeah - Ed Cuccio reports that members of this club recently held a camp-out in the Keys. They have also planned and completed several trips to the shooting range.

Pahokee Junior Wildlife Club - Junior Deas, who is Secretary for this club, says that 12 old members of the club who had dropped out made application to join the club again. We understand the club now owns its own truck.

Palatka Junior Wildlife Club - Mr. Bunell of the Welaka Fish Hatchery gave a talk to the members of the Palatka Club on fishing problems, fish management, and fishing poisoning. Michael Rigdon, secretary, has been doing a fine job of sending in reports.

Shady Grove Junior Wildlife Club - Rufus Blanton reports that Mr. Mac Cook, Wildlife Officer, gave a talk on wood ducks to members of this club. It is hoped that we will do more of this type of work, "This Short Article has been written for the FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine through the cooperation of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and with the assistance of Robert Gotten, Conservation Chairman, Stuart Junior Chamber of Commerce, our official sponsor, in order that throughout the State, Junior Conservation Clubs may benefit from the long struggle that we are making to secure better conservation laws, and to put on programs and to also instruct in such fields as parliamentary procedure, fly casting, how to file, Red Cross first aid, and gun handling.

Wildlife Officer Pick Woodward, said that with the recent appointments of Roland "Boots" Byrd, at the outset were instrumental in the recovery of this Club by planning camping and fishing trips for the members. A minimum of week-end outing a month is planned. With the growth in membership plus the added interest and help received from our sponsors, the Stuart Jaycees, we have been able to plan and undertake successfully such projects as our Thanksgiving Shoot, enjoyed by the Community, and setting our Club logo.

In December, twenty members went on a week-end camping trip and had a lot of fun swimming, canoeing, fishing, learning something about the outdoors, and putting into practice good conservation habits. The highlight of this trip was capturing a wild pig, climaxed by a meal fit for a king, prepared by the King's chef, himself, Wildlife Pick Wood-ward. There is only one way to learn and appreciate the great outdoors and that is to go outdoors on such a trip. From reports of all the fun the members had on...

(Continued on Next Page)
The credit for our Club's success is due to our big brothers, our sponsors, the Stuart Junior Chamber of Commerce, in particular, Fred "Cotton" Rogers, Louis Brown, Bob Gotten, and Fred Sturges, who is also with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to whom we are deeply indebted, acknowledging not only Mr. Sturges' interest in our Club but also that of Mr. Edward Woodward, and Saltwater Agent Byrd of the State Board of Conservation.

This last trip, it is likely that there will be twice as many next time we take to the woods for a week-end.

It soon became apparent that our club needed more money to do the many things we wanted to do such as buy uniforms for our members and needed camping equipment. The club voted to put on a community fish banquet at the Tallassee Memorial Auditorium, with the proceeds going to the conservation fund, to be used to purchase more camping equipment, uniforms, and to start club visits to grade schools. In order to make ticket selling worthwhile, other than being able to do something for the Club, prizes consisting of such camping equipment as a Coleman lantern, and air mattress, and a knife were given to the one selling the most tickets, and the two runner-ups. One member sold $88.00 worth of tickets. This salesmanship ability of the Stuart members increased the Club's net worth an additional $259.00. Our profit from the fish-fry was $250.00.

The officers of the Club, with the assistance of the officers of the Federation, are planning a full summer's program of activities and projects which include purchasing more camping equipment, getting more members, more interest and work for points and the several League awards, participation and instruction through the Hunter Safety Program, and closer cooperation and competition with the Boy Scouts. We have set our sights for sixty members by the end of the season, and to start club visits in Tallahassee in the fall of the year. It will be a matter of pride to you and we were cited as an example to the National meeting has returned from this meeting and the North American Wildlife Conference.

The excellence of these grounds for field trial use cannot be overemphasized by the fact that 100% of the strips used were produced during which three days of high winds and extremely wet conditions prevailed. This area is available to clubs for no cost and should be used more often as it is one of the best in the United States.

Outstanding accomplishment of the trial was produced by Tom Stewart's Everglades Sam. This derby-aged dog firmly won both the open shooting dog stake and the amateur's derby with performances that would look great in trials of much greater dimensions. The shooting dog stake was won by Georgia Sport under the tutelage of DeWitt Sinclair. The trial was reported for the American Field Magazine by Hal Daniel, Ocala, and the ultimate report may be read therein.

As one witnesses trials of the caliber held in Lake City and on the Cecil Whell area, I can only wonder at great length why the interest in such is not much more widely engaged in the State of Florida.

1958 Annual Meeting

Remember it is the aim of the Federation in 1958 to produce a Pilgrimage to our annual meeting the weekend of September 14 in Tallahassee that will help us in preserving the excellence of the program of the Game Commission of Florida and at the same time help us more closely acquainted with the other departments of conservation of natural resources housed in our State capital. It will be a matter of pride to you and we were cited as an example to the National meeting has returned from this meeting and the North American Wildlife Conference.

In order to completely assure the success of these ramifications of the educational program of the Florida Conservation Fund any and all contributions which any club may make or causes to be made by interested groups, clubs or individuals will be most gratefully received and publicly honored.

**FLORIDA CLUB NEWS**

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The credit for our Club's success is due to our big brothers, our sponsors, the Stuart Junior Chamber of Commerce, in particular, Fred "Cotton" Rogers, Louis Brown, Bob Gotten, and Fred Sturges, who is also with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to whom we are deeply indebted, acknowledging not only Mr. Sturges' interest in our Club but also that of Mr. Edward Woodward, and Saltwater Agent Byrd of the State Board of Conservation.

As the Sportsman's Clubs Awards Program for 1957 closed its first year of effort with the Governor's Recognition award being presented to the Tallahassee, all in attendance were in agreement that this program was, beyond doubt, the best contribution to conservation ever produced by the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Among the many state and national notables, besides Governor Collins who presented the awards, attending were W. C. Greenway, assistant director of the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, Atlanta; Harry Osgood, from the public relations division of Sears-Roebuck, Chicago, both of whom expressed great satisfaction with the results of the program which was so generously supported by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. Others present were A. D. Aldrich and Earl Frye, director and assistant director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; Robert Dahne, chief of information and education, Game Commission; Ernest Motts and Robert Ingle, director and assistant director, State Board of Conservancy; Huxley Coulter, State Forester; Edwin Moore, chief of information and education, State Board of Forestry; I. M. Hollingsworth, secretary, State Soil Conservation Board; John B. Holmes, director, State Department of Agriculture dealing with extension service. All of the above are members of the Florida Wildlife Federation; representatives of Florida Outdoor Writers Association, and the state press, many of whom received awards for outstanding service.

These 100 outstanding conservationists interested in the State of Florida heard reports of moderate modifications for the Awards Program to be inaugurated in 1958. They heard of the organization of the Florida Conservation Fund under a trusteeship to govern this fund in its $100,000 endowment. Two of the trustees present were Sidney Chase, of Sanford, and H. E. Wilber of Deland. The third, Stanley Taylor of Deltona Beach, was unable to extend because of a previous engagement. The Federation has at hand a myriad of congratulatory letters from those present expressing their extreme appreciation of the year's endeavor and that the program might continue on and on.

Information and Education

Scholarships

The final drafting of curricula for scholarships attempting education in the category of information and education personnel for natural resource facilities in the State of Florida is now complete. Decision has been reached to offer these scholarships in the junior and senior years of a college education, thereby permitting earlier maturation of the scholar and making it possible to educate twice as many as though all four years were subsidized.

The Winn-Dixie Foundation has expressed an inability to completely subsidize any particular portion of the program but has expressed the idea of augmenting scholarships to persons who know of this change of heart so evidenced by the Federal Government in the last few years and so publicly announced by Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior has explained to all assembled that the least concern of the Federal Government is for wildlife conservation efforts will be allowed to continue.

The second installment of "Fishing Florida's Fresh Waters," part of the six part series "Fishing Florida's Fresh Waters," originally scheduled to appear in this issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, will be carried in the June issue.

**FLORIDA CLUB NEWS**

By CHARLES WATERMAN

National Wildlife Federation Meeting

H. R. Wilber, Florida Wildlife Federation president and representative to the national meeting has returned from this meeting and the North American Wildlife Conference.

The excellence of these grounds for field trial use cannot be overemphasized by the fact that 100% of the strips used were produced during which three days of high winds and extremely wet conditions prevailed. This area is available to clubs for no cost and should be used more often as it is one of the best in the United States.

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**ATTENTION**

The second installment of the six series "Fishing Florida's Fresh Waters," originally scheduled to appear in this issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, will be carried in the June issue.
RAISING NUTRIAS in CAPTIVITY

from the NATIONAL BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, INC.
Periodical No. 1602

Today, the chance for profitable production of nutria fur in captivity is much less because of the unsatisfactory economic conditions in our domestic fur industry, and there is considerable competition from wild-caught skins.

The claim is made by some promoters that they have developed natural nutria mutations—Black, White, Sand, Pastel, and Champagne. While a beginning may have been made in this direction, no such furs in commercial quantities have been offered in the raw fur market. Chances are it will be a long time before unusual variations of nutria fur appear in quantity in our domestic fur trade. Few natural nutria mutations have been developed, and it is probable that the promoters will sell these animals at fabulous prices rather than pelt them and offer the furs for sale.

Not to be outdone, however, some promoters take reprints of nutria fur garment photographs appearing in national magazines and newspapers, selecting those garments made of blonde and neutral shades. At present, such fur wraps are not made of natural nutria fur produced on farms, however, but of furs trapped in the marshes of Louisiana and South America. They have been given the "new look" by fur dressers and dyers through shearing and clipping and by dyeing in glamorous new colors.

This misuse of illustrations succeeds in fooling the unsuspecting public. There is considerable competition from wild-caught fur in captivity and the market for the fur before investing.

Although the sincere and honest element in the nutria fur farming business undoubtedly endevours to stick to the facts, some promoters are misrepresented

T HE NUTRIA, around which all this promotion centers, is a native of South America. It masquerades under many aliases—swamp beaver, round-tail beaver, and South American beaver. All are quite misleading. It is a rat, the largest of its kind, and the scientific name is Myocastor coypus.

At first sight, a nutria on land looks like a stunted beaver with a furry fur coat. Its head is short, its ears round, and long whiskers sprout all around the mouth. Full grown it weighs up to 25 pounds. This furry rodent inhabits fresh water streams, ponds and lakes, also marshes having an abundance of aquatic plants, which it eats. To the early Spaniards who discovered South America, this animal looked like a form of European otter, as they dubbed it "nutria," the Spanish word for otter.

Although the nutria resembles the muskrat and the beaver, few people in our country have ever seen a nutria or know anything about its habits or its fur value. Certainly nutria fur is not a familiar commodity as a back yard speculation. And many are engaged in this business with such a purpose in mind.

Prospective investors are told that they must not overlook the possibilities of the by-products. According to some of the promoters, there has been a use found for nearly the entire animal—the mustache is used in making high quality brushes; the guard hairs in the manufacture of felt hats; the teeth, which are "pure ivory" in costume "made-to-order" jewelry; the meat of the nutria is edible and considered a delicacy in South America and is being demanded in the United States. Whether these "possibilities" are ever realized is in the realm of sheer speculation, since no commercial market now exists for nutria by-products.

It must be understood that fur animals are raised in captivity primarily for the fur produced, and the sale of breeding animals is a secondary consideration. The nutria should be no exception to this rule.

Promoting the sale of nutria breeding stock as the "boom" objective, is largely in the nature of a "get-rich-quick" scheme and many are engaged in this business

Today, there are some in the nutria business who realize that pelts must be produced for the fur market. Such promoters are undoubtedly striving hard to improve the quality of their nutria breeding stock and are trying to get their enterprise established on a profitable market pelt basis. They, too, undoubtedly depurate the fantastic claims for profit which have been publicized by unscrupulous promoters interested only in selling high-priced breeding stock often of doubtful fur quality to the unsuspecting public. There are, however, many others who do not seem to understand that profitable results in fur production cannot be achieved merely by organizing breeders and sales organizations. The basic factor which they seem to ignore is that there must be a sound commodity for which a profitable market is available, namely nutria fur.

Demand For Nutria Fur
Some promoters have represented that the demand for nutria pelts is unlimited, and that nutria apparel is priced "second only to mink." This is to demonstrate to the gullible that there exists a stable and regular

(Continued on Next Page)
Louisiana trapper stands beside his day's take of nutria pelts, case obtained and dried on the stretches. Trappers seldom realize more than $1.50 for pelts.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

market for nutria fur at a high price. Today, in order to obtain factual information on the current consumer demand for nutria fur coats as reflectcd by the availability of such coats in the retail markets, the National Better Business Bureau recently requested the local Better Business Bureaus in the United States and Canada to make a survey of the fur specialty shops and department stores. Here are the results:

Today, the demand for nutria fur is slight. It is comparatively unknown in many sections of the country, and a large majority of the retail establishments contacted are not stocking nutria apparel, and have not done so for 7 to 10 years. Only very few stores had any nutria garments on hand. Some stores also reported that it was rare indeed to receive an order for a nutria coat, but when they did, it was disposed of on a fur manufacturer in New York to supply the coast. At present, the vogue is for small furs in neck pieces, stolee, and capes—but nutria is not adaptable to small fur pieces.

The demand for nutria is so limited in the United States, that about 65% to 70% is exported to Europe. The reason for this is that the processing of these skins is about 60% cheaper in all European countries than it is here. Were it not for the existing outlet to Europe, the domestic nutria market would be glutted, and the prices would decline still further from the present low ones.

Nevertheless, unscrupulous promoters in the field are careful to conceal these important factors from prospective investors. They claim the demand for nutria fur is "unlimited," that raising nutrias is a veritable gold mine, that it will make you rich and independent. They make unrealistic statements about the value of breeding stock, reproduction, number raised to maturity, and prices paid for raw furs and manufactured garments.

Novices who inquire about nutria raising have the notion that they can build pens, put in the animals, feed them occasionally, and then once a year collect a profit from the pelts produced. Some people hopefully believe that without any previous animal experience success will be forthcoming in a venture that the informed knoe is probably doomed to failure. Even if it were a profitable business to raise nutrias under artificially imposed conditions, some experience in the field of animal production would be essential.

A breeder of fur animals must possess or must acquire a close conception of the important factors involved in breeding. He is interested in breed improvement and concentrates his efforts mainly on increasing prolificacy and quality in his breeding stock. Never does he lose sight of the fact that fur animals are bred and raised primarily for the fur produced, and that the sale of breeding animals is a secondary consideration. No breeders of fur animals ever exist on an income derived solely from the legitimate sale of breeding stock.

"In my humble opinion," says Joseph Shulof, of Shulof and Company, New York fur merchant who has handled raw and dressed nutria for 33 years, "any claim that raising nutrias in captivity is a profitable fur-producing business is grossly exaggerated. Frankly, we doubt if anyone would reap a profit or even get back his original investment from such a venture. Certainly it must cost more to house, feed, handle, and care for animals that one can obtain from the furs produced, for the average price obtained in Louisiana for raw pelts during this past season was $1.35 to $1.50 per skin. Surely, no fur traders are paying $30.00 to $75.00 for nutria skins, as is claimed by promoters, no matter how selected or how fine a quality, color, and size. I doubt very much if even $20.00 could be obtained for the finest selected and processed South American wild nutria pelt. No mutations of nutrias, either from wild or produced in captivity, have been marketed commercially."

Albert Tanzer, a pioneer experimenter in raising nutrias in captivity, has handled nutria skins for more than 40 years and is considered an expert. Tanzer says that some prospective investors had been led to believe that the nutrias they purchased from promoters would produce pelts worth $50 to $75 in the open market. The facts are, he says, that the finest wild nutria from South America brings $7 per pelt there in the raw state. When dressed and matched here, these finest South American skins command a price of $150.00 to $180.00.

Promoters are selling live nutrias for as much as $1,200 per pair, whereas, says Tanzer, anyone could produce pelts that would net $75 per pair. Other estimates of the maximum price that can be paid for pelts range only from $75 to $100 each. Tanzer estimates that if the ranch-raised furs he has examined are valued at 50c to $4.00, and very few at the $4.00 price.

In the marsh areas, nutrias get their food for free, but in captivity it must be procured and fed to them. Shelter, water, and escape-proof pens must also be supplied. A basic question for prospective investors, says Tanzer, is how can the production of nutria fur in pens compete with the production in the wild, when the cost of equipment, feed, and labor exceeds the price obtained for the fur?

Promoters of nutria raising strongly stress "mutations" and claim to be producing a variety of colors; furthermore, they lead prospective breeders to believe that pelts produced by such animals are worth from $75 to $100 each. Tanzer points out that fur processors can bleach nutria furs and produce practically any shade on brown nutria for a fraction of the price claimed for "natural mutations."

Population Tremendous

R. K. Yancey, Acting Chief of the Fur and Refuge Division of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission of the State of Louisiana, has advised NBBB as follows:

"It is our considered opinion that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to rear nutrias and make a profit from the pelts. We have a tremendous nutria population in our coastal marshes at this time and the prices received by the trappers for the pelts offer little encouragement even for maximum trapping. Here in Louisiana where everyone is familiar with the nutria situation we do not have any breeders who are attempting to rear nutria for pelts as a business venture. If a better price could be obtained for the pelts we feel sure that an annual yield of over one million nutria could be derived from our coastal marshes."

Auction Houses

The auction companies selling raw furs are receiving numerous requests regarding the possibilities of raising nutrias profitably in pens. The New York Auction Company reports that no ranch-raised nutria pelts have been handled by them, so that at the moment they have no knowledge of the fur value of such skins nor any ideas regarding the future of this product. The only nutria furs graded and sold by this auction house have been those trapped on the National Wildlife Refuges in Louisiana. Those raw nutria skins brought less than a $3.00 average during the past three seasons.

The Seattle Fur Exchange tells inquirers that "the prices nutria fur (Continued on Page 40)
There was a narrow channel of open water between the vegetation and shore, and presently we noticed a commotion in that spot. A foraging bass was thrashing on the surface, chasing minnows. I flicked my spoon into the melee and began retrieving. No luck. Ken followed suit with the same frustrating result.

Three or four times we cast into the channel of water, but the bass ignored our spoons and continued to follow after the minnows. I tried my spoon again while Ken switched to a pork chunk frog with a thick body and short thin legs. He tossed the bait past the action onto the bank, then gently eased it off into the water and started it temptingly toward the boat.

The bass took a frantic swipe at the passing lure and missed. Ken paused, letting the bait rest idle in the open water. But the bass disappeared and the outward ripples melted as they met the shore.

Satisfied that the bass was gone, Ken scooted the pork chunk across the hyacinths and into the open lake. He wasreeling fairly fast when swiftly and unexpectedly a wake appeared about two feet behind the skittering lure. Almost before we realized what was happening, the bait disappeared in a violent swirl. Shortly a chunky four-pounder decorated our stringer.

Pork rind, generally fished with other lures, is good for just about any freshwater game fish. The flexible strips of rind have a lifelike action that's almost impossible to duplicate. The wigglings motion adds a great deal of life to any artificial. It is the seductive action of the rind that attracts the fish rather than the smell or taste. In fact, since rinds are immersed in formaldehyde and other strong salt chemicals, this seemingly fattening trait that game fish feed almost entirely by sight.

BILL has an uncanny angler's knack of analyzing a situation, I stopped to watch.

He opened his tackle box and rummaged in the paraphernalia. Shortly he came up with a familiar jar of pork rind. Opening the lid, he removed one of the thin white strips and impaled it on the hook of the black gnat fly.

"Now, let's see," he mused, lobbing the spinner-fly-pork rind combination up near a protruding twig and letting it settle toward bottom. He started it homeward deliberately, and about halfway to the boat something touched it lightly.

Bill stopped the bait a split-second, then twitched it forward slightly, and almost simultaneously set the hook into a nice fish. He played it around and up to the boat. The two-pound fish, a nice crappie in anyone's estimation, dwelled other specimens on the stringer.

Even with the pork rind addition to our baits, we didn't set the world afire that early summer morning. But we did catch a dozen nice fish when other methods failed to scratch.

That came as no surprise. Time and again I've been thankful that I had a bottle of rind nestled back in my tackle box. Many times it has made the difference between success and failure.

Of course my endorsing a system or product doesn't make it surefire. But you check the tackle box of any skilled fisherman and no doubt you'll find a jar of rinds tucked in among the reels and plugs. I've met many anglers who'd rather be caught in downtown Miami without their pants than out on a lake without their dependable pork rind. It is one of the most popular of all fishing tools.

Bigmouth bass fishermen have learned to depend on pork rind. There's something about the tantalizing wiggle of a limp rind strip that prods a reluctant bass into action. I recall one day when a pugnacious black bass took a pork chunk right out of our boat.

Ken and I were drifting lazily parallel to shore, working top-water baits along the lake fringe. Momentarily we came to a solid raft of water hyacinths growing near shore, so we switched to weedless spoons, where we could continue fishing without fouling our hooks.

There are ways of making and preserving your own rind strips, but I'm not going to mention any simply because it seems like a waste of time. The price of a season's supply of used rind strips may be to half what a good lure costs. Save that precious time for fishing.

As mentioned, the pork chunk is a good lure for fishing weeds. Another pet of mine is a weedless hook trailing behind a large June Bug spinner and tipped with a generous strip of pork rind. This lure works on a variety of fishes, from the popular black bass to the broom. Simply select the size hook, spinner and pork rind to match the fish you seek. It produces best when fished shallow or slowly skimmed along the surface.

Actually, a second-hand rind is better than a new one, for continual use makes the strip more flexible and consequently gives it more action.

When you remove a rind strip temporarily for something else, always put it back in the jar reserved for used rinds. Once a rind dries it becomes discolored and loses some of its flexibility.

One of the universally favorite lures is a silver spoon of the wobbling type tipped with bucktail and pork rind or simply rind. A spinning type spoon with the treble-hook is good when fished with rind, too.

There are days when a spoon will outcatch all other baits. Seldom do I fail to try a spoon-pork rind rig thoroughly at least once on a fishing trip. One nice thing about a spoon is that it can be fished many different ways—shallow, medium-running, deep or even bounced along the bottom. This versatility is what makes it my see-in-the-hole, and I wouldn't dream of fishing a spoon unless it had a tail of rind.

Sometimes I slit the rind almost to the hook to get a double wiggle. (Continued on Page 42)
AIR DROP

By MORRIE NAGGIAR

The airdrop method for turkey restocking has been proven effective, inexpensive and time-saving.

FACTORIATED, we watched the big gobbler set his wings and sail in for a perfect landing at the edge of the cypress strand. Overhead the little green and yellow Piper circled and started in on another down wind run. With flaps lowered to cut his air speed as much as possible, the pilot jockeyed the plane over the drop point.

Suddenly a dark blob plummeted from the open door of the trim aircraft. Momentarily the feathered bundle plunged toward the earth two hundred feet below. Then the falling turkey spread his wings and with the wind humming through taut pinions went into a long easy glide as the first had done. Gently the bronzed and bearded monarch of the swamps touched down at the edge of the cypress strand. For a moment he paused then quietly melted into the shadows.

Several times more the performance was repeated. Finally the plane banked to the east and disappeared in the direction of the headquarters camp. The aerial restocking demonstration had certainly been everything Regional Manager Lew Gainey and Project Leader Jim Powell had promised.

We earthbound observers piled into the balloon-tire equipped 4-wheel drive vehicle. The long jolting trek back to the highway emphasized one of the obvious advantages of plane travel in this south Florida back country.

Early in Florida's wild turkey restoration efforts it became obvious that pen raising of turkeys was not the answer to the problem of obtaining birds for restocking. Even the best of the available game farm stock carried the taint of domestic turkey blood. Such birds were unable to cope with the harsh realities of the world away from the security of pen and feed trough. If they did not succumb to the first meat eater that stumbled upon them, they ended up in the yard, and not infrequently in the cooking pot, of the nearest farmhouse. Even those that somehow did manage to survive lacked the alert

(Continued on Next Page)

FLOREIDA WILDLIFE

MAY, 1958
ness and sagacity that has endeared the wild turkey to generations of American hunters.

Fortunately, even when the population of wild turkeys was at its lowest ebb, there were areas spotted here and there around the state where healthy, pure strain wild turkeys remained. Live trapping and trans-planting of the surplus birds from these surviving bunches provided the answer to the problem of obtaining suitable "seed" for starting new flocks.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's unique method of restocking turkeys from the air was dreamed up by Game Division biologists a couple of seasons back. The highly successful first phase of the turkey program had resulted in the re-establishment of flocks in all of the state's major areas of suitable habitat remaining open to public hunting. But here and there, flocks that had not prospered as well as might be expected. A follow up or booster release often turned the trick in such instances.

The main difficulty in making these booster releases is the fact that the sites needing attention are scattered around in some mighty hard to reach country. During the winter season when birds are live trapped, the roads leading off the main highway and into the hunting areas are commonly next to impassable. Under such conditions it often required a day of hard travel even with special swamp-busting vehicles to reach one release area with a load of birds. The strain on equipment and man power sometimes slowed project operations to a crawl. No wonder the turkey restoration crew is enthusiastic about the new and highly successful air drop technique.

Below: Restoration crew members pack up a turkey for the plane ride. Right: Turkey dropped from open door of plane. "Walks on air" before setting wings to glide safely to ground two hundred feet below.

Some 2500 persons, including 200 Seminole Indians from Brighton Indian Reservation, paid homage to Florida's Black Bass during Chalo Nitka held in Glades County. Chalo Nitka means Bass Day in the Seminole language.

The tenth annual event began with a children's fishing contest won by nine-year-old David Carter of Miami. David caught 18 bream. Jullie Davis, 16-year-old Moore Haven High School Junior, was crowned queen of Chalo Nitka.

The LaBelle, Lake Placid and Moore Haven High School Bands headed a parade of floats including: Seminole Indian Float with Billy Oseola billed as Chief of the Seminoles; a giant 14 foot replica of a black bass built by the Future Farmers of America and decorated by the Women of the Glades County Chamber of Commerce; a miniature queen's throne with "the festival queen for 1968"; the Royal Jelly float; Lions Club float; a Scout float and the Rainbow Girls Circle float.

Other events were: National Turkey Calling Contest open to anyone, Big Bass Contest and a free barbecue beef dinner for 2500 persons. A well-attended street dance closed the day's events.

One of the prime tourist attractions in Glades County is bass fishing, the reason for the annual celebration.

One of the prime tourist attractions in Glades County is bass fishing, the reason for the annual celebration.
Sunspots, weather, or whatever the cause, we will never forget.

THE NIGHT THE CATS WENT CRAZY

By DON MANNING

IT HAD BEEN building up for more than a week, looking bad on it now, but on this particular Friday afternoon, the impact of the collective factors which go to make up the vernal season slammed home with the onset of spring fever. Maybe it was the clear blue sky back­afternoon, the impact of the collective factors which go to make up the vernal season slammed home with the window. Whammo! Without warning, I found myself reeling under the effects of a

I at my desk, of spring fever. Maybe it was the clear blue sky back­afternoon, the impact of the collective factors which go to make up the vernal season slammed home with

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THE channel cut is commonly understudied by most sport fisher­men. Usually the species is ranked high on a table fish but next to the bottom as rod-and-reel game.
patient expectancy as I struggled with a frustrating jumble of carelessly stored line, lose plugs, and a chain
stringer in an effort to disentangle a seemingly hope­lessly ensnared favorite, an outsized Jitterbug.

No bass tonight, eh? For once I'd have friend Lloyd on the ropes. The heavy plug arched out into the darkness and kept right on going in the general direction of Sophoppy, screwdriver. The plug must have plopped squarely into the waiting jaws of a real lunker. Instinctively I thumbed the whirling spool from which the line was being stripped at an alarming rate. I clamped down harder and the rod bowed dangerously under the increased pressure. Finally, and judging from the feel of the all but empty spool against my thumb, it was none too soon. The line of the proved tool too much for our unwise adversary and his run slowed to a halt. His initial fright over, the fish switched tactics and began a sulking game. I lifted the rod tip. It felt as though I had hooked into a water soaked log. Carefully keeping the slack reeled in, I eased down the river bank hoping to gain enough line to put up at least a token show should that lunker erupt into action again. Foot by foot I retrieved the line until a good half of its length had been restored to the reel. A steep clay bank jutting from the river's edge stopped any further progress down river.

I was standing at the foot of the bank pondering the next move while Vi strode up to see what was going on. I gave her a quick rundown on the situation. I expressed the opinion that surely the sulking brute on the other end of the line was the Grandaddy of all Ochlockonee River largemouths.

"Well, you and he can't stand here all night holding hands by remote control. Do something." There was no opportunity to voice the snappy rejoinder that was forming on my tongue for at that moment the finny torpedo decided that some upriver scenery would make a welcome change. Reeling frantically when I could gain some slack, I trotted back up the nearh. This time I still had a respectable amount of line left on the reel when the fish decided to go into his sulking act again.

I wanted that fish in the worst way but at the same time I would have been multiy grateful for his help in shaking the plug and get it over with. I lifted and lowered the rod several times with no response. Finally, I bowed the rod against the dead weight, pointing the slender glass stick over my shoulder so that I could reach the line with my left hand. Plucking the taut strand of nylon, bull-fiddle style, brought immediate results.

The line again began smothering through the guides as the fish made another down stream run. During the next few minutes the fish broke water several times, burred for the depths with short dog runs, surged, and in general played all around bob. At any moment I expected the line to go slack but it didn't. Finally the runs grew shorter and less determined. The tip and tuck handling was going in my favor. Alter­nately pumping and reeling, deep-sea style, I work­ed the scrapper into the shallows where, after a few increasingly feeleful failures, he lay quiet.

Holding the rod high with one hand, I eased into the water at the same time silently cursing my lack of foresight in leaving the landing net in the car. Al­ready I could picture how a 16 or 18 pound bass would look mounted on a plaque over the mantle. I edged to within grasping distance of the whitish blob that I took to be the light colored upperside of a monster largemouth. Then the blow fell for at my feet I made out the figure not of a record busting bass but that of a large, and thoroughly trolled out channel catfish. Bitter disappointment would be a too mild expression of my feeling at the time.

I worked my hand warily over the head of the yard-long cat and found a grip on the fish just behind the gill openings. I nearly leaped out of my socks at the completely unexpected flash of brilliant white light that left me temporarily contemplating a parade of hallucinations that danced before my eyes.

"Nice one, but a little too late," the good wife com­mented as she nonchalantly popped the spent bulb out of the flash gun.

"What up, mean, too late? Too late for what?" I growled at her.

"The deal was that the first one to catch a fish was relieved of all fish cleaning details. Right?"

"That's right," I agreed.

"This is no jack rabbit," Vi smirked, playing her
flashlight on a two pound catfish she held up for my inspection.

"We said fish, f-i-s-h, fish," I argued.

"So maybe a catfish is a snake or a lizard or some­thing? You had your paws full there for a good twenty or thirty minutes. Show me a bass that will put up that kind of a struggle.

I didn't have an answer. She was right. Somehow, we had just never thought of the catfish as anything but a sluggish pest that, although he made pretty good eating, you couldn't wait at all as a game species. "You don't suppose we have been missing the boat on this catfish deal, do you? That two pounder of mine put up a tussle that a bass twice his size could have been proud of," Vi stated.

"Probably just a fluke. Gosh knows we've done enough night fishing that we would have taken a lot more than we have if they were in the habit of hitting those baits," I replied.

"Yes but we haven't done much fishing this early in the season, and here in the river especially.

It was true enough, for most of our night plugging had been done on lakes, casting a boat in toward the shoreline, not exactly my idea of the best catfish­
ing technique nor location.

"There is one way of clearing up the question," I suggested. "Let's get our plugs out there in the river and see if we can't get the answer directly from the horse's mouth."

A few cast's later I felt a heavy nudge against the plug, followed by a second, then a third hit. Suddenly the line went slack as though the lure had somehow been snipped off the leader. I reeled in several yards of line, puzzled over the turn of events. Then there was weight on the line again, a good deal more weight than that of the plug alone. I lifted the rod tip, there was a flurr of water, and line began melting off the reel under the series of plunging bull-dog runs, first up river, then down, then back again. The fish head­ed for mid-stream where he burrowed for the bottom and sulked for a few moments.

Plucking the line again brought the stalemate to an end as the line traced a sizzling run down river, although not as far this time. Gradually the limber rod went down and I was able to lead him into the shallows near shore. Another channel cat, this one somewhat smaller than the first, tipped the beam at a respectable 4½ pounds.

For the next hour, it was seldom that one of us did not have a fish on. We lost fish, we lost a couple of plugs, but we found a great amount of respect for a fish we had previously held strictly a square when gymnastics was considered.

The sky to the east began to brighten noticeably and soon a big old yellow ball of a moon was casting its light over the water and the river, obliterating almost entirely the fishing activity ceased. There was not a ripple on the sur­

(Continued from Page 37)

(Continued from Preceding Page)
Whether you're in pursuit of hunting success or plain enjoyment from nature sights seeing, it helps to make a close approach, especially when objects are far distant, over water, on private property or in the form of wary wildlife. A typical example of the last is the Florida hunter who spots a deer moving about in distant scrub but who cannot distinguish whether it is a buck or illegal doe; any attempt at a closer approach might easily result in starting the naturally nervous animal into making a fast getaway.

![Distant deer (Image) in binoculars](image)

The answer is, of course, a quality binocular, an instrument especially designed for clear viewing of distant objects through magnification and stereoscopic effect. Most outdoorsmen have both a desire and need for a good binocular. Those who already use a binocular in connection with their outdoor activities find that horizons are broadened and sports enjoyment greatly enhanced. To the modern hunter, a binocular is almost as essential as his ammunition.

Unfortunately, few sportsmen have a working knowledge of binoculars, their optical principles and best selections for specific needs.

One reason for the thin veneer of binocular knowledge is the highly technical, complex language of most books and articles on the subject. Seemingly, some undeniably qualified authorities take such delight in explaining even simple, basic binocular facts in such technical phraseology that only another expert usually grasps their full import!

Now, let's put some of the highly technical language through a lexicon sifter and, so far as possible, present a few binocular facts in more understandable terms:

**Power or Magnification:** Prismatic binoculars are referred to as 6x15, 7x35, 7x50, 8x40, etc. The lead numbers and the multiplication sign create symbols designating the number of times a binocular enlarges an image for the human eye: i.e., 6x, 7x, 8x, 16x, 12x, etc.

Viewed with a 6 power glass, an object 1200 feet away is seen the same as if viewed from a distance of only 200 feet with your naked eye. Higher powers would make the object seem even closer.

However, the greater the magnification, the harder it is to hold the binocular steady, and more reduced is its field of view. An 8 power glass is just about the maximum power that can be handheld fairly steadily, since body tremors imparted to handheld binoculars are magnified along with the viewed image. That is why 6x, 7x and 8x powers are recommended for nine out of ten specific uses.

**Large Objective Lenses:** These are the big, light-gathering lenses located in the large ends of a binocular. Size is designated in millimeters, and when size diameter is written following the magnification figure—as 6x30, 7x35, etc.—the resulting symbol gives a glass its descriptive name.

Generally—if all other technical factors are equal—bigger means the object is seen more clearly. However, the greater the magnification, the harder it is to hold the binocular steady, and more reduced is its field of view. An 8 power glass is just about the maximum power that can be handheld fairly steadily, since body tremors imparted to handheld binoculars are magnified along with the viewed image. That is why 6x, 7x and 8x powers are recommended for nine out of ten specific uses.

In average human eyes, this automatic increase in brightness is determined by dividing the magnification-power of the instrument into the diameter of the large and objective lenses. For a 6x30 glass, or a 7x35, size, the corresponding diameters of the exit pupil lenses would normally be 5 mm. each; for an 8x30 they would be 3.75 mm., and for a 7x50 binocular the exit pupil lenses would be each 7.1 mm. size.

Any binocular with an exit pupil of more than 3.5 mm. diameter provides all the light transmission the eye can use in the daytime. But at dusk and darkness to an instrument with at least 5 mm. size exit pupil lenses is needed, and the even larger 7.1 mm. minimum size is invariably needed for night use. Anything less than the eye's minimum light needs for seeing means a dim image viewed through the binocular. The idea is to fill the eye with a concentrated beam of light equal in size to its pupil dilation.

In bright daylight, the eye will utilize only a part of the beam of light transmitted by a 5 mm. or 7 mm. exit lens; that portion of the beamed light not accepted by the eye's reduced size pupil is wasted—but not at the sacrifice of desired image brightness, as happens when the light beam is of less intensity than the eye's needs. In an exit pupil lens of 5 mm. or 7 mm. size, the extra light is there when the eye needs it for clear viewing in dim light; in a size 3.75 mm. it is not.

**Relative Brightness:** It has already been pointed out how dividing the millimeter size of a binocular's exit pupil lenses is determined by dividing the magnification-power of the instrument into the diameter of the large and objective lenses.

GET A CLOSER LOOK

By ED LEMACK

*Florida Wildlife, May 1958* (Continued on Next Page)
Cut-away view of one half of an individual focusing type binocular, showing lens system and physical assembly. Eyepiece on right illustrates how rotating eyepieces are graduated in both Plus and Minus directions.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

Binoculars: Beneath the surface of both ocular and objective lenses is reflected from surface to surface by the internal prisms until it is seen through focused binoculars at various distances, without moving the instrument, is defined as "field of view." Binocular manufacturers usually describe field of view as encompassing so many feet of horizontal vision at 1,000 yards, and proportionately fewer feet at closer distances... The wider an instrument's field of view, the easier it is to quickly locate your object of interest. In other words, binoculars with a larger field of view allow you to see more of your surroundings at once.

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However, as binocular magnification-power is increased, the enjoyment of field of view at 1,000 yards and at lesser distances, is radically reduced in proportion to magnification increase. This must be kept in mind when the temptation is to purchase a binocular of high power. In instruments of conventional design the respective fields of view for the three most popular binocular power show a sliding scale which illustrate how increase of power reduces field of view:

6x—about 445 feet of view at 1,000 yards
7x—about 395 feet of view at 1,000 yards
8x—about 330 feet of view at 1,000 yards

Wide angle prism glasses in the same powers give about 37% desirable area increase in each of the above described fields, but binocular bulk and weight are also increased, comparable, or to the larger internal prisms and housing required.

Chances are you will find the best binocular for your specific needs from one of the following models:

6x25: Exemplified by the 12-ounce Bushnell Broadfield model and other quality glasses; a 6x25 glass is good for hunting because of its small size and light carrying weight, clear viewing and an adequately wide field. Also adapted to viewing of general sports, indoors and outdoors.

6x30: Six power magnification, a 5 mm. side exit pupil lens and a relative brightness of 25. In a quality brand, a 6x30 instrument is good for hunting, general sports and nature study, especially so for fast action at medium range. Our Army uses the 6x30, and the 6x is also standard glass for the armies of other nations.

7x50: Most popular of all binocular models. The 7x50 is a well balanced instrument combining good image brightness with moderate magnification, compactness and a good field. It is admirably suited to nature study, for the total binocular weight is not a selective factor), forest service personnel needs and general use.

6x30: Has desirable magnification, but an exit pupil lens size of only 2.75 mm. and a relative brightness factor of 14. Good for general viewing since it gives eight power magnification, but it is harder to hold steady without artificial support and is not reliable in dim light.

7x50: The U. S. Navy's choice of binocular sizes. Seven power magnification. A 7x50 glass gathers a great deal of light through its big 50 mm. objective lenses, but has long ocular lens tubes and weighs three pounds on the average. It is a bulkly glass, tiring to carry long distances. However, on a boat, where bulk and weight are of no consequence, the 7x50 glass is preferred equipment, and is an ideal nighttime glass.

Central Focusing versus Individual Focusing: When an instrument is to be alternately used by several persons, a binocular of Center Focusing adjustment is good. But for hunters, and similar sole users, the Individual Focusing type is to be preferred, since eye pieces can be more quickly set to predetermined focusing positions. Individual Focusing eyepieces are also more nearly waterproof. Binoculars intended for heavy duty military service use are always of I. F. type.

Collimation: A binocular is actually two separate prismatic telescopes joined together, each with its own optical system. If an instrument is in correct adjustment, the two halves of each objective lens are seen by those parts of the entrance pupil and the images are perfectly united so that no double image is seen by the eye. The objective lens of the other half of the binocular is a mirror, which reflects the light through a small exit pupil, or eye piece, at the other end of the barrel. When the binocular is focused, the image is brought into focus by fine adjusting of the eye piece, and the images, of the halves, are superimposed and seen by the eye through the eye piece.
Big Bugs for Big Bass

By CHARLES WATERMAN

Once you have a good selection of bugs, you can fish them so many ways that it will take an hour or more to run through your repertoire.

On a calm day with the water surface as smooth as glass a slowly moving popper will often turn the trick.

Big Bugs

In spite of himself, a bug fisherman is out to end up with more bugs than he can ever use. Many of these are homemade.

That bug-fishing trip started out the way a lot of them do with Jim Henely getting what he calls the "dope." Jim gets the dope in various ways—sometimes by simply telephoning his fishing friends and asking—but usually by darker and more devious means. A Jim Henely fishing trip is preceded by cloak and dagger espionage that would put an atomic spy to shame.

One of his most successful methods is what he calls his "advance agent" procedure. This is a complex operation which involves subtle trickery of a low order. In employing his "advance agent" plan, Jim mentally lists the spots where he thinks fishing might be good. Jim then approaches me. He did this because his own boat was laid up and he needed transportation. "They're at Mud Lake," he hissed out of the corner of his mouth like a narcotics peddler about to make a drop. "We'll go tomorrow."

This information didn't mean much to me since I know of roughly 78 Mud Lakes in the St. Johns river system. Of course, Jim understood this. He wasn't taking any chances of traitorous activity on my part. "Bass bugs," whispered Jim knowingly.

We made a typically late start the following morning after much coffee and careful planning. We took flyrods, spinning tackle and bait rods but it was the flyrods we counted on in this trip.

It had been cold and wet—a time when many anglers abandon the long rod for some other method. Jim's dope was that the fish were taking slowly and that small surface plugs were the best bet. That's bass bug indication if ever I heard it.

We run down the river past a dozen little lakes and then down a sluggish off-river run that was virtually lined with shallow ponds, all of which dead-ended in marshy sawgrass meadows. Jim finally called a halt.

Of course, some of these agents may have lousy fish—but one or more is likely is find it hot and will call. Of comse, some of these agents may have lousy fish—losing any chances of traitorous activity on my part. A Jim Henely fishing trip is preceded by cloak and dagger espionage that would put an atomic spy to shame.

"Let's go fishing," said Jim. "All right. Now are you ready to start fishing?" Jim wanted to know.

I changed to another popper and mentioned that this creek was just like the others, that we were probably in the wrong pond and that the rowing was quite unsatisfactory. Jim ignored these remarks and announced that the wind was right, that the barometer was obviously rising, that the tide tables indicated now was the time and that this was the creek where Bob Cassidy had been catching bass for a week.

Jim also said some things about incompetence and mentioned that it takes some anglers about half an hour to get ready. He also inferred that he expected to return home alone if I hung up in the creek mouth on the first cast.

I put the new popper in what I figured was the right spot, twisted it lightly and let it lie for 30 seconds. There was a small "V" in the water and the lure disappeared with a faintly audible glug. "Place is full of gars," I announced too hastily as I set the hook and a 2-pound bass hopped out of the hysanths, darting under the boat with my bug. I clowed for a tight line.

"Yep," said Jim. "These are pretty active gars this time of year."

I fought two more bass and they quit. Jim took over the rod.

"Now, I don't know much about these things," Jim said, sawing the air noisily. "I figure you just get that doo-dad in the water and haul out the fish. A bass won't know if it's a torpedo taper or a banjo string as long as he can find what he wants to eat and this is not what he wants to eat. Let me see some more of those bugs."

Jim examined my bugs as if they smelled bad. He finally paused over a deer-hair mess that had never looked like anything in particular and which had deteriorated in appearance with the years. Moths had chewed at it and its hook was rusted. The body was wobbly on the shank and an inch of tying thread dangling helplessly from its body.

"Now here is the sort of thing I have been looking for," said Jim. "A bass is essentially a clean-liver and likes to have the premises neat. It stands to reason that any bass seeing this thing floating around his patio is going to want to get rid of it for appearances sake. Of course, he would become ill at the very thought of eating it but having no hands, he will be forced to take it into his mouth before carrying it off to bury it. When he takes it into his mouth, I shall stick him with this very cheap and rusty hook and bring him over to our boat for inspection and weighing."

"That is a dragon fly bug," I said stiffly. "Before it was worn out, it was a good lure and it is more than 20 years old."

"Do not apologize for your equipment," said Jim. "We must make do with the materials at hand and I (Continued on Next Page)
Jim resumed waving the flyrod and the big dragon fly thing obediently followed his gestures. After it got wet it looked like something long deceased and of uncertain lineage. "Move over closer to that accursed creek," Jim ordered. "Who can throw a wet mop that far with a 5-ounce rod?"

I moved over and when Jim agreed the boot was just right he splatted the big dragon fly thing about two feet from the hyacinths, about six feet from the sawgrass and close enough to a nervous shikepoke that the latter took off with irate squawking.

Jim left it lie and left it lie and it soaked up water and rode lower and lower until I could barely make out a few deer hairs sticking up above the smooth surface. Then he twitched it ever so slightly and lit a cigarette.

Somewhere back in the edge of the sawgrass there was a faint movement that might have been a turtle but wasn't. There was a gentle swell that moved out toward the bug and then it stopped and Jim twitched the bug again. This time the bug lifted on a slight bulge and then it disappeared with a sharply snapped head. Jim heaved upward on the rod, stepped into a coil of loose line with his left foot and told me to tow the hell away from there.

I rowed and a 6-pound bass came up out of the creek with his mouth open and the big bug lodged well back in his jaw. I know it was a 6-pound bass because Jim landed it and then turned it loose because Jim doesn't care for fish to eat. Then we caught some more smaller bass on spinning tackle and—if he wants a lot of fish he'll keep each in its place.

The soft, slowly-worked lure still belongs to the flyrod and there are times when it alone will do the job. The baitcasting surface plugs are louder and the small spinning lures fill a big gap but there are times when a bass likes to suck in a soft hairwig or a tiny popper—taking his time about it—and the long rod comes into its own.

The spinner-fly combinations that used to go with the flyrod are, for the most part, fished with spinning tackle today and nothing will beat the spinning rod on jugs and other small underwater attractors.

When bass want big, loud surface lures it's hard for the fly man to compete with the old-fashioned plug rod although Jack Gowdy, a guy who prefers the flyrod for his 6-pounder and it works lots of times.

My fishing triumphs have nearly always come as a result of the bass bug and usually when the fish are taking gently, often with a "double strike." The first half of a double strike comes when the fish nudges the lure with his nose. That's when he is likely to recoil from metal and then he gulps with fatal results.

Wherever I get one of those booming, explosive strikes on a bug I always come away with some kind of a plug but when a bass bug may represent anything from a menhaden minnow to a green frog or even a seagoing mouse or an injured bird.

The real poppers usually make more noise than any creature of their size is capable of on its own and a bass probably hits them out of plain cussedness—certainly not because they have a faithful reproduction of anything living or dead.

Anyway, loud flyrod poppers can be pretty well imitated by a host of baitcasting and spinning lures. It is in the field of soft-bodied surface lures that the flyrod has no competition. That's the weakness Jim discovered in his 6-pounder and it works lots of times.

There are times when nothing quite makes the flyrod fly and the big bug. Spotted sandpipers are one of the most versatile bass fishermen.

There is one common belief that's true. Animal material is the mainstay of the diet. Mollusks, insects, and various worms are the most commonly eaten items of the diet.

Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia. Spotted sandpipers seldom remain still for more than a moment at a time. They bob up and down constantly and run here and there in short energetic spurs. "Faster-tail" is a common local name. It describes well the constant tilting of body and tail.

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BIG BUGS FOR BIG BASS

(Continued from Page 32)

the lure simply disappears and gets snagged into several pounds of large-mouth, I congratulate myself on selection of the flyrod.

I have read hundreds of times that there is nothing to fly fishing and that you can learn it in just a few minutes. Perhaps you may also a lure around and keep it out of your ears with a few short minutes' practice but I don't know any real fly fishermen who haven't worked hard at it at one time or another. I'm no great shakes but I have a big, lumpy callous on my hand where the flyrod fits and I've had it off and on for a good many years.

Like other things that are worthwhile, fly fishing—and especially bug casting—gives me a new respect for what you put into it. If it isn't worth a few hours of backward practice, forget it.

Four out of five persons fishing for bass with flyrods have outfits that no one could do much with. Where actual trial of the beginners' outfit is not possible, a competent fly-fisherman should be consulted.

The dealer may not know much about fly fishing.

The warm Florida bass should have enough backbone to handle a big, wind-resisting bug and to stop heavy fish in snaggy or weedy waters. It should take a GAF or a GAP line if you intend to throw good-sized bugs. About eight and one-half feet is a good length although the best fisherman can use shorter rods if he doesn't crave distance.

The bug collection can range from half a dozen carefully selected numbers to the hundreds that my friend Jack Goodly paws through before every fishing trip. Most important of all is the soft-bodied hair bug—

from the Lesser Yellowlegs with which it is sometimes confused.

the bird nests in northern Canada, and northeastern Alaska, and winters in South America. It is known in Florida as a migrant during the spring and fall flights between nesting and wintering grounds.

The White-eyed, a common winter resident. They are especially noisy. Informer called them tattlers because of this tendency to the flock. When alarmed the less they are seen together. The White-eyes on the average, about 14 inches.

Like the larger species, the Lesser Yellowlegs is a noisy bird. Their voices, on the average, about 14 inches.

the lure simply disappears and gets caught in the mouth, I congratulate myself on that you can learn it in just a few minutes. Perhaps you may also like...
WHERE I was in my twenties and burning up thousands of rounds of ammunition each year—just as I still do (praise the Lord!) in my forties—public coloration was largely on the conservative side.

Not so today! For a long time, now, it has been quite appropriate for a beeman to wear slacks of flannel and yellow, to combine bright colors in his outdoor clothing, have his portrait and camera snapshots finished in color, drive a coral pink automobile or otherwise join the national color-conscious parade.

Similarly, instead of waiting of halting and reducing the rising annual hunting accident toll, there has been a growing national movement—supported by the results of scientifically conducted field vision-tests—to have yellow hunting clothing replace the traditional khaki outfits and the deer hunter's red cap. Tests have proven that, beyond doubt, yellow is the color best adapted as hunting vision and color-blind persons. It is now possible to obtain an all yellow hunting outfit, from vivid rubber boots to garter-material cap, for increased chances of personal safety while hunting areas overly populated by other, slower hunters.

But the idea of having our guns in color is a bit startling—especially so to the old rank and file who, first as boys and later as full-fledged hunters, have found beauty and pleasure in the natural vision and color-blind persons. It is now possible to obtain an all yellow hunting outfit, from vivid rubber boots to garter-material cap, for increased chances of personal safety while hunting areas overly populated by other, slower hunters.

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conducted toxicity bio-assays of such run-off waters in 1956. They concluded that certain fish would suffer damage or die if exposed to the insecticides. If the fire ant control project proceeds as planned, much of the Nation's irreplaceable recreational fish and wildlife resources could be damaged beyond repair. Even worse, it might provide the spark to ignite new and terrifying population explosions throughout the insect world.

This dire prediction was made by three Harvard University biologists. They warned that "final results might well be the emergence of new insect pests once they have been freed from the natural enemies that held them in check."

Ironclad safeguards are needed to prevent fearsome poisonous compounds discovered by chemical scientists that whole regions may become uninhabitable. In that event, there will be little left to protect with the missiles and rockets being developed by physics scientists and engineers...

The equivalent in filling to approxi- mately 19 pounds of soil. Since there is little soil to evaporate, the preparation will not harden in the can during long periods of idleness.

Made by Jaycee Chemical Corp., Northford, Connecticut; distributed in Florida by Automotive Supply Company, 120 North Street, North, St. Petersburg, in various size cans and a ladder-scale of prices.

The key question is, do we have the knowledge to achieve effective control of the fire ant, yet prevent wholesale disturbance of Nature's system at the same time? And where is the proof that fish and other wildlife will be safe if we do not proceed? It is high time, in our opinion, that the Nation's 25 million citizen anglers and the $2 billion sport fishing industry should receive consideration in plans of this dimension and consequence. Further, we suspect the industry should receive consideration in plans of this scale biological research program can meet the urgent needs of the day. The chief threat to survival of our hunting and fishing activities in the threatened states.

A carefully-formulated program would be predicated on sound, balanced biological research, proper eradication principalional control. Such a program would safeguard vital fish, game, songbirds, and beneficial insects. It would also find wide-support rather than opposition.

The potential for serious damage to fish and wildlife resources from poor planning to take current propaganda on faith. Pest control work apparently comes high.

Every now and then WFTG&T runs across a product of such convenience and versatility that wonderment develops as to how it can be made to serve so many uses, and how in the world outdoorsmen ever got along without it.

Bondo, a non-toxic plastic filler for any repair or bonding job involving a cold solder or iron-like cement, is of that category. WFTG&T can only sing its praises.

The glass-like plastic patty has all the advantages of solder and the "cold sellers" without their disadvantages. It spreads on like butter but hardens like iron and will never shrink, crack, chip, erode, or mildew or blister. Once properly applied and allowed to harden for a minimum of half an hour's time, Bondo is unaffected by rain, sun, gasoline, chemicals, acids, alkalies and salt water. The plastic repair paste, therefore, is ideal for repairing all kinds of holes, dents and breaks in automobiles and boats needing metal repairs or fiberglass patching.

Unlike some liquid metals and cold solders, Bondo does not have to be applied in successive layers but begins to harden as soon as it is added to the factory-prepared Bondo paste. Nothing can stop the hardening process. Amazingly, Bondo will harden under water, under gasoline or amid chemical vapors. The chemical reaction to the added ingredient takes place.

Using Bondo, you can repair a hole in metal, wood, sand the job to a feather edge, point the spot and defy anyone to detect where the original metal ends and the Bondo-applied repair begins. For any body repair filler, Bondo will not later shrink or fall out.

WFTG&T uses Bondo to attach telescopic and peep receiver sights permanently to guns, to repair broken stocks, to give new life to gasoline lanterns and other equipment, to preserve metal objects around the home, patch metal and fiberglass boats and gas tanks and for dozens of other projects.

One 3-pound can of Bondo is evidently

But we doubt that the fire ant program seeks, perhaps in vain, to protect. When Dieldrin was used to halt the march of the fire ant, $500 million worth of the space age.

The real enemy is the fifth dimension and consequence. Further, we suspect the industry should receive consideration in plans of this scale biological research program can meet the urgent needs of the day. The chief threat to survival of our hunting and fishing activities in the threatened states.

Angling has an economic value now being threatened on a par with many of the agricultural commodities that the fire ant program seeks, perhaps in vain, to protect. When Dieldrin or any similar poison drifts or drains "by mistake" into fishing waters, we will find that dead fish are a very poor trade for dead ants. We deny nothing of probable effects on songbirds, game, beneficial insects, soil bacteria, etc.

One 3-pound can of Bondo is evidently

If this dire prediction was made by three Harvard University biologists. They warned that "final results might well be the emergence of new insect pests once they have been freed from the natural enemies that held them in check.

Ironclad safeguards are needed to prevent fearsome poisonous compounds discovered by chemical scientists that whole regions may become uninhabitable. In that event, there will be little left to protect with the missiles and rockets being developed by physics scientists and engineers...

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RAISING NUTRIAS

Continued from Page 15)

has been bringing for the past two winters on an average will not permit a person to raise them, in our opinion, and make a profit. We would, therefore, suggest unless you have already ventured in the nutria business that you do not take the step.

New York Market

The Hudson's Bay Company does not accept consignments of ranch-raised nutria pelts, as this article has been in limited demand and sufficient quantities have not arrived in the New York market on which to base prices. It does not know of any local dealers in New York ranch-raised nutria pelts selling for as much as $30 to $40 each. It advises that local dealers in New York have been receiving extremely small quantities, less than 100 pelts. The best quality of wild domestic nutria furs, it states, "sells for around $3 each." It also states:

"There are no unusual mutations of nutria being marketed; dealers report they have wild ones dyed in various shades for $2.00 each. With the rapidly decreasing sales of wild nutria pelts being trapped in Louisiana each season according to the Louisiana Fur and Refuge Division, at the present level trappers can see no possible large profits in ranch-raised nutria from a raw pelts standpoint.

Emmanuel Steinberg, President of Steinberg and Company, with raw fur receiving houses in New Orleans and New York, has advised NBBB that - the demand for nutria has not improved. Sales of this article have been very slow and to be very specific we were only able to sale some of the lower grades. Unfortunately, we are still carrying large quantities of nutria here and abroad. We are of the opinion that not only do other fur collectors and dealers are carrying some sizable quantities also.

"We do not hesitate to say that the raising of nutria will be absolutely unprofitable as the demand is not sufficient to absorb the quantities now being trapped in the State of Louisiana and with nutria spreading to other states there will be a continued increase in the catch. This item cannot be promoted to the states as the cost of dressing is too expensive.

Demand Lacking"

After making a comprehensive study of the nutria business, Marshall Reing, Editor of the American Fur Breeder, advised his readers as follows in August 1966:

"Our investigation among nutria raisers and sellers, auction company officials and others in the fur trade leads us to the conclusion that these people now raising and selling nutria are much like those raising chinchillas. In each group there are a number of obviously honest and good-intentioned people, and in each group also are a bunch of promoters who are not concerned in any way with the ultimate destiny of the pelts involved but merely employ one fur-bearing animal or another as a convenient vehicle with which to work their confidence game.

"Among nutria raisers, just as among chinchilla raisers, even the well-intentioned ones in each group have no real evidence that there is a natural demand for their product that will ultimately provide a market that will make their raising profitable. The honest people involved with each animal hope that the last "Booms" and "Busts"

Frank G. Ashbrook, former Chief of the Section of Wild Fur Animal Investigations, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and fur industry "Moo of the Year" in 1963, sums up the situation in this manner:

"The epidemic of 'booms' and 'busts' has been breaking out ever since fur farming began and still persists; silver foxes, muskrats, minks, chinchillas, and nutrias have all experienced a series of these outbreaks. Among nutrias, several legal actions have been taken against the unscrupulous promoters of fur animals, and in some cases the fakers have had to appear in court and personally promise to stop from staying in business. But by and large they have continued to flourish. Just so long as people are gullible, the promoters of speed or stock at exorbitant prices, permitting the adjusted cost of the useable skin to the manufacturer. The processing of 40 skins on the adjusted basis of $3.00 per skin is $120.00. The manufacturer's approximate cost of making the coat would be $385.00, giving a total of $505.00. Remember, no charge is included in this sum for the raw skins, or for the manufacturer's or retailer's mark-up. When these costs are added, the retail price of a garment would almost equal the retail price of a mink coat, which is far more preferable.

It is mainly for this reason that nutria coats do not attract women buyers.

Thus, the present situation is not caused by the raw fur prices, but is due primarily to the processing and manufacturing costs. Until these costs are reduced, there would appear to be little possibility of an increase in the volume of nutria fur business in this country.

JR. CONSERVATIONIST

Continued from Page 8)

of the old benches have been installed around the campers' convenience. Night stands for the cabinets have been built to hold toothbrushes, soap, etc., yes, improvements have been made all around the camp. Oh, we can't leave out the new cook's table and chopping block. It's a big improvement to our kitchen.

Applications have been mailed to all who attended last summer's encampment at the Youth Conservation Camp. If for some reason you didn't receive an application, please sit down and drop a note to 265 West Adams Street in Ocala. Send in your application just as soon as possible. Remember we only have room for 125 campers a week. Don't wait until it's too late.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MAY, 1958

Future Prices

There is still no evidence to prove that (1) there is a natural demand for ranch-raised nutria fur, and (2) there is a natural demand for wild nutria fur produced. Anyone considering raising nutria should realize that there must first be a sound conservation program for a market to be available, and second, this commodity must be produced profitably.

It is not possible to predict the future demand for nutria fur produced in pens or, therefore, demand by the fur trade. This will depend upon the fashion world and the public, and the supply of commercially acceptable pelts.

Having produced quality animals as claimed, the breeders must hold some and offer them for sale if public acceptance of this fur is to be developed. They must determine the channels through which they can market their pelts — through cooperatives or associations, auction companies, or direct by private transactions to manufacturers. So far no ranch-raised nutria pelts have been offered in commercial quantities to the raw fur trade, nor have any such pelts been processed in the New York area and two or three coats were made of these skins, but no sales have been consummated, and the manufacturer has returned the remainder of the processed skins to the owner.
(Continued from Preceding Page)

...talk before the class or club group on either one of the following subjects: What is conservation? Why Conservation Rules?*). "May be repeated once a year" has been added to F-39 (Plant trees and/or shrubs which may be obtained locally — Forest Service, Garden Clubs, etc...). These plantings are to be forested and/or wildlife and are to be protected from fire and grazing. "The Conservation Wheel" replaces the CLAW Bulletin in F-43. "May be repeated once a month" has been added to F-82 (Make a talk before a class or club on either one of the following subjects: Why Youth Conservation Education? What is The Junior Conservation Club League). Additional ranks have been added to F-96 — Ranger, 10,000 points; Forester, 36,000 points; Chief Ranger, 45,000 points; Chief Forester, 60,000 points; Jr. Conservationist, 75,000 points; Jr. Wildlife Officer, 100,000 points. Points earned in Merit Point System for attaining these ranks: Ranger—1,006; Forester—2,006; Chief Ranger—3,000 points; Chief Forester—4,000 points; Jr. Conservationist—4,009 points; Jr. Wildlife Officer—6,000. If your club needs Secretary Report forms, Bulletin forms, literature, or any materials, address your request to 265 West Adams Street in Ocala. *

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IN LAKES OF IN THE RIVERS OF THE FLORIDA EAST

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